

B.E / B.Tech (Full Time) DEGREE END SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS, DEC 2012

COMMON TO ALL BRANCHES

ROLL NO.

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HS 8151/ TECHNICAL ENGLISH I

I Semester

(Regulation 2012)

Time : 3 Hours

Answer ALL Questions

Max. Marks 100

PART-A (10 x 2 = 20 Marks)

1. Fill in the blanks with suitable tense forms. (4 × ½ = 2)
 In the last hundred years, traveling _____ (become) much easier and very comfortable. In the 19th century, it _____ (take) two or three months to cross North America by a wagon. The trip _____ (be) very rough and often dangerous. Things _____ (change) a great deal in the last hundred and fifty years. Now you can fly from New York to Los Angeles in a matter of hours.

2. Make any four compound nouns from the given passage. (4 × ½ = 2)
 The box for the tools which are made of steel is kept in the room for stores. In addition to the standard tools, it should contain a ruler for measuring up to 60 cms, some wire made of copper, some nails which measure 2 cms, some wire for fuses and a can which contains oil.

3. Expand the following abbreviations / acronyms. (4 × ½ = 2)
 (a) WLAN (b) IPL (c) ISRO (d) GPRS

4. Define any two of the following: (2 × 1 = 2)
 (a) Stapler (b) Photocopier (c) Printer

5. Form one word for each of the given meanings which start with one of the following prefixes: re, mis, over, bi. (4 × ½ = 2)
 (i) Happening once in two weeks
 (ii) eat too much
 (iii) read incorrectly
 (iv) to start again

6. Fill in the blanks with suitable words by adding appropriate suffixes to the given words. (4 × ½ = 2)
 (a) It was such an _____ (expense) present that I was too embarrassed to accept it.
 (b) It is _____ (horror) to see innocent children dying due to poor health care.

- (c) _____ (science) investigation revealed that the dinosaur footprints were from the Cretaceous period.
- (d) Many people believe that a diet rich in vitamins is very _____ (health).

7. Rewrite the following passage in the passive voice. (4 × ½ = 2)
 Last summer I painted our house. It took two weeks for the job. First, I washed the exterior using warm water and a mild detergent. Then I sealed all the chinks and pores in the walls with putty.

8. Choose the right homonyms. (4 × ½ = 2)
 (i) The students had a _____ (duel / dual) objective; they wanted less homework and longer summer vacation.
 (ii) Please try not to _____ (lose / loose) your new sunglasses.
 (iii) When the student needed help, the guidance counselor tried to _____ (advice / advise) her.
 (iv) That bag is _____ (too / two) big to fit in the car.

9. Choose a suitable collocation for the words in column A from column B and make one sentence for each collocation. Do not add any other word between the words in column A and B. (2 × 1 = 2)

Eg.: Talk – swiftly / loudly / gracefully

Ans: Do not **talk loudly** at hospitals.

| Column A | Column B |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Dance | Actively / gracefully/ fastly |
| Make | Time / report / food |

10. Read the following passage and based on it frame two wh-questions. (2 × 1 = 2)

"Give Peace a Chance" is the seventh episode of the sixth season of the American television medical drama *Grey's Anatomy*, and the show's 109th episode overall. Written by Peter Nowalk and directed by Chandra Wilson, the episode was originally broadcast on the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) in the United States on October 29, 2009. *Grey's Anatomy* centers around a group of young doctors in training.

Part – B (5 x 16 = 80 marks)

11. Read the passage and answer the following questions.

The Autonomous House

The autonomous house on its site is defined as a house operating independently of any inputs except those of its immediate environment. The house is not linked to the mains services of gas, water, electricity or drainage, but instead uses the income-energy sources of sun, wind and rain to service itself and process its own wastes. In some ways it resembles a land-based space station which is designed to provide an environment suitable for life but unconnected with the existing life-support structure of Earth. The autonomous house uses the life-giving properties of the Earth but in so doing provides an environment for the occupants without interfering with or altering these properties.

Although the self-serviced house provides a useful starting-point for experiments in autonomy, as it forms a small unit that can be designed, built and tested within a relatively short time, the idea can be expanded to include self-sufficiency in food, the use of on-site materials for building and the reduction of the building and servicing technology to a level where the techniques can be understood and equipment repaired by a person without recourse to specialized training. Although it is possible to survive with pre-industrial technology, this is not what is proposed by autonomous living. At present, however, technology appears to be exploited for its own sake, without thought to its benefits, uses or effects on people or the external environment. We are persuaded to expect a higher material standard of living when, for the majority, the standard that we already have in the West is perfectly adequate. A marginal increase in this standard can only be made with the use of yet greater quantities of the existing resources of the Earth. What are essentials for the American way of life (full central heating, air conditioning, a car per person) are considered, albeit less so now, as luxuries for Europeans, and what are considered necessary for a satisfactory European life (enough to eat, a home and fuel to heat it, access to transport) would be luxuries for the 'third world'. If we cannot find a way of levelling standards rationally while there is time left to consider the problem, then the levelling may be forced on us as the lack of fossil fuels on which western economy so critically depends precipitates a collapse which must change our way of living if we are to survive at all.

