

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (INDIAN SCHOOL OF MINES), DHANBAD

Mid Semester Examination (Winter Semester) 2022-23

CLASS: II B. TECH (COMMON)
TIME: 2 Hours

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION SKILLS
M. MARKS: 64

INSTRUCTION: There are four parts of the question paper to be answered in one Answer Script in different parts. Answer the questions strictly in their respective parts

Part I

1. Correct the errors in the sentences of the passage given below:

(10 Marks)

In ^{at} year 1878, I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine ^{at} of the University of London, and proceeded ^{to} in Netley to go through the course prescribe^d for surgeons in the Army. Have ⁱⁿ complete my studies there, I ^{was} were duly attached to the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers as ^{an} assistant surgeon. The regiment was stationed in India ^{at} at the time, and before I could join it, the second Afghan war ^{had} have broken out. On landing ^{at} at Bombay, I ^{had} learned that my corps had advanced through the passes, and was already deep with the enemy's country. I followed, however, with many other officers who were in the same situation ^{as} with myself, and succeeded in reaching Candahar in safety where I found my regiment, at once entered ^{into} upon my new duties.

2. Do as Directed:

(6 Marks)

- A dead man tells no tales. (Transform into a complex sentence) *A man, who is dead, tells no tales*
- The report that he has failed has surprised us all. (Transform into simple sentence) *his failed report had.*
- It was a wonderful evening. (Transform into exclamatory sentence) *What a wonderful evening!*
- Stop talking. (Transform into declarative sentence)
- A jeans that was shop-lifted (Convert into a noun phrase)
- Line-up cartoons of juice bottles (Convert into Participle phrase)

Part II

1. Do as instructed:

(8 Marks)

- Give words or expressions which mean "payment or grant from the government which enables a loss-making industry to continue". *loan*
- Form a word using the suffix '-ity'. *uniform uniformity*
- Form a word using the prefix 'mis-'. *fortune mis-fortune*
- Define the term 'Child Labour'. *Children below the age of 18 who are willing / forced to work*
- Form a compound noun using the structure 'Gerund+Noun'. *water + ing - watering the plants for money*
- Form an adjective from the root 'nation'. *national*
- Convert the word 'reason' into adjective. *reasonable*
- Use the noun 'microwave' into your sentence as a verb. *He asked me to microwave the pizza*

2. Rewrite these sentences using the words in brackets:

(8 Marks)

- You must put on a life jacket. (obligatory) *It is obligatory to put on a life jacket / life jacket is obligatory*
- You must do what the police officer says. (option) *There is no other option than listening to the police officer*
- It's likely we'll meet someone we know at the party. (chances) *There are chances that we will*
- We could see that there was going to be trouble. (apparent)
- It's possible you'll end up with no job at all if you don't try. (well)
- With all this snow, the train will be late, definitely. (sure)
- I was in the park today, and I saw Beth. (should)
- She really wants to get into university next year. (eager)

I. Read the story and answer all the questions:

Tom was more than just a black cat. He had never seen a kitchen nor climbed a backyard fence. He had never stayed in a barn nor stuck his head in an empty food can. He was, in fact, a railroad cat and lived in Junction City. Tom listened to the roar and noise of trains all day and all night. He loved the loud blasts of engine whistles and the sounds of bells and horns. He even enjoyed the ringing of bells at night. The sounds and smells of trains were what Tom lived for. Tom often sat in the **freight house**¹, making me believe he was sleeping. Secretly he was watching the men as they placed large boxes of fish on the moving conveyor belt. Other times he saw milk cans or maybe boxes of apples placed on the conveyor belt. These different things moved down the conveyor belt from the old freight house into the freight cars. The conveyor belt was like moving stairs in a large city store. Tom was never tired of watching the freight moving to and from the freight house and the cars.

One afternoon, just for fun, Tom jumped on the conveyor belt and rode it into a car. This was his first conveyor belt ride. He liked it, and he did it again and again. The men enjoyed Tom's trick so much that one fellow took a picture for the Junction City newspaper. The men cut the picture out of the paper and tacked it up. Tom became a hero. ^{rest of the} From that day on, Tom ran the Junction City freight house. Whatever he did was all right with the men. In fact, sometimes they threw him a fish from a broken box. Tom enjoyed being a hero.

