



Reg.No.

Manipal Institute of Technology



DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & MANAGEMENT

I Sessional

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

September 2014

Time: 1 Hour

Max. Marks: 15

I. Read the following passage and answer the questions on it: (06+02= 08)

More than sixty years ago, in the summer of 1948, the Indian nation, then newly-born, was struggling for its very survival. It was pierced from the left by the Communists, and pinched from the right by Hindu extremists. And there were other problems aplenty. Eight million refugees had to be resettled; provided with land, homes, employment and a sense of citizenship. Five hundred princely states had to be integrated, one by one, a process that involved much massaging of egos (for the Maharajas tended to think very highly of themselves), and just a little coercion.

Few Indians now alive know how uncertain our future looked in the summer of 1948. The question then being asked everywhere was 'Will India Survive?' Now, sixty-four years down the road, that fearful query has been replaced by a far more hopeful one, namely, 'Will India Become a Superpower?'

This new, anticipatory, expectant question has been prompted by the extraordinary resilience, in the long term, of India's democratic institutions. When the first General Elections were held, in 1952, they were dubbed the 'Biggest Gamble in History'. Never before had universal adult franchise been tried in a poor, divided, and largely illiterate society. Evidently, it is a gamble that has worked. The country has successfully held fifteen General Elections to the national Parliament, as well as countless polls to different state assemblies. Rates of voter participation are often higher than in Western democracies. And after what happened in Florida in 2000, we can add that the conduct of polls is at least as fair.

Back in 1948, doubts were also being cast about the Indian experiment with nationhood. Never before had a new nation not based its unity on a single language, religion, or common enemy. As an inclusive, plural, and non-adversarial model of nationalism, the idea of India had no precedent or imitator.

In the words of the political theorist Sunil Khilnani, India has been 'a substantial bridgehead of effervescent liberty on the Asian continent'. As such, it inspires hope that the largely poor, still divided, and formerly colonised countries of Africa and the Middle East can likewise move towards a more democratic political system. Meanwhile, through its collective co-existence of different faiths, languages, cultures, and cuisines, India is a better model for world governance than more homogeneous countries such as China, Japan, or the United

States. Once, the heterogeneity of India was seen as its greatest flaw; now, it may justly be celebrated as its greatest strength.

India was not expected to survive as a democracy nor hold together as a single nation; but it has. These manifest successes, achieved against the odds and against the logic of human history, have compelled worldwide admiration. If calls are now being heard that India must be made a Permanent Member of the Security Council of the United Nations, then these demands are not just legitimate, but also overdue. It is India's long-term record as a stable, multicultural democracy that lies behind its claims for a place at the High Table of Global Affairs. But if politics were all, then we would not be asking whether India will become a superpower. That question is prompted also by the spectacular success, in the short-term, of the Indian economy, the impressive growth rates of the past decade, the entrepreneurial drive manifest in such crucial, cutting-edge sectors such as information technology, and the creation of an ever larger and ever more confident middle class.

Source: Ramachandra Guha, 'Will India Become a Superpower?'

Questions:

1. Which of the following is not mentioned as a problem faced by the nascent Indian Nation in 1948?
 - a. Extreme ideologies
 - b. Refugee settlement
 - c. Economic development
 - d. Unification process

2. 'Few Indians now alive know how uncertain our future looked in the summer of 1948.' The above statement means
 - a. Majority of the Indians now alive understand the worries faced by India at the time of Independence
 - b. None of the Indians now alive understand the worries faced by India at the time of Independence
 - c. All the Indians now alive understand the worries faced by India at the time of Independence
 - d. Only the elderly Indians now alive understand the worries faced by India at the time of Independence

3. When the author says 'Evidently, it is a gamble that has worked', he implies that
 - a. Indian democracy has a lot of uncertainties
 - b. Indian democracy is weak and still pretty much a gamble
 - c. Indian democracy has proven itself to be fair and strong
 - d. Indian democracy is lucky in several ways

4. 'Never before had a new nation not based its unity on a single language, religion, or common enemy'. Here the author implies that
 - a. India is the first nation that has not based its unity on a single language, religion, or common enemy
 - b. India is the not the first nation that has not based its unity on a single language, religion, or common enemy
 - c. India is the not the first nation that has based its unity on a single language, religion, or common enemy
 - d. India is similar to other nations that has based its unity on a single language, religion, or common enemy

5. According to the author, India is a better model for world governance because of
 - a. It successfully held fifteen general elections
 - b. It is able to succeed in spite of a large number of poor
 - c. It is a developing nation in comparison to Japan and the USA
 - d. Its heterogeneous characteristics

6. The author is of the opinion that India may become superpower
 - a. True b. False c. Not sure d. In an ironical sense

7. Does the author support India's claim for a Permanent Member of the Security Council of the United Nations? Give two reasons to support your answer.

II. Identify the grammatically correct sentence among the following: (0.5x06= 03)

1.
 - a. It is usual for scientists and social scientists to abandon his or her theories if a more attractive theory comes along.
 - b. It is usual for scientists and social scientists to abandon their theories if a more attractive theory comes along.
 - c. It is usual for scientists and social scientists to abandon the theories if a more attractive theory came along.

2.
 - a. Every person feels that their needs are more crucial than that of other human beings.
 - b. Every person feel that their needs are more crucial than those of other human beings.
 - c. Every person feels that his or her needs are more crucial than those of other human beings.

3.
 - a. While larger banks can afford to maintain their own data-processing operations, many smaller regional and community banks are having genuine problems in the field.
 - b. While larger banks could afford to maintain its own data-processing operations, many smaller regional and community banks have genuine problems of maintenance.
 - c. While larger banks can afford to maintain their own data-processing operations, many smaller regional and community banks have genuine problems of maintenance

4.
 - a. The Government as well as the regular visitors to the Museum are of the opinion that they need to renovate the old structure.
 - b. The Government as well as the regular visitors to the Museum is of the opinion that the Museum needs to be renovated.
 - c. The Government as well as the regular visitors to the Museum is of the opinion that the Museum need an urgent renovation.

5.
 - a. Salman Rushdie, one of the controversial writers of our time, has made use of the concept of magic realism in his novels.
 - b. Salman Rushdie, one of the controversial writer of our time, had made use of the concept of magic realism in his novels.
 - c. Salman Rushdie, one of the controversial writers of our time, have made use of the concept of magic realism in their novels.

6.
 - a. The students claimed that they had not been informed about the change in their examination pattern.
 - b. The students claimed that they were not informed about the change in his examination pattern.
 - c. The students claimed that they are not informed about the change in their examination pattern.

III. Edit and rewrite the following letter in proper format:

<p>From,</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Miss. Leelavathy Room Nos. 52, Lady's hostels, Manipal</p> <p>Most respected sir,</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Sub: Much nuisance creating by stray dogs at front area of hostel mostly evening</p> <p>I herewith humbly beg to state that much nuisance is creating in our hostel front road because of which many many stray dogs... Tomorrow my lady friend was being returned from collage when all of sudden three-four mad type stray dogs all together was barking and biting my friend. She got now admitted herself in hospital and going under treatment. Respected Sir please kindly help we both and all your lady student who is like your daughters only.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">We are really appreciating your kind heartedness in all our matters.</p> <p>I hope you are understanding our all problem and do the necessity things.</p>	<p>To:</p> <p>Secrity Officer MIT</p> <p>13-09- 14</p> <p style="margin-top: 100px;">Thanking You Sir, I remain Your's Sincerely, Miss Leelavathy</p>
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