



Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology

B.Sc. Honours Degree in Computer Science/

B.Sc. Honours Degree in Computer Systems Engineering

Final Examination

Year 1, Semester 2 (2024)

SE 1042 – English for Academic Purposes

Duration: 3 Hours

May-June 2024

Instructions to Candidates:

- This paper has 5 questions. The number of pages is 12, including the cover page.
- Answer all questions. The total mark for the paper is 100.
- Electronic devices capable of storing and retrieving text, including calculators and mobile phones are not allowed.

Question 1**(35 marks)****Read the following passage.****The Pony Express**

In this age of texts and tweets, it is easy to send messages. You just press a few buttons, and boom! Your message is sent. The person to whom you sent it will get it in just a few seconds. Distance is no longer an issue. But things weren't always so easy.

In 1848 gold was found in California. Thousands of people rushed there to get some. Many people liked living there and decided to stay. But there wasn't a whole lot between California and Missouri, where the nearest trains ran. The train line to California wasn't finished until 1869. It took a long time to ride a horse to Missouri.

Imagine that it is the year 1860. You have moved to California to open a shop. Most of your family stayed back East. Your shop is doing well and now you want your family to join you. How do you get news to them? There's no phone, no train, and you can't leave your shop for too long. What do you do? Well, you could use the Pony Express.

In 1860 and 1861, the Pony Express was the fastest way to get news to and from the West. The trail that they rode was around 2000 miles long. It took most people weeks or months to ride that far. The Pony Express could make the trip in just ten days. Those speeds were unheard of at the time. So how did they do it? Well, they had a good system.

The Pony Express had 184 stations along the trail. The stations were around ten miles apart. This is about how far a horse could run at a gallop before tiring. The rider would switch to a new horse at each station. He would only take his mail pouch with him. Every 75-100 miles, the rider would get to a home station. At each home station, riders would rest. Before resting, he would give his mail pouch to a new rider. The mail never stopped moving, even while the horses and riders rested.

It was tough to ride for the Pony Express. Each rider had to weigh less than 125 pounds. Speed was the key. Most of the riders were teenage boys. They rode at a fast pace for up to 100 miles a day. If there were an emergency, one might have to ride 200 miles in a day. The ride could be rough and dangerous. Attacks by Native Americans were common. But in its time running, the Pony Express only lost one mail pouch.

The Pony Express filled an important role for a time, but it did not last. The Civil War started in April of 1861. This was bad news for the owners. The worst for them was yet to come. On

October 24th, 1861, the first telegraph line to California was finished. This linked them to the rest of the country. People could send messages in an instant. Two days later the Pony Express closed. But the lore of the brave riders lives on even today.

Section 1 - Underline the Most appropriate answer.

(2*10=20 marks)

1. Which happened first?
 - a. Settlers rushed to California to find gold.
 - b. The Pony Express was started.
 - c. The train line to California was finished.
 - d. The first telegraph line to California was finished.
2. Which best explains why Pony Express riders had to weigh less than 125 pounds?
 - a. Heavier men were more expensive.
 - b. Horses were scared of heavier men.
 - c. Heavier men scared customers.
 - d. Horses could move quicker with lighter men.
3. How fast could the Pony Express take a letter from California to Missouri?
 - a. 24 hours
 - b. ten days
 - c. twenty days
 - d. one month
4. Why were the Pony Express stations about ten miles apart?
 - a. This was about as far as a man could walk in a single day.
 - b. This was as far as a man could ride on a horse in a day.
 - c. This was so the riders wouldn't get so lonely at night.
 - d. This was as far as a horse could run without getting tired.
5. Which was probably not a requirement to be a rider for the Pony Express?
 - a. You had to be light.
 - b. You had to be an expert horse rider.
 - c. You had to be able to read and write.
 - d. You had to be brave in the face of danger.

6. Which best describes that main idea of the fifth paragraph.
 - a. It is about how many Pony Express stations there were.
 - b. It is about how the Pony Express carried mail so quickly.
 - c. It is about how the Pony Express riders slept in the stations.
 - d. It is about how far the Pony Express riders would go in a day.

