BA English General Programme (BAG)
ASSIGNMENT (FOR JULY 2026 AND JANUARY 2027 SESSIONS)
BA English General
BEGE-141 UNDERSTANDING PROSE
(Based on Blocks 1-4)

Programme: BAG
Course Code: BEGE-141/2026-27
Maximum Marks: 100

Answer all the questions.

Section A

Q.1 Write short notes on the following in about 200 words each:

a. Difference between Image and Symbol
b. Characteristics of Expository Prose
c. Travelogue
d. Personification

(4 x5= 20)

Section B

Q.2 Answer the following questions in about 350 words each:

(4 x7.5 = 30)

a. Analyse how the idea of England is constructed in the mind of the colonized subject and how this leads to a crisis of identity in Jamaica Kincaid's essay "On Seeing England for the First Time."
b. Explain the significance of the subtitle "To Whom Shall I Tell My Grief?" in relation to the theme of misery in Chekhov's story
c. How does Bill Aitken turn a railway journey into a meaningful exploration of India?
d. Write an essay on Anne Frank as a child, a diarist, and a witness to history.

Section C

Q.3. Answer the following questions in about 600 words each:

(5 x 10 = 50)

a. "Shooting an Elephant" is an expository essay without Orwell adopting the argumentative mode." Discuss the essay with reference to its prose style.
b. Describe Gandhi's journey toward self-knowledge as reflected in his autobiography.
c. "Margaret Laurence's speech is simple in style but forceful in argument." Discuss.
d. "Mother is a strong, idealistic, and uncompromising woman." Discuss with relevant examples from the story.
e. Discuss "The Quest of Man" as a philosophical letter addressed to Indira Gandhi.

Q.1 Write short notes on the following in about 200 words each:

(4 x5= 20)

a. Difference between Image and Symbol

Answer

An image and a symbol are both important devices through which prose and poetry communicate meaning beyond a plain statement. They are related, but they do not work in exactly the same way. An image primarily appeals to the senses or imagination, while a symbol is a person, object, action or event that represents an idea larger than its literal identity.

An **image** is a verbal picture created through words. It may suggest something seen, heard, touched, tasted or smelled. For example, a description of rain striking a tin roof helps a reader imagine its sound and atmosphere. Images make writing vivid and concrete. They can also reveal a character's emotional state without naming the emotion directly. A dim room, an empty street or a sudden burst of sunlight can shape the mood of a narrative.

A **symbol** carries an additional, recognisable level of meaning. A journey may suggest the search for knowledge; a locked door may represent exclusion or a lost opportunity. A national flag is a familiar conventional symbol, but a literary writer may create a symbol that develops its meaning through a particular story. When an image recurs and becomes associated with a theme, it may acquire symbolic force.

The distinction is therefore one of emphasis rather than an absolute division. An image makes an experience present to the imagination; a symbol encourages interpretation of what that experience signifies. A river described for its movement and sound is an image. If it repeatedly stands for the passing of time or the continuity of life, it also becomes a symbol. Both devices deepen literary expression, but a symbol normally asks the reader to move more deliberately from the literal to the suggested meaning.

b. Characteristics of Expository Prose

Answer

Expository prose is a form of writing whose main purpose is to explain, clarify or inform. Instead of concentrating on an imaginary plot, it presents a subject in a way that helps readers understand its nature, causes, processes or significance. Essays, explanatory articles, textbooks and discussions of social questions frequently employ expository prose.