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Question Paper Code : 20462

B.E./B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE 2012.

First Semester

(Common to all branches)

HS 2111/186101/HS 11/080020001 — TECHNICAL ENGLISH — I

Time : Three hours   Maximum : 100 marks

Answer ALL questions.

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

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

A	B
(a) fantasy	(i) growing in a place where originally from
(b) congested	(ii) pollution
(c) contamination	(iii) wild imagination
(d) indigenous	(iv) overcrowded
	(v) unnecessary

2. Convert the following into passive voice :   (2 × 1 = 2)

    (a) We pass electric current through the electrode.

    (b) They have opted for new methods of innovation in training.

3. Fill in the blanks with suitable comparative forms of adjectives given in brackets :   (2 × 1 = 2)

    (a) Platinum is ———————— (expensive) gold.

    (b) Trains travel ———————— (fast) buses.

4. Define any TWO of the following in a single sentence each : (2 × 1 = 2)

   (a) Scooter

   (b) Robot

   (c) Water heater

5. Correct the spelling and grammatical errors in the following passage and rewrite them. (4 × ½ = 2)

   Mother Teresa beginning life in more pleasant surroundings. She was born in Yugoslavia in 1910. At the age of twelve she decaided to be a missionary, than at eighteen, to be a none.

6. Expand the following compound nouns : (4 × ½ = 2)

   (a) Computer science

   (b) Stage performance

   (c) World bank

   (d) Satellite launch

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

	Verb	Noun	Adjective
(a)	specify	specification	———
(b)	———	evolution	evolutionary
(c)	differentiate	———	different
(d)	———	civilization	civilizational

8. Punctuate the following passage : (8 × ¼ = 2)

   how does one describe mother teresa she is of small stature almost frail in build softspoken yet clearly a very determined woman of great courage

9. Complete the following using 'if' conditionals : (2 × 1 = 2)

   (a) If the machinery operation had been carried out well, ————.

   (b) ————, the production will go down.

10. Fill in the blanks with suitable tense forms of the verbs given in brackets : (4 × ½ = 2)

    Nuclear fuels ———— (give out) dangerous and very penetrative radiation. During fission even more radiation ———— (produce). This radiation ———— (be) harmful even in small quantities. It ———— (attack) living tissues.

PART B — (5 × 16 = 80 marks)

11. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end of it :

The Alaska pipeline starts at the frozen edge of the Arctic Ocean. It stretches southward across the largest and northernmost state in the United States, ending at a remote ice–free seaport village nearly 800 miles from where it begins. It is massive in size and extremely complicated to operate.

The steel pipe crosses windswept plains and endless miles of delicate tundra that tops the frozen ground. It weaves through crooked canyons, climbs sheer mountains, plunges over rocky crags, makes its way through thick forests, and passes over or under hundreds of rivers and streams. The pipe is 4 feet in diameter, and up to 2 million barrels (or 84 million gallons) of crude oil can be pumped through it daily.

Resting on H-shaped steel racks called "bents" long sections of the pipeline follow a zigzag course high above the frozen earth. Other long sections drop out of sight beneath spongy or rocky ground and return to the surface later on. The pattern of the pipeline's up – and-down route is determined by the often harsh demands of the arctic and subarctic climate, the tortuous lay of the land, and the varied compositions of soil, rock or permafrost (permanently frozen ground). A little more than half of the pipeline is elevated above the ground. The remainder is buried anywhere from 3 to 12 feet, depending largely upon the type of terrain and the properties of the soil.

One of the largest in the world, the pipeline cost approximately $ 8 billion and is by far the biggest and most expensive construction project ever undertaken by private industry. In fact, no single business could raise that much money, so eight major oil companies formed a consortium in order to share the costs. Each company controlled oil rights to particular shares of land in the oil fields and paid into the pipeline—construction fund according to the size of its holdings. Today, despite enormous problems of climate, supply shortages, equipment, breakdowns, labor disagreements, treacherous terrain, a certain amount of mismanagement and even theft, the Alaska pipeline has been completed and is operating.

