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**Question Paper Code : 25124**

B.E./B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018.

First Semester

Civil Engineering

HS 8151 — COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH

[Common to All Branches (Except Marine Engineering)]

(Regulations 2017)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer ALL questions.

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct words taken from the list: (4 ×  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 2)

Festivities, harvest, spectacle, honours

Pongal is the three-day \_\_\_\_\_ festival celebrated in January which \_\_\_\_\_ the Sun, nature and livestock. Main part of the \_\_\_\_\_ on the first two days is the making of Pongal. Jallikattu events are held in many villages. It is a traditional \_\_\_\_\_ which involves taming of bull.

2. Complete the dialogue framing suitable questions : (2 × 1 = 2)

Ravi : Sir, \_\_\_\_\_?

Shop Keeper : Yes, we've wheat flour. \_\_\_\_\_?

Ravi : I need the ABC brand.

3. Add suitable prefixes to the underlined words to form antonyms : (4 ×  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 2)

Dis- ir- il- in-

- (a) The manager is sensitive to the condition of the workers. The workers are very satisfied with the company management.
- (b) The new officer is very responsible. He works logically.

4. Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition :  $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2)$

River Kaveri takes birth \_\_\_\_\_ Karnataka and further cascades \_\_\_\_\_ Tamil Nadu. It forms one of the longest rivers \_\_\_\_\_ South India. There are several dams built \_\_\_\_\_ the river.

5. Complete the sentences using the given adjectives in the correct degree :  $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2)$

The Marina beach in Chennai is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ (fine) and the second \_\_\_\_\_ (long) beach in the world. Many people are attracted by its \_\_\_\_\_ (refreshing) air. The morning walkers find the air \_\_\_\_\_ (refreshing) than in the evenings.

6. Fill in using the correct tense form of the verb given in brackets :  $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2)$

- (a) Natural disasters \_\_\_\_\_ (occur) in many parts of the world. Hurricanes \_\_\_\_\_ (affect) the US in the recent past.
- (b) In the year 2004, a great tsunami with a magnitude of 9.1 \_\_\_\_\_ (strike) the island of Sumatra. Many people \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) their lives and property.

7. Substitute a single word from the list for underlined words in the sentence :  $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2)$

Horrible, heritage, ignited, petrified

- (a) The weather was bad and unpleasant.
- (b) The girl was frightened and unable to move.
- (c) India has a rich history and tradition.
- (d) The flame was started by a short circuit.

8. Rewrite the following direct questions into indirect questions :  $(2 \times 1 = 2)$

- (a) "Where is the railway station? Could you tell me?"
- (b) "How is the movie? Can someone tell me?"

9. Choose the word that collocates with the given word and complete the sentence :  $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2)$

- (a) There was \_\_\_\_\_ (heavy / high) rain in Ooty yesterday, yet we \_\_\_\_\_ (went / walked) for trekking.
- (b) He was \_\_\_\_\_ (wearing / using) sunglasses and \_\_\_\_\_ (wearing / carrying) an umbrella.

10. Complete the sentences using the correct modal verbs :  $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2)$

- (a) You \_\_\_\_\_ attend the music festival but you \_\_\_\_\_ reach home before 7 p.m.
- (b) I \_\_\_\_\_ climb a mango tree when I was a kid but I \_\_\_\_\_ (not) do so now.

PART B — (5 × 16 = 80 marks)

11. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below :

Noise from aircraft, traffic and commercial development is drowning out the natural quiet of many wilderness areas and parks, according to a new analysis of noise pollution in *U.S. protected lands made public in Science*. The sounds of people on the move or at work are “pervasive” in public lands set aside for recreation, resource conservation and respite from the din of daily life, said scientists at Colorado State University and the U.S. National Park Service who analyzed noise levels at 492 federal, state and local parks. They calculated that the sounds people make – from the racket of ringing phones and the rumble of road traffic, to the clatter of mining, drilling and logging – have raised the levels above natural background noise in two-thirds of U.S. protected areas, with adverse consequences for wildlife and for the 300 million or so people who seek the tranquil hush of park lands every year.

