

**BEGLA-138**

**BA General Programme  
(BAG)**

**ASSIGNMENT**

**(For July, 2022 and January, 2023 Sessions)**

**BEGLA 138: Reading & Speaking Skills**



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

**Core Course of BAG – BEGLA 138**  
**Reading & Speaking Skills (BEGLA-138)**

Programme: BAG  
Course Code: BEGLA-138/2022-23

Dear Student

You are required to do one assignment for the first BAG Course titled Reading & Speaking Skills Code BEGLA-138, which will be a Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) and will carry 100 marks. It will be based on blocks 1 to 4.

**Aims:** This assignment is concerned mainly with assessing your application and your understanding of the course material. You are not 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.

As in day-to-day life, planning is important in attempting the assignment as well. Read the assignment carefully; go through the units on which the questions are based; jot down some points regarding each question and then re-arrange them in a logical order. In the essay-type answer, pay attention to your introduction and conclusion. The introduction must tell you how to interpret the given topic and how you propose to develop it. The conclusion must summarize your views on the topic. 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 emphasize. **You should submit the assignment in your own handwriting.**

Make sure that your answer:

- a) is logical
- b) is written in simple and correct English
- c) does not exceed the number of words indicated in your questions
- d) is written neatly and clearly.

**Please remember that it is compulsory to submit your assignment before you can take the Term End Examination. Also remember to keep a copy of your assignment with you and to take a receipt from your Study Centre when you submit the assignment.**

1. Write your Enrolment Number, Name, Full Address and Date on the top right corner of the first page of your response sheet(s).
2. 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:

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ENROLMENT NO: .....

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

COURSE TITLE: .....

ASSIGNMENT NO: .....

STUDY CENTRE: ..... DATE:.....

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4. Use only foolscap size paper for your response and tag all the pages carefully.
5. Write the relevant question number with each answer.

**Last Date for Submission of Assignment:**

**For June Examination: 31<sup>st</sup> March**

**For December Examination: 30<sup>th</sup> September**

**Good Luck!**

**BEGLA-138: Reading and Speaking Skills**  
**Assignment July, 2022 & January, 2023 Sessions**  
**(Based on Blocks 1 - 4)**

**Max. Marks: 100**

**Answer all questions.**

1. What do you understand by Comprehension? Explain Expository text and its types. **(20)**
2. Define 'communication'. Why are Communication Skills important? Discuss the 7 Cs of communication. **(20)**
3. Read the passage and answer the following questions: **(10)**

Mike and Morris lived in the same village. While Morris owned the largest jewellery shop in the village, Mike was a poor farmer. Both had large families with many sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren. One fine day, Mike, tired of not being able to feed his family, decided to leave the village and move to the city where he was certain to earn enough to feed everyone. Along with his family, he left the village for the city. At night, they stopped under a large tree. There was a stream running nearby where they could freshen up themselves. He told his sons to clear the area below the tree, he told his wife to fetch water and he instructed his daughters-in-law to make up the fire and started cutting wood from the tree himself. They didn't know that in the branches of the tree, there was a thief hiding. He watched as Mike's family worked together and also noticed that they had nothing to cook. Mike's wife also thought the same and asked her husband, "Everything is ready but what shall we eat?" Mike raised his hands to heaven and said "Don't worry. He is watching all of this from above. He will help us." The thief got worried as he had seen that the family was large and worked well together. Taking advantage of the fact that they did not know he was hiding in the branches, he decided to make a quick escape. He climbed down safely when they were not looking and ran for his life. But, he left behind the bundle of stolen jewels and money which dropped into Mike's lap. Mike opened it and jumped with joy when he saw the contents. The family gathered all their belongings and returned to the village. There was great excitement when they told everyone how they got rich. Morris thought that the tree was miraculous and this was a nice and quick way to earn some money. He ordered his family to pack some clothes and they set off as if on a journey. They also stopped under the same tree and Morris started commanding everyone as Mike had done. But no one in his family was willing to obey his orders. Being a rich family, they were used to having servants all around. So, the one who went to the river to fetch water enjoyed a nice bath. The one who went to get wood for fire went off to sleep. Morris's wife said "Everything is ready but what shall we eat?" Morris raised his hands and said, "Don't worry. He is watching all of this from above. He will help us." As soon as he finished saying, the thief jumped down from the tree with a knife in hand. Seeing him, everyone started running around to save their lives. The thief stole everything they had and Morris and his family had to return to the village empty handed, having lost all their valuables that they had taken with them.

