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**Question Paper Code : 57448**

**B.E./B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE 2016**

**Second Semester**

**Civil Engineering**

**HS 6251 – TECHNICAL ENGLISH – II**

**(Common to all Branches except Marine Engineering)**

**(Regulations 2013)**

**Time : Three Hours**

**Maximum : 100 Marks**

**Answer ALL questions.**

**PART – A (10 × 2 = 20 Marks)**

1. Rewrite the following in (impersonal) passive form : (2 × 1 = 2)
  - (a) People expect that a new law will be introduced next year,
  - (b) Somebody cleaned the room today.
2. Complete the following conditionals with the correct forms of the verbs : (4 × ½ = 2)
  - (a) If I get the job, I \_\_\_\_ (help) the poor.
  - (b) If I could go there, I \_\_\_\_ (buy) you the book you have been asking for.
  - (c) If I hadn't gone to the party, I \_\_\_\_ (not, meet) the celebrity.
  - (d) If it \_\_\_\_ (stop) working, I would buy a new television.
3. Fill in the blanks with suitable modal verbs choosing from the list given : (4 × ½ = 2)

can, must, would, may, shall

  - (a) We \_\_\_\_\_ start now; otherwise, it'll be too late.
  - (b) \_\_\_\_\_ you mind waiting for a minute ?
  - (c) I \_\_\_\_\_ lift this bag, don't bother.
  - (d) The weather forecast says it \_\_\_\_\_ rain tomorrow.

4. Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the correct homonym :  $(4 \times 1/2 = 2)$

- (a) Please try not to \_\_\_\_\_ your new bike, (lose, loose)
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_ bike is parked in the pathway ? (Who's, Whose)
- (c) The \_\_\_\_\_ ingredients of bread are flour, water, and yeast.  
(principal, principle)
- (d) The counselor \_\_\_\_\_ the parents to spend quality time with their children. (advised, advised)

5. Use any two of the following words in sentences of your own, write two sentences using the same word, bringing out the difference in meaning :  $(2 \times 1 = 2)$

- (a) bow, (b) right, (c) fine, (d) race

6. Rewrite the following as numerical expressions.  $(4 \times 1/2 = 2)$

- (a) a seminar for two days
- (b) a team of eleven players
- (c) an exam for three hours
- (d) a flock of 1000 birds

7. Form sentences using any two of the following phrasal verbs.  $(2 \times 1 = 2)$

- (a) put off (b) put out (c) call off (d) call out

8. Fill in the blanks with right options to complete the collocations.  $(4 \times 1/2 = 2)$

- (a) Let's consult with the elders before we \_\_\_\_\_ a decision.

- (i) do (ii) make
- (iii) create (iv) construct

- (b) The students always \_\_\_\_\_ attention in his class.

- (i) give (ii) pay
- (iii) keep (iv) make

(c) It is a golden \_\_\_\_\_ we can't miss it.

- (i) chance                      (ii) opportunity  
(iii) offer                      (iv) possibility

(d) He should learn to \_\_\_ his emotions under control.

- (i) keep                      (ii) hold  
(iii) do                      (iv) make.

9. Combine the given two sentences into one sentence using appropriate clause. (2 × 1 = 2)

(a) He ate the sandwiches. He made them.

(b) I met Sam in the Seminar. He is a teacher.

10. Each sentence given below contains an idiom (underlined). From the given alternatives, choose the one that best expresses the meaning of the idiom. (4 × ½ = 2)

(a) Both our professors have the gift of the gab.

- (i) they are gifted  
(ii) they are talkative  
(iii) they are good conversationalists,

(b) The teacher had to use a firm hand to handle the unruly students.

- (i) exercise high degree of discipline  
(ii) Use a solid hand  
(iii) be aggressive

(c) My friend doesn't see eye to eye with his parents.

- (i) agree on things  
(ii) take care of  
(iii) stay

(d) In a sensitive relationship, everything is a bone of contention.

- (i) a unifying factor  
(ii) Something that causes trouble  
(iii) a firm view

**PART – B (5 × 16 = 80 Marks)**

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

**With Hard Work and Self Belief You Can Innovate Too!**

We humans have evolved a lot. From the Stone Age to the Silicon Age, we have not only transformed our life style but also the world we live in. This was possible only because of our understanding of our surroundings and the components of our environment. The modern world is a dynamic one. Its face keeps changing because of the developments made possible by science. What were once considered fantasy and figments of the imagination are now reality. The Mars expedition, disease-resistant crops, mobile phones, satellite communication, cloning — all these and much more are the offshoots of advances in science and technology.