“The din of modern life extends into protected areas,” said acoustic biologist Megan McKenna at the Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division of the U.S. National Park Service in Fort Collins, Colo., who joined in the project. The study arises from a growing appreciation of the effects of excess noise on human health and wildlife behaviour. To quantify the human contribution to park noise, the researchers led by Colorado State University conservation biologist Rachel Buxton created a computerized national soundscape that approximated the level of noise during an average summer day. They collated and analyzed millions of hours of park-land sound recordings. They fed the acoustic data into a computer algorithm that combined it with dozens of landscape variables to calculate how much extra noise people added. Overall, they found that, depending on the locale, human activity boosted noise levels up to 10 decibels above natural levels.

For comparison, sounds in cities often exceed 65 decibels – about the level of a running air conditioner. In natural settings, sounds rarely exceed 40 decibels – about the noise level of a babbling brook. The quietest parks have a background noise level of less than 20 decibels. Road traffic and aircraft were the biggest sources of park noise, Dr. Buxton said. In an independent study of air traffic in national parks in 2010, researchers at Colorado State found that overflights of Grand Canyon National Park had grown to about 55,000 a year, with more than 100 helicopters in the air over the canyon on the busiest days. Sound levels in spots reached as high as 76 decibels, they said.

The impact of noise on wildlife worries conservation biologists. Noise pollution can deafen fish, scare off animals, and muffle the sound of mating calls among wild birds, hindering their ability to hunt for food or to warn each other about predators. “They can no longer hear these calls,” said avian behavioural ecologist Christopher Templeton at Pacific University in Oregon, who studies the effects of noise on birds in the U.S. and Europe. Other birds sing louder to be heard or flee the noisy area entirely.

Psychologists are discovering that natural sounds – from the wind rustling the trees to the warble of songbirds – have benefits for humans, and can lower stress, elevate mood, boost cognitive abilities and perhaps enhance healing. Jonas Braasch, a musicologist at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, found that office workers listening to the burble of a flowing mountain stream while taking tests not only performed better, but also reported feeling more positive about their surroundings, compared with those who listened to normal office noise or a background recording of white noise. “They were more patient and avoided more errors,” he said. “Nature sounds can have a restorative effect on our cognitive abilities.”

Listening to nature also may help people recover more quickly from stress or trauma, according to a 2015 study by Pennsylvania State University psychologists. They tested how people reacted to a disturbing video of surgery. Those who listened to a recording of natural sounds recovered their good mood more quickly than those who listened to a tape of the same natural noises with human-made sounds, such as voices and cars; added to it.

(a) Choose the correct answer for the following questions : (10 × 1 = 10)

- (i) Where did scientists at Colorado State University and the U.S. National Park Service analyze noise levels for a study?
  - (1) in cities across the U.S.
  - (2) in rural areas across the U.S.
  - (3) in federal, state, and local parks
  - (4) in areas by the oceans.
- (ii) The levels of noise in many protected areas has been raised above the level of background noise. What is one cause of this increased noise the text describes?
  - (1) Some animals have become louder.
  - (2) There are aircraft and road traffic nearby.
  - (3) Background noise has dropped.
  - (4) The number of thunderstorms has increased.
- (iii) Noise pollution can be harmful to wildlife in protected areas. What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?
  - (1) The number of flights over the Grand Canyon has increased, with sound levels in spots reaching as high as 76 decibels.
  - (2) The noises humans make has raised the noise levels in two-thirds of protected areas in the U.S.
  - (3) Natural sounds like birds warbling and the wind rustling in the trees can have benefits for humans.
  - (4) Noise pollution can muffle the sound of calls among wild birds, hindering their ability to hunt for food.

- (iv) How might the noise that humans make be affecting humans?
- (1) It may be negatively affecting our moods.
  - (2) It may be improving our cognitive abilities.
  - (3) It may be causing people trauma.
  - (4) It may be causing increased traffic.
- (v) What is the main idea of this article?
- (1) Natural sounds have benefits for humans, and can lower stress, elevate mood, and boost cognitive abilities.
  - (2) Noise pollution from humans is invading protected natural areas, with negative effects on wildlife and people there.
  - (3) Noise pollution can have negative effects on wildlife, like deafening fish, scaring off animals, and muffling the calls birds make.
  - (4) While sounds in cities often exceed 65 decibels, sounds in natural settings are usually not higher than 40 decibels.
- (vi) Please read these sentences from the text.
- ‘The **din** of modern life extends into protected areas,’ said acoustic biologist Megan McKenna[.]” Based on this sentence, what does the word **din** mean?
- (1) stress
  - (2) nature
  - (3) quiet, hush
  - (4) loud noise
- (vii) Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.
- Psychologists are discovering that natural sounds have benefits for humans, \_\_\_\_\_ lowering stress, elevating mood, and boosting cognitive abilities.
- (1) therefore
  - (2) such as
  - (3) however
  - (4) consequently.
- (viii) Which of the following words means ‘sound’?
- (1) acoustic
  - (2) song
  - (3) muffle
  - (4) stream

