



**National University of Computer & Emerging Sciences, Karachi**  
**Fall-2020 CS-Department**  
**Mid Term Examination, 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**



<b>Course Code: SL 150</b>	<b>Course Name: English Composition and Comprehension</b>
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- Return the question paper.
- Read each question completely before answering it.
- In case of any ambiguity, you may make assumption. But your assumption should not contradict any statement in the question paper.
  - **The invigilator present is not supposed to tell the meaning of any word.**
  - Be precise and to the point.

**Allocated Time: 90 minutes**

**Total Marks: 74**

**Question 1 [estimated time:15 minutes]**

**A. Are electric cars really eco-friendly?**

Electric-car drivers are saving the planet, right? Their vehicles produce none of the pollutants that dinosaur-burning, fossil-fuel-powered machines do. That is the standard view, and governments around the world provide incentives to encourage the uptake of this new technology.

That is why a Tesla owner got a rude shock when he went to import his vehicle into Singapore - the first person to do so. The Tesla Model S is a 100% electric vehicle. It does not have an exhaust to emit from. So what happened?

Instead of an expected rebate of around S\$15,000 (US\$10,800) he received a fine of the same amount for being a gross polluter. The company commented the incident, "The Model S that our customer imported into Singapore left our factory only two years ago with energy consumption rated at 181 Wh/km. This qualifies as the cleanest possible category of car in Singapore and entitles the owner to an incentive rather than a fine."

The Singapore authorities calculated the 'carbon cost' of generating the electricity that will be used to charge the car. This is the elephant in the trunk of electric vehicles. Where and how the power is produced is not often considered, but perhaps it should be. Let's move the elephant up to the passenger seat and address it directly.

The authorities in Singapore apparently found the Tesla in question consumes 444 watt-hours of electricity per km (Wh/km) in tests. Without wanting to get too maths-heavy, the number of 444Wh/km does seem high. And as we still need power stations to produce such amount electric energy, the environmental impact is not so small as it seemed to be.

But what about the bigger picture - should we be factoring in the emissions of power stations when working out how green an electric car is? The logical answer is yes. Emissions shifted elsewhere are still emissions, and CO<sub>2</sub> impacts the global atmosphere wherever it is released.

**Q1: What is the aim of this text? [2 marks]**

- A. To discourage people from visiting Singapore
- B. To prove that electric cars are less eco-friendly than fossil-fuel-powered machines
- C. To show that we need to count the emissions of power stations to see how green an electric car is

**Q2 When the owner of the electric car went to Singapore, he received [1 mark]**

- A. a rebate of around US\$10,800
- B. a fine of around US\$10,800
- C. a fine of around US\$15,000

**Q3. To prove that electric car was a gross polluter, the authorities in Singapore calculated the ..... of generating the electricity to charge the car. [1 mark]**

**Q4: Do the following sentences agree with the information given in the text: [4 marks]**

- 1) Tesla Model S does not have an exhaust to emit from. \_\_\_\_
- 2) The Singapore authorities did not the 'carbon cost' of generating the electricity that will be used to charge the car. \_\_\_\_
- 3) The authorities in Singapore apparently found the Tesla in question consumes 444 watt-hours of electricity per km (Wh/km) in tests. \_\_\_\_
- 4) Governments around the world do not provide incentives to encourage the uptake of electric cars.

### **B. Arbor Day (April 22)**

In the 1840s, the midwestern state of Nebraska was a territory within a wide prairie. When pioneers moved out to settle there, they found few trees to build houses or to burn for fuel. There was no shade from the sun or wind, and crops did not grow well in the dry earth.

J. Sterling Morton was one of those pioneers who moved to the treeless Nebraska territory. He and his wife planted trees immediately after moving from their hometown of Detroit, Michigan. Morton was a journalist, and later the editor, of Nebraska's first newspaper. In his writings, he advocated planting trees to help life on this vast barren plain.

He became the secretary of the Nebraska Territory. At a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture in January, 1872, Morton proposed that citizens of the raw state of Nebraska set aside April 10 as a day to plant trees. He suggested offering prizes as incentives for communities and organizations that planted the most trees properly. Everyone welcomed the idea enthusiastically. Nebraskans planted about one million trees on that first Arbor Day. Today a visitor to Nebraska would never guess that it was once a dusty prairie.

In 1882, Nebraska declared its own Arbor Day as a legal holiday, and the date was changed to Morton's birthday, April 22. Because the best tree-planting season changes from region to

region, other states observe the day on different dates. Hawaiians, for example, plant Arbor Day trees on the first Friday in November!

