



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PUNE  
Mid-Semester Examination, August 2019 Semester

IIS1113

Duration: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Total Marks: 60

Academic Communication Skills  
Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

Instructions:

Read the instructions for each question carefully and ask me if you are not sure what to do.

Write your answers in neat handwriting and label the question number that you are addressing clearly in the answer sheet.

Keep to the word limit where indicated.

I. Each sentence below has one grammatical error. Find and correct the grammatical error and rewrite the FULL corrected sentence in the answer sheet: [10 marks]

- ✓ 1. Who do she think she is?
- ✓ 2. While Lakshmi eat lunch, the phone rang.
- ✓ 3. Soumya Swaminathan is work in the health sector.
- ✓ 4. Scientists worry that the sun dies soon.
- ✓ 5. Are you come to the party this evening?
- ✓ 6. Did you had a good holiday?
- ✓ 7. People has never faced such a problem before 2010.
- ✓ 8. Normally, students manage to finishes the exam in less than two hours.
- ✓ 9. Which ate up all the food?
- ✓ 10. The Taj Mahal were one of the most recognized monuments of India.

II. Make meaningful sentences for each of the words given below. Your sentence should make it evident that you have understood the precise meaning of the word. For instance, "He is venomous" is a bad sentence. You can use inflected forms (plurals, past tense etc.) of the word if need be: [10 marks]

- |               |             |             |              |               |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| ✓ 1. venomous | ✓ 2. litter | ✓ 3. assure | ✓ 4. quiver  | ✓ 5. rank     |
| ✓ 6. escalate | ✓ 7. yarn   | ✓ 8. jinx   | ✓ 9. charter | ✓ 10. screech |

III. Arrange the following sentences in a logical order to make a coherent story. Write only the sentence numbers in the correct sequence in the answer sheet and not the entire sentences: [5 marks]

- ✓ 1. Other people who prefer to believe in scientific explanations have suggested that electrical forces in the atmosphere caused this incident. (10)
  - ✓ 2. Suddenly, a strange light seemed to be on top of the car, sucking it up off the road before dropping it down again. (3)
  - ✓ 3. The next three minutes were terrifying for them but then the occurrences stopped as abruptly as they had started. (5)
  - ✓ 4. Thinking that the woman must have been so tired that she was dreaming, the police gave her a cup of tea hoping to calm her down. (7)
  - ✓ 5. In a state of shock, they drove to the nearest town and reported the incident to the police. (6)
  - ✓ 6. Since the family members remained adamant, the police finally agreed to inspect the car and when they did, they saw the dust, smelt the smell, and also noticed some small dents in the roof of the car. (8)
  - ✓ 7. The family was already feeling terrified and out of control, when Mrs Knowles noticed a black powder seeping inside their car and smelt a horrible stench. (4)
  - ✓ 8. This story was quickly taken up by some people as proof of the presence of aliens on earth. (9)
  - ✓ 9. When she saw a light flashing on the road ahead, she slowed down thinking that it was a traffic signal. (2)
  - ✓ 10. Mrs Knowles was driving her three sons from Perth to Adelaide in the early hours one morning in 1988. (1)
- ↳ 1



**IV. Write a summary of the following passage in approximately 150 words. Also give your summary an appropriate title:** [10 marks]

Today's grandparents are joining their grandchildren on social media, but the different generations' online habits couldn't be more different. The over-55s are joining Facebook in increasing numbers, meaning that they will soon be the site's second biggest user group, with 3.5 million users aged 55-64 and 2.9 million over-65s.

Sheila, aged 59, says, "I joined to see what my grandchildren are doing, as my daughter posts videos and photos of them. It's a much better way to see what they're doing than waiting for letters and photos in the post. That's how we did it when I was a child, but I think I'm lucky I get to see so much more of their lives than my grandparents did."

Ironically, Sheila's grandchildren are less likely to use Facebook themselves. Children under 17 are leaving the site—only 2.2 million users are under 17— but they're not going far from their smartphones. Chloe, aged 15, even sleeps with her phone. "It's my alarm clock so I have to," she says. "I look at it before I go to sleep and as soon as I wake up."

Unlike her grandmother's generation, Chloe's age group is spending so much time on their phones at home that they are missing out on spending time with their friends in real life. Sheila, on the other hand, has made contact with old friends from school she hasn't heard from in forty years. "We use Facebook to arrange to meet all over the country," she says. "It's changed my social life completely."

Teenagers might have their parents to thank for their smartphone and social media addiction as their parents were the early adopters of the smartphone. Peter, 38 and father of two teenagers, reports that he used to be on his phone or laptop constantly. "I was always connected and I felt like I was always working," he says. "How could I tell my kids to get off their phones if I was always in front of a screen myself?" So, in the evenings and at weekends, he takes his SIM card out of his smartphone and puts it into an old-style mobile phone that can only make calls and send text messages. "I'm not completely cut off from the world in case of emergencies, but the important thing is I'm setting a better example to my kids and spending more quality time with them."

Is it only a matter of time until the generation above and below Peter catches up with the new trend for a less digital life?

**V. Below is a brief biographical description of Dr Soumya Swaminathan. Based on this passage, write a cover letter applying for a summer internship under her supervision. Make a persuasive case for why you should be selected for this internship. Maintain the etiquette of formal email writing.** [10 marks]

Dr Soumya Swaminathan is an Indian paediatrician and clinical scientist who is a globally recognized researcher on tuberculosis and HIV. She has 30 years of experience in clinical care and research and has worked throughout her career to translate research into impactful programmes. She began her research career in paediatric hospitals in the USA before moving back to India. From 2009 to 2011, she served as Coordinator of the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases in Geneva. Dr Swaminathan was Secretary to the Government of India for Health Research and is now the Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (Chennai). In that position, she has focused on bringing science and evidence into health policy making, building research capacity in Indian medical schools, and forging south-south partnerships in health sciences. The Indian Council of Medical Research is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, and promotion of biomedical research.

**VI. Analyse this paragraph for the function each sentence fulfils. Indicate the sentence number and describe its function in a couple of words. Then, write a paragraph of about 200 words in continuation of the passage, using the last line of the given paragraph as the bridge for the next. Mimic the style and tone of the given paragraph.** [5+10 marks]

[1] Euthanasia is the termination or end of a very sick person's life in order to relieve them of their suffering. [2] A person who undergoes euthanasia usually has an incurable condition. [3] But there are other instances where some people want their life to be ended. [4] In many cases, it is carried out at the person's request but there are times when they may be too ill and the decision is made by relatives, medics or, in some instances, the courts. [5] The first countries to legalize euthanasia were the Netherlands in 2001 and Belgium in 2002. [6] In 1997, Oregon became the first state in the United States to decriminalize physician-assisted suicide; opponents of the controversial law, however, attempted to have it overturned. [7] The issue has been at the centre of very heated debates for many years and is surrounded by religious, ethical and practical considerations.