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B.E. / B.Tech. (Full Time) DEGREE END SEMESTER EXAMINATION, NOV / DEC 2011

Second Semester

HS181 – ENGLISH II

(Common to All Branches)

(Regulation 2004)

Time: Three hours

Maximum: 100 marks

Answer ALL Questions

PART 'A' (10 x 2 = 20 marks)

1. Match the words in column 'A' with their meanings in column 'B': (4 x ½ =2)

A	B
a) gigantic	- an important event in the history of something
b) milestone	- fate considered as power
c) fraternity	- extremely large
d) destiny	- brotherhood

2. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate forms of the words: (4 x ½ =2)

Verb	Noun	Adjective
a) -----	division	divisible
b) -----	description	descriptive
c) employ	employment	-----
d) inform	-----	informative

3. Rewrite the following expressions as shown in the given example: (4 x ½ =2)

Example: a program lasting for 50 minutes

Answer: a 50 – minute program

- a) a flask with a capacity of two liters
- b) a course with the duration of five years
- c) a committee of six members
- d) a report of ten pages

4. Use the hints below to make sentences expressing purpose: (4 x ½ =2)

Example: binocular: observes birds from a distance

Answer: A binocular is used to observe birds from a distance.

- a) Regulator : maintains a constant voltage level
- b) Catalyst : speeds up the chemical process
- c) Amplifier : makes sounds or radio signals louder
- d) Camera :takes photographs

5. Join the 'causes' in column 'A' with the 'effects' found in column 'B' using cause and effect expressions ('due to', 'on account of', 'because of') and write two sentences: (2 x 1 =2)

A (Cause)		B (Effect)
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- |                                     |   |               |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| a) eating fatty food                | - | heart disease |
| b) using mobile phone while driving | - | accidents     |

6. Complete the following sentences: (2 x 1 =2)

- a) If she returns her books before the due date, they -----.
- b) If you had dropped it, it -----.

7. Edit the following passage by correcting the mistakes in spelling, grammar and punctuation: (8 x ¼ =2)

the esential functions of the UN is to maintain international peace and security to develop friendly relasons among nations, to cooperate internationally in solving international economic, social, cultural and humen problems, promoting respect for human rites and fundamental freedoms and to be a centre for coordinating the actions of nations in ataining these common ends

8. Rewrite the following sentences in the reported speech: (2 x 1 =2)

- a) Joseph said "I can't come to the party on Friday."
- b) She said, "John has given up his job."

9. Use any **two** of the following phrases in sentences of your own: (2 x 1 =2)

- a) write down
- b) look into
- c) fill up
- d) read out

10. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the correct tense forms of the verbs given in brackets: (4 x ½ =2)

- a) After Jerome ----- (complete) the homework, he went to the cricket ground.
- b) We ----- (meet) her in a town last week.
- c) In Finland, the banks usually ----- (open) at 9.00 in the morning.
- d) She ----- (watch) television when the phone rang.

**PART – 'B' (5 x 16 = 80 marks)**

11. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it: (16)

Auctions are public sales of goods, conducted by an officially approved auctioneer. He asks the crowd assembled in the auction room to make offers, or 'bids', for the various items on sale. He encourages buyers to bid higher figures, and finally names the highest bidder as the

buyer of the goods. This is called 'knocking down' the goods, for the bidding ends when the auctioneer bangs a small hammer on a table at which he stands. This is often set on a raised platform called a rostrum.

The ancient Romans probably invented sales by auction, and the English word comes from the Latin *auctio*, meaning 'increase'. The Romans usually sold in this way the spoils taken in war; these sales were called *sub hasta*, meaning 'under the spear', a spear being stuck in the ground as a signal for a crowd to gather. In England in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries goods were often sold 'by the candle': a short candle was lit by the auctioneer, and bids could be made while it stayed alight.

Practically all goods whose qualities vary are sold by auction. Among these are coffee, hides, skins, wool, tea, cocoa, furs, spices, fruit and vegetables and wines. Auction sales are also usual for land and property, antique furniture, pictures, rare books, old china and similar works of art. The auction rooms at Christie's and Sotheby's in London and New York are world-famous.

An auction is usually advertised beforehand with full particulars of the articles to be sold and where and when they can be viewed by prospective buyers. If the advertisement cannot give full details, catalogues are printed and each group of goods to be sold together, called a 'lot', is usually given a number. The auctioneer need not begin with Lot 1 and continue in numerical order; he may wait until he registers the fact that certain dealers are in the room and then produce the lots they are likely to be interested in. The auctioneer's services are paid for in the form of a percentage of the price the goods are sold for. The auctioneer therefore has a direct interest in pushing up the bidding as high as possible.

