

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

**ASSIGNMENT  
(For July 2019 and January 2020 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 – 105/2019-20**

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:

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COURSE TITLE : .....	ENROLMENT NO: .....
ASSIGNMENT NO: .....	NAME : .....
STUDY CENTRE : .....	ADDRESS : .....
	.....
	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.
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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 (For July, 2019 Session) and 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 (For January, 2020 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-105/2019-20**  
**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) Smoking is hazardous and the dangers of smoking are very serious. It can lead to both major and minor health problems for the smokers. A smokers inhales a substance containing about 43 cancer-causing compounds besides four hundred other toxins including nicotine and tar. Nicotine leads to smoking addiction. Tar clogs the lungs and inhibits the body's capacity to breathe; it causes lung and throat cancer, heart disease, emphysema, bronchitis, and lung disorders. Another thing is people who don't smoke also suffer the effects of passive smoking through breathing in "second-hand smoke" from smoker's cigarettes. There may still be smoke particles in the air even if it doesn't seem smoky. One of the dangers of passive smoking is that particles from smoke in the air are smaller than in smoke drawn directly from a cigarette and can penetrate deeper into the lungs. A non-smoker who lives with a smoker may be exposed to about 1% of their tobacco smoke from passive smoking. This can increase their chances of developing lung cancer or dying from a heart attack. The same applies to people who work in a smoky atmosphere. These are the reasons why I think that smoking is very dangerous.
  - b) The sun was still red and large; the sky above cloudless, and light blue glaze poured over the baking clay. But close over the ground a dirty grey haze hovered. As they followed the lane towards the sea they came to a place where, yesterday, a fair-sized spring had bubbled up by the roadside. Now it was dry again, although gurgling inwardly to itself. But the group of children were hot, far too hot to speak to one another and they sat on their ponies as loosely as possible, longing for the sea. The morning advanced. The heated air grew quite easily hotter, as if from some enormous furnace from which it could draw at will. Bullocks only shifted their stinging feet when they could bear the soil no longer; even the insects were too lethargic to pipe, the basking lizards hid themselves and panted. It was so still you could have heard the least buzz a mile off. Not a naked fish would willingly move his tail. The ponies advanced because they must. The children ceased even to think.
  - c) One of my favorite family experiences was when I went to see Anne Frank's ( a Jewish victim of the Nazi persecution during World War II) hideout in Amsterdam, Holland. I had read Anne's published diary when I was younger, so I was extremely thrilled to actually have the chance to see where she and her family hid from the Germans for so many months. I walked up the stairs of an apartment building and into a room with only a bookshelf in it. From what I remembered from reading the diary, there was a doorknob behind the books. I found the doorknob and turned it and there was the secret annex. When I stepped into the room behind the bookshelf, I felt as if I had stepped

back into history. I found Anne's room still with pictures of her favorite celebrities on her walls. The Frank family's furniture was still placed where they had left them in the rooms, everything just as described in the diary. I toured each room in awe of actually seeing how they had lived, yet with sadness to know how it all ended. Anne's diary was no longer just a book to me, but true heart-felt, emotional life story written by a girl I felt I almost knew.

(10x3=30)

2. Comment on the significance of the title 'Misery' by Anton Chekhov, with detailed reference to the story.  
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(10)
3. Attempt a character sketch of Urmi from the novel *The Binding Vine*.  
(10)
4. Identify examples of sarcasm, irony and pathos in the essay "On Seeing England for the First Time."  
(10)
5. Explain the theme of the essay "A Dissertation upon Roast Pig".  
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(10)
6. Laurence displays a moral responsibility in her speech "My Final Hour". What are her major concerns?  
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(10)
7. Comment on the art and craft of writing a diary with reference to *The Diary of a Young Girl*.  
(10)
8. Define and describe autobiography as a form of prose with reference to Gandhi's *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.  
(10)