Tom grew sleepy one hot June afternoon as he watched freight moving on the conveyor belt. Just then, a chipmunk jumped from the top of the freight house. He landed right in the middle of the conveyor belt and rode into the freight car. Tom forgot about being a hero. His half-closed eyes flew open, and, like a shot, ^{he} took off. Things happened so fast that the men didn't see either Tom or the chipmunk. The freight car door was locked, and Tom and the chipmunk were trapped inside. In a second, Tom saw that he was locked in. He yowled and yowled. But it was too late: the freight was moving. The men couldn't hear Tom. Soon Junction City was left far behind.

Tom and the chipmunk were trapped in the car for two days and nights. Tom and the chipmunk raced around the car. first one way and then another. Once Tom almost cornered him, but the chipmunk always got away. It was a wild contest. At last, the freight train stopped in a yard. At once, Tom yowled and yowled. He was still yowling when the door was unlocked. Before Tom could get away, one of the men picked him up. Tom liked being petted, but he was hungry and wanted more food.

"So your name's Tom," said the man, as he read the tag on Tom's neck—"Tom, Pennsylvania Railroad is a big company, but some day before long, we'll learn where you're from." By now, Tom no longer thought about the chipmunk. All he wanted was food and to go back to Junction City. Tom wished he had one of the fish the Junction City men used to give him.

The Engineer—for that's who the man was—carried Tom into the station. "You need some food," he said to Tom. "I'll have the cook get you some milk and fish." "Oh, boy!" thought Tom. "Fish at last!" Tom ate until his sides were round and hard. He nosed along the Engineer's leg to say "thank you" and pushed the door open to go out. "Better stay inside," the Engineer called after Tom. "A real storm is coming." ^{3x}

The next day it was still raining. The railroad yard was covered with water. When the Engineer returned, he climbed into his engine and found Tom waiting for him. "So you want to ride with me, Tom," said the Engineer. "We'll be out all night, but I'll be glad to have you for company."

The storm worsened as the freight moved out on the main line. The rain beat down, and the wind whistled and blew. The smoke from the engine was all around them. "This is a blinding storm," the Engineer said to Tom. "I can hardly see twenty yards ahead." So much rain had come down that the water rose quickly in the rivers. The countryside was covered with water. The large engine bounced along, pulling its many freight cars. The smoke blowing back seemed almost to hide the engine.

Suddenly, Tom let out a loud yowl. "Hungry again?" shouted the Engineer.

In reply, Tom yowled again. Then he jumped up on the seat with the Engineer and yowled louder than ever. "Something's wrong," the Engineer shouted to the fireman. "Tom isn't hungry. See his hair standing up. He's warning us about something." "Maybe it's the river up ahead," replied the fireman. "Tom may be yowling to warn us."

"I'm stopping," shouted the Engineer. Fire flew from the wheels as the train stopped. Clouds of smoke covered the engine like a heavy fog. The Engineer jumped down and ran to the front of the train. Then he let out a cry. He was standing on the edge of the big river. "There is no bridge!" he shouted. "The high water has washed it away!"

The other men crowded around. "Fellows, that cat saved our lives!" the Engineer shouted over the roar of the water. "What do you mean?"

"I mean," he replied, in a hollow voice, "that Tom started yowling just before we arrived. If he hadn't acted so excited, I never would have stopped in time. The rain and smoke were all around, and I couldn't see."

"How could Tom tell the bridge was down?" asked the fireman.

"I don't know," replied the Engineer. "But I've been told that cats can hear very well. Perhaps the wheels made a different sound on the rails."

"Why a different sound?" asked one man.

"The rails were broken at the edge of the river," the Engineer said. "This might have caused the engine to make a strange noise in Tom's ears."

Papers all over the country carried the story. Once more, Tom was a hero. The railroad men at the Junction City yard saw Tom's picture and read the story. And soon, the great hero was on his way home to Junction City. Everything was ready for Tom's big welcome home. The conveyor belt was clean and bright. The freight house was covered with flags. The Junction City band headed a large parade. Nothing was too good for the cat who had saved a train. Tom, the hero, had the biggest "Welcome Home" party any cat had ever had. As for the chipmunk, he was never seen again.

