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MANIPAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
 Manipal University, Manipal – 576 104



II SEM. B.TECH. DEGREE END SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS - MAY 2015

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH (HUM 1001)

Time: 3 Hours.

Max. marks: 50

I Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

10

People often ask which is the most difficult language to learn, and it is not easy to answer because there are many factors to take into consideration. Firstly, in a first language the differences are unimportant as people learn their mother tongue naturally, so the question of how hard a language is to learn is only relevant when learning a second language.

A native speaker of Spanish, for example, will find Portuguese much easier to learn than a native speaker of Chinese, for example, because Portuguese is very similar to Spanish, while Chinese is very different, so first language can affect learning a second language. The greater the differences between the second language and our first, the harder it will be for most people to learn. Many people answer that Chinese is the hardest language to learn, possibly influenced by the thought of learning the Chinese writing system, and the pronunciation of Chinese does appear to be very difficult for many foreign learners. However, for Japanese speakers, who already use Chinese characters in their own language, learning writing will be less difficult than for speakers of languages using the Roman alphabet.

Some people seem to learn languages readily, while others find it very difficult. Teachers and the circumstances in which the language is learned also play an important role, as well as each learner's motivation for learning. If people learn a language because they need to use it professionally, they often learn it faster than people studying a language that has no direct use in their day to day life.

Apparently, British diplomats and other embassy staff have found that the second hardest language is Japanese, which will probably come as no surprise to many, but the language that they have found to be the most problematic is Hungarian, which has 35 cases (forms of nouns according to whether it is subject, object, genitive, etc). This does not mean that Hungarian is the hardest language to learn for everyone, but it causes British diplomatic personnel, who are generally used to learning languages, the most difficulty. However, Tabassaran, a Caucasian language has 48 cases, so it might cause more difficulty if British diplomats had to learn it.

Different cultures and individuals from those cultures will find different languages more difficult. In the case of Hungarian for British learners, it is not a question of the writing system, which uses a similar alphabet, but the grammatical complexity, though native speakers of related languages may find it easier, while struggling with languages that the British find relatively easy.

No language is easy to learn well, though languages which are related to our first language are easier. Learning a completely different writing system is a huge

challenge, but that does not necessarily make a language more difficult than another. In the end, it is impossible to say that there is one language that is the most difficult language in the world.

Questions:

1. The question of how hard a language is to learn is relevant to
 - A) First language acquisition
 - B) Second language acquisition
 - C) Both first and second language acquisition
 - D) all of the above

2. Portuguese is definitely easier than Chinese.
 - A) True
 - B) False

3. Which of the following is true according to the passage:
 - A) Chinese is the hardest language in the world to learn
 - B) Foreigners find Japanese language easier to learn
 - C) Japanese speakers may find Chinese language easier to learn
 - D) all of the above

4. Which of the following is not a factor in the process of language acquisition?
 - A) The role of teachers
 - B) Role of parents
 - C) Role of learner's motivation for learning
 - D) None of the above

5. According to British diplomatic personnel , the most difficult language to learn is
 - A) Chinese
 - B) Hungarian
 - C) Japanese
 - D) Tabassaran

6. Which of the following language has the highest number of cases (forms of nouns)?
 - A) Chinese
 - B) Hungarian
 - C) Japanese
 - D) Tabassaran

7. Which of the following is not true according to the passage?
 - A) Hungarian alphabet is similar to that of British.
 - B) Hungarian writing system poses problem to British learners.
 - C) Grammatical complexities of Hungarian language poses problem to British learners.
 - D) British learners find Hungarian language difficult to learn.

8. The writer thinks that learning a new writing system is easy.
A) True
B) False

9. According to the passage, is the most difficult language in the world to learn.
A) English
B) Japanese
C) Tabassaran
D) No definite answer

10. Culture of an individual also plays a role in making language learning process easier or difficult.
A) True
B) False

II Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

10

Road accidents are one of the most important problems being faced by modern societies. They represent a human tragedy that results in health, environmental and social problems. Further, they have significant impacts on national economic growth strategies. Road accidents can cause personal injury, death, damage to vehicles and property, and result in criminal prosecution, civil action, disciplinary actions and complaints. Hence, they demand a great deal of attention in a society. Road accidents worldwide claim 1.2 million lives a year and injure millions more as per a WHO report. Everyday, 1000 people under the age of 25 are killed in traffic accidents with 90% of these deaths occurring in low-to- middle income countries. According to a UN report, more than 1000 young people each day die on the road, a worldwide toll that inflicts indescribable, yet avoidable suffering as well as spiraling economic costs. Every hour of every day, 40 youngsters around the world die after being hit by traffic or involved in a collision, says WHO Director General Margaret Chan.

