

ANNA UNIVERSITY
II SEMESTER B.E. / B.TECH FULL TIME END SEMESTER EXAMINATION
MAY 2012
HS9161- TECHNICAL ENGLISH II



Time: Three hours

Maximum: 100 Marks

Answer ALL the questions

PART A – (10 x 2 = 20 marks)

1. Find words in the following passage with the meanings given below. (4 x ½ = 2)
A battery-driven bus, which is not only quiet and pollution-free but competitive with the conventional bus on cost and performance, has been developed by a group of British companies. The prototype, a fifty-passenger single-deck vehicle, is to go into operation in Manchester shortly.
 - a. As good as or better than other products of the same type -
 - b. First model -
 - c. The efficiency of work done by a machine -
 - d. Traditional or usual -

2. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions choosing from the given list. (4 x ½ = 2)
around, out, down, above, of, to
Did you know that ipods can pump _____ more than 100 decibels which can damage the delicate hair cells in your inner ear? Long or repeated exposure to sounds _____ 85 decibels can injure your ear. Whenever you use an ipod with headphones you should turn _____ the volume to 60 % of the maximum volume. So why don't you take a break from your ipod and tune in to the sounds _____ you?

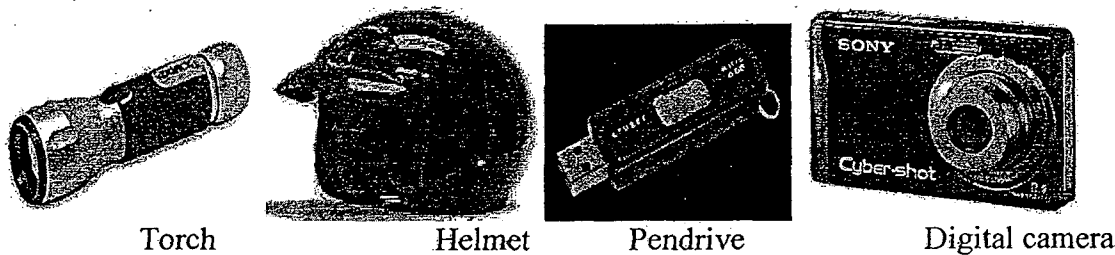
3. Add prefixes choosing from the given list to the following words to give the meanings given against each word. (4 x ½ = 2)
Ultra, super, supra, infra, sub,
 - a. _____ -modern – Extremely modern in ideas
 - b. _____ -structure – basic system of services, utilities and facilities in a place
 - c. _____ -impose – place one thing over the other
 - d. _____ -conscious – under the conscious level of the mind

4. Define any two of the following terms. (2 x 1 = 2)
 - a. Space technology
 - b. Mass production
 - c. Safety instructions

5. Look at the following pictures and then write a sentence stating what they are used for. One example is done for you. (4 x ½ = 2)



Eg. A syringe is used to inject medicine into the body.



6. Rewrite the following phrases using the numerical expressions as adjectives. One example is done for you. (4 x ½ = 2)

Eg. A symposium conducted over a period of two days – A two-day symposium

- a. A bucket with a capacity of 20 litres
- b. Two periods of 50 minutes each
- c. A book with 500 pages
- d. An interview panel with three members

7. Join the following sentences using cause effect expressions such as “because”, “due to”, “as a result of”, “as a consequence”, “on account of” etc. An expression used once should not be repeated. (2 x 1 = 2)

- a. Tremors were felt in many parts of Chennai. Many schools and colleges in the city closed early.
- b. Student attendance in the class was very poor on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday were holidays.

8. Give two noun forms of the verbs in the table. One example is done for you. (8 x ¼ = 2)

Verb	Noun 1	Noun 2
Pollute	Pollution	Pollutant
Explode		
Adhere		
Disinfect		
Catalyse		

9. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate tense forms of the verbs given in brackets. (4 x ½ = 2)

While one team of researchers _____ (conduct) the experiment in the laboratory, the other team _____ (record) their observations in the field. The research supervisor _____ (already allocated) the responsibilities to the two teams. In the meantime he himself _____ (devise) a new method of analysis which would help him collate all the data collected by his research teams.