[Footnote: ¹A freight house is a building owned and operated by a railroad for receiving, loading, unloading, and temporary storage of]

Questions:

- 1) What figures of speech are used in the lines, "Tom enjoyed being a hero" and "His half-closed eyes flew open, like a shot, he took off"? (1 mark)
- 2) How did Tom's life change after he got his picture in the newspaper? (1 mark)
- 3) How did the Engineer know that Tom wanted to go with him? (1 mark)
- 4) Comment on the mood of the Engineer when he shouted, "Hungry again?" at Tom. (2 marks) *(alms, concerned, hungry again)*
- 5) Comment on the author's usage of the word 'hero' in two different ways. (2 marks)
- 6) What did you learn from the story? (2 marks)
- 7) Provide a suitable title for the story and explain why the title you chose suits the story. (2 marks)
- 8) Summarize the story in your words. (5 marks)

Part IV

II. Read the following passage and answer all the questions:

(16 Marks)

- A) The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (opec) is sometimes called the oil market's central bank. Every month the cartel and its allies, a group of 23 countries that produce 40% of the world's oil, meet to decide on production targets. The aim is to keep prices high and stable. But just as central-bank governors argue about the speed of rate rises, members of opec+, as the wider group is known, disagree on how fast to turn the spigots.
- B) The summit on 5th October was a short one, but it nevertheless produced a controversial decision. Ending a series of online meetings and timid tweaks to output, opec+ — which includes Russia — met in person for the first time since the covid-19 pandemic. Emerging from a Viennese boardroom, ministers confirmed that they would cut production by 2m barrels a day (b/d), an amount equivalent to 2% of the world's total output. After months of market volatility and missed targets, the cartel is determined to restore its credibility and regain control of the oil price.
- C) Members are worried about falling demand. Brent crude, the global benchmark, has dropped to \$93 a barrel, down from \$125 in June. Pricey petrol has led to lower consumption. Europe's gas crunch, China's covid policies and property troubles, and rising interest rates augur a global recession. The strong dollar, in which oil prices are denominated, makes fuel still less affordable outside America. opec+ does not explicitly say so, but its members want a floor under the price at a time when increased spending at home implies a higher break-even price. Experts place that floor at between \$80 and \$100, compared with \$70 to \$80 before covid.
- D) The cartel has rarely had such an opportunity to set prices. No country apart from its biggest members has the capacity to increase output fast, and global stocks are low. Crude inventories in the oecd, a club of mostly rich countries, remain well below their five-year average; China is running down its stockpiles in a bid to satiate its thirsty refiners. The volume of oil on water may be rising, but that is only thanks to the longer tanker journeys that are required as the market adjusts to sanctions, rather than growth in floating storage, notes Giovanni Serio of Vitol, a trader.
- E) The problem opec+ faces is that its credibility is in tatters. Even the cut announced on 5th October is not what it seems. Its members have failed to invest in production, leading to a gap between the target and actual output. In reality, the cut will apply only to members that are hitting or are near their targets. Ehsan Khoman of MUFG, a bank, expects the revision to deliver a real cut of up to 1.1m b/d.
- F) The tactic is nevertheless working—at least for now. The oil price has risen by 11% since 26th September, when rumours of the cartel's plans first emerged. That makes the reduction worthwhile even for Saudi Arabia.

which will trim its output by 5%, but ought to benefit from an increase in price twice the size ⁽¹¹⁾ Jorge León, a former opec analyst now at Rystad Energy, a consultancy reckons that Brent could surpass \$100 by the end of the year. After the meeting, the Saudi energy minister said that, unless the market changes, the supply curbs will remain until the end of 2023.

But the decision is not without risk. opec+'s market share is yet to recover from huge cuts it made in 2020 to shore up prices amid a collapse in demand. Trimming production again may further erode the cartel's market share. The cut is also a snub to President Joe Biden, who recently visited Saudi Arabia in an attempt to cajole it into pumping more, before tough midterm elections next month. The White House accused the cartel of "aligning with Russia", and announced that America would release another 10m barrels from its strategic reserve next month. The decision also provides fuel to nopec, a congressional bill that would allow the cartel to be sued under antitrust law, although it will have to overcome opposition from lawmakers and oil firms who fear tit-for-tat measures.