**You are given a list of questions (1-4) and a list of possible answers to choose from (A – E) These questions ask you to choose what each of the 4 sections is about. There are 5 possible ideas. Answer each question by matching a line in A with a line in B.**

Section 1	a) The first Arbor Day
Section 2	b) The hardships of the first settlers
Section 3	c) Planting competitions on Arbor Day
Section 4	d) The people who started the tradition
	e) The dates on which the holiday is observed

## **Question 2 [estimated time:10 minutes]**

**Complete the sentences with an appropriate noun from the box. In some cases, more than one answer is possible. [15 marks]**

belongings	donation	estate	landlords	loan	mortgage	
owners	decade	possessions	property	proprietors	rent	tenants

1. The law ensures that ..... respect the privacy of the people who live in their houses and flats.
2. .... of restaurants across the country protested when the government announced it was going to impose a tax on some foods.
3. When private car ..... sell their vehicle, they must produce a certificate to prove the car has been paid for in full.
4. Over the previous ten years, we have seen an enormous growth in the number of home personal computers.
5. The price of commercial.....in the city centre has doubled in the last three years.
6. Mornington Park, a 250-acre private..... in Wenfordshire, is open to members of the public at weekends.

7. If somebody has a diet which is **deficient / inadequate** in vitamins, he/she may suffer poor health as a result.
8. The opinions expressed in a newspaper usually reflect the views of the **proprietor / landlord**.
9. Many families in the area lost their home and all of their..... when the river flooded.
10. Please put your ..... in the lockers provided, and hand your key to the receptionist for safekeeping.
11. We took out a ..... to help pay for our trip.
12. A lot of people lost their homes when interest rates rose so high they were unable to continue paying off their .....
13. Only a few people in the apartment block actually own their flat. Most of them are council.
14. The law does very little to protect families who are evicted from their homes because they are unable to pay the monthly .....
15. I make a small monthly..... to a local charity for homeless people.

### **Question 3 [estimated time:12 minutes]**

**Read each excerpt. Choose the tone you think the author is trying to convey. [8 marks]**

1. The sun had gone down, leaving us with only the light of the moon to find our way. We knew we were on the right path but were not sure how far it was back to camp. The path was dim and I could hear things rustling in the grass near my feet as I walked. The trees seemed to grow taller, and their branches became like arms reaching for us.

- a) Eerie (spooky or creepy)
- b) lonely
- c) tender

2. Shifting yet again in his seat, Ray glanced once more at the clock. He rolled his eyes, let out a sigh, and picked up a magazine. He turned the pages quickly, not even noticing that it was the same magazine he had looked through five minutes ago. He had never had a tooth pulled before and just wanted to get it over with.

- a) Humble
- b) nervous
- c) bored

3. “Late! Again! And on test day!” Brianna thought as she jumped out of bed. In fifteen minutes flat she went from sleeping to entering the classroom. “What a break,” she said to herself. The teacher had her back to the class, and she could slip in quietly, maybe even unnoticed. As Brianna slid into her seat, the silence became muffled laughter. The teacher turned and followed everyone’s eyes to Brianna, where she sat still wearing her pajama pants—the ones with the pink teddy bears!

- a) thrilling
- b) magical
- c) comical

4. Matt and Gary had been best friends since the first grade. As Gary looked around his room, everything seemed to remind him of Matt—his baseball glove (they had spent a lot of hours tossing the ball), his Battleship game (“I sunk your aircraft carrier!”), and the pictures (especially the one of them together smiling, both without front teeth). Mom called Gary for dinner, but he just sat on his bed. “What am I going to do without Matt?” he said almost out loud.

- a) serious
- b) cautious
- c) suspenseful

### **Question 4 [estimated time:12 minutes]**

**Read the following selections, and answer the questions that follow: [18 marks]**

1. Because lambs are sometimes eaten by coyotes, ranchers may hunt or trap the coyotes. However, killing coyotes may upset nature's balance. Scientists have found a way to protect sheep without killing coyotes. Coyotes are fed lamb meat treated with a drug. When they eat the meat, they get sick. Later, coyotes won't even go near lambs. They'll hunt rabbits instead.

**This story mainly tells**

- a. Coyotes prefer rabbits to lambs.
- b. Killing coyotes upsets nature's balance.
- c. Scientists are trying to protect sheep and coyotes.
- d. what kinds of people don't like coyotes

2. Native Americans dried strips of meat, pounded it into a paste, and then mixed it with fat. Sometimes they added berries and sugar. Then they pressed it into small cakes. They called these cakes pemmican. Pemmican didn't spoil, and it provided lots of energy for people traveling or going hunting. Today explorers still carry and eat this food.

**What is this passage mainly about?**

- a. Who uses pemmican today?
- b. What can be put into pemmican?
- c. How pemmican is prepared and used?
- d. Why people eat and store pemmican today?

3. What do you do with aluminium cans? Do you throw them in the trash, or do you recycle when you are finished with them? At the rate we are filling our landfills, we will not have anywhere else to put our trash. If you recycle, you will help the environment. The next time you throw away your Coke can, think about putting it in a recycling bin. Your effort will help save your community.

