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4/12/13

B.E / B.Tech (Full Time) DEGREE END SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS, DEC 2013

COMMON TO ALL BRANCHES

49

I Semester

HS 8151/ TECHNICAL ENGLISH I

(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)
On Monday, just as I (try) _____ to wind down after a long working day, the telephone (ring) _____. "Is that you, Divya?" someone asked on the phone. "Yes, this (be) _____ me," I replied. "Meena speaking, Divya. I need to talk to you right now," she said in a desperate voice. She was a quiet girl who always tried not to call anyone when they (just/arrive) _____ from work.
2. Fill in the blanks with appropriate verbs to suit the given subject. (4 × ½ = 2)
 - (i) Even though the students like the class, a few _____ (think / thinks) that it is too complicated.
 - (ii) My friends who are in the band _____ (want / wants) me to play a musical instrument.
 - (iii) Some of the books on the shelf _____ (is / are) valuable.
 - (iv) Everyone _____ (need / needs) time to relax.
3. Expand the following compound nouns: (4 × ½ = 2)
 - (a) Printer cartridge
 - (b) Driving license
 - (c) Sleep walking
 - (d) Copper wire
4. Fill in the blanks with comparative adjectives based on the given sentences. (4 × ½ = 2)

Sheela is 5'6" tall. Meena is 5'1".

 - (a) Sheela is _____ Meena.
 - (b) Meena is _____ Sheela.

Fido is a friendly dog. Pluto is a ferocious dog.

 - (c) Fido is _____ Pluto.
 - (d) Pluto is _____ Fido.
5. Define any two of the following: (2 × 1 = 2)
 - (a) Telescope
 - (b) Solar Energy
 - (c) Short Messaging Service (SMS)

6. Rewrite the following dialogue into reported speech. (2 × 1 = 2)

Anto: It's remarkable! A city of fifty thousand people and no cars!

John: I agree with you. Masdar city in Abu Dhabi will be the world's first zero-carbon city.

7. Make two sentences using **any one** of the given homonyms with different meanings for the homonym in each sentence. (2 × 1 = 2)

(a) bark (b) left (c) row

8. Rewrite the following sentences in passive voice: (2 × 1 = 2)

(i) They say that women live longer than men.

(ii) Chemical companies produce new insecticides each year.

9. Fill in the blanks with appropriate interrogative sentences. (2 × 1 = 2)

Vendor: Hello Sir, _____?

Customer: I would like to buy a gift. (picking up a beautiful hand-painted plate) This is quite lovely. _____?

Vendor: Oh you have excellent taste. That plate is painted by a popular artist and it costs Rs.4350/-

10. Write four instructions to your friend for maintaining his newly bought laptop computer. (4 × ½ = 2)

Part – B (5 x 16 = 80 marks)

11.(i) Read the passage and answer the following questions: (8 × 1 = 8)

The Final Flight

What happened to Amelia Earhart? One of the mysteries of history is that no conclusive answer has been found to this question. In 1928, Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic, and in 1932, she was the first to fly alone across the Atlantic. Earhart continued to break records. In 1935, she was the first person to fly alone from Hawaii to California. Later, in 1937, she and her navigator, Frederick Noonan, set off in hopes of being the first to fly around the world. **They never made it.** Somewhere in the Pacific between New Guinea and Howland Island, Earhart's plane disappeared.

Conventional wisdom has it that Earhart's plane ran out of fuel and crashed into the ocean, but some refuse to believe this. People still continue to look for clues about the disappearance of the plane. In 1992, one search party reported finding remnants of what could be Earhart's plane on the island of Nikumaroro, but people who originally worked on Earhart's plane disputed that evidence. There have been other search expeditions to Nikumaroro, some funded by an organization formed specifically to search for historic plane wrecks. Two people of this group, Ric Gillespie and Pat Thrasher, have spent years looking for evidence, and their theory is that Earhart ran out of fuel and landed on Nikumaroro, only to die later of disease or starvation. They don't have much to go on. There are a few bones that were found on the island in 1940 that could possibly have come from either Earhart or Noonan. They have found some crumbling fragments of a woman's shoe that could possibly have belonged to Earhart. And there is a sheet of aluminium that might possibly have come from her plane if only the rivet pattern was different. The evidence is minimal. But Gillespie and Thrasher keep looking. May be the conclusive piece of evidence is **just around the corner**. Until then, the mystery continues.