(a) Choose the correct answer :   (6 × 1 = 6)

   (i) The passage primarily discusses the pipeline's

       (1) operating costs

       (2) employees

       (3) consumers

       (4) construction

   (ii) The second "it" in the first paragraph refers to

       (1) pipeline

       (2) ocean

       (3) state

       (4) village

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     (iii) According to the passage, 84 million gallons of oil can travel through the pipeline each

        (1) day

        (2) week

        (3) month

        (4) year

     (iv) The author mentions all of the following as important in determining the pipeline's route EXCEPT the

        (1) climate

        (2) lay of the land itself

        (3) local vegetation

        (4) kind of soil and rock

     (v) How many companies shared the costs of constructing the pipeline?

        (1) 3

        (2) 4

        (3) 8

        (4) 12

     (vi) Which of the following determined what percentage of the construction costs each member of the consortium would pay?

        (1) How much oil field land is owned by each company?

        (2) How long each company had owned land in the oil fields?

        (3) How many people worked for each company?

        (4) How many oil wells were located on the company's land?

(b) Mention whether the following statements are True or False : (6 × 1 = 6)

     (i) Alaska pipeline is very small in size and easy to operate.

     (ii) Alaska pipeline is one of the smallest and lowest construction projects in the world.

     (iii) Though it has several problems, the pipeline is operating successfully.

     (iv) The pattern of the pipeline's up-and-down route is determined by the company owners only.

     (v) The pipeline runs over hundreds of rivers.

     (vi) Moreover, half of the pipeline as elevated above the ground level.

(c) Choose the appropriate meaning for the given words or phrases as they are used in the text : (4 × 1 = 4)

     (i) permafrost

        (1) treacherous terrain

        (2) permanently frozen ground

        (3) spongy ground

        (4) rocky crags

     (ii)   resting on

         (1)   consisting of

         (2)   supported by

         (3)   passing under

         (4)   protected with

    (iii) undertaken

         (1)   removed

         (2)   selected

         (3)   transported

         (4)   attempted

    (iv) particular

         (1)   peculiar

         (2)   specific

         (3)   exceptional

         (4)   equal

12. (a) Write a set of eight instructions that are to be followed in a computer laboratory. (16)

Or

    (b) Write eight instructions to minimize the use of petrol. (16)

13. (a) Describe the use of human resources in two paragraphs, each in about 100 words. (16)

Or

    (b) Describe how fossil fuels help in the conservation of energy in two paragraphs, each in about 100 words. (16)

14. (a) Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper about increasing accidents and traffic in the city and also suggest suitable measures for the same. (16)

Or

    (b) Assume that you are the collector of Chennai. Write a letter to the Principal of your college declining his invitation to preside over the Annual Day function. State valid reasons for declining the invitation. (16)

15. (a) Rearrange the following sentences into a coherent paragraph : (16)

   (i) Bungee jumping is an activity that involves jumping from a tall structure while connected to a large elastic cord.

   (ii) The most common ways of attaching oneself to the cord is by using a body harness or a leg harness.

   (iii) Other injuries include eye trauma, rope burn, uterine prolapse, dislocations, bruises and back injury.

   (iv) The tall structure is usually a fixed object such as building, bridge or a crane.

   (v) One can be injured during a jump if the safety harness fails, or if the cord elasticity is miscalculated or if the cord is not properly connected to the jump platform.

   (vi) However, it is also possible to jump from a movable object, such as a hot air-balloon or helicopter that has the ability to hover over one spot on the ground.

   (vii) Another major injury occurs when the jumper experiences cord entanglement with his/her own body.

   (viii) There is a wide spectrum of possible injuries during a jump.

Or

(b) Rearrange the following jumbled sentences into a coherent paragraph : (16)

   (i) Scientific medicine at first had to combat superstitions, similar to those that inspired belief in witchcraft.

   (ii) But after the emperor died, Vasalius was accused of cutting people up before they were dead.

   (iii) He was, however, saved from prosecution, for a time by the Emperor Charles V, who believed that no other physician could keep him healthy.

   (iv) In spite of his work and that of Harvey, other great men of medicine continued to be largely superstitious.

   (v) When Vasalius first practiced dissection of corpses, for example, the church was horrified.

   (vi) He was ordered as a punishment to go on a pilgrimage to the holy land.

   (vii) The ignorance of the general public continued even longer.

   (viii) On the way he was shipwrecked and died of exposure.

   (ix) It is only by the time of Lister arid Pasteur that medicine can be said to have become more scientific

   (x) All this brought a lessening of human suffering which is beyond calculation.

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