

Mid-Semester Exam

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Mid-Semester Exam

Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Surat
Midsemester Examination
B.Tech./M.Sc. Semester-1
Subject: English and Professional Communication
Course Code: HU110
Maximum Marks:30
Date: 05/02/2022
Time: 9:30-11:30 am

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J26

1. Read the following passages A and B carefully and select the correct answers to the questions given below. [5 Marks] Passage A

One of the not so futile debates in modern society is 'whether I create my destiny or my destiny creates me'. Many people believe that life moves according to a pre-ordained plan and controlled by some supreme power and authority that guides our entire courses of life. Therefore, whatever we witness, enjoy, or suffer in life conducts itself on the missive of a design above us. Those with firm faith in such a belief system suggest that humans cannot and do not have in them to make or mar their own destiny. They simply are the carriers of a divine order and whatever the supreme power intends them to do, they do. They often suggest that one should not worry, feel depressed, or experience frustration as whatever happens is already pre-determined and the only thing they can do is to carry out the divine wish to the best of their abilities and leave everything else to God.

Such people are sharply criticized for their 'passive' or 'fatalistic' approach to life by the other lot who gives humans greater authority and power to decide their fate. They firmly believe that human beings can change their destiny by positive thinking and powerful actions. The number of believers in such a notion is growing day by day. All over the world, therefore, there has been a staggering spurt of books, discourses, seminars, speeches, and debates on such subjects in the last couple of decades. The stakeholders of such perception firmly trace back all the patterns and events of our life to our thoughts. They believe that thoughts trigger actions and actions sculpt destiny. So, if the quality of thought is poor, negative, or bad, so will be the ensuing action and equally frustrating will be the experiences, incidents, and events that unfold in our life. Interestingly, as our society becomes increasingly complex, the number of believers in such ideology is growing manifold. Notwithstanding the outcome of such debates, we stand poised to gain from both the perspectives. If we choose to follow the first, we can lead a fearless, peaceful, and quiet life of contentment while if we go by the other, we can create in us a powerful fusion of positive thoughts and rightful actions and can rewrite our destinies despite all the odds, upheavals, and challenges of life.

The author of the passage seems to believe that our society is becoming — *

- ☐ Increasingly debatable
- ☐ Spiritually enlightened
- ☐ Aggressively contentious
- ☒ Increasingly complex

Which of the following seems to be the central idea of the passage? *

- ☐ The debate between the believers and non-believers is too complicated to resolve.
- ☐ Humans have in them the capacity to use both approaches to their advantage.

- ☒ Leading a life of passion, positive thinking, and rightful action is very important.
- ☐ One should not strive hard in life and can lead a life of contentment and quiet satisfaction.

The tone of this passage is — *

- ☐ Analytical
- ☐ Informative
- ☒ Contentious
- ☐ Critical

Towards the end of the passage, the author uses the phrase ‘the other’ to refer to which of the following categories of people? *

- ☐ The one that sees the hand of God in everything that happens to us
- ☒ The one that firmly believes in the power of positive thinking
- ☐ The one that has the ability to understand the divine message
- ☐ The one that does not have the ability to understand the divine message

The author of the passage does not seem to agree with which of the following statements? *

- ☐ The debate between destiny and human action is futile and endless.
- ☒ Positive approach can help us in all life situations.
- ☐ More than the debate, we must focus on gaining from both the approaches.
- ☐ Rightful actions often ensue from positive mental frame.

Passage B

B. Despite all the improvement in the medical facilities in our country, the medical services and facilities are far from being satisfactory. It is due to an acute shortage of qualified doctors available to treat and operate the patients. The fact that our population is becoming manifold all the time does not mean that the number of doctors and specialists too is increasing. Just see how deplorable the medical statistics are. According to an estimate, there are only 2,000 cardiac surgeons whereas the number of heart patients in the country is in

millions. Similarly, while we need roughly 4 lakh gynaecologists and paediatricians, we just have around one lakh of them put together in the entire country.

Adding insult to the injury, most of them live in cities and towns whereas 60 percent of children born in the country are in rural India. So, during pregnancy and after delivery, a large number of young mothers suffer from multiple complications which lead to the birth of unhealthy babies and deprives scores of young women in the country from staying healthy and contributing to the growth of the society.

Suffering endlessly due to ill health, ignorance, and shortage of medical care, these women often turn to superstitions and start drifting towards the quacks readily available in their vicinity. However, rather than helping them, these charlatans just exploit and misuse them. They often rob them of their money and jewellery and sometimes, even honour. Caught up in a vicious circle of wrong medication, ignorance superstitions, and exploitation hence, they are forced to lead a life of trauma, fear, and unhappiness. Now all this can stop, provided we have the requisite number of qualified and trained doctors in the country and they are made to serve in the rural part of the country for a majority of their service time.

According to the passage, the medical facilities in the country are — *

- ☐ Disastrous
- ☐ Disruptive
- ☒ Deplorable
- ☐ Deprived

The word 'charlatan' seems to refer to — *

- ☐ The babies who are not properly treated in their childhood.
- ☒ The fake doctors who give people wrong medication.
- ☐ The mothers who are ignorant.
- ☐ The doctors who live in cities and towns.