- 1) Why did Mike and his family decide to rest under the thief's tree?
  - a) Being a large family, they knew that they could easily defeat the thief
  - b) It was a convenient spot for taking a halt at night
  - c) There was a stream nearby and wood enough to build a house
  - d) That was the only large tree that could shelter their large family

- 2) Which of the following best describes Morris?
  - a) He was a rich businessman
  - b) He bullied his wife
  - c) He paid his servants well
  - d) He was greedy and imitated Mike
- 3) What did Mike mean when he said “He is watching all this from above”?
  - a) He had spotted the thief and wanted to scare him
  - b) He was telling his wife to have faith in god
  - c) It was just a warning for his family members to stick together
  - d) He was begging the thief to help his family
- 4) Why did the thief return to the tree?
  - a) To wait for Mike to return
  - b) To set up a trap
  - c) To wait for Morris’s family
  - d) Not mentioned in the passage
- 5) How did the fellow villagers react to Mike getting rich overnight?
  - a) They were jealous of him
  - b) They were very excited
  - c) They followed his example
  - d) They envied him

4. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

(20)

1) The sage of science, Einstein, was sitting in a depressive and pensive mood one evening. His eyes were brimming with tears. The pain was evident on his face. He peeped out of the window of his room. The sun had set a few minutes back. The sky was filled with a reddish glow. At this sunset, he felt that it was humanity that had sunk into devilish darkness and the reddish glow in the sky was the blood of humanity spilling all over the sky from earth. With tired steps, he walked back to his chair and settled down. It was the 9th of August 1945. Three days back, he had felt the same agony as if someone had torn him apart. He was deeply hurt and depressed when they heard on the radio that America had dropped an atom bomb on the Japanese city, Hiroshima. Today, within three days another bomb was dropped on another city, Nagasaki and lakhs of people had been killed.

2) He had heard that the blast released so much energy that it had paled all past destructions in comparison and death had played out a pitiable dance of destruction. The flames that broke out of the bomb were burning, melting and exploding buildings. Scared of the heat of the bomb, people had jumped into lakes and rivers, but the water was boiling and the people too were burnt and killed. The animals in the water were already boiled to death. Animals, trees, herbs, fragrant flowering plants were all turned into ashes. The atomic energy destruction had just not stopped there. It had entered the atmosphere there and had spread radiation that would affect people for generation to come and would also bring about destructive irreversible biological changes in animals and plants.

3) As the news of the atomic attack reached Einstein, and he became aware of the glaring horror of the abuse of atomic energy, his distress and restlessness knew no bounds. He could not control himself and picked up his violin to turn his mind on the other things. While playing the violin, he tried to dissolve in its sad notes, but couldn't. He was burning on the embers of destruction; his heart was filled with an ocean of agony and tears just continued streaming uncontrollably out of his eyes. Night had fallen. His daughter came up and asked him to eat something as he had not taken anything for the last four days. His voice was restrained and he said, "don't feel like eating."

4) He could not sleep that night. Lying down, he was thinking how he had drawn the attention of the then American President Roosevelt towards the destructive powers of an atomic bomb. He had thought that this would be used to scare Hitler and put an end to the barbarism that. However, Roosevelt kept him in the dark and made false promises. Eventually, he had abused Einstein's equation of  $E=mc^2$  that resulted in the destructive experiments. His actions had made science and scientists as murderers. Einstein kept on thinking for a long time. Eventually, he slipped into sleep. When he woke up at dawn, there was a new dawn in him too. The atomic threat had transformed his heart.

5) The next day, he decided to disassociate himself from the scientific policy of the government and all governmental institutions. He decided to open educational institutions for children, adolescents and youth – institutions where along with science, spirituality will be compulsorily taught.

6) To inaugurate this institution, he had invited two great philosophers, Bertrand Russell and Albert Schweitzer. Ten other great scientists who had won Nobel Prizes in different fields were also invited. They all saw a different Einstein, not a great scientist but a sage in him. The institution was opened by garlanding a photo of Mahatma Gandhi. While garlanding the Mahatma, he became emotional and said with a lump in his throat, "I bow down to the great man who fought for the independence of his country through non-violence. He could do so because he was a truthful man and true spiritualist."

7) Those who teach science should be taught spirituality too. Without harmony between science and spirituality, the destruction would continue unabated. A few years after this institution was built, a Japanese delegation came to meet him. Einstein broke down in the meeting and said, "You can give me any punishment and I will accept it. Anyway, I have decided to lead my life in penitence." The Japanese were moved by his sincerity and forgot their grief.

