



# VIT®

ENGLISH FOR ENGINEERS –ENG1011

WINTER SEMESTER -2018-19

ASSESSMENT - 4 READING

Register No: 18BIT0272

Date: 28/01/2019

Name: PRIYAL BHARDWAJ

Slot: L5-L6

1. READING –1

8X 0.5=4

Match each paragraph below to a title from the list. Not all letters will be used.

- A) Overgrazing
- B) Mass migration
- C) Overpopulation
- D) Polluted drinking water
- E) Famine
- F) Extinction of species
- G) Deforestation
- H) Poverty
- I) Unsustainable agriculture techniques
- J) Soil infertility

**Desertification** is a type of land degradation in which a relatively dry land region becomes increasingly arid, typically losing its bodies of water as well as vegetation and wildlife. It is caused by a variety of factors, such as climate change and human activities. Desertification is a significant global ecological and environmental problem.

### Causes and Effects of Desertification

- G 1) Trees are being cut down at much larger scale than ever before to be used as fuel, to provide products we use in our daily life, or to simply create more space for agriculture to sustain growing human population. Once the trees and other vegetation in an area are gone, there is nothing left to hold the soil in place.
- C 2) Our planet's ecosystems sustain life only when balanced. They can cope with incremental challenges and adapt but beyond a certain tipping point they collapse. A rapid increase in the number of people demands higher amounts of natural resources and expands more and more over the landscape, leading to increased desertification.
- I 3) Improper irrigation methods used in arid areas, such as canal irrigation, lead to a build-up of salt in the soil and make it difficult for crops and other plants to grow, increasing desertification. Similarly harmful is cultivation of already deteriorated

lands. Through inconsiderate farming methods, farmers only speed up the process of desertification in exchange for poor quality crops with low economic value.

- A 4) In arid regions, grass and other vegetation is necessary to keep the soil in place. If such vegetation is used as feed for cattle without sustainable control, there is nothing that remains to prevent soil from blowing or washing away, and if this process occurs long enough, it can lead to desertification.
- J 5) As desertification occurs, the soil can be blown or washed away, and valuable soil nutrients are lost. As the soil dries out, it hardens and it becomes difficult for any rainfall that does occur to penetrate below the soil's surface. And what remains left is a lifeless pile of dust instead of a life-giving medium.
- E 6) Due to drought conditions and a loss of productive land, local people find themselves and their livestock experiencing starvation.
- B 7) Desertification events have been a major driver behind the movement of large human populations throughout history. When soils are not able to support their civilisation, people set on the move to look for better locations.
- F 8) Species that once lived in a fertile and productive climate may not survive in a newly desertified region.

## II. READING 2

Fill in the blanks

5 X 1 = 5

### Passage: Ancient Egyptian Powder

Crime scene investigators are about to get an assist from the land of the pharaohs. New research has shown that a pigment called Egyptian blue, formulated some 5,250 years ago, can be used as dusting powder to detect fingerprints on complicated surfaces. The earliest known synthetic pigment, Egyptian blue is found in some of the paint that still colours ancient statues, coffins, and tomb walls. Modern scientists were intrigued by this long-lasting tint and figured out its chemical components decades ago. More recently they discovered that it emits near-infrared radiation when exposed to a certain kind of light.



Below is a summary of the passage above. Fill in the gaps using the word list given below. Make sure the summary is grammatically correct when you insert the word.

The pigment (1)..... <sup>known as</sup> Egyptian blue, which was formulated (2) <sup>about</sup> ..... 5,250 years ago, can now be used to (3) <sup>identify</sup> ..... finger prints on complicated surfaces. This pigment was used in the painting of statues and tomb wall reliefs in Ancient Egypt. However, it has now been (4) <sup>found</sup> ..... that, when it is exposed to a (5) <sup>particular</sup> ..... light, it emits near-infrared radiation.

### Word List:

Choose words to fill in the gaps above. The meaning should be the same as the original paragraph.

make / <sup>③</sup> identify / observe / revealed / <sup>②</sup> about / names /  
found <sup>④</sup> / using / creates / <sup>①</sup> known as / <sup>⑤</sup> particular /  
over

### III. READING III Choose the best answer

2x0.25= 0.5

It brings new meaning to having an ear for music. Musical aptitude may be partly down to genes that determine the architecture of the inner ear.

We perceive sound after vibrations in the inner ear are detected by "hair cells" and transmitted to the brain as electrical signals. There, the inferior colliculus integrates the signals with other sensory information before passing it on to other parts of the brain for processing.

Questions 1 – 2. Choose the correct letter, A-C.

1. What does 'having an ear for music' mean according to the passage? (b)

- a) a person enjoys listening to music
- ☒ b) a person has an ability and predisposition for music
- c) a person has special hearing

2. Sound is perceived when vibrations are sent to the brain in the form of ..... (b)

- a) hair cells
- ☒ b) electrical signals
- c) sensations

4. Reading 4 - Choose the right Title

1x 0.5 = 0.5

Coffee is one of the most popular hot drinks in the world. Almost a third of the world's population drinks coffee. People often meet at cafes or coffee shops for a coffee break during the middle of the morning or stop work in the afternoon to drink coffee.

About 7 million tons of coffee is produced every year. Brazil is, by far, the world's largest coffee producer. About a third of the world's production comes from this South American country. Other coffee producing countries include Vietnam, Indonesia and Colombia.

The United States is the biggest coffee consumer in the world. About 1.2 billion kilograms of coffee are consumed there every year. Drinking coffee is extremely popular in European countries, like Italy, France and Germany, as well as in Brazil.

Question

Choose the correct letter A – C

Which is the best title for the passage below? **A**

- ☒ A. Coffee – a popular hot drink
- B. Coffee – the main consumers
- C. Coffee – the main producers