



RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

B.Sc. (General) Degree

First Year Semester I Examination – May/June 2016

FDN 1201 – GENERAL ENGLISH

INDEX No:

Library
Faculty of Applied Sciences
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
Mihintale.

Answer all questions on this paper itself.

Time: 3 hours

Section01 - Structure and written expression

Part A: [10 Marks]

Directions:

Items in part-A are incomplete sentences. Under each of these sentences, there are four words or phrases. Choose the **one** word or phrase – A, B, C or D – that best completes the sentence and underline it.

Example:

Reflexesvery valuable in protecting the body against harm.

A that are

B being

C are

D are being

The sentence should read as “Reflexes **are** very valuable in protecting the body against harm”; you should therefore choose C and underline it.

01. The pulse rate of children is fasterhealthy adult.

A. the average

B. than that of the average

C. that of the average

D. as that of the average

02. Helium is not inflammable, therefore safer than hydrogen.

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| A. and is | B. but is |
| C. and it | D. that is |

03. Whiskers are very sensitive,animals can use them to avoid obstacles in the dark.

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| A. so | B. regardless of this |
| C. besides | D. granted that |

04. A computer cannumbers much faster than a human being.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| A. calculates | B. calculate |
| C. calculated | D. calculating |

05. Hydropower is more used than tidal power.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| A. wide | B. widen |
| C. wider | D. widely |

06. Every air molecule has weight, just as a heavy object propelled upward falls back towards the ground, molecules of air return towards the planet's surface.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. as | B. so |
| C. after all | D. presently |

07. Photosynthesis and respiration an important part in the carbon cycle.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| A. will play | B. is playing |
| C. plays | D. play |

08. Electroplating..... to protect metals from corrosion.

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| A. use | B. uses |
| C. used | D. is used |

09. A desert is described as a regionan average of less than ten inches of rain falls in a year.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| A. there is | B. which has |
| C. in which is | D. in which |

10. A loudspeaker is an instrument..... electrical energy in to sound energy.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| A. that | B. who is transforming |
| C. transformed | D. that transforms |

In questions 11-20, each sentence has four underlined words or phrases. The four underlined parts of the sentence are marked A, B, C and D. Identify the **one** underlined word or phrase that must be changed in order to correct the sentence and tick [✓] it.

The sentence should read as “The study of these animals is truly fascinating, and many books have been written about them.” You should, therefore, tick [☒] B.

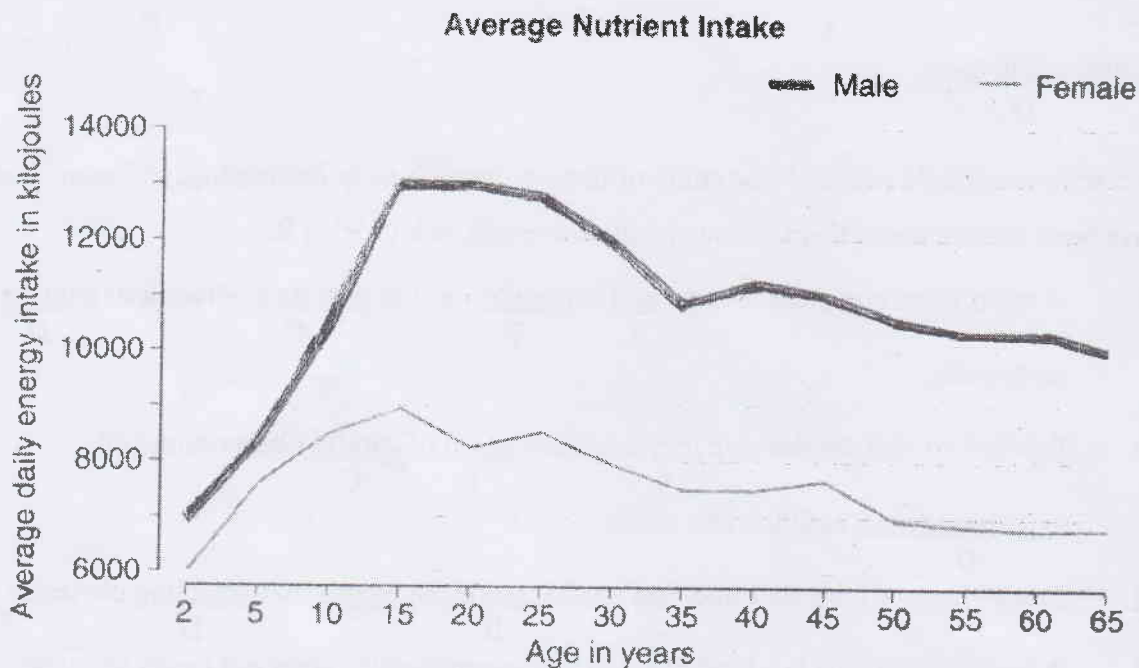
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SECTION 02: Reading Comprehension

Part A: [15 Marks]

Directions:

Read the information in the following graph and answer the questions (i) and (ii) below, based on the information depicted in the graph:



- (i) Fill in the blanks of the following description of the graph using the given words/phrases. Note that there are extra words/phrases in the list.