In 2002, 1.2 million people of all ages died on the road, between 20 and 50 million were injured. People aged under 25 accounted for 383,046 of these fatalities. Among teenagers aged 15-19, it was the biggest source of death and it ranked second among children aged five to nine and adults aged 20-24. More than half of the fatalities were in Africa and Southeast Asia.

As per the 2002 figures, the global cost of road accidents, among people of all ages, is put at 518 billion dollars. In terms of GNP, the cost is one percent for low-income countries which accounts for 85% of fatalities; 1.5% in middle-income countries and 2% in high-income countries.

Road accident is the biggest killer of young people between the age of 15 and 19, far higher than HIV/ AIDS deaths. Factors such as speed, no helmets, risking behavior and drunk driving contribute to the rising trend. The nature and extent of

road traffic accidents are wide and varied. They may involve vehicles colliding with other vehicles or vehicles colliding with other objects like buildings, trees or road dividers.

Basic prevention measures such as seat belts, helmets, and speed limits can cut the number of death in road accidents by up a half according to the Red Cross Society. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have launched a guide for its national associations worldwide outlining priorities to cut an estimated 1.2 million deaths a year and 50 million injuries on the world's roads. The priorities include wearing seat belts or helmets for motorcyclists and campaigns against speeding and drunken driving. Death in road accidents had dropped by 20 to 40 per cent in a few years in countries that had implemented at least one of those measures.

Many of the young people killed in road accidents are pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, or passengers on cheap public transport. In Asia, where the motorcycle is a popular mode of transport, helmets are rarely used partly because of their cost and partly due to the absence of stricter laws. The WHO says, " young motorcyclists make up a significant percentage of injuries and fatalities among road users in many Asian countries." By wearing helmets correctly, the risk of death is cut by some 40 percent and the risk of severe injury by 72 per cent. In many low-income countries laws enforcing the wearing of protective helmets are rarely enforced. As a result, millions of people get injured and remain disabled for life.

Further, driving at night is more dangerous than day driving. The reasons are that some drivers are likely to be impaired by alcohol or drugs, with night vision problems or by fatigue. Some tips on night driving : i) Drive defensively, don't drink and drive. ii) Since you can not see well, you better slow down and keep more space between you and other cars. iii) Avoid staring directly into approaching lights and once you are past the bright lights give your eyes time to readjust just before resuming speed iv) when you follow another vehicle on a freeway or highway, use low beams. v) Keep your wind shield and all the glass of your vehicle clean-inside and out because glare at night is made much worse by dirt on the glass.

Questions:

1. Road accidents must be prevented because
 - A) It causes a great deal of human misery.
 - B) It causes a lot of traffic problems.
 - C) It causes injury to thousands of people
 - D) It causes a big loss to the government.
2. According to WHO report, the category of people most affected by road accidents are
 - A) Children
 - B) People above 25 years of age
 - C) People below 25 years of age
 - D) People below 15 years of age

3. In 2002, the number of people who got injured due to road accident was between
 - A) 50 and 1.2 million
 - B) 50 and 70 million
 - C) 70 and 1.2 million
 - D) 20 and 50 million
4. In 2002, accidents were the chief cause of death among
 - A) Children aged five to nine
 - B) Teenagers aged 15 to 19
 - C) Adults aged 20 to 24
 - D) Adults aged above 24
5. Road accidents are most prevalent in
 - A) High-income countries
 - B) Low income countries
 - C) Middle income countries
 - D) Developed countries
6. Which of the following is a reason for the increasing number of road accidents
 - A) Lack of infrastructure
 - B) Inefficient drivers
 - C) No helmets
 - D) Road dividers
7. Death in road accidents had dropped by 20 to 40 per cent in countries
 - A) That have insisted on the use of seat belts and helmets
 - B) That have started campaigns against speeding and drunk driving
 - C) Both a & b
 - D) Either a or b
8. The wearing of helmets reduces the risk of death by
 - A) 70%
 - B) 40%
 - C) 50%
 - D) 20%
9. More than half of the road accidents occur in
 - A) Europe
 - B) America
 - C) Asia
 - D) Africa and Southeast Asia

10. Road accidents cause about
- A) 1.2 million deaths a year
 - B) 2.1 million deaths a year
 - C) 3 million deaths a year
 - D) 10000 deaths a year

III Identify the sentence that is grammatically correct:

05

- 1. A) My uncle and teacher-guardian has visited me at my hostel.
B) My uncle and teacher-guardian have visited me at my hostel.
C) My uncle and teacher-guardian are visiting me at my hostel.
- 2. A) The match ended in a draw as neither of the teams were able to score a goal.
B) The match ended in a draw as neither of the teams was able to score a goal.
C) The match ended in a draw as neither of the teams could able to score a goal.
- 3. A) When I went to my uncle's house, he already left for Mumbai.
B) When I went to my uncle's house, he had already been left for Mumbai.
C) When I went to my uncle's house, he had already left for Mumbai.
- 4. A) I have not attended any of the classes last semester.
B) I did not attend any of the classes last semester.
C) I had not attended any of the classes last semester.
- 5. A) Mobile apps are a boon, but users' dependency on them is a concern.
B) Mobile apps are a boon, but users' dependency on it is a concern.
C) Mobile apps is a boon, but users' dependency on them is a concern.
- 6. A) Microsoft's layoff plan is likely to have a major impact on their staff.
B) Microsoft's layoff plan is likely to have a major impact on its staff.
C) Microsoft's layoff plan are likely to have a major impact on their staff.
- 7. A) We are always having speech classes in the afternoon.
B) We are having speech classes in the afternoon only.
C) We always have speech classes in the afternoon.
- 8. A) The criminal as well as his accomplices were arrested.
B) The criminal as well as his accomplices was arrested.
C) The criminal as well as his accomplice were arrested.
- 9. A) Finally, each of the brothers could get their share of the property.

- B) Finally, each of the brothers could get one's share of the property.
 C) Finally, each of the brothers could get his share of the property.
10. A) If my father will approve, I will go abroad.
 B) If my father will approve, I shall go abroad.
 C) If my father approves, I will go abroad.

IV Read the following passage.

The modern age is a age of electricity. Peoples are so used to electric lights, radio, televisions, and telephones that it is hard to imagine what life would be like without it. When there is a power failure, people gropes about in flickering candlelight. Cars hesitates in the streets because there is no traffic lights to guide them, and food spoils in silent reffridgerators.

Yet, people begun to understand how electricity works only a little more than two centuries ago. Nature has appearently been experimenting in this field for millions of years. Scientists are being discovered more and more that the living world may hold much interesting secrets of electricity that could benefit humanity.

All living cells sent out tiny pulses of electricity. As the heart beats it send out pulses of recorded electricity; they form a electrocardiogram, which a doctor can study to determine how well heart is working. The brain, too, sends out brain waves of electricity, who can be recorded in an electroencephalogram. The electric currents generated by most living cells is extremely small, often so small that sensitive instruments are needing to record them. But in some animal, certain muscle cells has become so specialized as electrical generators that they do not work as muscle cells at all. When large numbers of these cells are linked together, the affects can be astonishing.

The electric eel is a amazing storage battery. It can send a jolt of as much as eight hundred volts of electricity through a water in which it lives. An electric house currant is only one hundred twenty volts. As many as four-fifths of all the cells in the electric eel's body are specialized for generating electricity, and the strenght of the shock it can deliver correspond roughly to the length of their body.

(300 words)

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| IV | A. Rewrite the passage correcting the errors and <u>underline</u> the corrections made. (There are no punctuation errors.) | 05 |
| IV | B. Write a summary of the given passage | 05 |

V Read the following speech by Dr. Abdul Kalam carefully and write a response (your impressions) of about 150-200 words. 05

"I have three visions for India. In 3000 years of our history, people from all over the world have come and invaded us, captured our lands, conquered our minds. From Alexander onwards, The Greeks, the Turks, the Moguls, the Portuguese, the British, the French, the Dutch, all of them came and looted us, took over what was ours. Yet we have not done this to any other nation. We have not conquered anyone. We have not grabbed their land, their culture, their history and tried to enforce our way of life on them. Why? Because we respect the freedom of others.

That is why my first vision is that of FREEDOM. I believe that India got its first vision of this in 1857, when we started the war of Independence. It is this freedom that we must protect and nurture and build on. If we are not free, no one will respect us.

My second vision for India's DEVELOPMENT, For fifty years we have been a developing nation. It is time we see ourselves as a developed nation. We are among the top 5 nations of the world in terms of GDP. We have 10 percent growth rate in most areas. Our poverty levels are falling. Our achievements are being globally recognized today. Yet we lack the self-confidence to see ourselves as a developed nation, self-reliant and self-assured. Isn't this incorrect?

I have a THIRD vision. India must stand up to the world. Because I believe that, unless India stands up to the world, no one will respect us. Only strength respects strength. We must be strong not only as a military power but also as an economic power. Both must go hand-in-hand. My good fortune was to have worked with three great minds. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai of the Dept. of space, Professor Satish Dhawan, who succeeded him and Dr. Brahm Prakash, father of nuclear material. I was lucky to have worked with all three of them closely and consider this the great opportunity of my life.

Why is the media here so negative? Why are we in India so embarrassed to recognize our own strengths, our achievements? We are such a great nation. We have so many amazing success stories but we refuse to acknowledge them. Why?

We are the first in milk production.

We are number one in Remote sensing satellites.

We are the second largest producer of wheat.

We are the second largest producer of rice.

Look at Dr. Sudarshan, he has transferred the tribal village into a self-sustaining, self driving unit.