- (ii) Why are newspapers sold at a low price?
- (iii) List out the problems of having more advertisements for one product.
- (iv) What is the main aim of the author in this passage?
- (v) Do you feel advertisements are necessary for consumers?
- (vi) Write a short summary of the given passage in not more than 80 words. (6 marks)

(OR)

(b) Camouflaging and mimicry in animals

Have you ever wondered why soldiers are always clad in green? This is to enable them to camouflage themselves during wartime. Hiding in the jungles, their green attire blend into the surrounding trees and shrubs, making it difficult for the enemies to spot them.

Long before man make use of camouflaging, insects have already adopted the tactic of disguise to escape from the clutches of their predators. By having body colors close to those of the rocks and dried leaves, they catch less attention from the predators and hence escape from being pursued. However, this kind of disguise works only if the insects remain still in the presence of their predators.

Butterflies and moths have developed a variety of camouflage strategies since they are quite defenceless and their predators - birds are abundant in supply. Many moth caterpillars resemble dead twigs while the young of certain species of butterflies appear like bird droppings. Adult butterflies and moths camouflage themselves too, in attempts to escape from their hunters -- birds who are superior gliders. Possessing wings which resemble dried leaves help certain butterflies and moths to hide among heaps of dried leaves when predators are around.

Fortunately, not all insects choose the art of disguise to escape from their predators; otherwise, the world would be so dull and colorless. There are insects which assimilate the bright body colors of bees and wasps to escape from being pursued by their predators. The concept of mimicry was derived, owing to the bees and wasps. Long ago, birds have already learnt to avoid brilliantly colored wasps and bees in fear of their painful stings. Hence, over millions of years, many harmless insects have assimilated the bees and wasps by imitating their bright body colors and shapes. In this way, they appear dangerous to their predators and hence ward them off.

Mimics of the wasps and bees are most commonly found in the gardens. The furry, plump bee-fly not only appears like the bumble bee in terms of body colors, even its hums sound similar too. The only difference is that the bee-fly does not have a sting and is hence harmless. The hoverfly is another insect which imitates the body colors of the wasps. Their bodies are striped yellow and black. The only deviations are that hoverflies do not have stings and they have only one pair of wings each while wasps have two pairs each. These variations are hardly noticed by the predators and hence help them to escape.

12. Choose either one of the passages and answer the following questions:

(a)

Advertisements

We are bombarded by many advertisements every day. Vendors try all means and ways to gain our attention and sell us their products or services. Advertisements appear everywhere; on television programs, radios, in the papers, magazines, pamphlets and so on.

Advertisements are actually very useful though we sometimes feel annoyed when they interrupt our favorite television programs. They provide us with free information on the products and services. There are two types of advertisements. The informative advertisements are the ones which provide us with the details of the products or services. This information is especially useful if the product or service is new. For instance, when we need to buy a computer, advertisements describing the latest models and their different functions would be extremely helpful. However, only a minority of the advertisements are informative ones. Many of them belong to the second category -- the persuasive kind. These advertisements not only tell us more about the products, at the same time, they persuade customers to buy them by claiming that their products are superior to the rivalry ones. These claims may sometimes be untrue.

Besides being informative and persuasive, advertisements also help to subsidize the prices of magazines and newspapers. Our newspapers are sold at a low price of about one dollar, owing to the advertisements in the papers; otherwise, the price would have been higher.

While advertisements can be good helpers for shopping, they do have their shortcomings. Most advertisements aim to sell only. Faults of the products or services are usually hidden from the consumers. Hence, sometimes, we feel deceived if the product or service we bought does not turn out the way the advertisements claim to be.

Sometimes, advertisements by rival competitors can get very intensive, especially when there are many firms producing similar products. One common example is the washing powder. There are so many advertisements for the different brands that customers sometimes get confused over what they should buy. Furthermore, having more advertisements would mean that the production cost of the firm would be increased.

These rises in cost are usually passed on to the consumers in the form of higher prices. Hence, in conclusion, though I do advocate advertisements, I do not deny their flaws. Without them, we might have to buy things based on incomplete information or go through more complicated ways before getting to know the products or services. On the other hand, too many advertisements also complicate our buying decisions. So I would say that we cannot live without advertisements but we must be careful how we live with them.

Answer the following questions in not more than three sentences.

(5 × 2 = 10)

(i) What is a persuasive advertisement?

