



**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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<b>Student Roll No:</b>	<b>Section No:</b>

- 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:10 minutes]**

**Skim the text and choose the correct heading for paragraphs A-E from the list of headings below. [10 marks]** Match each paragraph below to a title from the list

- i. Overgrazing
  - ii. Mass Migration
  - iii. Over Population
  - iv. Polluted Drinking water
  - v. Famine
  - vi. Extinction of Species
  - vii. Deforestation
  - viii. soil infertility

A) -----  
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.

B) -----  
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.

C) -----  
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.

D) ----- 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.

E) -----

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.

### **B. Arbor Day (April 22) [4 marks]**

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: 15 minutes]**

**Complete this case study with one of the words or phrases from the box below: [18 marks]**

brought up, authoritarian, siblings, upbringing, running wild, adolescence, juvenile, formative, divorced, lenient, single-parent, foster family, extended responsible, dependents, well-adjusted, over-protective, nuclear,

1. Bob's problems began during his 1..... years. His parents got 2..... when he was young, and neither of them wanted to raise him or his brother and sister, so he was 3..... by a 4..... chosen by his parents' social worker. Unfortunately, his foster father was a strict 5..... and often beat him. Bob rebelled against this strict 6..... and by the time he was eight, he was already 7..... stealing from shops and playing truant. By the time he reached 8..... .. sometime around his 13th birthday, he had already appeared in court several times, charged with 9..... crime. The judge blamed his foster parents, explaining that children needed 10..... parents and guardians who would look after them properly. The foster father objected to this, pointing out that Bob's 11..... - his two brothers and sister - were 12..... children who behaved at home and worked well at school. This has raised some interesting questions about the modern family system. While it is true that parents should not be too 13..... with children by letting them do what they want when they want, or be too 14..... by sheltering them from the realities of life, it is also true that they should not be too strict. It has also highlighted the disadvantages of the modern 15..... family where the child has only its mother and father to rely on (or the 16..... family, in which the mother or father has to struggle particularly hard to support their 17..... ). In fact, many believe that we should return to traditional family values and the 18..... family: extensive research has shown that children from these families are generally better behaved and have a better chance of success in later life.

## **Question 3 [estimated time: 40 minutes]**

**Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.**

- A. According to Greek mythology, Atlas was a Titan of enormous strength. After being defeated by the god Zeus, Atlas was forced to carry the earth and the sky for an eternity. In depictions of Atlas, he is shown as a stooped figure carrying the globe on his shoulders. Because of his association with the globe, maps began to be decorated with this image of Atlas. Accordingly, the word “atlas” became a nickname for a collection of maps. Today, an atlas refers to any book that consists of a bound collection of maps. For example, an atlas can be made up of maps of the countries of the world or of the states of the United

States. Sometimes an atlas will also contain graphs and charts with other statistical information about the culture, religion, climate, or government of the population of a given area.

**Questions [9 marks]**

**1) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that Atlas supported the earth and the sky because he was**

- A. a Titan of enormous strength
- B. punished after losing to Zeus
- C. associated with maps and globes
- D. a slave to the god Zeus

**2) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that which of the following people or groups might use an atlas?**

- I. a group of explorers on the Nile River
- II. a backpacker planning a tour of Europe
- III. army generals preparing for battle

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

**3) Conjunctions (or conjunctive phrases) are used to indicate or emphasize the existence of a relationship between ideas. As used in the passage, which of the following conjunctions could be used in place of the conjunction Accordingly?**

- I. Although
- II. As a result
- III. Consequently

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

**4) Based on the information in the passage, it can be inferred that the additional charts and graphs in an atlas could include information about**

**I. major languages**

**II. average temperatures**

**III. historical events**

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

**Read the passage. Then answer the questions below. [33 marks]**

Right now, I am looking at a shelf full of relics, a collection of has-beens, old-timers, antiques, fossils. Right now I am looking at a shelf full of books. Yes, that's right. If you have some spare cash (the going rate is about \$89) and are looking to enhance your reading experience, then I highly

suggest you consider purchasing an e-reader. E-readers are replacing the books of old, and I welcome them with open arms (as you should).

