

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

**Term-End Examination
December, 2025**

DCE-03 : SHORT STORY

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Weightage : 70%

Note : (i) *This question paper is divided into two Sections—Section A and Section B.*

(ii) *Attempt **five** questions in all, choosing at least **two** questions from each Section.*

(iii) *All questions carry equal marks.*

Section—A

1. Explain briefly what is an 'Open-ended' story and its purpose. Write a short open-ended story in about **500-700** words. 20

2. “The portrayal of reality in fiction is important for many reasons.” Cite these reasons and explain how they can be achieved by using different literary devices.

20

3. “Creating the right mood in a ghost story is crucial to making it truly spine chilling. The setting, the choice of words, symbols and imagery, pacing, characters’ reactions, weather and time should all build an eerie atmosphere, sense of uneasiness and spooky vibes.”

Use all of these and write an opening of a ghost story in about **700** words. 20

4. “The dialogue in modern detective stories is brutal, terse and cynical, serving to be a means to an end.” Craft *two* dialogues involving a crime suspect and a detective, to illustrate this aspect. 20

5. Write short notes on any *two* of the following : 2 × 10 = 20
- (a) The Anti-Hero in Modern Fiction
 - (b) Traditional Stories *vs.* The Innovative Styles of Experimental Stories
 - (c) The 'Point of view' in a narrative
 - (d) The function of atmosphere in a story

Section—B

6. "The plot and the story at first may sound the same and interchangeable, but the two are distinctively different." Explain the differences between the two, illustrating your answer with suitable examples. 20
7. How can a writer build and sustain suspense in a detective story ? Illustrate with suitable examples. 20
8. What are the things that a writer must keep in mind while choosing the characters for his story and developing them as he proceeds in writing the story ? 20

9. Why is writing for children a challenging task for writers, especially while writing fantasy stories ?

What suggestions would you give to aspiring writers who wish to write fantasy tales for children ?

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10. A writer needs to be careful about the choice of words, sentence structure, style and tone, while writing for children of different age groups.

What are such considerations to be borne in mind while writing for these children. Illustrate with appropriate examples.

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