

SEAT NO. CT-080

NED UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
FIRST YEAR(PETROLEUM ENGINEERING/
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED PHYSICS/
COMPUTER SCIENCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
SPRING SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS 2021
BATCH 2020

Time: 3 Hours

Dated: 25-08-2021

Max. Marks: 60

Functional English - HS-104

Instructions: Please attempt ALL questions.

Q1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

[CLO 1] 12

Social media, magazines and shop windows bombard people daily with things to buy, and consumers are buying more clothes and shoes than ever before. Online shopping means it is easy for customers to buy without thinking, while major brands offer such cheap clothes that they can be treated like disposable items – worn two or three times and then thrown away.

In Britain, the average person spends more than £1,000 on new clothes a year, which is around four per cent of their income. That might not sound like much, but that figure hides two far more worrying trends for society and for the environment. First, a lot of that consumer spending is via credit cards. British people currently owe approximately £670 per adult to credit card companies. Also, not only are people spending money they do not have, they are using it to buy things they do not need. Britain throws away 300,000 tons of clothing a year, most of which goes into landfill sites.

People might not realise they are part of the disposable clothing problem because they donate their unwanted clothes to charities. But charity shops cannot sell all those unwanted clothes. 'Fast fashion' goes out of fashion as quickly as it came in and is often too poor quality to recycle; people do not want to buy it second-hand. Huge quantities end up being thrown away, and a lot of clothes that charities cannot sell are sent abroad, causing even more economic and environmental problems.

However, a different trend is springing up in opposition to consumerism – the 'buy nothing' trend. The idea originated in Canada in the early 1990s and then moved to the US, where it became a rejection of the overspending and overconsumption of Black Friday and Cyber Monday during Thanksgiving weekend. On Buy Nothing Day people organise various types of protests and cut up their credit cards. Throughout the year, Buy Nothing groups organise the exchange and repair of items they already own.

The trend has now reached influencers on social media who usually share posts of clothing and make-up that they recommend for people to buy. Some YouTube stars now encourage their viewers not to buy anything at all for periods as long as a year. Two friends in Canada spent a year working towards buying only food. For the first three months they learned how to live without buying electrical goods, clothes or things for the house. For the next stage, they gave up services, for example haircuts, eating out at restaurants or buying petrol for their cars. In one year, they saved \$55,000.

The changes they made meant two fewer cars on the roads, a reduction in plastic and paper packaging and a positive impact on the environment from all the energy saved. If everyone followed a similar plan, the results would be impressive. But even if you cannot manage a full year without going shopping, you can participate in the anti-consumerist movement by refusing to buy things you do not need. Buy Nothing groups send a clear message to companies that people are no longer willing to accept the environmental and human cost of overconsumption.

a. **Mark the following statements true or false: [6]**

1. People buy clothes because they want to throw them away.
2. The writer thinks it is worrying that people spend money on things they do not need.
3. Only a very small proportion of unwanted clothes are thrown away.
4. Buy Nothing Day is a protest against credit cards.

5. The two friends who did the 'buy nothing' experiment only bought food for 12 months.
6. The author has a negative attitude towards Buy Nothing trend.

Choose the correct answer for the following: [4]

1. British spend an average of _____ percent of their income on new clothes each year.
 a. Two
 b. Four
 c. Six
 d. Ten
2. The anti-consumerism trend initiated in Canada in _____.
 a. 1970s
 b. 1980s
 c. 1990s
 d. 2000s
3. The two Canadian friends gave up _____ at the second stage.
 a. Food
 b. Services
 c. Cars
 d. Electrical Goods
4. The Buy Nothing movement is a message to the _____ against the overconsumption.
 a. Environmentalists
 b. Social Media Influencer
 c. Brands
 d. Charity Workers

Answer the following questions: [2]

1. Please write in your own words the main idea of the passage?
2. What is the purpose of the author in this passage?

Q2. Write a précis of the passage given in Q1. Also, give a suitable title.

[CLO 1] 06

Q3. Using the prewriting strategies, write a paragraph of 100-120 words on ANY ONE of the following topic. Underline the topic sentence.

[CLO 2] 06

1. A life changing experience
2. Gender Equality
3. An ideal job

Q4. Using brainstorming technique, write an essay of 250-300 words on ANY ONE of the following topic. Underline the thesis statement and topic sentences.

[CLO 2] 12

1. Online Gaming Promotes Violence
2. Role of Community Service in Character Development
3. Part-time Employment for Students

Q5. You are the president of a students' society and you are assigned the responsibility to arrange a 'Job Fair' at your university. However, you need to obtain formal permission from the Vice Chancellor of the university. Write a letter to the Vice Chancellor to persuade him to grant permission for the job fair.

[CLO 2] 12

Q6. You are part of an audit team who has been assigned the quality inspection of your departmental laboratories. Write a short report on the quality control and mechanism of the labs to be submitted to the university management.

-[CLO 2] 12