

**BEGLA-135**

**B.A. GENERAL  
(BAG)**

**ASSIGNMENT  
2019-20  
(For July 2019 and January 2020 Sessions)**

**English in Daily Life  
(BEGLA-135)**



**School of Humanities**  
Indira Gandhi National Open University  
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## **ASSIGNMENT: ENGLISH IN DAILY LIFE (BEGLA-135)**

**Programme: BAG/2019-20  
Course Code: BEGLA-135**

**Dear Student,**

You are required to do **one** assignment for the Foundation Course in English. It is a Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA) and carries 100 marks. It covers four blocks of the course.

**Aims:** The TMA is primarily concerned with assessing your proficiency in English. You should not reproduce chunks of information from the passage(s) but effectively use the skills of reading and writing that you may have acquired during the course of study to compose your answers. These assignments aim to teach as well as to assess your performance.

**Guidelines:** You will be required to answer the questions on reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar and composition. For the question on transcribing phonetically, you may consult an appropriate dictionary.

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. **You should write 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.**

**Last Date for Submission of Assignment:**

**For June Examination  
For December Examination**

**30<sup>st</sup> April 2020  
31<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Good Luck!**

**Note:** *Remember the submission of assignment is a precondition for appearing in the examination. If you do not submit the assignment on time, you will not be allowed to appear in the examination.*

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**Answer all questions**

**Max. Marks: 100**

### **Section A**

- 1 Read the following passage and answer the questions.

The New Year is a time for resolutions. Mentally, at least most of us could compile formidable lists of 'do's' and 'don'ts' for the year. The same old favorites recur year in year out with monotonous regularity. We resolve to get up earlier each morning, eat less, find more time to play with the children, do a thousand and one jobs about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully, and take the dog for a walk every day. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep-rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure.

Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolutions to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolutions to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions; to do physical exercise every morning and to read more every evening. An all-night party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task.

The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living-room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about on the carpet and twisting the human frame into uncomfortable positions, I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped in to watch the performance. That was really unsettling but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good humouredly and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. By January 10th I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning I would keep my mind fresh for reading when I got home from work. Resisting the hypnotizing effect of television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book. One night however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to the old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven't given up my resolution to do more reading. In fact, I have just bought a book entitled 'How to Read a Thousand Words a Minute.' Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just haven't had time to read it.

- 1a) According to the writer, what have past experiences of New Year resolutions taught us? 2
- 1b) Why, according to the writer, do most of us fail in our efforts for self-improvement? 2
- 1c) Why did the writer not carry out his resolutions on New Year's day? 2
- 1d) The writer eventually failed to implement his New Year's Resolutions because: 1
- a) his family disturbed him.
- b) his resolutions were too ambitious
- c) he was looking for some convincing excuse to forget them.
- 1e) Give a suitable title to the passage. 1
- 1f) In a few lines write your own experience of New Year Resolutions. 2
- 2 Find words from the passage which convey a meaning similar to the following words/phrases 10
- (i) firm decisions (para 1)
- (ii) put together (para 1)
- (iii) overwhelming (para 1)
- (iv) unchanging (para 1)
- (v) stumbling-block (para 2)
- (vi) restricted (para 2)
- (vii) with great zeal (para 2)
- (viii) very tired (para 3)
- (ix) give me away (para 3)
- (x) ward off (para 3)

### **Section B**

- 1 Fill in the blanks with one of the past tenses: simple past, past continuous, present perfect (continuous), or past perfect (continuous). In some cases, more than one answer is possible. The first one is done for you. 10
- A: What happened (happen) to your car?
- B: I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) an accident yesterday.
- A: How \_\_\_\_\_ (it/happen)?
- C: I \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) to work when a dog \_\_\_\_\_ (come) in front of my car. I \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) my car suddenly, and the car behind me \_\_\_\_\_ (hit) my car because the driver \_\_\_\_\_ (follow) me too closely.
- A: \_\_\_\_\_ (you get) a ticket?
- B: No, but the driver who hit me did.
- A: Who will pay to have your car fixed?
- B: The other driver. When he \_\_\_\_\_ (hit) me, he \_\_\_\_\_ (get) out of his car and gave me his insurance card.
- 2 Fill in the blanks with the appropriate clause. One is done for you as an example. 10
- If I pass this course, I might take a computer course next semester.
- (i) If I work hard, \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) If I save a lot of money, \_\_\_\_\_

- (iii) If I drink a lot of coffee tonight, \_\_\_\_\_
- (iv) If I eat a lot of sugar, \_\_\_\_\_
- (v) If I don't get enough sleep, \_\_\_\_\_
- (vi) \_\_\_\_\_, I would be fit.
- (vii) \_\_\_\_\_, I would be better at my job.
- (viii) \_\_\_\_\_, I would buy a big house for myself and my family.
- (ix) \_\_\_\_\_, I shall be punished.
- (x) \_\_\_\_\_, I will be scolded by my father.

- 3 More and more young people leading stressful lives are unable to cope with their situations. Write a dialogue between a counselor and a stressed young person. You must indicate what is causing the young person anxiety. Write in about 250 words. 20

### **Section C**

- 1 Write a biographical sketch in about 250 words of a great social worker who impacted society positively. Write about his/her contributions and the cause(s) that were espoused. 20
- 2 There is an ancient historical monument in your area which is slowly crumbling and needs to be revived. Write to your local leader suggesting ways in which this monument may be saved. Also say why it is important to do so. Write in 250 words. 20