GEG S4-02 (M)

Exam Code : ENM4B

ENGLISH POETRY FROM MEDIEVAL TO MODERN

SEMESTER IV

B.A. ENGLISH

BLOCK - 1

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Subject Experts

1. **Professor Pona Mahanta**, Former Head, Department of English, Dibrugarh University
2. **Professor Pradip Acharya**, Former Head, Cotton College
3. **Professor Bibhash Choudhury**, Department of English, Gauhati University

Course Co-ordinator(s) **Pallavi Gogoi and Chayanika Roy,**
Assistant Professors, KKHSOU

SLM Preparation Team

UNITS	CONTRIBUTORS
1	**S.N. Das,** Suren Das College
2	**Chayanika Roy,** K.K.H.S.O.U.
3	**Labiba Alam,** Former Research Scholar, Gauhati University
4	**Labiba Alam,** Former Research Scholar, Gauhati University
5	**S.N. Das,** Suren Das College
6	**Arfan Hussain,** MGU & **Pallavi Gogoi,** K.K.H.S.O.U.
7	**Dr. Tapati Baruah Kashyap,** Beltola Junior College
8	**Dhurjjati Sarma**

Editorial Team

Content	**Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Nath,** Associate Professor, Department of English Gauhati University
Language	**Pallavi Gogoi** & **Chayanika Roy,** K.K.H.S.O.U.
Structure, Format & Graphics	**Pallavi Gogoi** & **Chayanika Roy,** K.K.H.S.O.U.

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Head Office: Patgaon, Rani Gate, Guwahati – 781 017; Web : www.kkhsou.in web_new

City Office: Housefed Complex, Dispur, Guwahati – 781 006

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

The Poetry paper titled 'English Poetry from Medieval to Modern' introduces the learner to fifteen representative English poems which encompasses the variety in form and practice of the genre in English literature down the historical ages.

BLOCK INTRODUCTION

The first block of the course on prose consists of seven units. The first block of the course on English Poetry contains a total of eight units. The first unit introduces the learner to the first poet of English literature, Geoffrey Chaucer and his Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* which contains the narrator's brief description of the springtime pilgrimage to Canterbury. The second unit introduces the learner to the 'Bard of Avon' William Shakespeare and his poetic compositions "Sonnet 56" and "Sonnet 144" through which the poet's initial pessimism ends with the sudden realisation of the one source that could make his love immortal. The third unit is on Metaphysical Poetry and the fourth unit contains two poems by the metaphysical poet John Donne namely "The Good Morrow" and "The Canonisation" which delves on the intensity of love and upholds the argument on how and why love is not only self-contained but invincible as well. The fifth unit takes up the great epic poet, John Milton's Invocation to *Paradise Lost*, Book I written in the best of English heroic verse rhyme and also much inspired from the earlier classical tradition. The sixth unit takes up a fragment from Alexander Pope's "The Rape of the Lock" titled "Belinda's Dressing Room" which takes the learner through the evocative and the enchanting world of a young belle known as Belinda. The seventh unit takes up an extract from John Dryden's "Mac Fleknoe" which is a satirical work on the contemporary poet Thomas Shadwell following a long literary dispute. The eighth unit takes up the visionary or prophetic poet William Blake's poem "The Tyger" taken from the *Songs of Experience* which evokes the omnipresence of the "immortal hand" of creation, designing all that is complementary and contrasted at once.

After going through these units, you will be able to analyse the poems with a proper comprehension of its theme, structure and poetic techniques. While going through a unit, you may also notice some text boxes, which have been included to help you know some of the difficult terms and concepts. You will also read some relevant ideas and concepts in "Let Us Know" along the text. We have kept "Check Your Progress" questions in each unit. These have been designed to self-check your progress of study.