

JK Lakshmipat University, Jaipur
Institute of Engineering and Technology
End Term Examination (Closed-Book)

B.Tech I Semester 2013-14

Course Name: English Communication Skills

Max Marks: 40

Course Code: LA 101

Time: 03.00 hr

Instructions:

1. Attempt all sections.
2. Answer all the questions in the Answer book only.



Section A

(10 Marks)

Q.1. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words. Follow instructions given in parentheses, if any. (.50x10=5)

- (a) He is endowed _____ creative talent.
- (b) _____ you work hard, you cannot succeed.
- (c) The leader and orator _____ arrived.
- (d) Hardly had I entered the room, _____ the phone rang.
- (e) An a _____ tone is harsh and unpleasant. (complete the word)
- (f) After a series of failures, the scientist finally _____ an idea as to how to keep a room cool without using air conditioners. (Use phrasal verb)
- (g) Because of security reasons, the team _____ of the tournament at the last moment. (Use phrasal verb)
- (i) I don't agree _____ you.
- (j) Either Geeta or her sister _____ done this.
- (k) Many amongst the audience slept during the speech; it was so d _____. (Complete the word)

Q.2. Answer the following questions briefly: (2.5x2=5)

- (a) Discuss how the barrier *poor listening* affects communication.
- (b) Discuss how barriers such as *distrust, threat and fear* affect communication.

Section B

(20 Marks)

Answer **any four** of the following questions: (4x5=20)

Q.3. Write the phonetic transcription of the following words (1x5):

- (a) Imagine
- (b) College
- (c) Scream
- (d) Hope
- (e) Late

Q.4. Write a paragraph on the topic "What Matters in Life is Attitude and not Altitude" in about 200 words.

Q.5. Rewrite the following sentences correctly (0.50x10)

- (i) He is always coming late.
- (ii) The cake is smelling sweet.
- (iii) I am feeling thirsty; give me little water.
- (iv) The report is well written because it also gives few suggestions.
- (v) Either give me an advice or keep quiet.
- (vi) Now I request to the Chairman to say a few words.
- (vii) The boys played cricket when girls danced in the park during picnic.
- (viii) Stop to talk to me in a rude manner!
- (ix) We face an acute problem in power supply these days.
- (x) The watchmen normally turns off all the lights in the night.

Q.6. **Mark primary stress** on the following words and write their syllabic structure (0.50+0.50=1x5):

- (i) Daughter
- (ii) Explain
- (iii) Advance
- (iv) Policeman
- (v) Remember

Q.7. Use appropriately the following words in your own sentences (1x5):

- (i) Pilgrim
- (ii) Credulous
- (iii) Trilogy
- (iv) Incurable
- (v) Loquacious

Section C

(10 Marks)

8. Read the following two passages and answer the questions that follow each of them:



Passage One:

William Caxton introduced the art of printing into England in a remarkably short span of time. His considerable success as a merchant enabled him to retire early and devote himself to the literary pursuits he loved so well. After a period of study abroad he returned to England in 1477 and set up his printing press at Westminster, where he published nearly a hundred books in the remaining fourteen years of his life.

Caxton was a man of prodigious industry who did not confine himself to printing. Besides his almost incessant labours at the press, he translated as many as twenty books himself. What is even more important is that he published books in English at a time when most authors' works appeared in French or Latin. Caxton deliberately made it his aim to hasten the spread of knowledge by making books available to the public in – as he put it – 'our English language.'

At first sight, Caxton's desire to print books in English seems reasonable enough. But this was by no means easy, for at that time the English language was little more than a collection of dialects so different-sounding from each other as to seem like numerous foreign languages. Caxton himself, in a prologue to one of his translations, relates an amusing story which well illustrates this difficulty. A merchant from the north of England interrupted his journey on the coast of Kent, and went to a farmhouse to buy eggs. The good wife could not understand what the merchant wanted, and explained that she could not speak French. Then, writes Caxton, the merchant became angry, because he could not speak French either! It was only when the merchant asked for 'eyren,' a dialect-word for eggs, that the housewife understood him. Caxton was not only extremely aware of the language problem, but discerning enough to write in the dialect which most of his countrymen could understand and which would one day develop into modern English as we know it. Later writers found the language already formed; Caxton had to choose his. By choosing right, he helped stabilize English and paved the way for the great literary achievements of the following century.

When Caxton died, the consequences of invention of printing had barely been realized. Book production then was no more than a practical way of disseminating knowledge. It had yet to turn into the weapon for all types of controversy and propaganda, the means for the rapid communication of information, the accepted part of daily life it was destined to become.

