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NON FICTIONAL PROSE

SEMESTER V

ENGLISH

BLOCK -1

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

The paper entitled 'Non Fictional Prose' introduces the learners to some of the widely anthologised works of important prose writers representing different periods in the history of English Literature. Some of the leading writers whose texts have been taken up for study in the present course are namely Francis Bacon, Joseph Addison, Samuel Johnson, Mahatma Gandhi, Nirad C. Chaudhuri, Bertrand Russell, Anne Frank, Robert Browning and A.G. Gardiner. Apart from introducing the learner to the life and works of these writers, the units shall take up the prescribed texts in an interesting and a detailed manner.

BLOCK INTRODUCTION

The first block takes up the introductory unit entitled "Goodness and Goodness of Nature" an essay by Francis Bacon that highlights the significance of moral propriety and the practice of goodness in our day-to-day lives. The second and third unit takes up Joseph Addison's essay "Sir Roger at Home" which reveals the protagonist's personality traits which makes him as flawed as endearing given his mild humor. The fourth and fifth unit takes up the popular essayist Charles Lamb's essay "Dream Children" which reverts one to the nostalgic memories of the past, the never-to-return moments of childhood days and in an instant, brings one back to the sadness of present realities.

The sixth unit takes up Dr. Samuel Johnson's essay entitled "Life of Cowley" which is one of his famous biographical accounts of the famous metaphysical poet named Abraham Cowley. The seventh unit takes up a chapter from the autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi known as *My Experiments with Truth* (1948) and in this selected chapter entitled "Playing the English Gentleman" the learner will receive an insight into the dynamic role of this great figure. In the eighth unit which takes up a chapter from John Stuart Mill's *Autobiography* (1873) presents the childhood experiences of the narrator and some of the most influential years of his life. The ninth unit takes up Nirad C. Chaudhuri's "Shakespeare in Today's England" which is an excerpt from his second book titled *A Passage to England* published in 1959. This essay brings out the author's deep understanding of the English culture, Shakespearean theatre, wide audience and challenging criticism through the ages.

After going through these units of the first block, the learner will be able to discuss the prescribed drama and plays in a detailed manner. While going through a unit, you may also notice some text boxes, which have been included to help you know some of the difficult terms and concepts. You will also read about some relevant ideas and concepts in "LET US KNOW" along with the text. We have kept "CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" questions in each unit which have been designed to self-check your progress of study. It is important to note that the Self Learning Material (SLM) is not an end in itself and the learners are strongly advised to consult the references and other resources recommended for reading.