

B.E. / B.TECH DEGREE EXAMINATION

ALL BRANCHES

I SEMESTER

HS9111 – TECHNICAL ENGLISH I

Time: Three hours

Maximum: 100 Marks

Answer ALL the questions

PART A – (10 x 2 = 20 marks)

1. What do the underlined words in the following sentences mean? Choose from among the options given below each sentence. (4 x ½ = 2)

a. The sophistication of the new Chinese supercomputer has astounded computer wizards from the USA.

- i. simplicity ii. style iii. complexity iv. sensitivity

b. The stringent rules in the library discouraged many students from entering it.

- i. severe ii. strange iii. strained iv. serious

c. The project was shelved because it was not feasible.

- i. reasonable ii. viable iii. liable iv. likable

d. The augmentation of water supply was due to the construction of the new dam.

- i. intensification ii. implementation iii. decrease iv. increase

2. Complete the following table with appropriate forms of the words given. One example is done for you. (8 x ¼ = 2 marks)

Noun	Verb	Adjective
Eg. Record	Record	Recorded
Preference	_____	_____
_____	Experiment	_____
_____	_____	Economical
_____	Calculate	_____

3. Complete the following If conditionals with suitable effects. (2 x 1 = 2)

a. If the hospital is constructed as planned _____.

b. If the electrical leak had been detected earlier _____.

4. Give the expansions of the following compound nouns. (4 x ½ = 2)

a. Knowledge dissemination

c. Laboratory experiment

b. Emergency surgery

d. Web content

5. Rewrite the following sentences in the passive voice. (2 x 1 = 2)
- The maintenance engineer overhauled the system thoroughly.
 - A team of five surgeons performed the two hour surgical procedure on the President.
6. Rewrite the following sentences using cause-effect expressions. One example is done for you. (2 x 1 = 2)
- Eg: The car came late. We were late for the party. - We were late for the party because the car came late.
- The black box of the shattered aeroplane could not be found. The cause of the accident could not be determined.
 - He cheated in the examination. He was expelled from the college.
7. Fill in the blanks in the given sentences with the comparative forms of the adjectives given in brackets. (4 x ½ = 2)
- Scientists now accept that the Universe is much _____ (expansive) than it has been conceived in human imagination.
 - Breathing became _____ (laboured) as we climbed _____ (high).
 - The guest lecture was definitely _____ (interesting) than the regular class.
8. Define any two of the following. (2 x 1 = 2)
- Washing machine
 - Ipod
 - Barometer
9. Fill in the blanks in the given sentences with the correct form of the verb, choosing the right option from the choices given in brackets. (4 x ½ = 2)
- A Special Team _____ (was / has been) appointed to investigate the terrorist attacks.
 - This year the University _____ (revised/ has revised) the syllabus for all the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
 - This plot _____ (was / has been) purchased in 1973 for Rs. 4000/-. Today it _____ (is / has been) worth Rs. 4 crores.
10. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions. Choose from the list of prepositions provided below. (4 x ½ = 2)
- At, to, in, by, of, with
- Born _____ a well-to-do peasant family, Mao Tsetung had many conflicts _____ his authoritarian father and was deeply fond of his gentle mother. Like other young nationalists _____ his time, he believed he would find the solutions _____ China's problems in revolutionary politics.

PART B (5 X 16 = 80)

11. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow it.

From the moment that an animal is born it has to make decisions. It has to decide which of the things around it is for eating, and which are to be avoided; when to attack and when to run away. The animal is, in effect, playing a complicated and potentially very dangerous game with its environment, a game in which it must make decisions for which the reward is survival and the penalty for a mistake discomfort or obliteration.

This is a difficult and unpleasant business and few animals would survive if they had to start from scratch and learn about the world wholly by trial and error, for there are too many possible decisions which would prove fatal. So we find, in practice, that the game is always rigged in favour of the young animal in one way or another. All species cheat in some way. Either the animal is protected during the early stages of its learning about the world around it, or the knowledge of which way to respond is built into its nervous system from the start.

Let us consider two extreme cases: first, our own species, as an example of an animal in which responses are wholly, or almost wholly, determined by individual experience. I have a small son. The fact that he has survived to the age of two, despite an inquiring mind and for all practical purposes no knowledge whatever of the properties of things in the world around him, is largely due to considerable care on the part of his normally untidy parents. Since he came, we clear up.' We hide saws and chisels; we put away bottles of detergent and the stuff that is sold to kill the slugs; we lay ladders flat instead of leaving them propped against things; and we shut the garden gate. In short, the boy's opportunities for experiment are kept within limits, so that while he is free to learn by experience, we can be fairly sure that he is not going to hurt himself really badly. As he learns more about the world, we can relax the limits.

That is one way of rigging the survival game. The other extreme way of fixing the result is to have the right answers to all potentially disastrous experiments fitted in at the outset. Some animals are indeed built like this: sea anemones, for example. Any sea anemone knows what is edible and what is not. It will grasp food with its tentacles and cram it into the mouth. It will reject inedible objects and close up when poked. A sea anemone does not learn to do these things: they are a property of the construction of its nervous system.