(ii) Look at the table and answer the following questions:

Table 1: Consumer Durables (telephone, refrigerator etc.) owned in UK from 1992 to 2006								
Consumer Durables	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006
Percentage of households with:								
Centralized heating equipment for the entire house	64	66	69	72	73	75	80	84
Television	93	95	96	96	97	97	97	98
DVD						2	5	18
Vacuum cleaner	87	89	92	92	93	94	95	97
Refrigerator	83	87	89	90	92	94	95	96
Washing machine	76	78	81	85	87	89	92	94
Dishwasher	3	5	7	10	11	12	12	12
Mobile telephone	22	35	44	55	67	75	76	77

(A) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words to describe the above given table. (4 × 1 = 4)
(rising, expense, transport, usage, percentage, communication, increase)

Table 1 shows that the _____ of British households with a range of Consumer Durables steadily increased between 1992 and 2006. The greatest _____ was in mobile telephone ownership _____ from 22% in 1992 to 77% in 2006. In the table we could see that as standards of living are becoming higher, entertainment and _____ are becoming a priority; hence the increase in DVD players and mobile phones.

(B) Choose the right option for the following questions: (4 × 1 = 4)

- (1) Why are there no information given for DVD usage in the years 1992 – 2000?
 - (a) Sale of DVD was banned
 - (b) DVD was not invented earlier
 - (c) DVDs were very big
 - (d) DVDs were bought by organization
- (2) Which product has maintained its usage with only a few percentage increase?
 - (a) Centralized heating equipment
 - (b) Dishwasher
 - (c) Television
 - (d) Washing machine
- (3) What is the reason behind the phenomenal increase of mobile telephone usage?
 - (a) It is available in many models
 - (b) It has become a status symbol
 - (c) Being connected has become important
 - (d) People love playing games
- (4) Of the consumable products listed which do you think would not be needed for a person living in Chennai
 - (a) Centralized heating equipment
 - (b) Dishwasher
 - (c) Refrigerator
 - (d) Vacuum cleaner

- (1) What is the mystery that the author refers to?
- (a) Why are people still looking for Earhart?
 - (b) What happened to Amelia Earhart?
 - (c) Whose shoe was found on the island?
 - (d) Why was Earhart flying in Pacific?
- (2) What does the sentence '**They never made it**' in the first paragraph refer to?
- (a) They couldn't find a place to land.
 - (b) They ran out of fuel.
 - (c) They could not fix the plane.
 - (d) They did not achieve their goal.
- (3) Why does the author mention '**conventional wisdom**' in the second paragraph?
- (a) To indicate what many people believe
 - (b) To point to something that is wise
 - (c) To show that not everyone knows
 - (d) To demonstrate seriousness
- (4) What does the author say about Ric Gillespie and Pat Thrasher?
- (a) They found clear evidence of Earhart's disappearance
 - (b) An organization supported their search efforts
 - (c) They think she crashed into the Pacific ocean
 - (d) A group of people on the island assisted them
- (5) Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?
- (a) Earhart and Noonan wanted to fly around the world.
 - (b) Earhart's plane was shot down over the Pacific
 - (c) Earhart was the first woman to fly alone from Hawaii to California
 - (d) Earhart was an accomplished pilot
- (6) According to the passage, what would most likely make Gillespie and Thrasher happy?
- (a) To find a small piece of Earhart's plane.
 - (b) To find people to talk to on Nikumaroro
 - (c) To get the funding to continue their search
 - (d) To get more free time to be able to search
- (7) Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a possible piece of evidence?
- (a) A part of a woman's shoe
 - (b) A piece of a bone
 - (c) A piece of metal
 - (d) A part of an engine
- (8) The author uses the phrase '**just around the corner**' in the last part to mean
- (a) They cannot go straight
 - (b) There is no intersection
 - (c) Something is close
 - (d) It is dependent on others

Answer the following questions in not more than three sentences.

(5 × 2 = 10)

- (i) In what way butterflies hide themselves from their predators?
- (ii) Can you provide an example for camouflaging of animals?
- (iii) Compare hoverfly with wasps.
- (iv) What is mimicry?
- (v) Why does the author say that the world is not dull and colourless?
- (vi) Write a short summary of the given passage in not more than 80 words.

(6 marks)

13. (a) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper, expressing your concern about the increasing obsession of youth with facebook and other such social networking applications. In your letter give some suggestions to make the youngsters use these social networking applications like facebook more positively. (16 marks)

OR

(b) You are the Secretary of Green Brigade, Environmental club of your college. As part of club activities, club members plan to keep the campus clean and green. Write a letter to the Dean of your college to get his permission to implement some decisions taken by your club to keep your campus clean and green. In your letter first explain what your club's objectives are, and then give details about your action plan you would like to take to keep your campus clean and green. You can add any relevant information on this issue. (16 marks)

14. Choose any one of the charts, describe it in detail, interpret and analyse the findings and give appropriate recommendations for better results.