H) opec+'s loss of market share should be partly reversed when it eventually cranks up output again. Thus it is the decision's impact on demand, with higher prices likely to further reduce consumer appetite, that will probably do more damage to opec+'s position. Cutting output in a tight market also creates more volatility, not less—and the extra uncertainty will discourage investors and lenders, reducing liquidity in the paper oil markets.

I) The decision may also reignite diplomatic tensions within the cartel. Since quotas no longer reflect actual output, the latest cuts are being shouldered by just a handful of members—Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE—that were already prevented from producing quite as much as they ideally would. The UAE, which secured a small increase in July but plans to expand its production capacity from 4m b/d today to 5m b/d in 2025, will almost certainly agitate for a rejig in future negotiations. This will be resisted by underperformers such as Angola and Nigeria, says Robin Mills of Qamar Energy, another consultancy, in the hope that they can one day rebuild their capacity.

Ironically, Russia could offer the cartel a solution. The country has long been a staunch advocate of higher production. But its output is now likely to fall, both soon, as a result of a European embargo set to start in December, and in the long run, as sanctions prevent it from getting access to vital partners, people and parts. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are in bed with "a weakening business partner", says Karen Young of Columbia University. Russia will be reluctant to give away some of its quotas. The question is whether, in a world where it has fewer friends ever, doing so is a price worth paying to remain inside the tent.

(5th October, 2022; The Economist)

1. The reading passage has ten paragraphs labelled A-J. Match the following main idea with the relevant paragraph letter: (6 marks)

No.	Sub-headings	Paragraph
i.	The Russian solution for opec+	J.
ii.	The global conditions that favour opec+ decision	H
iii.	The political backlash of opec+'s decision	I
iv.	The outcome of opec+ latest meeting	B
v.	The positive outcomes of opec+ decision	F
vi.	The reasons for opec+'s controversial decision	C

2. State whether the following statements are 'True' or 'False' based on the information available in the passage: (6 marks)

- Russia is an opec member. **T**
- Brent crude has lost \$32/barrel now due to the falling demand. **T**
- The floating storage of oil is witnessing growth. **F**
- The curbs in supply have resulted in the price of oil to increase. **T**
- There was a reduction in the demand for oil in 2020. **T**
- Lawmakers and oil firms fully support the antitrust law 'nopec'. **F**

175
23
32

(4 marks)

3. Answer the following questions:

- What is Jorge León's current affiliation?
- Which cartel member plans to expand its production capacity by 1m b/d in the next three years?
- When and where did the opec+ members meet in person for the first time since the covid-19 pandemic?
- Why did America accuse the cartel?

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SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION SKILLS
M. MARKS: 64

INSTRUCTION: There are four parts of the question paper to be answered in one Answer Script in different parts. Answer the questions strictly in their respective parts

Part I

1. Correct the errors in the sentences of the passage given below: (10 Marks)

In year 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded in Netley to go through the course prescribe for surgeons in the Army. Have complete my studies there, I were duly attached to the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers as assistant surgeon. The regiment was stationed in India at the time, and before I could join it, the second Afghan war have broken out. On landing at Bombay, I learned that my corps had advanced through the passes, and was already deep with the enemy's country. I followed, however, with many other officers who were in the same situation with myself, and succeeded in reaching Candahar in safety where I found my regiment, at once entered upon my new duties.

Answer Key

In **THE** year 1878, I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded **to** Netley to go through the course **prescribed** for surgeons in the Army. **Having completed** my studies there, I **was** duly attached to the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers as assistant surgeon. The regiment was stationed in India at the time, and before I could join it, the second Afghan war **had** broken out. On landing at Bombay, I learned that my corps had advanced through the passes, and was already deep **in** the enemy's country. I followed, however, with many other officers who were in the same situation **as** myself, and succeeded in reaching Candahar in safety, where I found my regiment, **and** at once entered upon my new duties.

