Elective Course in English
UNDERSTANDING PROSE
(BEGE – 105)
Based on Blocks 1-7

Programme: BDP
Course Code: BEGE-105/2026-27
Maximum Marks: 100

Answer all the 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:

Passage A: Everyday routines shape who we become, even if we do not notice them. Waking up at the same time, brushing our teeth, fetching water, or checking the phone first thing in the morning are small habits that slowly build our day. When these routines are thoughtful and calm, they create a sense of order and control, helping us face stress and surprises more steadily.

Passage B: One rainy evening in our small town, Ravi lost his wallet while walking home from the market. A young girl selling flowers spotted it on the wet pavement. She picked it up, ran after him through the downpour, and returned it with all the money inside. Her honest smile brightened his day, and he rewarded her with a handful of coins.

Passage C: The quiet river flowed gently through the forest, its surface shimmering like silver under the moonlight. Tall reeds lined the banks, bending softly in the night wind. Smooth pebbles gleamed at the water's edge, and fireflies danced above, casting tiny golden lights on the dark ripples.

(3x10=30)

2. Gilbert and Angela Clandon's marriage reflects the idea of disguise and the limitations of love in maintaining a meaningful relationship. Discuss with reference to the story "The Legacy."

(10)

3. Critically examine Urmi's role as the voice of women's suffering in *The Binding Vine*.

(10)

4. Analyse Lamb's use of exaggeration in "A Dissertation Upon Roast Pig" as a strategy of humour. Give suitable examples from the text.

(10)

5. How does Boswell create artistic unity and narrative effectiveness in *Life of Johnson?* Discuss with examples.

(10)

6. How does *The Diary of a Young Girl* represent the Holocaust and the psychological trauma experienced by the Jewish community?

(10)

7. Discuss Nehru's views on Indian culture and civilization in "The Quest of Man."

(10)

8. Discuss the significance of societal apathy in *Misery*, and explain how this theme shapes Iona Potapov's emotional state.

(10)

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Answer

The dominant variety in Passage A is expository prose. The writer is not telling a particular story or describing one place. Instead, the passage explains a general idea: repeated actions, however ordinary they appear, gradually influence our habits, state of mind and personality. Its purpose is to make the reader understand the connection between daily routines and a stable life.

The opening sentence states the main argument in a simple and thoughtful way. The following sentence illustrates that argument through familiar actions such as waking at a fixed time, brushing one's teeth, fetching water and checking a phone. These examples belong to everyday experience, so the reader can test the observation against personal life. Their arrangement also matters. The movement from necessary tasks to checking a phone shows that routines may be useful or distracting, depending on how we choose them. The writer does not make this distinction sharply, but it is suggested by the later stress on thoughtful habits.