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Question Paper Code : 51284

B.E./B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, APRIL/MAY 2024.

Second Semester

Civil Engineering

HS 3252 – PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH — II

(Common to All Branches (Except Marine Engineering))

(Regulations 2021)

Time : Three hours   Maximum : 100 marks

Answer ALL questions.

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

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

    (a) Last Saturday they ——————— (play) carom after they ———————
         (do) their homework.

    (b) Many species ——————— (disappear) in the last five decades.

    (c) I think Mohan ——————— (arrive) tomorrow morning.

2. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositional phrases for the following
    sentences :   (4 × ½ = 2)

    (a) I attended the programme ——————— my parents. (in behalf of/
         on behalf of/on behalf)

    (b) Personally, I am ——————— banning alcohol completely. (favour of/
         preferable of/in favour of)

    (c) ——————— the rains, we went out for dinner. (Any way/In case of/
         In spite of)

    (d) ——————— you, nobody else knows that we have escaped the murder
         attempt. (Regardless of you/Apart from/As for)

3. Combine the sentences using appropriate cause and effect expressions.

(4 × ½ = 2)

   (a) Reena forgot to set her alarm clock. She was late for interview.

   (b) The sales increased significantly. The company implemented a new marketing strategy.

   (c) The integration of AI in various sectors has been rapidly advancing. Many traditional jobs are being automated.

   (d) Meera studied diligently for weeks. She scored high marks in Board exams.

4. Change the following active voice sentences to passive sentences :   (2 × 1 = 2)

   (a) The battalion has destroyed the war zone.

   (b) Someone planted the mango tree last year.

5. Complete the following conditional sentences :   (2 × 1 = 2)

   (a) I would have told you, if I —————————

   (b) If my father ——————————, I will take the bus home.

6. Identify the spelling and grammar errors in the following passage :

(8 × ¼ = 2)

Natural disaster is any calamitous occurence generated in the effects of natural, rather than human-driven, phenomena that produced great loss of human life or destruction of a natural environment, private property or public infrastructure. A natural disastor may be caused in weather and climate events or by earthquakes, landsides, and other occurrences that originate at Earth's surface or within a planet itself.

7. Rewrite the following dialogue as reported speech.   (2 × 1 = 2)

Sam :   Is it possible to use solar panels for residential purposes?

Victor : Sure, we have options for small scale installation too.

8. Fill in the blanks with appropriate modals for the following sentences. You cannot repeat the same modal words.   (4 × ½ = 2)

(may, might, should, ought to, shall, can, could, must, can't)

   (a) You ————————— visit the doctor if you are not feeling well

   (b) You ————————— use your phone during the exam.

   (c) The board members ————————— convene at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

   (d) You ————————— consider all possibilities before making a decision about the merger.

9. Rewrite the following phrases as numerical adjectives. (4 × ½ = 2)

   (a) A break lasting for 15 minutes.

   (b) Report which had 30 pages.

   (c) Trial lasting for 8 days.

   (d) Interview which lasted for two hours.

10. Rewrite the following sentences using relative clauses : (4 × ½ = 2)

   (a) A novelist is a person. He writes novels.

   (b) The house is beautiful. Its window is open.

   (c) She bought a car. It runs very fast.

   (d) She was wearing a long dress. It was blue in colour.

PART B — (5 × 16 = 80 marks)

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

A hacker's life

Have you ever locked yourself out of your home and had to try to break in? First, you get a sense of accomplishment in succeeding. But then comes the worrying realization that if you can break into your own place as an amateur, a professional could do so five times faster. So you look at the weak point in your security and fix it. Well, that's more or less how the DefCon hackers conference works.

Every year passionate hackers meet at DefCon in Las Vegas to present their knowledge and **capabilities.** Mention the word 'hacker' and many of us picture a seventeen-year-old geek sitting in their bedroom, illegally hacking into the US's defence secrets in the Pentagon. Or we just think 'criminals'. But that is actually a **gross misrepresentation** of what most hackers do.