The autonomous house is not seen as a regressive step. It is not simply a romantic vision of 'back to the land', with life again assuming a rural pace and every man dependent upon himself and his immediate environment for survival. Rather, it is a different direction for society to take. Instead of growth, stability is the aim; instead of working to earn money to pay other people to keep him alive, the individual is presented with the choice of self-autonomy or working to pay for survival. No such choice exists at present. 'Dropping out' now is a game for those with private means.

Stability would be an obvious goal were it not for the fact that society is so geared to growth in every sense. A stable population, making only what it actually needs, with each article being considered with regard to the material it is made of and what is to be

done with it once its useful life is over, and finding all its power from what can be grown or from the sun, would give man back a true place in the world's system. However, a consumer society can exist only by living off the capital resources of the Earth, whether the stored fuels or the reserves of oxygen for running the machinery of the growth economy; and, as has frequently been shown, these reserves are not infinite. The oil shortage in 1974 gave a taste of enforced 'no growth' economy, and our survival at whatever price or hardship will be a first lesson in stability. Whether this lesson will provide the impetus for yet more growth from a nuclear-based economy, or whether it could form the basis of a more rational society, remains to be seen. The autonomous house would only form a very small part of this total picture, but it is an object that can be grasped and realized in material terms at present.

However, the attractive idea of a house generating its own power and recycling its own wastes is almost as difficult to realize as the idea of a stable economy. Apart from the physical limitations of income-energy sources, the system can be made only marginally competitive with existing methods of servicing houses. This difficulty could be removed if autonomy did not have to fit within the present system. At the moment, however, with houses already more expensive than most people can afford, the idea of an increased capital cost for houses, even though future running costs would be reduced, could never be accepted.

The idea of autonomy probably arose from two quests. The first was to gain free power for house heating, etc., so that conventional fuels need not be bought, and the second was to free the planning of communities. At present any new building must link to an existing or purpose-built service network. Cities, therefore, expand around their edges in order to keep houses on the mains, although expansion is limited by the size of the existing servicing plants. Removal of this restraint would enable houses to be built virtually anywhere, and communities would be formed for a more logical reason than the need to be fed and watered at a central point. Existing cities can be likened to babies in that they are serviced completely from the outside and the control of their functions is at the will of a very few people. If any one person declares a state of emergency, half a million people may sit in the dark unable to help themselves. Autonomy could provide for every community to become adult. Each person or community would be in control of his own heating, lighting, food production, etc. A real decentralization of control would be achieved and every person would become self-governing.

How desirable such decentralization is in political terms, with removal of choice from the few to the many, is open to discussion. An autonomous country would mean one where there would be no growth in the economy, where population size was strictly controlled, where a higher standard of living could not be expected, where resources were shared equally between every man, where freedom to act was curtailed by the need to survive. The society would be unlike any that we know at the moment. It would encompass something of many previous political doctrines but it would be aimed at providing for the survival of mankind, given that our present method of living off capital cannot go on for all time.

Any acceptance of the desirability of autonomy can only be based on faith. If you believe that it is important for man to be part of his natural ecology, to know how survival is accomplished, to be in control of his own life, then autonomy is a logical

Any acceptance of the desirability of autonomy can only be based on faith. If you believe that it is important for man to be part of his natural ecology, to know how survival is accomplished, to be in control of his own life, then autonomy is a logical outcome. If, however, you believe that mankind has always solved every problem that arises, that eventually some way will be found for dealing with nuclear waste after a given number of years of research and that the benefits of cheap nuclear power outweigh the possible dangers, then there is no case for autonomy and the status quo will be maintained.

(From *The autonomous house - design and planning for self-sufficiency* by Brenda and Robert Vale)

- A. Choose the right options based on the passage. (6 × 1 = 6)
- (1) An autonomous house is a house which is dependent on
 - (a) main source for its basic services
 - (b) man-made life support structures of earth
 - (c) locally available resources of earth
 - (d) government services available for people
 - (2) A one-storeyed house which consists of an air conditioner, one car for each person, a bike, central heating, closed garage, garden in the back is NOT considered as a luxury in which country?
 - (a) Brazil (b) Moscow (c) Beijing (d) Chicago
 - (3) A person who lives in a house powered by solar energy for light, depends on pedal power for water, and uses home-grown vegetables for his food can be called as
 - (a) good citizen (b) native (c) self-reliant (d) free
 - (4) According to the author, an autonomous society is where
 - (I) People could monitor the resources they use.
 - (II) People shun modern amenities to depend on the resources of the earth.
 - (III) People get a choice to use what they want from the centralized resources
 - (IV) People depend on the environment for their survival
 - (a) I & IV only (b) I & II only (c) I, II and IV only (d) III & IV only
 - (5) The existence of consumer society depends on
 - (a) its human resources (b) the resources available on earth
 - (c) the industrial resources (d) planned organization of resources
 - (6) What is NOT a reason for the search for autonomous living?
 - (a) getting free power for central heating (b) being self-reliant
 - (c) having freedom to form communities (d) to expand the city limits

- B. State whether the following statements are true or false. (5 × 1 = 5)
1. If we continue to depend on oil, there will be a shift in global power centre.
 2. In today's world anyone can live an autonomous life suggested by the author.
 3. Decentralization of power is the major goal of autonomous living.
 4. A country who wants to make great strides in industrial growth would not prefer an autonomous lifestyle.