With which of the following does the author of the passage not seem to agree? *

- ☒ Number of paediatricians in the rural areas is more than that of gynaecologists.
- ☐ Most of the doctors live in cities and towns.
- ☐ Lack of medical facilities often leads to poor physical as well as mental health of the people.
- ☐ Lack of medical facilities in rural areas leads to several physical and psychological health problems.

The passage has been written to — *

- ☐ Highlight how in rural India women lead a life of suffering and trauma.
- ☐ Suggest why doctors do not wish to serve in villages
- ☐ Reveal why superstitions and fears are widespread in rural India
- ☒ Bring to the fore the poor medical conditions in the villages of our country.

The tone of the passage is — *

- ☐ Factual
- ☒ Critical
- ☐ Analytical
- ☐ Informative

2. Complete the following sentences by writing the words given in options in the correct order. Do not write a complete sentence. Leave a single space between two words. Observe the following example carefully before typing your answer. [10 Marks]

Example:-

Question: I are happy.

Correct Answer: am ✓

Incorrect Answer: I am happy. ✗

Incorrect Answer: Am ✗

Incorrect Answer: am. ✗ Incorrect Answer: aM ✗

He _____ her country's name. (recall / never / can) *

can never recall

I _____ lemon into tea. (squeeze / usually) *

usually squeeze

Where are your parents? They ____ office late. (left/probably/have) *

have probably left

Jim and Salim ____ in Hyderabad. (were /raised/both) *

both were raised

Salil is a good batsman. He ____ very well. (can/bowl/also) *

can also bowl

Their minivan ____ down (often / slows) *

often slows

We stay in the same house, but I ____ to her. (talked /have/never) *

have never talked

I will ____ tomorrow. (be/arriving/probably) *

be probably arriving

They ____ in the same place. They haven't resigned. (still/are/working) *

are still working

My teachers ____ at the school when I tried to meet them. (are/hardly /ever) *

are hardly ever

3. Reply to the questions by selecting the most appropriate options provided. [5 Marks]

Which of the following is desired for effective communication? *

- ☐ Redundancy
- ☒ Clarity
- ☐ Clichés
- ☐ Circumlocution

Which of the following statements about flows of communication are TRUE ? (1) The main function of upward communication is providing direction and control.(2) The main objectives of horizontal communication are developing teamwork and promoting group coordination within an organisation.(3) Diagonal channels flow in all directions. (4) A business proposal from the branch manager of a company to the managing director of the company is an example of horizontal communication.

*

- ☐ 1, 3 & 4
- ☐ 1 & 4
- ☒ 2 & 3
- ☐ All of the above

From which language the term 'Bon Voyage' is borrowed? *

- ☐ Latin
- ☐ Italian
- ☒ French
- ☐ Greek

Which problem of Indian English users is mentioned in the poem, "Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa T.S."? (1) Spelling (2) Choice of words (3) Pronunciation (4) Grammatical *

- ☐ 1, 2 & 3
- ☒ 2 & 3
- ☐ 1, 3 & 4
- ☐ None

Which of these occurs because of differences in language? *

- ☐ Physical Barrier
- ☒ Linguistic Barrier
- ☐ Cultural Barrier
- ☐ Speech Decoding

One of our employees _____ retiring today. *

- ☐ is
- ☒ are
- ☐ was
- ☐ were

All the corrupt politicians and their cronies _____ simply at a loss after the demonetization of 500 and 1000 rupee notes. *

- ☐ is
- ☒ are
- ☐ will
- ☐ shall

Waiting for five hours for the interview ____ also not helpful. *

- ☒ was
- ☐ were
- ☐ will
- ☐ shall

Each of the boys ____ given the necessary instructions. *

- ☐ has been
- ☒ have been
- ☐ will
- ☐ shall

Multiple crises ____ to have ruffled them up. *

- ☐ seem
- ☒ seems
- ☐ shall
- ☐ will

4. State whether the following statements are true or false. [5 Marks]

Prediction while reading does not involve guessing the information *

False

The reader can use his background information to get an idea about the content of a text. *

True



Skimming refers to the process of reading a text passage in order to get a rough idea of what the text or passage is all about. *

True



The main objective of skimming is to look for specific information. *

False



Scanning refers to the ability to identify the main points in a passage. *

True



Reading speed is measured in word per second unit. *

False



Reading aloud can help you increase your reading speed. *

False



The topics for debates are based on the facts. *

True



The statement "Movie ABC is better than movies XYZ" is a fact. *

False

Topic sentence gives an overview of the main idea of the paragraph and is placed at the end of the paragraph. *

False

5. Match the following by choosing the correct option. [5 Marks]

Definition-----Word *

	Zealot	Gimmick	Bibliophile	Xenophobia	Melancholic	Plagiarism	Nostalgia	Couch Potato	Paranoia
A person who takes little or no exercise and watches a lot of television.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period in the past	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A solution or remedy for all difficulties or diseases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To attract people's attention or interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To have irrational fear and hatred of people belonging to	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

countries other
than their own

Hostility toward
humans

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

A state of
sadness

☐☐☐☐☒☐☐☐☐

A person who is
insatiably
passionate about
a subject

☒☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

A person who is
fond of stealing
books

☐☐☒☐☐☐☐☐☐

The act of
copying
someone's work
or ideas and
claiming it as
your own

☐☐☐☐☐☒☐☐☐

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