

CREATIVE WRITING — NOTES (UG Semester II)

1. What is Creative Writing?

Creative writing is a form of writing that expresses ideas, thoughts, and emotions in imaginative ways.

Unlike academic or technical writing, it focuses on:

*Originality

*Aesthetic expression

*Creativity

*Emotional impact

Forms include: poetry, short stories, novels, drama, personal essays, autobiographical writing, etc.

2. Characteristics of Creative Writing

1.Imagination & originality – creating something new or presenting known things creatively.

2.Expressive language – vivid descriptions, imagery, figurative language.

3.Strong narrative elements – plot, characters, setting, style, theme.

4.Focus on emotions – aims to evoke feelings in readers.

5.Subjective tone – personal voice or perspective.

6.Use of literary devices – simile, metaphor, personification, symbolism, irony, etc.

3. Elements of Creative Writing

A. Plot

The sequence of events in a story.

Common structure:

1. Exposition

2. Rising Action

3. Climax

4. Falling Action

5. Conclusion

B. Character

People/figures who drive the story.

Types:

*Protagonist (hero)

- *Antagonist (opposing force)
- *Static vs Dynamic characters

C. Setting

Time and place of the story.

Includes:

- * Physical environment
- * Historical/social context
- * Cultural background

D. Theme

Central idea or message (e.g., love, conflict, identity, growth).

E. Style

The writer's unique way of using language: tone, diction, rhythm, dialogue.

4. Techniques in Creative Writing

1. Imagery

Using sensory details (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to create pictures in the reader's mind.

Example: "The golden sun melted into the horizon."

2. Figurative Language

- *Simile: comparison using like/as
- *Metaphor: direct comparison
- *Personification: giving human qualities to non-human things
- *Symbolism: objects representing ideas

3. Show, Don't Tell

Instead of telling emotions, show them through actions.

Tell: "She was angry."

Show: "Her fists tightened as she slammed the door."

4. Dialogue

Used to reveal character, advance plot, or build tension.

5. Tone and Mood

Tone = writer's attitude

Mood = atmosphere created for the reader

Forms of Creative Writing

A. Poetry

Focused on rhythm, sound, imagery, emotions.

Elements:

- * Line, stanza
- * Rhyme, rhythm
- * Figurative language

Types: lyric, narrative, free verse, sonnet, haiku, etc.

B. Short Story

A brief narrative with a single plot and focused theme.

Features:

- * Limited characters
- * Unity of time, place, and action
- * Single central conflict

C. Drama

Written to be performed on stage.

Elements:

- * Acts & scenes
- * Dialogue
- * Stage directions
- * Characters in conflict

D. Creative Non-fiction

Writing based on real events but presented creatively.

Examples:

- * Personal essays

- * Memoirs
- * Travel writing
- * Literary journalism

6. Steps in the Creative Writing Process

1. Pre-writing / brainstorming

- * Idea generation
- * Character sketches
- * Research (if needed)

2. Drafting

Write without worrying about perfection.

3. Revising

- * Improve plot, structure, language.
- * Add details, cut unnecessary parts.

4. Editing / Proofreading

Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation.

5. Publishing / Sharing

Final version for readers.

7. Qualities of a Good Creative Writer

- * Observant
- * Curious
- * Emotionally aware
- * Imaginative
- * Skilled with language
- * Open to revision and feedback

8. Common Mistakes to Avoid

- * Over-explaining instead of showing
- * Flat characters
- * Weak endings
- * Clichés
- * Inconsistent point of view
- * Lack of editing