I will not be exaggerating if I say that the successful research endeavours of the last century play a major role in the way we lead our lives now. No one can categorically say what technology will define, transform, and revolutionise in the coming years. But we can make a well-thought-out conjecture.

Considering the kind of impact computers and computational systems have on almost all of our ventures like education, communication, vocation, entertainment and media, it cannot be denied that they will play a key role in this century too. It should be mentioned that almost all fields of knowledge are interlinked. Interdisciplinary research is done more than ever now. In fact it is the best thing that could have happened for the frontiers of science.

Individuals who have a passion for their subjects can always apply what they specialise in to any form or genre of knowledge. A golf enthusiast may find ways to hit a ball by using kinematics — a branch of classical mechanics that describes motions in terms of position, velocity and acceleration. A cricket crazy individual can help a bowler fine-tune the reverse swing by helping him understand the applications of fluid dynamics. A nanotechnologist can flawlessly modify car windscreens' surfaces into super-hydrophobic surfaces and ensure an easy drive even during a deluge.

These are just a few examples of how technocrats can apply technology to make life easy and comfortable for us and also find solutions to larger problems like depleting fuel resources, melting of glaciers, unpredictable weather conditions and extinction of life forms.

All said and done, I wonder why as students we do not understand or appreciate these innovations and do not even make any attempt to apply what we learn ?

“When you start in science, you are brainwashed into believing how careful you must be, and how difficult it is to discover things. There’s something that might be called the ‘graduate student syndrome’; graduate students hardly believe they can make a discovery,” said professor Francis Henry Compton Crick. As youngsters and students you may be under the belief that you need to possess extraordinary skills and talent to innovate and discover. But in reality it is not so. If you do a bit of thinking you will agree with my statement. Individuals who have contributed through inventions and discoveries were normal people like you and me. But they believed in themselves and worked hard. Failure did not stop them from trying. Scientists like Edison stand as examples. You need to be creative and look at things in a different way. Lateral thinking is a skill that you need to develop. Several people must have observed a fruit falling from a tree. But it was only Newton who thought about why it should go down perpendicularly and further inquiry into the issue helped us understand what gravity is.

So see beyond and further, and with that sense of self belief, you could also innovate.

(a) Say whether the following statements are True or False : (4)

- (i) Science has not really altered the world we live in.
- (ii) The author categorically says computers will play a major role in this century as well
- (iii) One need not have extra-ordinary skills to innovate.
- (iv) Common people cannot innovate or discover.

(b) Choose the best answer from the choices given : (4)

(i) ‘But we can make a well-thought-out conjecture.’ means:

- a. We can make a clever inference,
- b. we can make a hasty decision,
- c. we can get confused

(ii) What is the best thing that has happened for the advancement of science ?

- a. inter disciplinary research,
- b. invention of computers,
- c. research in nanotechnology

(iii) Scientists like Edison stand as example for

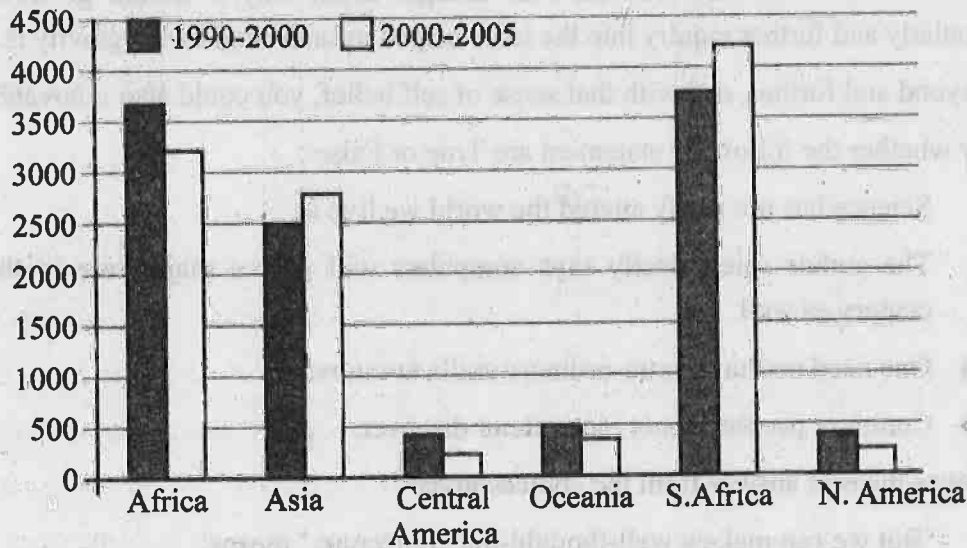
- a. extraordinary skill and talent,
- b. self belief and hard work,
- c. lethargy and creativity

