

MASTER'S DEGREE IN ENGLISH (MEG)

ASSIGNMENT

(July 2026 & January 2027 Sessions)

MEG-18 American Poetry



School of Humanities

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

MASTERS DEGREE IN ENGLISH-18
(MEG-18)
AMERICAN POETRY

Dear Students,

You are required to do one assignment for the English course entitled American Poetry (MEG-18), of the Master's Degree in English Distance Learning and Online Programme. This is a Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) and carries 100 marks. This assignment covers the entire MEG-18 course from Blocks 1 to 7.

Aims: This TMA is concerned mainly with assessing your application and understanding of the course material. You are not required or produce 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. Please ensure that you read all the texts prescribed in the course. Do make points as you go along. If there is anything you do not understand, please ask your Counsellor at the Study Centre for clarification. Once you are able to do the assignment satisfactorily, you will be ready to take the exam with confidence.

Instructions: Before attempting the assignment, please read the following instructions carefully.

1. Read the detailed instructions about the assignment given in the Handbook and Programme Guide.
2. Write your enrolment number, name, full address and date on the top right corner of the first page of your response sheet(s).
3. 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).

The top of the first page of your response sheet should look like this:

COURSE TITLE:.....	ASSIGNMENT NO:.....
ENROLMENT NO:.....	NAME :
ADDRESS:	
.....	
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.
6. You should write in your own handwriting.

7. **Submission:** The completed assignment should be sent to the Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you **by 31st March 2027 (For July, 2026 Session) and 30th September, 2027 (For January, 2027 Session)**. Please read the instructions given in your Programme Guide.

Now read the following guidelines carefully before answering questions.

GUIDELINES FOR TMAs

You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

1. **Planning:** Read the questions carefully. Go through the units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then rearrange these in a logical order. And please write the answers in your own words. Do not reproduce passages from the units.
2. **Organisation:** Be a little more selective and analytic before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. In an essay-type question, give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion. The introduction must offer your brief interpretation of the question and how you propose to develop it. The conclusion must summarise your response to the question. In the course of your answer, you may like to make references to other texts or critics as this will add some depth to your analysis.

Make sure that your answer:

- a) Is logical and coherent;
 - b) Has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs;
 - c) Is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation;
 - d) Does not exceed the number of words indicated in your question.
3. **Presentation:** 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 may be aware that **you need to submit your assignments before you can appear for the Term End Exams. Please remember to keep a copy of your completed assignment, just in case the one you submitted is lost in transit.**

Good luck with your work!

MASTER'S DEGREE IN ENGLISH
(MEG-18)
AMERICAN POETRY
ASSIGNMENT

Course Code: MEG-18
Assignment Code: MEG-18/TMA/2026-27
Max.Marks:100

Attempt any five questions. All questions carry equal marks. (20 x 5=100)

1. Write a note on the key American poets in colonial America. 20
2. Analyse Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself" as a celebration of democratic individualism and the American self. 20
3. "And the night passes- and never passes-" Discuss the significance of this line in relation to the theme of decadence, nostalgia and regret in the poem "A Good Night". 20
4. Critically analyse the theme of spiritual conflict and redemption in "Ash Wednesday." 20
5. How does Plath portray the speaker's journey towards a new sense of identity and liberation in the poem "Ariel"? Discuss. 20
6. Critically analyse Ransom's theological idea with reference to the poem "By the Riverside". 20
7. "Touched by An Angel" by Maya Angelou proclaims the inimitable power of love over human beings." Discuss. 20
8. Critically analyse Shirley Geok-lin Lim's "Pantoun for Chinese Women." 20