The auctioneer must know fairly accurately the current market values of the goods he is selling, and he should be acquainted with regular buyers of such goods. He will not waste time by starting the bidding too low. He will also play on the rivalries among his buyers and succeed in getting a high price by encouraging two business competitors to bid against each other. It is largely on his advice that a seller will fix a 'reserve' price, that is, a price below which the goods cannot be sold. Even the best auctioneers, however, find it difficult to stop a 'knock-out', whereby dealers illegally arrange beforehand not to bid against each other, but nominate one of themselves as the only bidder, in the hope of buying goods at extremely low prices. If such a 'knock-out' comes off, the real auction sale takes place privately afterwards among the dealers.

i) Write the response which best reflects the meaning of the text: (5 x 1= 5)

1. Auctioned goods are sold
  - A. for the highest price offered
  - B. only at fixed prices
  - C. at a price less than their true value

D. very cheaply

2. The end of the bidding is called 'knocking down' because

- A. the auctioneer knocks the buyer down
- B. the auctioneer knocks the rostrum down
- C. the goods are knocked down on to the table
- D. the auctioneer bangs the table with a hammer

3. The Romans used to sell by auction

- A. spoilt goods
- B. old worn-out weapons
- C. property taken from the enemy
- D. spears

4. A candle used to burn at auction sales

- A. because they took place at night
- B. as a signal for the crowd to gather
- C. to keep the auctioneer warm
- D. to limit the time when offers could be made

5. An auction catalogue gives prospective buyers

- A. the current market values of the goods
- B. details of the goods to be sold
- C. the order in which goods must be sold
- D. free admission to the auction sale

ii) State whether the following statements are true or false: (5 x 1 = 5)

- 1) The auctioneer may decide to sell the 'lots' out of order because he sometimes wants to confuse the buyers.
- 2) An auctioneer likes to get high prices for the goods he sells because the auction rooms become world famous.
- 3) A clever auctioneer encourages rivals to compete in high bidding.
- 4) 'Knock-outs' are illegal agreements among the sellers only.
- 5) A 'knock-out' is arranged to keep the price in the auction room low.

iii) Choose the definition which best reflects the meaning of the word as it is used in the text: (6 x 1 = 6)

1. bidder (paragraph - 1)

- A. one who buys
- B. one who sells

- C. auctioneer
- D. one who makes an offer

2. to gather (paragraph - 2 )

- A. to collect
- B. together
- C. to pick
- D. to understand

3. prospective (paragraph - 4)

- A. ambitious
- B. intending
- C. fortune-hunting
- D. uninterested

4. pushing up (paragraph - 4)

- A. raising
- B. rising
- C. growing
- D. exceeding

5. current (paragraph - 5)

- A. electrical
- B. up-to-date
- C. useful
- D. flowing

6. comes off (paragraph - 5)

- A. goes wrong
- B. is successful
- C. is taken away
- D. can be removed

12. a) Read the following advertisement published in 'New Indian Express' and write a letter of application. Enclose your resume with the letter of application. (16)

**Apro Tech – A multi-national Company**  
Needs Software Professionals

**Educational Qualification:** B.E./ B.Tech.

Preference will be given to candidates with good communication skills.

**Send your application to:**

The Personnel Manager, Apro Tech Company, Cathedral Road, Chennai – 26.

(Or)

- b) You are working as a Software Professional in a software company in Bangalore. Write a report to the Manager about a fire accident that happened in the company. Some costly machines imported from Japan were damaged in the incident. Write a report about the things that were damaged and the possible measures to avoid such happenings in the future. (16)

13. a) Imagine that you are living in a small town. There is a government hospital in the town but the quality of treatment is not good. Write a set of eight recommendations to improve the quality of medical treatment in the government hospital situated in the town. (16)

(Or)

b) Assume that the public library in your village is not functioning well. It remains closed even during the week days. Besides, the books are not arranged in the proper order. Write a set of eight recommendations to ensure better library service to the public. (16)

14. a) You wish to conduct your brother's birth day function in your house. You have already invited your relatives and friends for the function. Prepare a checklist of eight important items that you have to keep them ready for conducting the function in a grand manner. (16)

(Or)

b) Imagine that your Department is organising a two-day industrial visit for the B.E. / B.Tech. students. Prepare a check list of eight important items that the participants have to take for the visit. (16)

15. Write two paragraphs on any ONE of the following topics. Each paragraph should not exceed 150 words.

a) Traffic problems in Chennai (16)

(Or)

b) Internet and its uses (16)