2. Do as Directed: (6 Marks)

- a) A dead man tells no tales. (Transform into a complex sentence)
- b) The report that he has failed has surprised us all. (Transform into simple sentence)
- c) It was a wonderful evening. (Transform into exclamatory sentence)
- d) Stop talking. (Transform into declarative sentence)
- e) A jeans that was shop-lifted (Convert into a noun phrase)
- f) Line-up cartons of juice bottles (Convert into Participle phrase)

Answer Key

- a) A man, **who is dead**, tells no tales. (Complex)
- b) The report **of his failure** has surprised us all. (Simple)
- c) **What** a wonderful evening! (Exclamatory)
- d) **I need/want** you to stop talking. (Declarative)
- e) **A shop-lifted jeans** (Noun phrase)
- f) **Lining up** cartons of juice bottles (Participle phrase)

Part II

1. Do as instructed:

(8 Marks)

- Give words or expressions which mean “payment or grant from the government which enables a loss-making industry to continue”.
- Form a word using the suffix ‘-ity’.
- Form a word using the prefix ‘mis-’.
- Define the term ‘Child Labour’.
- Form a compound noun using the structure ‘Gerund+Noun’.
- Form an adjective from the root ‘nation’.
- Convert the word ‘reason’ into adjective.
- Use the noun ‘microwave’ into your sentence as a verb,

Answer Key

- subsidy
- nationality/stupidity.....
- misuse, misbehave, miscount, ... etc.
- using children to do adult jobs
- Dining-room, washing-machine,etc.
- National
- Reasonable

2. Rewrite these sentences using the words in brackets:

(8 Marks)

- You must put on a life jacket. (obligatory)
- You must do what the police officer says. (option)
- It’s likely we’ll meet someone we know at the party. (chances)
- We could see that there was going to be trouble. (apparent)
- It’s possible you’ll end up with no job at all if you don’t try. (well)
- With all this snow, the train will be late, definitely. (sure)
- I was in the park today, and I saw Beth. (should)
- She really wants to get into university next year. (eager)

Answer Key

- It is **obligatory** to put on a life jacket.
- You **have no option but to** do what the police officer says.
- The chances are** we’ll meet someone we know at the party.
- It was apparent** that there was going to be trouble.
- You **might well / may well** end up with no job at all if you don’t try.
- With all this snow, the train will be late, **for sure / I’m sure**.
- I was in the park today, and **who should I see / meet / bump into but** Beth.
- She **is** really **eager** to get into university next year.

Part III

I. Read the story and answer all the questions:

(16 Marks)

Tom was more than just a black cat. He had never seen a kitchen nor climbed a backyard fence. He had never stayed in a barn nor stuck his head in an empty food can. He was, in fact, a railroad cat and lived in Junction City. Tom listened to the roar and noise of trains all day and all night. He loved the loud blasts of engine whistles and the sounds of bells and horns. He even enjoyed the ringing of bells at night. The sounds and smells of trains were what Tom lived for. Tom often sat in the **freight house**¹, making me believe he was sleeping. Secretly he was watching

the men as they placed large boxes of fish on the moving conveyor belt. Other times he saw milk cans or maybe boxes of apples placed on the conveyor belt. These different things moved down the conveyor belt from the old freight house into the freight cars. The conveyor belt was like moving stairs in a large city store. Tom was never tired of watching the freight moving to and from the freight house and the cars.

One afternoon, just for fun, Tom jumped on the conveyor belt and rode it into a car. This was his first conveyor belt ride. He liked it, and he did it again and again. The men enjoyed Tom's trick so much that one fellow took a picture for the Junction City newspaper. The men cut the picture out of the paper and tacked it up. Tom became a hero.

From that day on, Tom ran the Junction City freight house. Whatever he did was all right with the men. In fact, sometimes they threw him a fish from a broken box. Tom enjoyed being a hero.

Tom grew sleepy one hot June afternoon as he watched freight moving on the conveyor belt. Just then, a chipmunk jumped from the top of the freight house. He landed right in the middle of the conveyor belt and rode into the freight car. Tom forgot about being a hero. His half-closed eyes flew open, and, like a shot, he took off. Things happened so fast that the men didn't see either Tom or the chipmunk. The freight car door was locked, and Tom and the chipmunk were trapped inside. In a second, Tom saw that he was locked in. He yowled and yowled. But it was too late; the freight was moving. The men couldn't hear Tom. Soon Junction City was left far behind.