The activities and experiments that take place at DefCon have an enormous impact on our daily lives. These are people who love the challenge of finding security gaps : computer addicts who can't break the habit. They look with great **scrutiny** at all kinds of systems, from the Internet to mobile communications to household door locks. And then they try to hack them. In doing so, they are doing all of us a great service, because they pass on their findings to the industries that design these systems, which are then able to **plug the security holes.**

A graphic example of this is when I attended a presentation on electronic door locks. **Ironically,** one of the most secure locks they demonstrated was a 4,000-year-old Egyptian tumbler lock. But when it came to more modern devices, the presenters revealed significant weaknesses in several brands of **electro-mechanical** locks. A bio lock that uses a fingerprint scan for entry was defeated, easily, by a paper clip. (Unfortunately, although all the manufacturers of the insecure locks were alerted, not all of them responded.)

DefCon is a vast mix of cultures as well as a culture in itself. People in dark clothes and ripped jeans talk to people in golf shirts and khakis. Social status here is based on knowledge and accomplishment, not on clothing labels or car marques. It's kind of refreshing. There are government agents here, as well as video game enthusiasts. Not that people ask each other where they work — that would break the hackers' etiquette.

In an attempt to attract the brightest hackers, DefCon runs a competition called Capture the Flag. Capture the Flag pits elite hackers against each other in a cyber game of network attack and defence that goes on 24 hours a day. In a large, dimly lit conference hall, small groups of hackers sit five metres from each other, intensely trying either to protect or to break into the system. There are huge video projections on the walls, pizza boxes and coffee cups are strewn everywhere. The room is mesmerising.

In another room, another contest is taking place. Here participants have five minutes to free themselves from handcuffs, escape from their 'cell', get past a guard, retrieve their passport from a locked filing cabinet, leave through another locked door, and make their escape to freedom.

If you're someone who dismisses the DefCon attendees as a group of geeks and social misfits, then you probably have the same password for 90 per cent of your online existence. This means you are doomed. Because even if you think you're being clever by using your grandmother's birth date backwards as a secure key, you're no match for the people that I've met. There is no greater ignorance to be found online than that of an average internet user. I'm happy to admit that I'm one of them. I'm also aware that there are other people out there - big business among them - who are trying to get more and more access to the data of our personal online habits. Sadly, we have few tools to protect ourselves. But there is a group of people who are passionate about online freedom and have the means to help us protect our privacy. Many of them can be found at DefCon.

A.   Choose the right option for the following questions :   (10 × 1 = 10)

   (i)   What event do hackers attend every year in Las Vegas?
      (1)   Hackers United
      (2)   DefCon
      (3)   CyberCon
      (4)   TechExpo

   (ii)   What is the primary goal of hackers attending DefCon, according to the passage?
      (1)   To compete in hacking competitions.
      (2)   To illegally hack into government systems.
      (3)   To find security gaps and report them to industries.
      (4)   To learn new hacking techniques for personal use.

(iii) Why it is a gross misrepresentation to think of all hackers as criminals, as based on the passage?

    (1)   Because most hackers are employed by the government.

    (2)   Because the activities at DefCon show that many hackers aim to improve security.

    (3)   Because hacking into the Pentagon is extremely rare.

    (4)   Because hackers mainly focus on creating new software.

(iv) Which type of lock was highlighted as being particularly secure during the presentation?

    (1)   A modern electro-mechanical lock

    (2)   A 4000-year old Egyptian tumbler lock

    (3)   A bio-lock with a fingerprint scan

    (4)   A digital key lock

(v) What does the author imply about modern electro-mechanical clock?

    (1)   They are completely secure.

    (2)   They have significant weaknesses.

    (3)   They are too complex to hack.

    (4)   They are more reliable than ancient locks.

(vi) If someone dismisses DefCon attendees as geeks and misfits, what assumption does the author make about their online security?

    (1)   They have a strong and unique password.

    (2)   They rely on updated security measures.

    (3)   They likely use simple, insecure passwords.

    (4)   They regularly update their security protocols.

(vii) What can be inferred about the culture at DefCon from the description provided in the passage?

    (1)   It is exclusive and based on social status.

    (2)   It values knowledge and accompaniment over appearance.

    (3)   It is highly formal and professional.

    (4)   It discourages interactions between different social groups.

(viii) How effective do you think DefCon is in addressing security weaknesses in various systems?

