

**BEGE-105**

**BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME  
(BDP)**

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

**ASSIGNMENT  
(For July 2025 and January 2026 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 –105/2025-26**

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:.....	ASSIGNMENT NO:.....
ENROLMENT NO:.....	NAME : .....
ADDRESS: .....	
.....	
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.
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 2026 (For July, 2025 Session) and 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2026 (For January, 2026 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 Blocks1-7**

**Programme: BDP**  
**Course Code: BEGE-105/2025-26**  
**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. True education means more than the mere acquisition of knowledge. It is the development of character, the cultivation of strength, and the ability to think independently and act responsibly. Many students today believe that education is simply about memorizing facts and passing examinations. But the real purpose of education is to prepare us to meet the challenges of life with wisdom and courage. An educated person is one who has learned not only from books but also from experience, who respects others' opinions while being firm in his own beliefs, and who contributes positively to society.
  - b. The small cottage stood at the edge of the forest, surrounded by wildflowers and tall grass. The wooden walls were old but neatly polished, and a narrow stone path led up to the front door. Inside, the cottage was cozy, with a large fireplace, comfortable armchairs, and shelves full of well-worn books. A small window above the kitchen sink offered a view of the hills beyond, where the sunlight danced on the treetops. Every corner of the house spoke of warmth and simplicity.
  - c. It was a rainy evening when I lost my way in an unfamiliar part of the city. I had taken a wrong turn while returning from my friend's house and ended up in a quiet, narrow lane with hardly any streetlights. The sound of the rain hitting the rooftops and the occasional barking of dogs made the street feel even more deserted. I tried calling my friend, but my phone battery had died. With every step, I grew a little more nervous. Just when I thought I might have to walk around endlessly, I noticed a small tea stall with a dim yellow light. An old man sat there, calmly sipping tea. I approached him and explained my situation. He smiled kindly and said, "You're not too far from the main road." He even offered me a cup of tea while we waited for the rain to slow down. We sat there talking — he told me about how long he had been running that little shop and about the changing face of the city. After a while, he guided me back to the main road safely. That small act of kindness from a stranger on a rainy evening stayed with me. It reminded me that sometimes help comes from the most unexpected places, and even in unfamiliar surroundings, there are good-hearted people willing to guide us. (3x10=30)

2. Discuss how Dina Mehta uses humour and irony as important features of her prose style in the short story 'The Other Woman'. Illustrate your answer with suitable examples from the text.  
(10)
3. Critically analyse Deshpande's art of characterisation with respect to Urmi's character in *The Binding Vine*.  
(10)
4. Discuss the biographical techniques employed by Boswell in *Life of Johnson*.  
(10)
5. Anne Frank's diary is a commentary on war and its impact on human life. Discuss.  
(10)
6. Critically examine the prose style of 'The Quest of Man'.  
(10)
7. "While the grief is over the loss of his son, his misery is not being able to find an outlet to unburden his grief." Discuss this statement with reference to the short story 'Misery'.  
(10)
8. Analyze Gilbert Clandon's journey from illusion to truth in 'The Legacy'.  
(10)