

**BA English Honours Programme
(BAEGH)**

ASSIGNMENT

**(For July 2026, and January 2027
Sessions)**

BA English Honours Compulsory Course

(BEGC 105)

American Literature



School of Humanities
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110 068

Compulsory Course of English (Hons) – BEGC 105

American Literature

(BEGC-105)

Programme: BA English (Hons)
Course Code: BEGC-
105/2026-27

Dear Student

You are required to do one assignment for the English Honours Course titled American Literature, which will be a Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) and will carry 100 marks. It will be based on blocks 1 to 4.

Aims: This assignment is concerned mainly with assessing your application and your understanding of the course material. You are not to reproduce chunks of information from the course material but to use the skills of critical appreciation that you may have acquired during the course of study. This assignment aims to teach as well as to assess your performance.

Guidelines: There are three sections – Section A, B & C, you are required to attempt all questions in your own words and hand written Assignments should be submitted on time.

Instructions: Before attempting the questions please read the following instructions carefully.

As in day-to-day life, **planning** is important in attempting the assignment as well. Read the assignment carefully; go through the units on which the questions are based; jot down some points regarding each question and then re-arrange them in a logical order. In the essay-type answer, pay attention to your introduction and conclusion. The introduction must tell you how to interpret the given topic and how you propose to develop it. The conclusion must summarize your views on the topic. Once you are satisfied with your answers, you can write down the final version for submission, writing each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasize. **You should submit the assignment in your own handwriting.**

Make sure that your answer:

- a) is logical
- b) is written in simple and correct English
- c) does not exceed the number of words indicated in your questions
- d) is written neatly and clearly.

Please remember that it is compulsory to submit your assignment before you can take the Term End Examination. Also remember to keep a copy of your assignment with you and to take a receipt from your Study Centre when you submit the assignment.

1. Write your Enrolment Number, Name, Full Address and Date on the top right corner of the first page of your response sheet(s).
2. Write the Course Title, Assignment Number and the Name of the Study Centre you are attached to in the centre of the first page of your response sheet(s).
3. The top of the first page of your response sheet should look like this:

ENROLMENT

NO:

.....

NAME:

.....

ADDRESS:

.....

COURSE TITLE:

ASSIGNMENT NO:

STUDY CENTRE:

DATE:

4. Use only foolscap size paper for your response and tag all the pages carefully.
5. Write the relevant question number with each answer.

Last Date for Submission of Assignment:

For July 2026 Batch

Last date of Submission for the June Examination: 30th March 2027

For January 2026 Batch

Last date of Submission for the December TEE: 30th September 2027

Good Luck!

BEGC-105
American Literature
July 2026 & January 2027 Sessions
(Based on Blocks 1 - 4)

TMA 01/2026-27
Max. Marks: 100

Answer all questions.

Section A

Answer with reference to the context:

5×4=20

- (i) “Hope” is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all –
- (ii) O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,
The ship has weather’d every rack, the prize we sought is won,
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;
- (iii) Earth laughs in flowers, to see her boastful boys
Earth-proud, proud of the earth which is not theirs;
Who steer the plough, but cannot steer their feet
Clear of the grave.
- (iv) Far or forgot to me is near;
Shadow and sunlight are the same;
The vanished gods to me appear;
And one to me are shame and fame.

Section B

Answer the following in about 300 words each:

5×4=20

1. Comment on the use of symbols in *The Scarlet Letter*.
2. Write a critical appreciation of the poem “Because I could not stop for Death”.
3. Discuss Hemingway’s “iceberg” technique of narration with reference to his short stories.
4. Write a short note on the beginnings of American drama and the influences that shaped its growth.

Section C

Answer the following questions in about 600 words each:

4×15=60

1. Discuss *All My Sons* as a critique of the American Dream.
2. Analyse the character of Hester Prynne and trace her transformation in the course of *The Scarlet Letter*.
3. Trace the growth and development of the American short story, referring to some of its prominent practitioners.
4. How does the Native American experience find expression in Sherman Alexie's poetry? Discuss with reference to the poem prescribed in your course.