(a) Out of the two bar graphs provided below, first one shows the amounts invested by a company in purchasing raw materials over the years and the second one shows the values of finished goods sold by the company over the years. Describe the chart, analyse the findings and give some recommendations to benefit the company. (16 marks)

Chart 1: Amount invested in Raw Materials (Rs. in Lakhs)

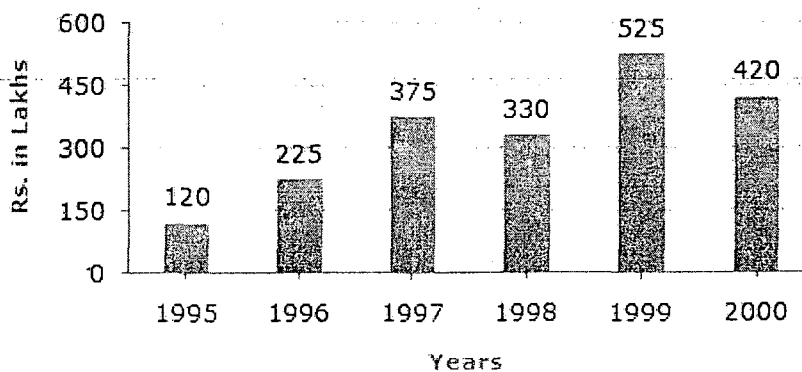
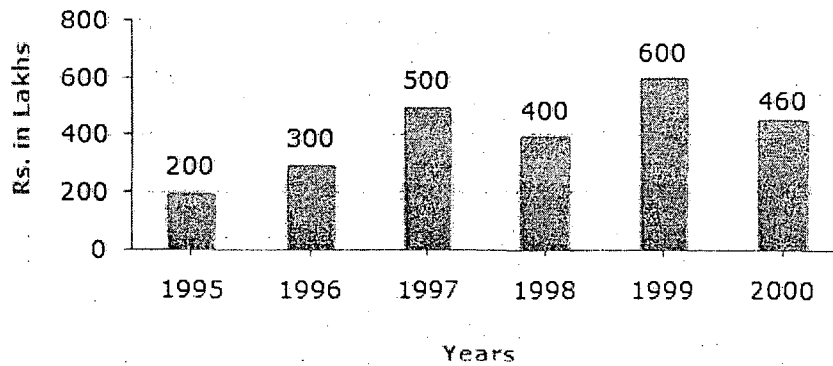
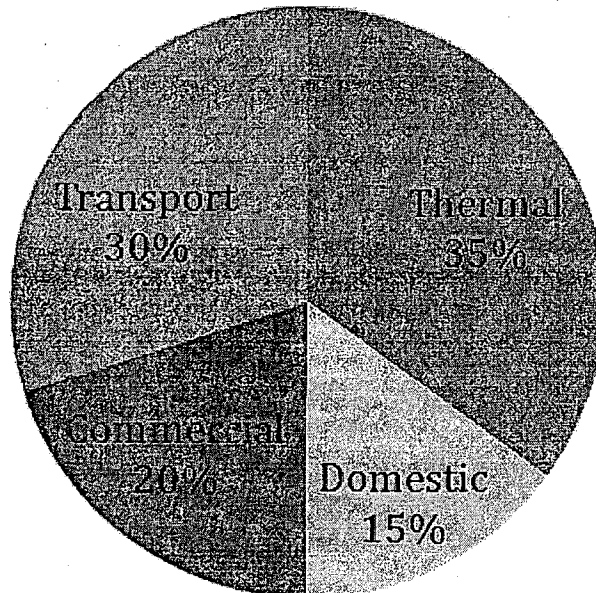


Chart 2: Value of Sales of Finished Goods (Rs. in Lakhs)



OR

- (b) The pie chart given here shows the percentage contribution to CO₂ emissions from various sectors. Describe the chart and analyse it in detail and give some recommendations to reduce the emission of CO₂. (16 marks)



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

- (a) It has been said, "Not everything that is learned is contained in books." Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why?

OR

- (b) Younger generation today are excessively dependent on cell phones. Do you agree with statement? Justify your answer.