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"So your name's Tom," said the man, as he read the tag on Tom's neck—"Tom, Pennsylvania Railroad is a big company, but some day before long, we'll learn where you're from." By now, Tom no longer thought about the chipmunk. All he wanted was food and to go back to Junction City. Tom wished he had one of the fish the Junction City men used to give him.

The Engineer—for that's who the man was—carried Tom into the station. "You need some food," he said to Tom. "I'll have the cook get you some milk and fish." "Oh, boy!" thought Tom. "Fish at last!" Tom ate until his sides were round and hard. He nosed along the Engineer's leg to say "thank you" and pushed the door open to go out. "Better stay inside," the Engineer called after Tom. "A real storm is coming."

The next day it was still raining. The railroad yard was covered with water. When the Engineer returned, he climbed into his engine and found Tom waiting for him. "So you want to ride with me, Tom," said the Engineer. "We'll be out all night, but I'll be glad to have you for company."

The storm worsened as the freight moved out on the main line. The rain beat down, and the wind whistled and blew. The smoke from the engine was all around them. "This is a blinding storm," the Engineer said to Tom. "I can hardly see twenty yards ahead." So much rain had come down that the water rose quickly in the rivers. The countryside was covered with water. The large engine bounced along, pulling its many freight cars. The smoke blowing back seemed almost to hide the engine.

Suddenly, Tom let out a loud yowl. "Hungry again?" shouted the Engineer.

In reply, Tom yowled again. Then he jumped up on the seat with the Engineer and yowled louder than ever.

"Something's wrong," the Engineer shouted to the fireman. "Tom isn't hungry. See his hair standing up. He's warning us about something." "Maybe it's the river up ahead," replied the fireman. "Tom may be yowling to warn us."

"I'm stopping," shouted the Engineer. Fire flew from the wheels as the train stopped. Clouds of smoke covered the engine like a heavy fog. The Engineer jumped down and ran to the front of the train. Then he let out a cry. He was standing on the edge of the big river. "There is no bridge!" he shouted. "The high water has washed it away!"

The other men crowded around. "Fellows, that cat saved our lives!" the Engineer shouted over the roar of the water. "What do you mean?"

"I mean," he replied, in a hollow voice, "that Tom started yowling just before we arrived. If he hadn't acted so excited, I never would have stopped in time. The rain and smoke were all around, and I couldn't see."

"How could Tom tell the bridge was down?" asked the fireman.

"I don't know," replied the Engineer. "But I've been told that cats can hear very well. Perhaps the wheels made a different sound on the rails."

"Why a different sound?" asked one man.

"The rails were broken at the edge of the river," the Engineer said. "This might have caused the engine to make a strange noise in Tom's ears."

Papers all over the country carried the story. Once more, Tom was a hero. The railroad men at the Junction City yard saw Tom's picture and read the story. And soon, the great hero was on his way home to Junction City. Everything was ready for Tom's big welcome home. The conveyor belt was clean and bright. The freight house was covered with flags. The Junction City band headed a large parade. Nothing was too good for the cat who had saved a train. Tom,

the hero, had the biggest "Welcome Home" party any cat had ever had. As for the chipmunk, he was never seen again.

[Footnote: ¹A freight house is a building owned and operated by a railroad for receiving, loading, unloading, and temporary storage of]

Questions:

- 1) What figures of speech are used in the lines, "Tom enjoyed being a hero" and "His half-closed eyes flew open, like a shot, he took off"? (1 mark)
- 2) How did Tom's life change after he got his picture in the newspaper? (1 mark)
- 3) How did the Engineer know that Tom wanted to go with him? (1 mark)
- 4) Comment on the mood of the Engineer when he shouted, "Hungry again?" at Tom. (2 marks)
- 5) Comment on the author's usage of the word 'hero' in two different ways. (2 marks)
- 6) What did you learn from the story? (2 marks)
- 7) Provide a suitable title for the story and explain why the title you chose suits the story. (2 marks)
- 8) Summarize the story in your words. (5 marks)