The graph shows how many kilojoules people consume, on average, between the ages of 2 and 65 and compares the figures for men and women.

The overall trend for males and females is (1).....
 However, males consume (2) throughout their lives, and at the age of 15, they eat a grand total of (3) The intake of females is also (4) at this age, although their (5) of consumption is much lower, being just under 9000 kilojoules.

As far as consumption rates are concerned, most people eat between six and seven thousand kilojoules in their early years, and this figure rises quite steeply

- (6) they move into their teens.
 (7) , food intake tends to decline,
 (8) both age groups eating less as they get older. The
 difference in the amounts eaten in later years (9) narrows
 to around three thousand kilojoules. Thus it is (10) clear
 that we need more food when we are young and less when we are old.

(Thirteen thousand kilojoules, after this, also, as, high, if, in the case of, generally, more, peak, similar, with)

(ii) **Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with the words/phrases given below:**

(both, it, the greatest, this, which)

1. Though food intake increases as young women get older, falls after the age of 15.
2. Men and women eat a lot when they are under 20, but they eat less after age.
3. While men eat more than women, groups follow a similar pattern of food intake.
4. Food consumption varies between men and women, with difference occurring at the age of 15.
5. By the age of 50, females only consume 7000 kilojoules, is considerably less than men.

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Part B:[25 Marks]**Directions:**

Read the following passage and answer all the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage:

- 1 Almost everyone with or without a computer is aware of the latest technological revolution destined to change forever the way in which humans communicate, namely, the Information Superhighway, best exemplified by the ubiquitous Internet. Already, millions of people around the world are linked by computer simply by having a modem
- 5 and an address on the 'Net', in much the same way that owning a telephone links us to almost anyone who pays a phone bill. In fact, since the computer connections are made via the phone line, the Internet can be envisaged as a network of visual telephone links. It remains to be seen in which direction the Information Superhighway is headed, but many believe it is the educational hope of the future.
- 10 The World Wide Web, an enormous collection of Internet addresses or sites, all of which can be accessed for information, has been mainly responsible for the increase in interest in the Internet in the 1990s. Before the World Wide Web, the 'Net' was comparable to an integrated collection of computerised typewriters, but the introduction of the 'Web' in 1990 allowed not only text links to be made but also graphs, images and even video.
- 15 A Web site consists of a 'home page', the first screen of a particular site on the computer to which you are connected, from where access can be had to other subject related 'pages' at the site and to thousands of other computers all over the world. This is achieved by a process called 'hypertext'. By clicking with a mouse device on various parts of the screen, a person connected to the 'Net' can go travelling, or 'surfing' through
- 20 a web of pages to locate whatever information is required.
- Anyone can set up a site; promoting your club, your institution, your company's products or simply yourself, is what the Web and the Internet is all about. And what is more, information on the Internet is not owned or controlled by any one organisation. It is, perhaps, true to say that no-one and therefore everyone owns the 'Net'. Because of
- 25 the relative freedom of access to information, the Internet has often been criticised by the media as a potentially hazardous tool in the hands of young computer users. This perception has proved to be largely false however, and the vast majority of users both young and old get connected with the Internet for the dual purposes for which it was intended - discovery and delight.

1. Find single words from paragraphs 1 and 2 of the passage which mean the same as the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a) Certain to become..... | b) Complete change |
| c) A machine linking computers | |
| d) Given as an example..... | e) Found everywhere |
| f) Location (of activity) | g) Interconnected group |
| h) Vast, or huge | |

2. i. Which is the best title for the passage?

- a) The World Wide Web c) The Internet Revolution
b) The Educational Hope of the Future d) How to Use the Internet

ii. What is the main point of the first paragraph?

- a) Almost everyone has heard of the Information Superhighway.
- b) The Internet will revolutionize the way people communicate.
- c) You need a modem and an address to use the Internet.
- d) No-one knows where the Information Superhighway is headed.

iii. Which is the topic sentence of the second paragraph?

- a) Sentence number one c) The last sentence
b) Sentence number two d) none of the above

iv. What do the following pronouns in the passage refer to?

