



Reg.No.

Manipal Institute of Technology



DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & MANAGEMENT

II Sessional Test

II Semester B. Tech, Communication Skills in English (HUM1001)

April 2015

Time: 1 Hour

Max. Marks: 15

**I. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (1x5=5)**

Many great inventions are initially greeted with ridicule and disbelief. The invention of the airplane was no exception. Although many people who heard about the first powered flight on December 17, 1903 were excited and impressed, others reacted with peals of laughter. The idea of flying an aircraft was repulsive to some people. Such people called Wilbur and Orville Wright, the inventors of the first flying machine, impulsive fools. Negative reactions, however, did not stop the Wrights. Impelled by their desire to succeed, they continued their experiments in aviation.

Orville and Wilbur Wright had always had a compelling interest in aeronautics and mechanics. As young boys they earned money by making and selling kites and mechanical toys. Later, they designed a newspaper-folding machine, built a printing press, and operated a bicycle-repair shop. In 1896, when they read about the death of Otto Lilienthal, the brothers' interest in flight grew into a compulsion.

Lilienthal, a pioneer in hang-gliding, had controlled his gliders by shifting his body in the desired direction. This idea was repellent to the Wright brothers, however, and they searched for more efficient methods to control the balance of airborne vehicles. In 1900 and 1901, the Wrights tested numerous gliders and developed control techniques. The brothers' inability to obtain enough lift power for the gliders almost led them to abandon their efforts.

After further study, the Wright brothers concluded that the published tables of air pressure on curved surfaces must be wrong. They set up a wind tunnel and began a series of experiments with model wings. Because of their efforts, the old tables were repealed in time and replaced by the first reliable figures for air pressure on curved surfaces. This work, in turn, made it possible for the brothers to design a machine that would fly. In 1903 the Wrights built their first airplane, which cost less than \$1,000. They even designed and built their own source of propulsion—a lightweight gasoline engine. When they started the engine on December 17, the airplane pulsed wildly before taking off. The plane managed to stay aloft for 12 seconds, however, and it flew 120 feet.

By 1905, the Wrights had perfected the first airplane that could turn, circle, and remain airborne for half an hour at a time. Others had flown in balloons and hang gliders, but the

Wright brothers were the first to build a full-size machine that could fly under its own power. As the contributors of one of the most outstanding engineering achievements in history, the Wright brothers are accurately called the fathers of aviation.

**1. The idea of flying an aircraft was \_\_\_\_\_ to some people.**

- A. boring
- B. distasteful
- C. exciting
- D. needless
- E. Answer not available

**2. People thought that the Wright brothers had \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. acted without thinking
- B. been negatively influenced
- C. been too cautious
- D. been mistaken
- E. acted in a negative way

**3. The Wrights' interest in flight grew into a \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. financial empire
- B. plan
- C. need to act
- D. foolish thought
- E. Answer not available

**4. Lilienthal's idea about controlling airborne vehicles was \_\_\_\_\_ the Wrights.**

- A. proven wrong by
- B. opposite to the ideas of
- C. disliked by
- D. accepted by
- E. improved by

**5. The old tables were \_\_\_\_\_ and replaced by the first reliable figures for air pressure on curved surfaces.**

- A. destroyed
- B. invalidated
- C. multiplied
- D. approved
- E. not used

**6. The Wrights designed and built their own source of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. force for moving forward
- B. force for turning around
- C. turning
- D. force for going backward
- E. None of the above

## **II      Read the following passage**

In these machine age, most business correspondence and school written work is legible because it is typed; but a great deal of private correspondence, classroom testing and exams is still handwritten, and it should be wrote legibly, purely and simply out of courtsey to the reader.

School childrens, more especially boys, tends to forget this basic reason why their writing should be reasonably neat. It is not a matter of producing something beautiful for beauty's sake, a practice which some boys is likely to regard as effeminate or 'cissy'. It is not a question of obliging Mr. Smith, who is happens to be a fussy type of teachers. The situation is much more important than many people realizes: if you write, you write for someone to read; and you owes your reader the courtesy of offering them with something that they can read rapidly, unhesitatingly, and without mistaking what you had been wanted to say.

Nor is it any excuse for handwritten rudeness for you to state plaintively, as so many people does, that you have always been the bad writer and that there's nothing you can do about it. There are something you can do about it: you can agree that bad, untidy, illegible writing is the form of rudeness for your reader, and you can begins now to eliminate it. You can practise to five or ten minutes a day, making one peace of work as neat as possible. You can, if neccesary, begin to changing your handwriting to a simpler style or you may even decide to change to printing. All this you will do for the reason that a poorly scribbled letter is a impolite letter, that say plainly to client, employer, friend or relation, 'I doesn't care whether you find this difficult to read or not; I am too lazy to bother writing well enough to make meself readily understood.'

Some people claims to be able to tell character from handwriting; certainly, from poor handwriting we can able to tell a good deal. **(338 words)**

**II a) Rewrite the passage correcting the errors and underline the corrections made.**  
**(There are no punctuation errors.)** **(05)**

**II b) Write a summary of the given passage (around 1/3 of its length)** **(05)**