Answer Key

- 1) Personification and Simile
- 2) Tom became a hero, and whatever he did was alright with the men of Junction City Freight House. They even threw fish for him to eat from a broken fish box.
- 3) Tom climbed up on the Engine and was waiting for the Engineer.
- 4) The Engineer was angry/frustrated when he shouted, "Hungry again". When the engineer took rescued Tom from the train, he was yowling due to hunger and was fed his belly full of fish and milk. The engineer was unable to control the train in the storm and Tom yowled loudly. This made the engineer think that Tom was hungry again and thus he shouted at Tom.
- 5) Firstly, the author refers to Tom as a hero in a much lighter tone, as he was admired for his tricks, like jumping on and riding the conveyer belt. Men enjoyed Tom's playful acts, and he was popular among them. Secondly, He was popular once again, referred to as a hero, and celebrated for his courageous act of saving people on the train from grave danger.
- 6) Content and faithfulness
- 7) Original Title – The Railroad Cat. Any title closest to this is acceptable, as the setting, character, and story are about Freight House/Train, Tom, the cat and how the cat saves the people on the train from danger.
- 8) One paragraph
Main idea and the characters
No personal opinion, interpretation or claim
Own words and no copying of the original text
Concluding sentence

Part IV

II. Read the following passage and answer all the questions:

(16 Marks)

- A) The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is sometimes called the oil market's central bank. Every month the cartel and its allies, a group of 23 countries that produce 40% of the world's oil, meet to decide on production targets. The aim is to keep prices high and stable. But just as central-bank governors argue about the speed of rate rises, members of OPEC+, as the wider group is known, disagree on how fast to turn the spigots.
- B) The summit on 5th October was a short one, but it nevertheless produced a controversial decision. Ending a series of online meetings and timid tweaks to output, OPEC+ — which includes Russia — met in person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. Emerging from a Viennese boardroom, ministers confirmed that they would cut production by 2m barrels a day (b/d), an amount equivalent to 2% of the world's total output. After months of market volatility and missed targets, the cartel is determined to restore its credibility and regain control of the oil price.
- C) Members are worried about falling demand. Brent crude, the global benchmark, has dropped to \$93 a barrel, down from \$125 in June. Pricey petrol has led to lower consumption. Europe's gas crunch, China's COVID policies and property troubles, and rising interest rates augur a global recession. The strong dollar, in which oil prices are denominated, makes fuel still less affordable outside America. OPEC+ does not explicitly say so, but its

members want a floor under the price at a time when increased spending at home implies a higher break-even price. Experts place that floor at between \$80 and \$100, compared with \$70 to \$80 before covid.

- D) The cartel has rarely had such an opportunity to set prices. No country apart from its biggest members has the capacity to increase output fast, and global stocks are low. Crude inventories in the oecd, a club of mostly rich countries, remain well below their five-year average; China is running down its stockpiles in a bid to satiate its thirsty refiners. The volume of oil on water may be rising, but that is only thanks to the longer tanker journeys that are required as the market adjusts to sanctions, rather than growth in floating storage, notes Giovanni Serio of Vitol, a trader.
- E) The problem opec+ faces is that its credibility is in tatters. Even the cut announced on 5th October is not what it seems. Its members have failed to invest in production, leading to a gap between the target and actual output. In reality, the cut will apply only to members that are hitting or are near their targets. Ehsan Khoman of MUFG, a bank, expects the revision to deliver a real cut of up to 1.1m b/d.
- F) The tactic is nevertheless working—at least for now. The oil price has risen by 11% since 26th September, when rumours of the cartel's plans first emerged. That makes the reduction worthwhile even for Saudi Arabia, which will trim its output by 5%, but ought to benefit from an increase in price twice the size. Jorge León, a former opec analyst now at Rystad Energy, a consultancy, reckons that Brent could surpass \$100 by the end of the year. After the meeting, the Saudi energy minister said that, unless the market changes, the supply curbs will remain until the end of 2023.
- G) But the decision is not without risk. opec+'s market share is yet to recover from huge cuts it made in 2020 to shore up prices amid a collapse in demand. Trimming production again may further erode the cartel's market share. The cut is also a snub to President Joe Biden, who recently visited Saudi Arabia in an attempt to cajole it into pumping more, before tough midterm elections next month. The White House accused the cartel of "aligning with Russia", and announced that America would release another 10m barrels from its strategic reserve next month. The decision also provides fuel to nopec, a congressional bill that would allow the cartel to be sued under antitrust law, although it will have to overcome opposition from lawmakers and oil firms who fear tit-for-tat measures.
- H) opec+'s loss of market share should be partly reversed when it eventually cranks up output again. Thus it is the decision's impact on demand, with higher prices likely to further reduce consumer appetite, that will probably do more damage to opec+'s position. Cutting output in a tight market also creates more volatility, not less—and the extra uncertainty will discourage investors and lenders, reducing liquidity in the paper oil markets.
- I) The decision may also reignite diplomatic tensions within the cartel. Since quotas no longer reflect actual output, the latest cuts are being shouldered by just a handful of members—Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE—that were already prevented from producing quite as much as they ideally would. The UAE, which secured a small increase in July but plans to expand its production capacity from 4m b/d today to 5m b/d in 2025, will almost certainly agitate for a rejig in future negotiations. This will be resisted by underperformers such as Angola and Nigeria, says Robin Mills of Qamar Energy, another consultancy, in the hope that they can one day rebuild their capacity.
- J) Ironically, Russia could offer the cartel a solution. The country has long been a staunch advocate of higher production. But its output is now likely to fall, both soon, as a result of a European embargo set to start in December, and in the long run, as sanctions prevent it from getting access to vital partners, people and parts. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are in bed with "a weakening business partner", says Karen Young of Columbia University. Russia will be reluctant to give away some of its quotas. The question is whether, in a world where it has fewer friends ever, doing so is a price worth paying to remain inside the tent.