    (1)   Completely ineffective, as no manufacturers respond.

    (2)   Partly effective, as only some manufacturers respond.

    (3)   Highly effective, as all manufacturers fix the issues.

    (4)   Ineffective, as the hackers do not share their findings.

(ix) What is the main purpose of the 'Capture the Flag' competition at DefCon?

(1) To entertain attendees with a fun game.

(2) To showcase the best hackers' skills in network attack and defense.

(3) To provide a social event for hackers to mingle.

(4) To demonstrate the security of government systems.

(x) What can be inferred about the author's view of DefCon attendees?

(1) The author believes that they are generally criminals.

(2) The author thinks that they are ineffective at improving security.

(3) The author respects their knowledge and abilities.

(4) The author sees them as a threat to personal privacy.

B. Choose the right meaning for the following words/phrases : (6 × 1 = 6)

(i) What does the word 'capabilities' most closely mean in the context of the passage?

(1) Resources

(2) Skills

(3) Ambitions

(4) Weaknesses

(ii) What does the term 'gross misrepresentation' mean in the passage?

(1) A detailed analysis

(2) A minor exaggeration

(3) A significant and inaccurate portrayal

(4) A careful observation

(iii) What does the word 'scrutiny' most closely mean in the context of the passage?

(1) Casual glance

(2) Detailed examination

(3) Quick look

(4) Indifference

(iv) The term 'electro-mechanical' in the passage closely means ———

(1) Entirely electronic

(2) Powered by manual force

(3) Both electronic and mechanical components

(4) Completely mechanical

(v) What does the word 'ironically' suggest in the passage?

    (1) surprisingly fitting

    (2) humorously

    (3) with certainty

    (4) in a way that is contrary to what is expected

(vi) What does the phrase 'plug the security holes' suggest in the passage?

    (1) Create new security gaps

    (2) Identify the security issues

    (3) Fill or fix the vulnerabilities

    (4) Remove security measures

12. (a) Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why? Write your response in the format of essay in not more than 250 words.

Or

(b) The Internet has transformed how information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before. What are the most severe problems associated with the Internet and what solutions can you suggest? Write your response in the format of an essay in not more than 250 words.

13. (a) You have noticed stray animals on the road during the busy hours of the day in your locality. These animals have caused traffic jams as well as accidents. There have been one or two instances when they tried to attack young children in the area. You have already written to the concerned authorities but no action has been taken so far. Write a letter to the Editor of a leading newspaper telling him about the problems created by the stray animals. Add a few suggestions to solve this issue.

Or

(b) A customer purchased a laptop online and is experiencing issues with the screen display and sound output. Although he wishes to exchange the system, he did not respond within the designated time frame for exchanges. Consequently, the company is unable to process an exchange but can offer servicing instead. Write a response to the customer's complaint letter, politely refusing the exchange request and providing alternative solutions to address his concerns.

14. (a) There has been a fire accident in the Chemistry lab of your college recently. The Head of the Department has asked you as the Class Representative to write a report on this accident. In your report include the following :

- Brief details of the accident
- The names of the students involved in the accident
- Other dangers students have encountered
- Improvements needed to ensure greater safety to students
- Suggestions to create awareness about safety on college.

Or

(b) As part of your internship, your organization has tasked you with conducting a survey among students to understand their post-graduation plans. Specifically, the organization is interested in determining how many students choose higher education versus entering the workforce, as well as the reasons behind their choices. Conduct this survey and write a comprehensive report on your findings.

Your report should include the following :

- Results from your questionnaire and interviews with students
- Analysis and inferences drawn from the collected data
- Recommendations for students regarding their future plans.

15. (a) Vedanta Limited has advertised for Engineering Internship in their branches in Bangalore, Mumbai and Pune. Write a job application requesting for internship along with your resume. Send your job application to :

Roshan Sandesh

HR Manager

Vedanta Limited

Indira Gandhi Avenue

Mumbai –107

Or

(b) Digitech Inc. has been your dream company for many years. You have always wanted to work there. Though there has been no advertisement calling for freshers, you have got the information about a job vacancy from a friend who is working in the same company. Send your job application along with your CV to an email id you got it from the company website, hrmanager24@digitech.in.