- a) which (line 2)..... d) which (line 10)
- b) who (line 6)..... e) this (line 17)
- c) it (line 9) f) it (line 28)

3. Choose words from the box below and refer to the passage to fill the gaps in the following summary of the passage:

The internet is the best (1).....of the technological revolution known as the Information Superhighway. Linked by computer through global (2) lines ,users can (3) obtain information by connecting to the World Wide Web . Before the ‘Web’, only (4) information could be flashed upon the computer (5) but thanks to a process called (6) ,visual images can easily be (7) by (8) through a maze of connected (9) on Web sites all over the world . The internet is not independently (10) , which ensures freedom of access to information .

communicate	speedily	visual	computer	advertise	owned
example	hypertext	telephone	exemplified	screen	link
modem	travelling	textual	information	accessed	click
access	criticized	mouse	typewriter	only	pages

- f. The process called 'hypertext' requires the use of a mouse device. T F NG
- g. The Internet was created in the 1990s. T F NG
- h. The 'home page' is the first screen of a 'Web' site on the 'Net'. T F NG
- i. The media has often criticized the Internet because it is dangerous. T F NG
- j. The latest technological revolution will change the way humans communicate. T F NG

SECTION 03: WRITING

Part A: [20 Marks]

Directions:

Attempt **EITHER** question (i) **OR** (ii) **ONLY**.

(i) Re-write the following passage using correct punctuation.

the word *noise* is derived from the latin word *nausea* meaning seasickness noise is among the most pervasive pollutants today noise pollution can broadly be defined as unwanted or offensive sounds that unreasonably intrude into our daily activities noises from traffic jet engines barking dogs garbage trucks construction equipment factories lawnmowers leaf blowers televisions boom boxes and car radios to name a few are among the audible litter that is routinely broadcast into the air

one measure of pollution is the danger it poses to health noise negatively affects human health and well being problems related to noise include hearing loss stress high blood pressure sleeplessness fright distraction and lost productivity noise pollution also contributes to a general reduction in the quality of life and eliminates opportunities for tranquility

a number of factors contribute to problems of growing noise levels one is increasing population particularly when it leads to increasing urbanization and urban consolidation because activities associated with urban living generally lead to increased noise levels another is the increasing volume of road rail and air traffic some people would add to this list a diminishing sense of civility and a growing disrespect for the rights of others

(ii) Read the following passage and answer the given questions:

Water on the earth is continuously recycled in a process known as the hydrologic cycle. The first step of the cycle is the evaporation of water in the oceans. Evaporation is the process of water turning into vapour, which then forms clouds in the sky. The second step is the water returning to the earth in the form of precipitation; either rain, snow or ice. When the water reaches the earth's surface, it runs off into rivers, lakes and the ocean, where the cycle begins again.

Not all water, however, stays on the surface of the earth in the hydrologic cycle. Some of it seeps into the ground through infiltration and collects under the earth's surface as ground water. This ground water is extremely important to life on earth since 95% of the earth's water is in the oceans, and is too salty for humans or plants. Of the 5% on land only 0.05% is above ground in rivers or lakes. The rest is underground water. This underground water is plentiful and dependable, as it doesn't depend on seasonal rain or snow. It is the major source of water for many cities. However, as the population increases and the need for water also increases, the ground water in some areas is getting dangerously low. Added to this problem is an increasing amount of pollution that seeps into the ground water. In future, with an increasing population and more toxic waste, the hydrologic cycle we depend on could become dangerously imbalanced.

Questions

1. Provide a suitable title for the passage?
2. Explain in brief, using your own words, what you understand by the following phrases/ words as used in the passage.
 - (A) The hydrologic cycle
 - (B) Evaporation
 - (C) Seeps into
 - (D) Toxic waste
 - (E) Could become dangerously imbalanced
3. Write a short note on 'ground water'. Pay attention to the following items when writing your answer.
 - What is it?
 - Where is it found?
 - What percentage of the hydrologic cycle does it comprise?
 - Why is it important?
4. Name two factors that threaten the smooth functioning of the hydrologic cycle.

Part B: [20 marks]**Directions:**

Using the information given in the following passage, write a grammatically consistent, concise description on computer software. Pay attention to definitions, classifications and exemplifications. Do not copy sections from the passage. Use about 150 words

Computer software

Computer hardware is the electronic and mechanical components that make up a computer. However, hardware on its own is of little use. A helpful analogy is that of an orchestra without sheet music; each part could theoretically work independently, but needs some coordination before it can make beautiful music. Computer software is the sheet music that guides the operation of the computer. Each piece of software (known as an application or a package) is composed of thousands of instructions written in a programming language. These tell the hardware, in minute detail, how to perform each task.

What is described by the term 'software' may be broken down into three broad categories: *operating systems* (sometimes known as system software), *programming languages* and *application software*. An operating system is a highly complex program that performs relatively basic functions, such as accepting input from the keyboard, displaying something on the screen and reading/writing data to disk, on behalf of the user or a software application. Since the tasks that it performs are so simple, much of its work occurs behind the scenes, and many casual users may not even be aware of its existence. Software applications, on the other hand, are the packages with which everyone is familiar. These are the tools with which work, such as writing a letter, calculating a budget or registering a guest, is carried out on a computer. Because of their visibility, most users are aware of which software applications they use regularly, and indeed many, such as Word and Excel, are household names. Both operating systems and applications are written in a programming language—a structure series of instructions that is interpreted by the computer and which tells the computer what to do.

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[illegible]