(5th October, 2022; *The Economist*)

1. The reading passage has ten paragraphs labelled A-J. Match the following main idea with the relevant paragraph letter: (6 marks)

No.	Sub-headings	Paragraph
i.	The Russian solution for opec+	
ii.	The global conditions that favour opec+ decision	
iii.	The political backlash of opec+'s decision	
iv.	The outcome of opec+ latest meeting	
v.	The positive outcomes of opec+ decision	
vi.	The reasons for opec+'s controversial decision	

2. State whether the following statements are 'True' or 'False' based on the information available in the passage: (6 marks)

- i. Russia is an opec member.
- ii. Brent crude has lost \$32/barrel now due to the falling demand.
- iii. The floating storage of oil is witnessing growth.
- iv. The curbs in supply have resulted in the price of oil to increase.
- v. There was a reduction in the demand for oil in 2020.
- vi. Lawmakers and oil firms fully support the antitrust law 'nopec'.

3. Answer the following questions: (4 marks)

- i. What is Jorge León's current affiliation?
- ii. Which cartel member plans to expand its production capacity by 1m b/d in the next three years?
- iii. When and where did the opec+ members meet in person for the first time since the covid-19 pandemic?
- iv. Why did America accuse the cartel?

Answer Key

4. The reading passage has ten paragraphs labelled A-J. Match the following main idea with the relevant paragraph letter:

No.	Sub-headings	Paragraph
vii.	The Russian solution for opec+	J
viii.	The global conditions that favour opec+ decision	D
ix.	The political backlash of opec+'s decision	G
x.	The outcome of opec+ latest meeting	B
xi.	The positive outcomes of opec+ decision	F
xii.	The reasons for opec+'s controversial decision	C

5. State whether the following statements are 'True' or 'False' based on the information available in the passage:

- i. Russia is an opec member. **FALSE**
- ii. Brent crude has lost \$32/barrel now due to the falling demand. **TRUE**
- iii. The floating storage of oil is witnessing growth. **FALSE**
- iv. The curbs in supply have resulted in the price of oil to increase. **TRUE**
- v. There was a reduction in the demand for oil in 2020. **TRUE**
- vi. Lawmakers and oil firms fully support the antitrust law 'nopec'. **FALSE**

6. Answer the following questions:

- v. What is Jorge León's current affiliation? **Rystad Energy**
- vi. Which cartel member plans to expand its production capacity by 1m b/d in the next three years? **The UAE.**
- vii. When and where did the opec+ members meet in person for the first time since the covid-19 pandemic? **5th October 2022 & Vienna.**
- viii. Why did America accuse the cartel? **America accused the cartel of 'aligning with Russia'.**