7. Which of these ended the Pony Express?
 - a. The telegraph
 - b. The Civil War
 - c. Wars with Native Americans
 - d. The train line

8. About how far did Pony Express riders travel on a usual day?
 - a. 10 miles
 - b. 200 miles
 - c. 100 miles
 - d. 2000 miles

9. How many mail pouches did the Pony Express lose?
 - a. The Pony Express never lost a mail pouch.
 - b. One
 - c. Two
 - d. Too many to keep track

10. Which title best describes the author's purpose in writing this?
 - a. Out of Touch: Why Phones are Faster Than Horses
 - b. The Pony Express: Stories of Their Bravery in Battle
 - c. Back in Touch: Why We Should Use Horses to Deliver the Mail
 - d. The Pony Express: About the 1860's Fastest Mail Service

Section 2 – Write answers to the following questions.**(5*3= 15 marks)**

1. How was the Pony Express able to move letters across the country so quickly? Refer to the text in your answer.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. How did the California Gold Rush help to create a need for the Pony Express? Use the text to support your response.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

[illegible]

(1* 10 = 10 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. You will praise her very much.

.....

.....

5. She will invite me.

.....

.....

6. Will you keep my secrets?

.....

.....

7. You must obey your parents.

.....

.....

8. Will the new local election system satisfy the people of this country?

.....

.....

9. Can you do it now?

.....

.....

10. The company might give her a new office.

.....

.....

Question 3

(1*15 = 15 marks)

Select the most appropriate word for the underlined word from the list of words given in the box.

undergo	identical	inspected	convened	conform	inevitable
invoke	minimal	highlighted	accumulate	ambiguous	integrate
attained	sustained	justify			

- These programs will fuse with your existing software.
(.....)
- The name on the ticket should be of a piece with the one in the passport.
(.....)
- Wood-burning stoves must fit to the fire code.
(.....)
- There is only a tiny amount of risk involved.
(.....)
- Some children live through a complete transformation when they become teenagers.
(.....)
- By investing wisely, she was able to pile up a fortune.
(.....)
- The report stressed the importance of exercise to maintain a healthy body.
(.....)
- Most people experienced only minimal injuries in the earthquake.
(.....)
- How can they answer for paying such huge salaries?
(.....)

10. A rise in the interest rates seems **fated**.

(.....)

11. Their sacred dance is performed to **call in** ancient gods.

(.....)

12. A Board of Inquiry was **called** immediately after the accident.

(.....)

13. Legal experts claim that the law on this matter is **unclear**, and that the way the company interpreted it was reasonable.

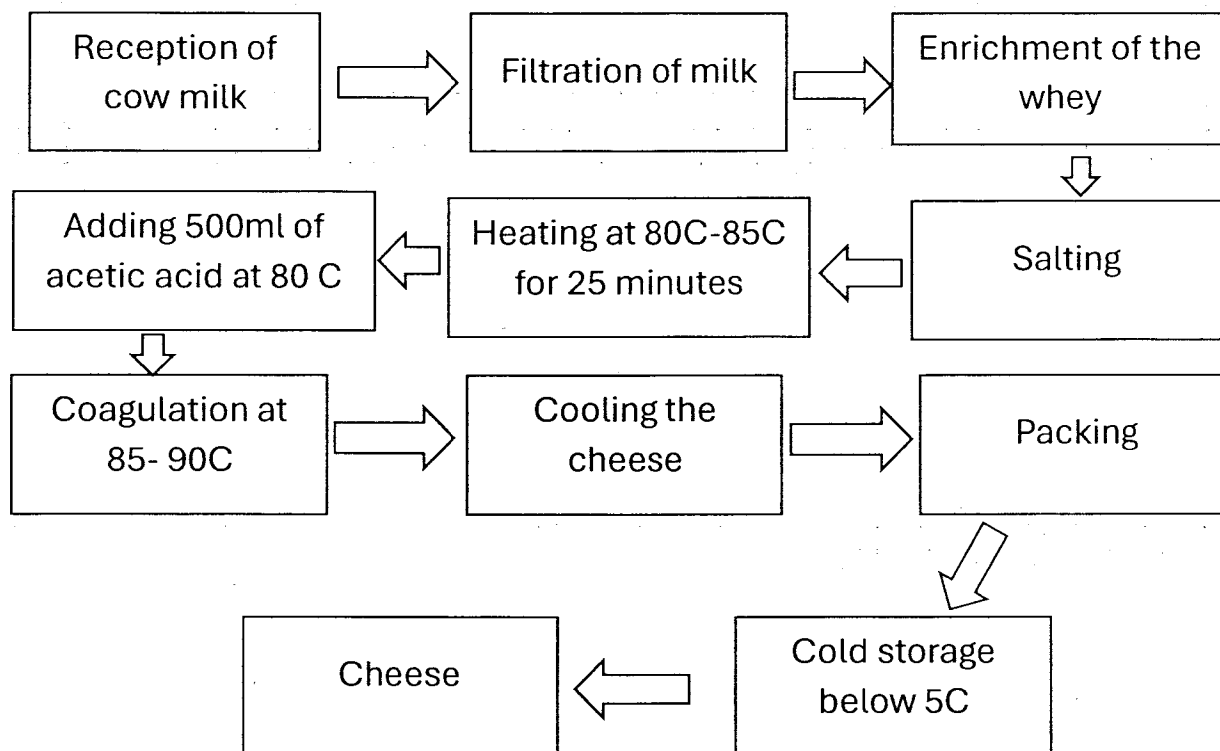
(.....)