The fact that animals behave sensibly can be attributed partly to what we might call "genetic learning", to distinguish it from the individual learning that an animal does in the course of its own lifetime. Genetic learning is learning by a species as a whole, and it is achieved by selection of those members of each generation that happen to behave in the right way. However, genetic learning depends upon a prediction that the future will more or less exactly resemble the past. The more variable individual experience is likely to be, the less efficient is genetic learning as a means of getting over the problems of the survival game. And because most animals live in non-uniform environments, the details of which are liable to vary from one generation to the next, it is not surprising to find that very few species indeed depend wholly upon genetic learning. In the great majority of animals, behaviour is a compound of individual experience superimposed upon an inherited bias to behave in particular ways.

A. Choose the option that best represents the meaning of the word as used in the passage. (5 x 1 = 5)

i. obliteration

- a. forgetfulness b. destruction c. evasion d. erosion

ii. rigged

- a. elected b. twisted c. prearranged d. crooked

iii. disastrous

- a. dangerous b. sad c. constructive d. repeated

iv. prediction

- a. prophecy b. miracle c. evidence d. guess

v. compound

- a. chemical b. alloy c. mix d. muddle

B. Complete the following statements choosing from one of the given alternatives. (5x 1 =5)

1. All animals have to play the decision making game

- a. to get food to eat.
b. to run away.
c. to survive in a hostile environment.
d. to prove their ability.

2. If the young animal makes a wrong decision, it is likely to

- a. die
b. achieve
c. learn
d. care

3. Which of the following is *not* true?

- a. Young animals have to learn by trial and error.
b. Young animals most often succeed in the survival game.
c. Young animals have absolutely no chance in the survival game.
d. Young animals have parental protection and genetic support to help them.

4. The human species

- a. allows the young to learn entirely by experience.
b. allows the young to learn by experience within a protected environment.
c. allows the young to do disastrous experiments.
d. relaxes the limits early.

5. Most animals

- a. depend entirely on genetic learning.
b. depend entirely on individual experience.

- c. depend completely on their parents.
- d. depend on a mix of genetic learning and individual experience.

C. State whether the following statements are true or false. (6 x 1 = 6)

- 1. All animals live in a dangerous environment.
- 2. We have lived in an environment that has changed very little over the years.
- 3. A sea anemone crams things into its mouth indiscriminately.
- 4. Genetic learning is passed on to the species as a whole.
- 5. Genetic learning is likely to fail in a variable environment.
- 6. Individual learning is passed on from one generation to the next.

12. Rewrite the jumbled sentences in sequential order so that they follow one another in a logical and coherent manner. Choose either set a or set b. (16 marks)

a.

- i. Although he dropped out after only one semester, he continued auditing classes at Reed, while sleeping on the floor in friends' rooms, returning Coke bottles for food money, and getting weekly free meals at the local Hare Krishna temple.
- ii. Clara was an accountant who taught him to read before he went to school.
- iii. Following high school graduation in 1972, Jobs enrolled at Reed College in Portland, Oregon.
- iv. In 1974, Jobs took a job as a technician at Atari, Inc. in Los Gatos, California.
- v. Jobs attended Monta Loma Elementary, Cupertino Junior High and Homestead High School in Cupertino, California.
- vi. Paul Jobs, a machinist for a company that made lasers, taught his son rudimentary electronics and how to work with his hands.
- vii. Steven Paul Jobs was born in San Francisco in 1955 and adopted at birth by Paul Reinhold Jobs and Clara Jobs.
- viii. The Jobs family moved from San Francisco to Mountain View, California when Steve was five years old.

Or

b.

- i. Once this mass is produced, there are enough neutrons bouncing around in the material to create a chain reaction of fissions.
- ii. An atomic bomb is a powerful explosive nuclear weapon fueled by the splitting, or fission, of the nuclei of specific isotopes of uranium or plutonium in a chain reaction.
- iii. The bomb must provide enough mass of plutonium or uranium to reach critical mass, the mass at which the nuclear reactions inside the material begin.
- iv. At that point, a set of chemical explosives or some other mechanism drives all the different pieces of uranium or plutonium together to produce the critical mass.
- v. In the fission reactions, collisions between neutrons and uranium or plutonium atoms cause the atoms to split into pairs of nuclear fragments, releasing energy with a massive explosion and more neutrons.
- vi. The strength of the explosion created by an atomic bomb is on the order of the strength of the explosion that would be created by thousands of tons of TNT.

- vii. The neutrons released by each reaction hit other atoms and create more fission reactions until all the fissile material is exhausted or scattered.
 - viii. Usually the plutonium or uranium in the bomb is separated into parts so that critical mass is not reached until the point when the bomb is set to explode.
13. a. Youngsters of today are plagued by a variety of diseases and health problems due to their unhealthy eating habits and sedentary life style. Write a set of eight recommendations for them to improve their food habits and general health. (16)

Or

13. b. Write a set of eight recommendations for students who are living in the hostel to ensure the safety and security of their belongings. (16)

14. a. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper about the increasing incidence of credit card frauds and ATM thefts. (16)

Or

14. b. As the President of the Students' Union, write a letter to the Principal of your college requesting permission to organize a fund raising charity cricket match between the students and the teachers of your college. Give details of the purpose for which the money raised from the match will be utilised. (16)

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

- a. Compare the TV with the Internet. Which one do you think has more impact? Give reasons for your answer.

Or

- b. Nuclear power is "inevitable" for India and it has no other option. State whether you agree or disagree and justify your viewpoint.