10. Rewrite the following sentences changing the voice. (2 x 1 = 2)

- a. The budget announced for the coming financial year disappointed many people.
- b. Many people from all sections of society criticized the decision of the government.

PART B (16 X 5 = 80)

11. Read the following passage and then answer the questions that follow. (16)

Intelligence tests have been constructed of three kinds. Verbal paper-and-pencil tests, non-verbal paper-and-pencil tests, where the tasks are presented by means of pictures and diagrams, and

performance tests which require the manipulation of objects. Some, such as the Binet test and the performance tests, are given to subjects separately; most verbal and non-verbal tests can be done by a group of subjects writing at the same time.

The subjects are told to do their tasks within a certain time, their results are marked, and the result of each is compared with a scale indicating what may be expected of children of the same age, i.e. what marks are expected of the relatively few bright ones, what marks are expected of the few dull ones, and what marks are expected of the bulk of the population with whom the comparison is being made. This 'calibration' of the test has been made beforehand and we are not concerned with the methods employed. One thing, however, we have to notice, and that is that the assessment of the intelligence of any subject is essentially a comparative affair.

The results of assessment are expressed in various ways, the most familiar being in terms of what is called the Intelligence Quotient. For our purposes we need not consider how this has been devised, it is enough to say that an I.Q. round about 100 is 'average', while more than 105 or less than 95 are above or below the average respectively.

Now since the assessment of intelligence is a comparative matter we must be sure that the scale with which we are comparing our subjects provides a 'valid' or 'fair' comparison. It is here that some of the difficulties, which interest us, begin. Any test performed involves at least three factors: the intention to do one's best, the knowledge required for understanding what you have to do, and the intellectual ability to do it. The first two must be held equal for all who are being compared, if any comparison in terms of intelligence is to be made. In school populations in our culture these assumptions can be made with fair plausibility, and the value of intelligence testing has been proved up to the hilt. Its value lies, of course, in its providing a satisfactory basis for prediction. No one is in the least interested in the marks little Basil gets on his test, what we are interested in is whether we can infer from his mark on the test that Basil will do better or worse than other children of his age at other tasks which we think require 'general intelligence'. On the whole such inference can be made with a certain degree of confidence, but only if Basil can be assumed to have had the same attitude towards the test as the others with whom he is being compared, and only if he was not penalized by lack of relevant information which they possessed.

It is precisely here that the trouble begins when we use our tests for people from different cultures. If, as happens among the Dakota Indians, it is indelicate to ask a question if you think there is someone present who does not know the answer already, this means that a Dakota child's test result is not comparable with the results of children brought up in a less sensitive environment. Porteous found difficulty among the Australian aborigines. They were brought up to believe that all problems had to be discussed in the group, and they thought it very eccentric to be expected to solve one by oneself.

Supposing, however, a satisfactory attitude towards the test can be assumed, what about equality in relevant knowledge? In a society where children play with bricks, performance tests involving the manipulation of little cubes present an easier problem than they would in a society where such toys were unknown. Bartlett reports that a group of East African natives were unable to

arrange coloured pegs in an alternating series, but they planted trees according to the same plan in everyday life.

Then there is the story of the little boy in Kentucky who was asked a test question: 'If you went to a store and bought six cents worth of candy and gave the clerk ten cents what change would you receive?' The boy replied: 'I never had ten cents and if I had I wouldn't spend it on candy and anyway candy is what mother makes.' The tester reformulated the question: 'If you had taken ten cows to pasture for your father and six of them strayed away, how many would you have left to drive home?' The boy replied: 'We don't have ten cows, but if we did and I lost six I wouldn't dare go home.' Undeterred the tester pressed his question: 'If there were ten children in your school and six of them were sick with the measles how many would there be in school?' The answer came: 'None, because the rest would be afraid of catching it too.'

Thus all intercultural comparisons of intelligence are vitiated by the lack of true comparability, and any generalizations about 'racial' differences in intellectual competence which do not take account of this are worthless. So are many comparisons which have been made between children of different social classes.