- (iv) What differentiated Newton from others ?
- he was the one who watched a fruit fall,
  - he was not extraordinarily talented,
  - he inquired why the fruit should fall perpendicularly

(c) Write a short summary of the above given passage in not more than 100 words. (8)

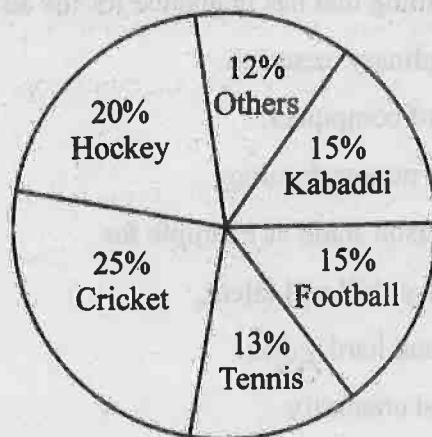
12. (a) Write a paragraph comparing tropical deforestation that occurred in different geographical regions based on the data given below. Interpret the data : (16)

**TROPICAL DEFORESTATION BY REGION, 1990-2000 & 2000-2005**  
In thousands of hectares per year Data source : FAO/mongabay.com



OR

- (b) The Pie chart given below shows the spending of a country on various sports during a particular year. The total amount spent is hundred crores of rupees. Study the chart and interpret the data in 250 words : (16)



13. Respond to the following with a job application and resume. (16)

(a) Mac & Co needs Project Managers. They will be responsible for the delivery of substantial projects in an area of strategic importance in various fields of engineering. The candidate will be expected to make strategic and technical decisions regarding the budget, manpower resourcing and design. The main responsibilities will also include planning and executing and ensuring the project team are motivated and focused, having clear targets and milestone deliverables. Candidates with a first class engineering degree (all disciplines) can apply. They are also expected to be knowledgeable and experienced in the project management lifecycle including concept design, detail design, manufacture testing, maintenance and commissioning electro-mechanical equipment. Send your application with your resume to The HR Manager, Mac&Co., First Street, Parrys Corner, Chennai 1.

**OR**

(b) Vibrant Inc - one of the best and most innovative research agencies in the State - invites applications for the post of Resource Coordinator. The Resource Coordinator will play a fundamental role in the running of research projects. They will also identify and pool all necessary resources to deliver research projects, ensure smooth running of the projects, schedule people to be in the right place at the right time etc. Candidates with a first class engineering degree (any discipline) with proven record of leadership and coordination are eligible. Apply electronically with a resume to [career@vibrant.com](mailto:career@vibrant.com).

14. Write a report based on one of the following : (16)

(a) You are heading the Marketing Team of a famous mobile phone manufacturing firm which has plans to introduce a new mobile phone in a metropolitan city. Prepare a report in about 300 words advising the firm on the feasibility of introducing the new model. Your study findings may focus on the popularity of the available brands, reasons for popularity, their price etc and also how your brand is different from those in the market.

**OR**



- (b) A college is planning to convert all of its classrooms as smart classrooms. As the Professor in charge of academic development you are requested to study the feasibility and submit a report. You need to consider the finance involved, advantages and disadvantages of smart classes etc. (16)

15. Write a dialogue for one of the following situations : (16)

- (a) Share Akash your thoughts about pollution in the water bodies and ways to keep them clean. Write out this dialogue. The first exchange is given for you to start the dialogue

You : Hello Akash! How are you ?

Akash : I am fine. How are you ?

You : I am fine too. Hey, did you read today's Hindu ? In fact almost all papers have carried news on city's polluted water bodies ... I am really worried .....

OR

- (b) Your younger brother likes only junk food. So you decide to have a chat and make him understand the ill effects. Write out this dialogue. The first exchange is given for you to start the dialogue.

You : Sanjay, have you noticed that you're putting on weight ?

He : Yeah...

You : Have you thought about it ?