(ix) One who studies the mind of a person is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) musicologist
- (2) psychologist
- (3) ecologist
- (4) scientist

(x) Which of the following statements is **incorrect** according to the passage?

- (1) Listening to nature helps people recover more quickly from stress.
- (2) People make sounds from the racket of ringing phones that irritate us.
- (3) The warble of songbirds – have benefits for humans, it enhances healing.
- (4) The noise that man makes affects only the humans and not the animals and birds.

(b) Answer the following questions in one or two sentences : (3 × 2 = 6)

- (i) What kinds of human noises are extending into protected areas?
- (ii) Why might the increase of noise in natural areas be a problem, according to scientists studying wildlife? Support your answer with at least two details from the text.
- (iii) If humans took steps to reduce the amount of noise pollution in natural areas, what could some possible effects be? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

12. (a) Write a letter to your father about the Literary Club inauguration in your college, stating how it is useful for improving one's personality. (16)

Or

(b) Write a letter to your friend about a cultural event that took place in your college campus. (16)

13. Arrange any ONE of the following jumbled sentences in order : (16)

- (a) (i) In 1923, a team of paleontologists from the American Museum of Natural History made a surprising discovery in Mongolia's Gobi Desert.
- (ii) The embryo turned out to be a baby Citipati (sit-uh-PAH-tee), a kind of dinosaur.

- (iii) Seventy years later, in 1993, another team from the Museum found very similar fossil eggs in the same desert.
- (iv) One of the eggs they found, held an embryo, or developing baby dinosaur.
- (v) Their discovery was three large rocks that turned out to be fossilized dinosaur eggs.
- (vi) It was brooding, or sitting on the nest, the same way birds do: with its to protect the eggs.
- (vii) Paleontologists realized that these dinosaurs nested like birds arms spread living today.
- (viii) Later, the team discovered an adult Citipati over a nest.

Or

- (b) (i) When an orange is ripe, the picker clips it off the tree.
- (ii) In the plant, oranges are placed on a machine with moving rollers.
- (iii) People who work as fruit pickers move through groves filled with orange trees.
- (iv) How does an orange get from the tree to your refrigerator?
- (v) Special brushes wash the fruit as it rolls along and then each orange is dried.
- (vi) All picked oranges are then carefully moved to a packing plant.
- (vii) Finally, each orange is given a sticker and placed in a box. Full boxes are shipped in cool trucks to stores.
- (viii) Another machine lines up the oranges in boxes which are checked by a computer.

14. Complete any ONE of the following dialogues adding EIGHT exchanges : (16)

- (a) Dialogue between Suresh and a shop owner. Suresh has gone to buy a video game.

Shop Owner : Hi, how can I help you?

Suresh : I'm looking for a video game.

Shop Owner : \_\_\_\_\_?

Suresh : \_\_\_\_\_.

(Write Eight more exchanges)

Or

- (b) Prepare a telephone conversation between two friends A and B about the choice of their branch in engineering.

A: Hello, This is A speaking. How're you?

B: Fine. What a surprise! How's your new college?

A: \_\_\_\_\_

B: \_\_\_\_\_

(Write EIGHT more exchanges)

15. Write an essay on any ONE of the following topics in 250 words : (16)

- (a) Describe an interesting place you had visited. The essay should include the name of the place, how you reached there - what interesting things you saw and enjoyed - etc.

Or

- (b) Write an essay using the following hints. Develop into a narrative essay. Give a suitable title.

**An Unforgettable Experience in School**

Which year – What experience – Who were all involved? – Where did it take place? How? Why is it memorable?

\_\_\_\_\_