**COM 200: Assignment 2**

**Solutions**

**Total marks: 20**

1. Fill in the blanks in the following passage with the appropriate form of the verb ‘be’. Please note that ‘be’ is the root form for verbs like ‘am’ and ‘is’.

(3 marks)

The COM 200 course, floated by the Institute out of the feeling that IIT Kanpur students 1.\_\_**are**\_\_\_\_\_\_ falling back in the placement scenario basically due to lack of communication skills,2.\_**was/is**\_\_\_\_\_\_designed as a skills-based course. This basic level course, along with other departmental courses on technical writing and oral presentation skills,3.\_**is**\_\_\_\_\_ meant to help the students in developing their written and spoken abilities. It is an undeniable fact that a majority of the students4.\_\_\_\_**are**\_\_\_\_\_ poor in language skills. Neither English nor their mother-tongue 5.\_\_**is\_**\_\_\_\_\_ easy for them. But the period of four years they spent in the Institute 6.\_\_**is\_**\_\_\_\_\_ not enough to develop language or communication skills.

1. Use the correct form of the verb to fill the blanks: (3 marks)
2. A set of rules \_**controls\_**\_\_\_\_(control) the game.
3. The Film and Media Club, as well as the Dramatics Club and the Robotics Club, \_\_\_\_**is\_**\_\_\_\_\_ (be) governed by the Students’ Gymkhana.
4. Not only the students but also their instructor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) been called to the principal's office.
5. Most of the milk \_\_**has**\_\_\_ (has) gone bad.
6. Strategies that the teacher \_\_\_**uses\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (use) to encourage classroom participation \_\_**include**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (include) using small groups and clarifying expectations.
7. Identify and correct the pronoun-related problems in the following sentences:

(3 marks)

1. The Medical Council of India released **(its)** their latest guidelines regarding medical admissions.
2. Somebody has left **(their)** his mobile phone in class.
3. Munshi Premchand **(whose)** which death anniversary was celebrated recently, is one of the greatest writers of the world.
4. The private secretary too, along with the Prime Minister, had to cut short **(his)** their visit to the U.S.
5. Harry told Larry that his (**Larry’s**) dog had dug up the flower-beds.
6. Every student **(is)** are expected to submit assignments on time.
7. Correct all verb and pronoun-related errors in the following passage: (5 marks)

The discovery by an 11-member Italian team 1.**(led)** leads by Prof. Roberto Orosei of the National Institute of Bologna of a lake under the polar ice cap of Mars 2. **concludes** in some ways a decades-old debate over the presence of a persistent body of liquid water on the planet. **3. Does** Do it also make it more likely for life to be present on **4. It** her? “Life as we know **5.it** him on earth is tied up with water. Our definition of life is **6. Based** basing upon how it is on earth. But why does that have to be the same elsewhere?” says Dr. Amitabha Ghosh of NASA’s Mars Exploration Rover Mission. “**7. Our** Us fascination with Mars is partly because there is evidence of water **8. There** here. For example, some of the satellites of Jupiter and Saturn apparently **9. Have** has underground oceans, **10. Which/ that** this also might have past or present life.”

1. Correct the errors caused by shifts in the following passage: (6 marks)

It was a bright winter morning and I was out on the lawn in the sunshine, reading a book.

**1.** It was very nice – **“It” should be either The book / Weather**.

I am **2. Was** wrapped up completely in the book when **3. I heard** the doorbell. was heard **(the ‘was heard’ should be removed)**.

**4. “One does not usually want to be disturbed when one is immersed in a book” OR “You do not want to be disturbed when you are immersed in a book.”**

I went to the door asking myself who it could be – No change

“If only I **5.Could c**an disconnect that bell!” I thought to myself.

When I reached the door, I saw the vegetable vendor, asking did I need vegetables? **6. Whether I needed vegetables.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_