Q.i. According to the author Caxton's desire to print books in English was challenging because at that time:

- (a) English was a standard language and Caxton did not have any knowledge of that
- (b) English was considered so bad that no good wives wished to learn it
- (c) English was not considered a standard language
- (d) English was considered a very difficult language to understand

- Q.ii. On the basis of the passage, it can be inferred that Caxton was
- (a) A learned scholar who chose to write in a language that others could not understand
 - (b) A revolutionary who wanted to upstate French and Latin languages
 - (c) A missionary who wanted to pay the way for the great literary achievements of the following century
 - (d) A discerning person who could visualize the potential of English language
- Q.iii. Before launching himself into printing books, Caxton was:
- (a) An admiral in merchant navy
 - (b) A painter of great repute
 - (c) A successful businessman
 - (d) A renowned scholar of English language
- Q.iv. In the context of the passage the word "anecdote" can be replaced by:
- (a) A wonderful idea
 - (b) An amusing story
 - (c) A prologue written in the beginning of a book
 - (d) A tragic tale
- Q.v. When Caxton died...
- (a) He left behind a series of books to be printed in English
 - (b) The consequences of his efforts of printing books in English were not yet fully established
 - (c) English had already become a language of controversy and propaganda
 - (d) Book production was already established as a prodigiously growing industry

Passage Two

Think of the days when there were no computers and no modern means of transport. Human life was highly restricted due to the unavailability of technological applications. Daily life involved a lot of physical activity. The life of the common man of those times was not as luxurious as that of the modern times, but he was more active. Daily exercise was integrated in the routine physical activities. It was contrary to the lifestyle of today, which carries no time slot for rigorous exercise and carries lazy and inactivity.

We think of technology as a boon to society. I am afraid; this is not completely true. The Internet has bred many unethical practices like hacking, spamming and phishing. Internet crime is on the rise. The Internet, being an open platform for expression, lacks regulation. There is no regulation on the content displayed over websites. Internet gambling facilities have brought casinos, a click away.

posure to the Internet technology from an early age has resulted in children and youngsters addicted to it.

Think of the days when there were no online messengers, no emails and no cell phones. Indeed the cellular technology created the miracle of enabling communication over the wireless media. The communication facilities provided by the Internet worked wonders in speeding long-distance communication but also deprived mankind of the warmth of personal contact. Emails replaced handwritten letters and communication lost its personal touch. With the means of communication available a few clicks away, the tendency of taking pains to reach the loved ones has vanished.

Moreover, we have become excessively dependent on technology. Is so much of a dependency desirable? Is it right to rely on machines? Is it right to depend on computers rather than relying on human intellect? Computer technology and robotics have almost replaced human brains. With the developing technology, we have started harnessing artificial intelligence in many fields. Where is this digital divide going to take us? How will our 'tomorrow' be? 'Machines replacing human beings' does not portray a rosy picture. It can lead to severe issues like unemployment and crime. An excessive use of machines in every field can result in an under utilization of human brain. Due to under utilization of intelligence for a prolonged period of time, man may lose his intellectual abilities and may not even be able to think. Think...

One can cherish an accomplishment only if it is a result of pain and effort. But everything has become so easily available due the advancing technology that it has lost its value. There is a certain kind of enjoyment in achieving things after striving for them. With the developments in technology, we may be able to enjoy all the pricey luxuries but miss out on the little priceless joys of life.

Answer the following questions by ticking the right option for each of them:

Q.vi. The term artificial intelligence as used in the passage refers to:

- (a) Intelligence shown by artificial people around the author
- (b) Intelligence in the field of computers and robotics
- (c) Intelligence of man in a scientific and technological world
- (d) Intelligence used by a mechanical device

Q.vii. It can be inferred from the passage that the author is:

- (a) Not in favour of science and technology
- (b) Not in favour of artificial intelligence
- (c) Not in favour of over dependence on technology
- (d) Not in favour of machines

Q.viii. The word spamming, as used in the context, means:



- (a) Cooking meat products
- (b) To break unlawfully into someone else's computer system
- (c) Sending unwanted e-mails to a large number of people for advertising
- (d) Reducing something too large to a smaller size

Q.ix. It can be understood through the passage that the Internet tends to undesirably increase:

- (a) Gambling
- (b) Communication
- (c) Personal warmth
- (d) Consumerism

Q.x. Mark the statement which, according to the author's view is not one of the drawbacks of technology:

- (a) It makes us lazy and inactive
- (b) It makes our achievements sound too easy and trifle
- (c) It makes casinos difficult to access
- (d) It makes human life mechanical