There are millions of such achievements but our media is only obsessed in the bad news and failures and disasters.

In India we only read about death, sickness, terrorism, crime. Why are we so NEGATIVE?

Another question: Why are we, as a nation so obsessed with foreign things? We want foreign TVs, we want foreign shirts. We want foreign technology. Why this obsession with everything imported. Do we not realize that self-respect comes with self-reliance? I was in Hyderabad giving this lecture, when a 14 year old girl asked me for my autograph. I asked her what her goal in life is. She replied: I want to live in a developed India. For her, you and I will have to build this developed India. You must proclaim. India is not an under-developed nation; it is a highly developed nation.

Do you have 10 minutes? Allow me to come back with a vengeance. Got 10 minutes for your country? If yes, then read; otherwise, choice is yours.

YOU say that our government is inefficient.

YOU say that our laws are too old.

YOU say that the municipality does not pick up the garbage.

YOU say that the phones don't work, the railways are a joke, the airline is the worst in the world, mails never reach their destination.

YOU say that our country has been fed to the dogs and is the absolute pits.

YOU say, say and say.

What do YOU do about it? Take a person on his way to Singapore. Give him a name – YOURS.

Give him a face – YOURS. YOU walk out of the airport and you are at your International best.

In Singapore you don't throw cigarette butts on the roads or eat in the stores. YOU are as proud of their Underground Links as they are. You pay \$5(approx. Rs.60) to drive through Orchard Road (equivalent of Mahim Causeway or Pedder Road) between 5 PM and 8 PM. YOU come back to the parking lot to punch your parking ticket if you have over stayed in a restaurant or a shopping mall irrespective of your status identity. In Singapore you don't say anything, DO YOU? YOU wouldn't dare to eat in public during Ramadan, in Dubai. YOU would not dare to go out without your head covered in Jeddah. YOU would not dare to buy an employee of the telephone exchange in London at 10 pounds (Rs.650) a month to, "see to it that my STD and ISD calls are billed to someone else."

YOU would not dare to speed beyond 55 mph (88 km/h) in Washington and then tell the traffic cop, "Jaanta hai sala main kaun hoon (Do you know who I am?). I am so and so's son. Take your two bucks and get lost." YOU wouldn't chuck an empty coconut shell anywhere other than the garbage pail on the beaches in Australia and New Zealand. Why don't YOU spit Paan on the streets of Tokyo? Why don't YOU use examination jockeys or buy fake certificates in Boston? We are still talking of the same YOU. YOU who can respect and conform to a foreign system in other countries but cannot in your own. You who will throw papers and cigarettes on the road the moment you touch Indian ground. If you can be an involved and appreciative citizen in an alien country, why cannot you be the same here in India? We go to the polls to choose a government and after that forfeit all responsibility. We sit back wanting to be pampered and expect the government to do everything for us whilst our contribution is totally negative. We expect the government to clean up but we are not going to stop chucking garbage all over the place nor are we going to stop to pick up a stray piece of paper and throw it in the bin. We expect the railways to provide clean bathrooms but we are not going to learn the proper use of bathrooms.

We want Indian Airlines and Air India to provide the best of food and toiletries but we are not going to stop pilfering at the least opportunity. This applies even to the staff who is known not to pass on the service to the public. When it comes to burning social issues like those related to women, dowry, girl child and others, we make loud drawing room protestations and continue to do the reverse at home. Our excuse? 'It's the whole system which has to change, how will it matter if I alone forego my sons' rights to a dowry.'

So who's going to change the system? What does a system consist of? Very conveniently for us it consists of our neighbors, other households, other cities, other communities and the government. But definitely not me and YOU. When it comes

to us actually making a positive contribution to the system we lock ourselves along with our families into a safe cocoon and look into the distance at countries far away and wait for a Mr. Clean to come along & work miracles for us with a majestic sweep of his hand or we leave the country and run away. Like lazy cowards hounded by our fears we run to America to bask in their glory and praise their system. When New York becomes insecure we run to England. When England experiences unemployment, we take the next flight out to the Gulf. When the Gulf is war struck, we demand to be rescued and brought home by the Indian government.

Everybody is out to abuse and rape the country. Nobody thinks of feeding the system. Our conscience is mortgaged to money.

Dear Indians,

The article is highly thought inductive, calls for a great deal of introspection and pricks one's conscience too....

I am echoing J. F. Kennedy's words to his fellow Americans to relate to Indians.....

“ASK WHAT WE CAN DO FOR INDIA AND DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE TO MAKE INDIA WHAT AMERICA AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE TODAY”

Let's do what India needs from us.

Thank you.”

VI Write an Essay (500-600 words) on any ONE of the following:

10

- A. Celebrities as Role Models**
- B. The Impact of Technology on Youth**