14. The plants are regularly **checked** for disease.

(.....)

15. Most of our students **got** five 'A' grades in their exams.

(.....)

Question 4**(2*10= 20 marks)****Fill in the blanks with the correct verb form.**

Whey: the liquid part of milk that is separated from the solid curds during the process of making cheese

Coagulation: the action or process of a liquid changing to a solid or semi-solid state.

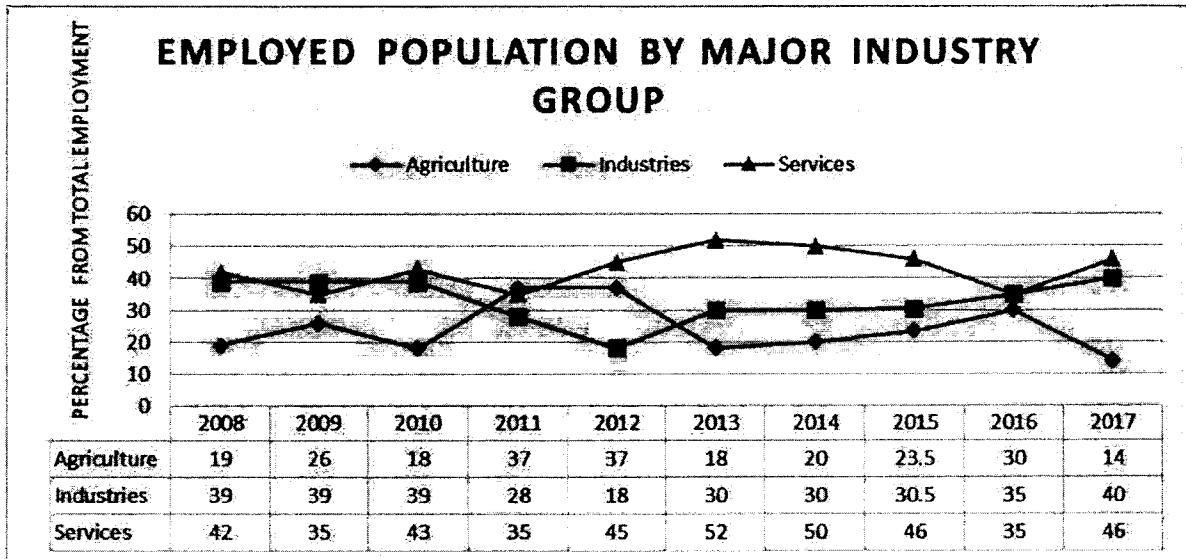
The process of making cheese (1) (illustrate) in this picture. This man-made linear process has 10 stages which starts with receiving cows' milk and ends with cheese (2) (store) for dispatching.

As illustrated, first cow's milk (3) (receive). Secondly, the milk (4) (filter), and then the whey (5) (enrich). Next salt (6) (add) before heating the milk at 80°C - 85°C for 25 minutes. After that 500ml of acetic acid is added. In the following step, the cheese (7) (coagulate) at 85°C-90°C. Before the final product (8) (pack), cheese (9) (cool). Finally the cooled cheese (10) (pack) and cold stored below 5°C. place.

Question5

(20 marks)

Describe the following line graph. (Word Limit 150-200 words)



-End-of-paper-