

BEGE-105

BACHELORS DEGREE PROGRAMME (BDP)

**ELECTIVE COURSE IN ENGLISH
(BEGE-105)**

**ASSIGNMENT
(For July 2023 and January 2024 Sessions)**

**UNDERSTANDING PROSE
BEGE-105**



**School of Humanities
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110 068**

Elective Course in English (BEGE – 105)
UNDERSTANDING PROSE

Programme: BDP
Course Code: BEGE – 105/2023-24

Dear Students,

You will have one assignment for the Elective Course in English (BEGE - 105), which will be a Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) and will carry 100 marks. It will be based on blocks 1 to 7.

Aims: This assignment is concerned mainly with assessing your application and your understanding of the course material. You are not required to reproduce chunks of information from the course material but to use the skills of critical appreciation that you may have acquired during the course of study. This assignment aims to teach as well as to assess your performance.

Instructions: Before attempting the questions please read the following instructions carefully.

1. Read the detailed instructions about the assignments given in the Programme Guide for Elective Courses.
2. Write your Enrolment Number, Name, Full Address and Date on the top right corner of the first page of your response sheet(s).
3. Write the Course Title, Assignment Number and the Name of the Study Centre you are attached to in the centre of the first page of your response sheet(s).

The top of the first page of your response sheet should look like this:

ENROLMENT NO:
NAME :
ADDRESS :
.....

COURSE TITLE :
ASSIGNMENT NO:
STUDY CENTRE : DATE :

4. Use only foolscap size paper for your response and tag all the pages carefully.
5. Write the relevant question number with each answer.
6. You should write in your own handwriting.
7. **Submission:** The completed assignment should be sent to the Coordinator of the Study Centre allotted to you **by 31st March 2024 (For July, 2023 Session) and 30th September, 2024 (For January, 2024 Session)**. Please read the instructions given in your Programme Guide.

Now read the following guidelines carefully before answering the questions.

GUIDELINES FOR TMAs

You will find it useful to keep the following points in mind:

1. **Planning:** Read the questions carefully. Go through the units on which they are based. Make some points regarding each question and then rearrange these in a logical order. And please write the answers in your own words. Do not reproduce passages from the units.
2. **Organisation:** Be a little more selective and analytic before drawing up a rough outline of your answer. In an essay-type question, give adequate attention to your introduction and conclusion. The introduction must offer your brief interpretation of the question and how you propose to develop it. The conclusion must summarise your response to the question. In the course of your answer, you may like to make references to other texts or critics as this will add some depth to your analysis.

Make sure that your answer:

- a) is logical and coherent;
 - b) has clear connections between sentences and paragraphs;
 - c) is written correctly giving adequate consideration to your expression, style and presentation;
 - d) does not exceed the number of words indicated in your question.
3. **Presentation:** Once you are satisfied with your answers, you can write down the final version for submission, writing each answer neatly and underlining the points you wish to emphasise.

You may be aware that **you need to submit your assignments before you can appear for the Term End Exams. Please remember to keep a copy of your completed assignment, just in case the one you submitted is lost in transit.**

Good luck with your work!

Elective Course in English
UNDERSTANDING PROSE (BEGE – 105)
Based on Blocks 1-7

Programme: BDP
Course Code: BEGE-105/2023-24
Maximum Marks: 100

Answer All Questions

1. Comment on the dominant variety of prose (narrative, expository or descriptive) present in each of the following passages. Write a brief critical appreciation of each passage in about 250 words each:
 - a) Aim at independence of mind. There are some men who go in leading strings all their days. They always follow in the paths of others, without being able to give any reason for their opinions. There is a proper mental independence which all should maintain; self-respect and the stability of our character require it. The man who pins his opinions entirely on another's sleeve can have no respect for his own judgment and is likely to be ever changing. When we consider carefully what appeals to our minds and exercise upon it our own reason, taking into respectful consideration what others say upon it and then come to a conclusion of our own, we act as intelligent beings should act and only then this proper independence of mind is far removed from presumptuous self-confidence, than which there is nothing more severely to be condemned. Presumption is the associate of ignorance; and it is hateful in the extreme to hear some half-taught stripling delivering his opinions with all the authority of an oracle.
 - b) All the rooms were prepared. There were pictures on the walls, painted on the paper, with gold frames complete. Red carpet covered all the floors except the kitchen; red plush chairs in the drawing-room, green in the dining-room; tables, beds with real bed clothes, a cradle, a stove, a dresser with tiny plates and one big jug. But what Kezia liked more than anything, what she liked frightfully, was the lamp. It stood in the middle of the dining-room table, an exquisite little lamp with a white globe.
 - c) It was only on the night of the concert, when we assembled on stage behind drawn curtains, that he gave me the notes to be played. I always hoped he would bring himself to do this earlier and I hovered around him all evening, tuning his sitar and preparing his betel leaves, but he would not speak to me at all. There were always many others around him – his hosts and the organizers of the concert, his friends and well-wishers and disciples – and he spoke and laughed with all of them, but always turned his head away when I came near. I was not hurt: this was his way with me, I was used to it. Only I wished he would tell me what he planned to play before the concert began so that I could prepare myself.

(10x3=30)
2. 'On Seeing England for the First Time' is laced with sarcasm and irony with a thread of pathos running through it'. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer quoting examples from the text.

(10)
3. Describe Orwell's experience of shooting an elephant in Burma in detail.

(10)
4. Discuss the character of Gilbert Clandon as he goes from illusion to reality in the short story "The Legacy".

(10)
5. Discuss some of the main features of Margaret Laurence's speech "My Final Hour".

(10)

6. Write a detailed note on how Gandhi spent his days in Calcutta and in Burma as is seen from his *An Autobiography*.

(10)

7. What do you understand by the stream-of-consciousness novel? Explain with reference to *The Binding Vine*.

(10)

8. Boswell's *Life of Johnson* is a piece of art. Discuss.

(10)