

MEG-04

**MASTER'S DEGREE IN ENGLISH
(MAEG)**

**ASSIGNMENT
(For July, 2026 and January, 2027 Session)**

ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE: MEG-04



**School of Humanities
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068**

ASSIGNMENT
For
MASTER'S DEGREE IN ENGLISH
ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE (MEG 04)

Programme: MAEG
Course Code: MEG-04

Dear Student,

You will have to attempt a single assignment for the Master's Degree in English (MEG-04). The assignment is a Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) and carries 100 marks. It will be based on blocks 1 to 9. The number of choices has been restricted in order to ensure that you read the study materials thoroughly and attempt some independent critical thinking.

Aims: The TMA is concerned mainly with assessing your application and understanding of the course material. You are not required 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. The assignment aims to teach as well as to assess your performance. Please ensure that you read the three novels, one play as well as the short stories and poems that have been prescribed for this course.

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

1. Read the detailed instructions about the assignment given in the Programme Guide for Elective Courses.
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:

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.
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 for (if enrolled in the July session) and 30th Sept, (if enrolled in January session)**

Please read the instructions given in your Programme Guide.

GUIDELINES FOR TMAs

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

1. **Planning:** Read the questions carefully. Go through the points 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. **Organization:** 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 summarize your response to the question. In the course of your answer, you may like to make references to other texts or books 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.

Note: You may be aware that you need to submit your assignment 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!

MEG-04
ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE
ASSIGNMENT
July 2026 and January 2027 Sessions

MEG-04/TMA/2026–2027
Maximum Marks: 100

Instructions

Attempt **all the questions**.

Answers should be based on the prescribed course material.

Wherever appropriate, illustrate your answers with suitable examples.

Follow the suggested word limits while answering the questions.

1. Write short notes on the following: 2 × 10 = 20
 - (i) Language as a system of communication
 - (ii) The role of the vocal organs in the production of speech
2. What are the major characteristics of human language? Discuss the concepts of **arbitrariness, productivity, displacement, and duality of patterning** with suitable examples. 20
3. Discuss the major stages in the **historical development of the English language**. How have contact with other languages, migration, political changes, and social developments contributed to the growth and transformation of English? 20
4. Explain the basic concepts of **English phonetics and phonology**. Discuss the distinction between vowels and consonants and explain how the classification of speech sounds helps us understand the sound system of English. Illustrate your answer with suitable examples. 20
5. Language is shaped by the context in which it is used. Discuss the relationship between **language and society**, with particular reference to code-switching, multilingualism, language variation, and the changing role of English in contemporary India. 20