**The author's purpose is to:**

- a. inform
- b. persuade
- c. entertain
- d. create a mysterious mood

4. Nutrition Each time a person opens his or her mouth to eat, he or she makes a nutritional decision. These selections make a definitive difference in how an individual looks, feels, and performs at work or play. When a good assortment of food like fresh fruits, leafy vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins is selected and eaten, the consequences are likely to be desirable levels for health and energy to allow one to be as active as needed. Conversely, when choices consist of processed foods like packaged cookies, crackers, and sodas, items filled with sugars, hydrogenated fats, chemicals and preservatives – all of which can be harmful in large quantities – the consequences can be poor health or limited energy or both. Studies of American diets, particularly the diets of the very young, reveal unsatisfactory dietary habits as evidenced by the numbers of overweight and out-of-shape young children. Parents, who are supposed to be masters of their children's dietary habits, often leave nutritional choices to their children, who are not informed enough to make healthy decisions. If anyone is to blame for the childhood obesity crisis in the United States today, it is the parents who allow their children to eat nutritionally bankrupt foods.

**The author most likely uses the phrase "filled with sugars, hydrogenated fats, chemicals and preservatives – all of which can be harmful in large quantities" in order to:**

- A. criticize the growing obesity crisis in the United States.
- B. contrast poor choices in children in the United States with healthy choices.
- C. identify the leading chemicals in processed foods so people know what to avoid.
- D. intensify the negative reaction to processed foods

5. Cold and Warm Fronts A warm front is a specific air pressure system where warm air replaces cool air. It is associated with a low pressure system and usually moves from a southerly direction to the north. A warm front passage can be depicted by an increase in temperature and humidity (higher dew point temperatures), a decrease in the air pressure, a wind change to a southerly direction, and the likelihood of precipitation. A cold front is another specific front which is also associated with a low pressure system, but with different causes, characteristics, and results. During a cold front, cold air replaces warm air instead of the other way around. A cold front usually moves from a northerly direction downward, whereas the warm front moves south to north. A cold front can be depicted by rapidly falling temperatures and barometric pressure, a wind shift to the north or west, and a moderate chance of precipitation, which is very different from a warm front! The barometric pressure, after falling, usually rises very sharply after the passage of a cold front.

**The author most likely wrote the passage in order to:**

- A. list the causes, characteristics, and results of both warm and cold fronts.
- B. describe the causes of cold and warm fronts.
- C. contrast the causes, characteristics, and results of warm and cold fronts.
- D. illustrate the characteristics of both warm and cold fronts, by describing each facet in detail

6. When most people think of a shipwreck, they imagine the remains of a huge wooden or metal boat crashed along the bottom of the ocean. Fish swim in and out of the mangled boat's hull, and coral and seaweed cling to its sides. Meanwhile, divers with scuba gear and cameras paddle their way into the depths to explore inside the long-forgotten vessel. They might find anything from old pottery to rusty cannons to pirate gold, but one thing is certain: the deep cold water has swallowed up the ship and kept it secret for a very long time. Surprisingly, though, water is not always a

necessary element in shipwreck explorations. Few people realize that many important shipwrecks can be found on land. Trading skiffs, warships, and pirate galleons alike have been found buried deep in riverbeds, hilltops, and cornfields throughout the world.

**The author most likely composed these two paragraphs in order to:**

- A. inform the reader about surprising places shipwrecks have been found.
- B. describe what a person would find if he or she visited a shipwreck.
- C. compare the similarities between a water-found shipwreck and a land-found shipwreck.
- D. intensify the discovery of a shipwreck by surprising the reader with a new location for finding them.

### **Question 5 [estimated time:25 minutes]**

**Read the passage. Then answer the questions below. [21 marks]**

The destructive process of mountaintop removal mining (MTR) has caused permanent damage to Appalachia. Although the law requires that mining companies restore the mountaintops after the mining has been completed, the 1.5 million acres of mountains that have already been removed cannot be regrown, re-built, or replaced. The companies do secure the rock formations to prevent erosion and landslides, but their efforts cannot recreate the once-beautiful mountain landscape. Furthermore, while companies are usually vigilant about securing the rock formations, they seem less interested in restoring the native vegetation. MTR operations clear enormous tracts of forest; some experts estimate that over 2000 square miles of forests in the Appalachian region will have been razed by mining companies by 2012. Instead of replanting the native trees and shrubs that have been cleared, many companies opt to plant cheap, fast-growing, non-native plants, such as *Lespedeza cuneata*, which is officially classified by the USDA as an invasive weed.