A. Choose the option that best represents the meaning of the following words as they are used in the text. (5 x 1 =5)

i. manipulation

- a. manifesting b. handling c. treatment d. influence

ii. calibration

- a. over all percentage of marks b. evaluating marks c. conducting tests d. marking units of measurement

iii. vitiated

- a. verified b. created c. invalidated d. arranged

iv. undeterred

- a. persistent b. unsuccessful c. adamant d. indecisive

v. penalize

- a. punish b. reward c. ensemble d. annotate

B. State whether the following statements are true or false. (5 x1=5)

- i. The trouble in I.Q testing begins when we use tests to compare persons from different cultures
- ii. Intelligence tests have proved that there are racial differences in levels of intelligence.
- iii. The assessment of a person's intelligence is absolute.
- iv. Australian aborigines believe that all problems can be solved only in groups.
- v. The subjects of an IQ tests have to be of the same age, culture and society.

C. Choose the response which best reflects the meaning of the text. (6 x1 =6)

- i. Which of the following is an intelligence test?
 - a. Binet test
 - b. Diagnostic test

- c. Grammar test
 - d. Porteous test
- ii. Why are Intelligence tests conducted?
- a. To consider how an Intelligence test is devised
 - b. To prove the value of intelligence
 - c. To show that intelligence can be measured.
 - d. To provide a basis for prediction of the subject's ability to perform certain tasks
- iii. Which of the following is not a factor that should be considered in an Intelligence test?
- a. the intention to do well in the test
 - b. the intellectual ability to do it
 - c. the performance of the test in a group
 - d. the knowledge required for understanding what you have to do in the test
- iv. Bartlett's report on East African natives proves that the intelligence test is valid only if
- a. the subjects have the right attitude towards the test
 - b. the subjects have prior knowledge of the subject on which they are tested.
 - c. the subjects are familiar with toys in their society.
 - d. the subjects should be familiar with tree planting.
- v. The test on the boy from Kentucky was invalid because
- a. the boy did not have the relevant knowledge.
 - b. the boy had poor attitude.
 - c. the tester was not very intelligent.
 - d. the test did not take into account cultural differences among the subjects.
- vi. Which of the following can an intelligence test safely do?
- a. Make intercultural comparisons of intelligence.
 - b. Make interracial comparisons of intelligence.
 - c. Make comparisons between subjects of the same age and background.
 - d. Make comparisons between subjects from different social classes.

12. a. Your Department is conducting an international symposium and you are in charge of hospitality (stay, local travel, food etc) for the international guests. Prepare a checklist of items that you will check before receiving the guests. (16)

OR

12. b. You were entrusted with the responsibility of organizing the quiz fest in your college. But you are now required to go home on leave due to a family emergency. You have already arranged for the sponsorships, quiz master and participants. But the remaining preparations are yet to be done. Write a set of instructions on what has to be done to your friend in the quiz club who is taking over the responsibility from you. (16)

13. a. You are the Manager in a company manufacturing cars. Periodic power cuts and sudden fluctuations in voltage have damaged the machinery in the production unit in Siruseri. Twenty four workers received severe electrical shock while operating the damaged machines. One died instantaneously, two workers were admitted in ICU, while the others were treated for severe injuries. Your General Manager has instructed you to prepare a report in about 300 words giving details of the accident and your recommendations to avoid such a situation in future. (16)

Or

13. b. As the President of the College Union you have come up with a plan to help students in the hostel. The Principal instructs you to conduct a detailed survey in the college hostel on the facilities available, on the facilities desired by students, the interaction between students and warden and submit a report in about 300 words with recommendations for what can be done for these students. (16)

14. a. Ved Engineering Solutions Pvt. Ltd. is looking for dynamic engineers from all fields for its Chennai office. Candidate should be an Engineer from a reputed college and should be willing to work in a team. Send your application with your resume to The HR Manager, Ved Engineering Solutions, Arignar Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai – 17. (16)

Or

14. b. Your friend is planning to quit his job as Quality Maintenance Engineer in Unique Technical Solutions Pvt. Ltd. as he has got admitted into a research programme abroad. He has advised you to apply for his position before the company begins to advertise the position in the newspapers. Send in your application with your resume to the HR Manager, Unique Technical Solutions Pvt. Ltd, Vedaranyam street, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 34. (16)

15. Write an essay in 300 words on any one of the following topics. (16)

a. Of late, urban development has been in the direction of building more and more apartment complexes. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of living in apartments.

OR

b. Is Chennai a safe city to live in? Compare and contrast Chennai with any other city in terms of personal safety.