



Id. No. ....

Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology

B.Sc. Degree  
in  
Information Technology

Mid-Term Examination  
Year 1, Semester 1, 2015

Business English & Communication Skills (N 103)

Duration: 1 Hour

Instructions to Candidates:

- ◆ This paper contains 2 questions on 2 pages (without the cover page).
- ◆ Answer both questions **on the question paper itself**.
- ◆ Read questions carefully before answering.
- ◆ Total marks - 30.

- 1 (a). Read the text and select the exact words / phrases from the text (2 or 3 words) to answer the questions that follow.

1 x 13 = 13 marks

**The role of new technology in sustainable harvests**

- A. We expect the new generation of farmers to *go back in time*, without using the power of satellite GPS, Web-based apps, and robotics. *In the minds of many*, technology is inextricably linked with industrial farming. But for farmers—especially small farmers—technology is essential for environmental and financial sustainability. Technology also has the *potential* to level the playing field for small and mid-sized farms, by making it easier for them to manage operations, better utilize resources and sell their products.
- B. There are some technologies specifically geared for small farmers. Most are Web-based: AgSquared, helps vegetable farmers plan and *keep track of* plantings, harvests, and yields. Farmeron offers similar services for small livestock farms. What is missing is high-tech equipment for small farms: No small, lightweight tractors or inexpensive cooling systems that could make small farms more competitive.
- C. Efforts to develop small-scale, affordable technology are growing. The first project is a small electric tractor—the TC-30—that will serve as the “motherboard” frame to which other tools can be attached. Up next: a solar-powered Horse Tractor and compressed-air grain harvester and processor. Farm Hack has a similar aim. Founded in 2010, the online and real-world community of farmers, designers, and engineers has worked to develop and build open-source tools that are affordable, adaptable, and easy to fix. Its successes include ideas as varied as a pedal-powered root washer and an electronic fence that can be controlled by text message.
- D. But there is still much work to be done. Small farmers need the attention of university researchers, who for half a century have worked *all but exclusively* to find ways for big farms to increase yields. Today, those researchers are looking at sustainability— called “precision agriculture” in the trade. Their focus remains laser-focused on industrial farms.

1. What type of farming is mostly connected to technology? .....
2. Why do small farmers need technology? .....
3. Who are the available technologies aimed at? .....
4. What more do the small farms need from technology?.....
5. Name the likely first product with technology for small farms.....
6. How would products from Farm Hack benefit small farmers? With .....
7. Name the control for useful products from Farm Hack. ....
8. Where is the research focus now? .....

- (b). Select from within the brackets the most suitable meaning to suit the given text and underline it.

1. *go back in time* (to change, use same old methods, bring in new)
2. *In the minds of many* (as most believe, where most disagree, generally accepted)
3. *Potential* (capacity, possibility, facility)
4. *keep track of* (watch over, guard against, look after)
5. *all but exclusively* (mostly, hardly, minimally)

**17 marks**

Rough work only

[illegible]