

**DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE WRITING
IN ENGLISH (DCE)**

Term-End Examination

December, 2025

DCE-01 : GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF WRITING

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Weightage : 70%

Note : *This paper has two Sections A and B.
Answer **five** questions in all, choosing at
least **two** questions from each Section. All
questions carry equal marks.*

Section—A

1. (a) What are the points to be kept in mind
to ensure readability? 10
- (b) How is a character presented through
dialogue? Give examples. 10

2. (a) How does an editor perform the task of editing ? What are the various steps and things to keep in mind while doing so ? 10
- (b) How important are notes and foot-notes in a book ? What are the important features that go into the methodology of preparing foot-notes ? 10
3. Write a plot of a story that features futuristic technological developments in everyday life. (450 words) 20

Or

- Write a note on the relationship between the reader and the writer. Should a writer always keep the reader in mind ? Give a reasoned answer. (450 words)
4. Write a note on the difference between the use of dialogue in poetry and drama giving suitable examples. (450 words) 20
5. Write a note on the autobiographical mode of narration. What are the limitations of this mode and how should the writer attempt to overcome them ? (450 words) 20

Section—B

6. The following extract is from a short story. Read it carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Papa, I want you to read this book. If you find even one paragraph dirty, you can throw me out of the house. He continued staring at me, but his condescension had morphed into a confused scowl now. 'I am sorry I hid it from you,' I continued, 'but I really can't help if the cover is like that....believe me the book isn't'. Papa took the book from my hand. His eyes were sceptical and thoughtful at the same time. A few days later, when I came back from college, I found Papa waiting for me. 'Here's your book,' he said, handing over the Chase to me. I swallowed apprehensively, wondering what he would say next. James Hadley Chase rarely, if ever, wrote sleazy lines or sexual descriptions, but I had not

read this book yet. Papa was quiet for a few more seconds, like fathers are when they have to take back something they have said. Finally, he cleared his throat and spoke, 'Well, I shouldn't have judged the book hastily by its cover. Nor you for that matter Papa continued speaking almost to himself the only question is do I have to get used to such pictures ? In my house ?' 'I can stop reading them if you want me to 'No, no,' Papa replied, shaking his head. 'Surprisingly for a book like this, it carries a good message : crime never pays.'

- (a) What is the tone of the story—serious or funny ? Identify lines that set the tone.

(200 words) 10

- (b) Do you agree with the father's assessment that crime fiction may be educational for an adolescent boy ? What is your assessment ?

(200 words) 10

7. Write an imaginary opening to the story from which the above extract has been taken and give it an appropriate title.

(450 words) 20

8. Read the following poem and answer the questions given below :

A Difference

'But surely,' she says, 'there are some
you love, some you trust ?

Me, for example. Think of me
please as some sort of flower'

It's easy enough. We're sitting
on the grass.

She looks exactly
like a gigantic flower.

So I say to her,
but she still looks sad.

'There is a difference',
she tells me gently,
'between a simile
and a genuine metaphor.'

- (a) What is the tone of this poem—serious *or* humorous ? Discuss. (250 words) 10
- (b) How does the poet suggest the kind of relationship the two people in the poem share ? 10

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