1) Besides two great philosophers how many other scientists were invited by Einstein to inaugurate the institution where spirituality would be compulsorily taught? (1)

- i) Five                      (ii) Ten                      (iii) Eight                      (iv) Fifteen

2) Which musical instrument did Einstein play when he was in grief? (1)

- i) Harmonium                      (ii) Guitar                      (iii) Violin                      (iv) Flute

- 3) Einstein came to know that America had dropped an atom bomb on the Japanese city, Hiroshima through (1)
- i) Television      (ii) Newspaper      (iii) Radio      (iv) A telephonic message
- 4) Which American President was told about the destructive power of an atomic bomb? (1)
- (i) Kennedy      (ii) Bill Clinton      (iii) Lincoln      (iv) Roosevelt
- 5) Einstein said to the Japanese delegation: (1)
- i) “You can give me any punishment and I will accept it.”
- ii) “I am not at fault.”
- iii) “What could I do?”
- iv) “The President didn’t agree to my advice.”
- 6) What did Einstein do to overcome his distress after getting the news of the Narrative Text atomic attack? (3)
- 7) Which event in 1945, according to Einstein, turned science and scientists into murderers? (3)
- 8) What did Einstein do to show his displeasure over the atomic attack? (3)
- 9) Why did Einstein want harmony between science and spirituality while teaching in educational institutes? (4)
- 10) Which word/phrase means the same as: (2)
- i) Extreme mental pain (para 1)
- ii) repentance (para 7)

5. Read the following text: (10)

India’s economy is doing well and we have a right to celebrate that. But what we do not like to acknowledge, let alone address, is another fact: our economy and society, is still extremely biased against women. Perhaps paying attention to such inconvenient truths would distract us as we march towards superpower status. In the latest gender gap index report released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India keeps company with the worst in the world. Among the 128 countries that have been evaluated by the WEF, India is ranked 114, followed among others by Yemen, Chad, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Even China, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Botswana fare much better than us. The survey considers the proportion of resources and opportunities made available to women on educational, economic, political and health fronts. It is only in the realm of political empowerment that we seem to have done somewhat OK, ranking 21st. That’s also thanks to a long spell of Prime Ministership by Indira Gandhi. It raises the question why women are so badly off in our country if they are politically empowered. To begin with, we are still largely a feudal and patriarchal society. In many parts of our country – especially in UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab – women are often treated as if they were a piece of property. In these

parts, the sex ratio is most skewed because families often snuff out the lives of girl children before, or immediately after, they are born. In many parts of India, women are viewed as an economic liability despite contributing in several ways to our society and economy. The state has not covered itself with glory either in bridging the gender divides. Its policies and projects for women are woefully inadequate. For instance, the literacy rate for females is a mere 48 per cent against 73 per cent for males. Unless we put more of our girl children in school and equip them with quality education – as opposed to making them merely literate – we can forget about sustainable progress. Public health is another area of failure. Hundreds of women in rural India die every year during childbirth for want of medical attention. There are thousands more who do not even have access to a primary health centre. Importantly, reforming property laws more rigorously so that gender parity becomes a reality must rank among the government’s priorities. While these changes are necessary, they will amount to nothing if we, as a society, continue to deny our women the dignity, liberty and opportunities that are rightfully theirs. No society will ever prosper as a whole as long as half of it is constantly treated as somehow less than the other half.

1. On the basis of your understanding of this passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options: (4)

- a) Write out the correct option:
  - i) India’s economy is unbiased.
  - ii) India’s economy is doing poorly
  - iii) India’s economy is biased against human species
  - iv) India’s economy is biased against women.
- b) The most important rights of women are .....
  - i) dignity and society
  - ii) dignity and literacy
  - iii) dignity and liberty
  - iv) dignity and health
- c) A society can prosper only if .....
  - i) half of it is given its special rights
  - ii) it recognizes the importance of women
  - iii) it treats men and women differently
  - iv) it constantly treats women no less than its other half
- d) Hundreds of women in rural India die every year during childbirth
  - i) due to lack of finances.
  - ii) due to lack of literacy.
  - iii) for want of awareness.
  - iv) for want of medical attention.

2. Answer the following questions briefly: (4)

- a) Why is India ranked 114 by the World Economic Forum?
- b) In which fields are the women in India empowered?
- c) What has killing of girl children before or after birth affected the most?
- d) What is the reason behind the failure of public health?



3. Find a word from the passage having opposite meaning to “asset”. (Para-3) (1)
4. Find a word from the passage having similar meaning to “continuously”. (Para -4) (1)
6. Create a pleasant and positive impression to make a best telephonic conversation against the columns given below: (10)

<b>Weak expression to be avoided</b>	<b>You should use</b>
Hello,	
I'll call you back soon.	
You have got the wrong extension.	
What do you want me to do about it?	
No problem.	
That is impossible	
Who is this?	
I don't know	
The only thing I can do is ...	
Sorry to keep you waiting.	

7. How are story telling, dialogues and role playing important in achieving efficient speaking skills? Explain. (10)