AFW -1
Feature Writing in English
Assignment 2026 - 2027
(Based on Blocks 1-5)

Max. Marks: 100
Course Code: AFW - 1/2026 - 27

Answer all questions.

1. Write short notes on any two of the following : 2X10=20
   (a) Importance of illustrations in feature writing
   (b) Objectivity in reviewing a book
   (c) The importance of editing in writing features
   (d) Economic features

2. You are a sports correspondent who is covering the FIFA World Cup. Write a short feature on the World Cup. 20

3. What are the sources of information available to a travel writer? How should the travel writer supplement his/ her text? 20

4. Write a feature on working women and the sacrifices they make to achieve their dream of a career. 20

5. What are the essential qualifications or qualities a good book reviewer should possess? Illustrate what a good book review should include through your answer. 20

1. Write short notes on any two of the following : 2X10=20

(a) Importance of illustrations in feature writing
(b) Objectivity in reviewing a book
(c) The importance of editing in writing features
(d) Economic features

Answer

(a) A feature is meant to do more than report bare facts. It helps readers understand a person, place, event or idea through clear description and an interesting angle. Illustrations, such as photographs, drawings, maps, charts and infographics, strengthen this purpose when they are carefully chosen. A picture can show a setting or action that may need many words to describe. For instance, a feature about a village water shortage becomes more immediate when a photograph shows people waiting beside a nearly empty well. The photograph does not replace the report; it gives the reader a clearer picture of the problem.

Illustrations first attract attention. In a newspaper, magazine or online publication, readers often notice an image before the headline or opening paragraph. A relevant, well-composed photograph invites them to read the story. It can also create an appropriate mood. A photograph of a smiling athlete may suggest achievement, whereas an image of damaged homes may communicate the seriousness of a flood. The image should support the real subject rather than simply look attractive.

They also make difficult information easier to follow. A map can locate the places mentioned in a travel feature. A time line can explain the main stages of an event. A simple chart can show changes in rainfall or prices without making readers struggle through a large number of figures. Captions play an important part here. A good caption identifies what is shown, gives necessary context and avoids repeating the article word for word.

In human-interest writing, photographs create a connection between the reader and the people in the story. Expressions, clothing, working conditions and surroundings can reveal small but meaningful details. Such details give the feature life and help readers remember it. At the same time, a photograph cannot tell the entire story of a person's experience. The writer must still explain the background, causes and different viewpoints.

Illustrations improve the organisation of a long feature as well. They provide natural resting points on the page and can separate related sections. In a digital feature, properly labelled images may also help people who read through assistive technology when suitable alternative text is provided. Their size, placement and quality should suit the publication and must not disturb the reading flow.