Environmental hazards are not only created in preparing a mountaintop for mining, they also continue once the coal has been extracted. After the blast, the excess mountaintop—which miners refer to as “overburden”—is usually dumped into nearby valleys or streams. The overburden contains a variety of toxic substances, including explosive residue, silica, and coal dust. These substances are filled with sulfur, lead, mercury, and other chemicals. Over 700 miles of streams in Appalachia have been contaminated by this dumping. Although the mining companies have built structures known as “sludge dams” that are intended to contain the toxic runoff, these dams can burst or leak, sending thousands of gallons of toxic chemicals into municipal drinking water.

While the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and other environmental protection bills can theoretically be enforced to protect Appalachia, local lawmakers have been reluctant to take action for fear of upsetting those who believe that the jobs created by MTR are vital to the community. However, instead of bringing jobs and prosperity to poor Appalachian communities, MTR companies actually bring destruction and poverty. MTR does not involve the amount of human labor required by traditional subsurface mining. Despite the fact that coal production has increased between 1950 and 2004, the human labor force working in these mines has drastically decreased. In the 1950’s, there were approximately 130,000 people employed by the mining companies; by 2004, that number had dwindled to 16,000.

Moreover, while the coal companies may make enormous profits from MTR, Appalachian communities located near the mines suffer increased rates of kidney cancer, brain cancer, lung

cancer, chronic pulmonary disorders, hypertension, and vision problems. A variety of studies published in top medical journals link these health problems to the fact that the victims lived in close proximity to the mines.

### **Questions**

#### **1) This passage would most likely be found in**

- A. the introduction to a larger work on the history of Appalachia
- B. the conclusion to a study on the links between coal mining and health problems
- C. a chapter of a coal miner's autobiography
- D. a section providing supporting evidence in a larger work on MTR
- E. a section evaluating the results of a previously proposed course of action in a larger work on MTR

#### **2) As used in paragraph 1, which is the best antonym for vigilant?**

- A. cowardly
- B. frustrated
- C. displeased
- D. careless
- E. annoyed

#### **3) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that the author**

- A. used to be employed by an MTR company, but left because he or she was frustrated with its environmental practices
- B. is more concerned about the environment than he or she is about human lives
- C. believes that MTR companies care little for the environment or for the Appalachian community
- D. works for an environmental protection group or agency
- E. thinks that the United States should stop relying on coal power as a source of energy

#### **4) Which of the following statements from the passage represents an opinion, as opposed to a fact?**

- A. "Although the mining companies have built structures known as 'sludge dams' that are intended to contain the toxic runoff, these dams can burst or leak, sending thousands of gallons of toxic chemicals into municipal drinking water."
- B. "However, instead of bringing jobs and prosperity to poor Appalachian communities, MTR companies actually bring destruction and poverty."
- C. "The overburden contains a variety of toxic substances, including explosive residue, silica, and coal dust."
- D. "While the coal companies may make enormous profits from MTR, Appalachian communities located near the mines suffer increased rates of kidney cancer, brain cancer, lung cancer, chronic pulmonary disorders, hypertension, and vision problems."
- E. "MTR operations clear enormous tracts of forest; some experts estimate that over 2000 square miles of forests in the Appalachian region will have been razed by mining companies by 2012."

#### **5) In paragraph 1, the author mentions *Lespedeza cuneata* in order to**

- A. provide an example of the natural vegetation that grew on the mountains before MTR companies cleared the forests
- B. identify one type of plant that is likely to flourish on the newly-blasted mountaintops



C. justify the reasoning behind the MTR companies' decision to plant a non-native species where the forests once were

D. convince readers that the MTR companies' attempts at replanting the forests may not be perfect, but they do represent a respectable effort

E. argue that the MTR companies are more interested in saving money than addressing the damage they have caused to the environment.

**6) According to the passage, the way in which MTR companies dispose of the overburden is hazardous because**

I. the mining companies continue extracting coal from the overburden, thus putting additional pressure on the environment

II. the sludge dams are not a failsafe containment system

III. MTR companies often dump toxic waste directly into the municipal water supply

A. I only

B. II only

C. I and II only

D. II and III only

E. I, II, and III

**7) Which piece of evidence, if true, would best strengthen the author's argument in the final paragraph? A. Mining counties in West Virginia are some of the poorest in the nation.**

B. Less than 8% of the coal produced in the United States of America comes from MTR operations in the Appalachian Mountains. More than 400 mountaintops in Appalachia have been destroyed for this coal.

C. MTR is a wholly unsustainable process; the reserves of coal located in the Appalachian Mountains will likely last less than 20 more years.

D. The Appalachian forests are home to one of the highest concentrations of biodiversity in North America; animals that call Appalachia home include flying squirrels, freshwater mussels, and more different types of salamanders than can be found in one place anywhere else on earth.

E. Explosives detonated at strategic points along the summit can remove up to 400 vertical feet of mountain tops to reveal the rich coal seams below.