5. In an autonomous community, one person can cut off the power service to the entire community.

C. Choose the options that best represent the meaning of the word as used in the passage. (5 × 1 = 5)

- (i) **Recourse**
 - (a) Assist (b) resort (c) aid (d) refuge
- (ii) **Precipitates**
 - (a) moves (b) evolves (c) causes (d) takes
- (iii) **Impetus**
 - (a) impulsiveness (b) movement (c) motivation (d) interest
- (iv) **Status quo**
 - (a) status (b) status symbol (c) respected status (d) present scenario
- (v) **'Dropping out' in the passage means**
 - (a) discontinuing your studies (b) quitting your regular job
 - (c) leaving the city (d) leaving your family

12. (a) Give a set of eight recommendations to college students in reducing, recycling and reusing materials. (16 marks)

OR

(b) Give a set of eight instructions to your friend who has just started using a social networking site. Your instructions should specify on how to use the site and any other relevant information. (16 marks)

13. (a) Write a letter to the editor of a regional newspaper reacting to the following news item: Your response should also suggest some ways to avoid such incidents in the future. (16 marks)

CHENNAI: A class 9 boy of St Mary's Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School stabbed his teacher to death in a classroom on Thursday morning. He later told police that he was angry at her for scolding him.

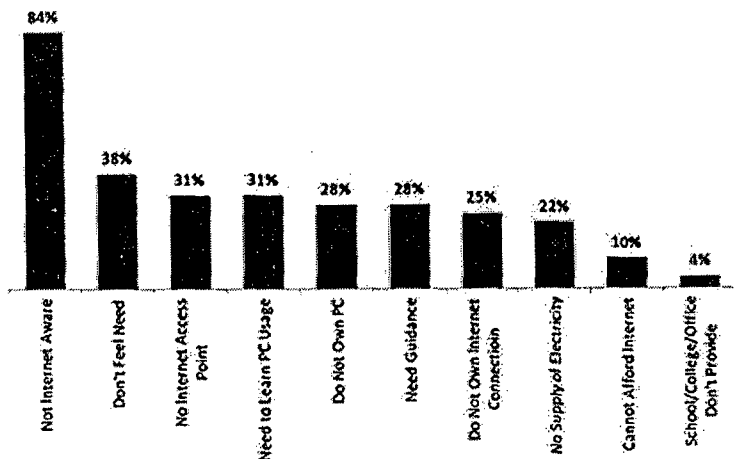
OR

(b) Write a letter to the Dean asking permission to start a book club in your college. Your letter should include the reasons for starting such a club and what you are planning to do in the club. It should also state how it will help the college students. (16 marks)

14. Choose either one of the following and describe it

(a) The following chart is one of the surveys conducted by magazine called 'India Reports' on reasons for not using Internet by rural India. Describe the chart and discuss the reasons given here. Give a few suggestions to encourage rural India to join the virtual world. (16 marks)

Reasons for Non-Usage of Internet among rural users in India



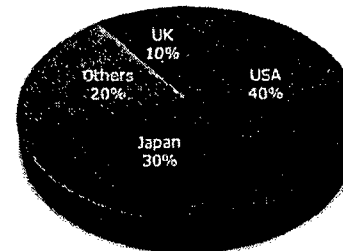
Source: Internet for Rural India, IAMA, 2010

India Reports

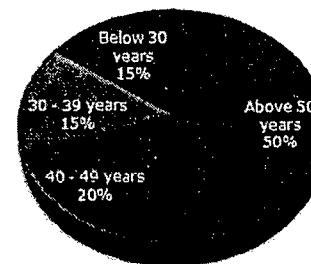
OR

(b) The following pie charts exhibit the distribution of the overseas tourist traffic from India. The two charts show the tourist distribution by country and the age profiles of the tourists respectively. Describe the chart and your findings about the preferences of Indian tourists. (16 marks)

Countries visited by Indian Tourists



Age profile of Indian Tourists



15. Write two paragraphs of 150 words each (total 300 words) on any one of the following topics. (16 marks)

(a) Compare text messaging (SMS) to personal conversation. Which one would you prefer? Justify your preference.

OR

(b) Discuss some of the problems faced by students today and suggest a few solutions for them.