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National Institute of Technology Calicut
Department of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
Mid-semester Examination, Winter 2024-25
MS1001E Professional Communication
(S2 BTech batches CHED, ECED, EED, PHY, BSED & S2 BArch)
04 February 2025

Time: 11am-1pm

Marks: 20

Instructions to the Students:

- i. There are 6 sections in this question paper. Answer all questions in the given order.
- ii. Write complete sentences for questions that require filling the blanks.

1) Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words given in the brackets. (8x0.25= 2 marks)

Most students arrive at college (a) _____ (use) "discrete, concrete, and absolute categories to understand people, knowledge, and values." These students (b) _____ (live) with a dualistic view, (c) _____ (see) "the world in polar terms of we-right-good vs. other-wrong-bad." These students cannot acknowledge the existence of more than one point of view toward any issue. There is one "right" way. And because these absolutes (d) _____ (be) assumed by or imposed on the individual from external authority, they cannot be personally substantiated or authenticated by experience. These students (e) _____ (be) slaves to the generalizations of their authorities. Most students (f) _____ (break) through the dualistic stage to another equally frustrating stage—multiplicity. Within this stage, students (g) _____ (see) a variety of ways to deal with any given topic or problem. However, while these students (h) _____ (accept) multiple points of view, they are unable to evaluate or justify them. To have an opinion is everyone's right. Every assertion, every point, is valid. In their democracy they are directionless.

2) Follow the instructions in the brackets. (4x0.5 = 2 marks)

- (a) Did the book help you understand the impact of historical events on society? (Change to an open-ended question.)
- (b) How does technology impact the way students learn in modern classrooms? (Change to a close-ended question.)
- (c) You will help with the assignment, _____? (Write a question tag.)
- (d) The rising popularity of electric vehicles is transforming the automobile industry. (Write a question.)

3) Complete the sentences with appropriate modal verbs from the box below. Each modal verb can only be used once. (8x0.5= 4 marks)

should ought to may can't must could might would

- (a) During natural disasters, we _____ donate supplies or volunteer. It is our responsibility to support vulnerable communities.

Name: _____

Registration No. _____

- (b) The door was locked from the inside, and the keys are still on the table. The suspect _____ have escaped through the window. There is no other explanation.
- (c) If you want to strengthen your immune system, you _____ include more vitamins in your diet, especially during flu season.
- (d) Students _____ use the art room after school for practice, but they need written approval from the teacher first.
- (e) The trek guide in Manali warned our group, "Carry an extra pair of socks. It _____ snow tonight, even though the local weather forecast keeps switching between rain and flurries."
- (f) A viral post declared, "Runner broke the 100m world record in 7 seconds!" Coaches rolled their eyes, saying an athlete _____ achieve such speed without defying physics!
- (g) With her incredible voice and stage presence, Priya _____ easily win the competition if she practices her final song.
- (h) Every summer during school vacations, my grandmother _____ take me out at dawn to collect mangoes. It became our cherished ritual until she passed away.

4) Read the following conversation between Saanvi and Nikhil, two employees in the Marketing Department of Axis Pvt. Ltd.

Saanvi: Hey, Nikhil, I need you to streamline the deliverables for the upcoming product launch and focus on optimising the end-to-end user journey.

Nikhil: I'm not entirely sure what you mean by "streamline deliverables" and "end-to-end user journey."

Can you give me more details?

Saanvi: Well, it's just about simplifying the process and improving the customer experience from start to finish. It's pretty much standard procedure. You know, making things more efficient.

Nikhil: I get that, but I need more specific instructions. Last time we had a detailed roadmap and clear expectations from the team.

Saanvi: Honestly, Nikhil, this should be easy. We've done similar projects before. Everyone knows the process by now. Just figure it out, we don't have the luxury of time.

(a) **Identify 2 barriers in communication and suggest a solution each for those.** (2x1.5= 3 marks)

(b) **Rewrite the underlined statement using a depersonalised /inoffensive voice.** (1x1= 1 mark)

5) **Following a rigorous admission process for the PhD programme (in Information and Systems) at IIM Ahmedabad, you have been informed that you have secured the admission. Meanwhile, you have also been accepted into the Princeton University Graduate School for the MS programme. You have decided to join Princeton. Write to the admission office at IIM Ahmedabad about your choice, expressing your gratitude for the opportunity and admission, and also your regret for declining the offer in a note (in not more than 200 words).**

(1x3=3 marks)

Registration No. _____

Name: _____

6) Take cues from the conversation between two students in a blood donation camp and complete the conversation appropriately. (5x1=5 marks)

Janvi: Hey, you're donating too!

Aiswarya: Yeah, I've been meaning to do it for a while. It's my first time. _____

Janvi: Yep, I've donated a couple of times before. But I should admit, the needle always _____

Aiswarya: Same here! But I've heard the process is super quick, so I'm just trying to _____

Janvi: I've also heard they give some snacks afterward to help you recover. I think I'll _____

Aiswarya: Sounds good! I've been feeling a bit lightheaded, so I'm definitely going to grab something as well. _____

Janvi: I'll probably donate again in the next camp, next semester. It's nice _____