If you haven't heard of an e-reader and don't know what it is, then please permit the following explanation. An e-reader is a device that allows you to read e-books. An e-book is a book-length publication in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, and produced on, published through, and readable on computers or other electronic devices. Sometimes the equivalent of a conventional printed book, e-books can also be born digital. The Oxford Dictionary of English defines the e-book as "an electronic version of a printed book," but e-books can and do exist without any printed equivalent.

So now you know what an e-reader is. But you still may be wondering why they put printed books to shame. E-readers are superior to printed books because they save space, are environmentally friendly, and provide helpful reading tips and tools that printed books do not.

E-readers are superior to printed books because they save space. The average e-reader can store thousands of digital books, providing a veritable library at your fingertips. What is more, being the size and weight of a thin hardback, the e-reader itself is relatively petite. It is easy to hold and can fit in a pocketbook or briefcase easily. This makes handling ponderous behemoths such as *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina*, and *Les Misérables* a breeze. Perhaps the only drawback to the space-saving aspect of an e-reader is that it requires you to find new things to put on your shelves.

In addition, e-readers are superior to books because they are environmentally friendly. The average novel is about 300 pages long. So, if a novel is printed 1000 times, it will use 300,000 pieces of paper. That's a lot of paper! If there are about 80,000 pieces of paper in a tree, this means it takes almost 4 trees to make these 1000 books. Now, we know that the average bestseller sells about 20,000 copies per week. That means that it takes over 300 trees each month to sustain this rate. And for the super bestsellers, these figures increase dramatically. For example, the Harry Potter book series has sold over 450 million copies. That's about 2 million trees! Upon viewing these figures, it is not hard to grasp the severe impact of printed books on the environment. Since e-readers use no trees, they represent a significant amount of preservation in terms of the environment and its resources.

Finally, e-readers are superior to books because they provide helpful reading tips and tools that printed books do not. The typical e-reader allows its user to customize letter size, font, and line spacing. It also allows highlighting and electronic bookmarking. Furthermore, it grants users the ability to get an overview of a book and then jump to a specific location based on that overview. While these are all nice features, perhaps the most helpful of all is the ability to get dictionary definitions at the touch of a finger.

On even the most basic e-reader, users can conjure instant definitions without having to hunt through a physical dictionary.

It can be seen that e-readers are superior to printed books. They save space, are environmentally friendly, and provide helpful reading tips and tools that printed books do not. So what good are printed books? Well, they certainly make nice decorations.

### **Questions**

**1) As used in paragraph 1, it can be inferred that "relics," "has-beens, old-timers, antiques, fossils" are all words that describe something**

A. ancient

- B. useless
- C. outdated
- D. pathetic

**2) The tone of the author can best be described as**

- A. shrewd
- B. conniving
- C. persuasive
- D. authoritative

**3) According to the author, e-books**

**I. were all once printed books**

**II. may be "born digital"**

**III. are able to display images**

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

**4) As used in paragraph 3, which of the following describes something that has been "put to shame"?**

- A. A dog is left outside on a frigid, dreary winter night.
- B. Team A defeats Team B in a humiliating rout.
- C. Martha is caught stealing at the mall and is arrested in front of a crowd of curious bystanders.
- D. The machine has countless moving parts and Dustin has trouble assembling it.

**5) A thesis statement is a sentence that clearly describes what the author plans to discuss. Based on this information, which of the following sentences from the passage is the thesis statement?**

- A. If you have some spare cash (the going rate is about \$89) and are looking to enhance your reading experience, then I highly suggest you consider purchasing an e-reader.
- B. E-readers are replacing the books of old, and I welcome them with open arms (as you should).
- C. An e-reader is a device that allows you to read e-books. An e-book is a book-length publication in digital form, consisting of text, images, or both, and produced on, published through, and readable on computers or other electronic devices.
- D. E-readers are superior to printed books because they save space, are environmentally friendly, and provide helpful reading tips and tools that printed books do not.

**6) Based on its use in paragraph 4, it can be inferred that petite belongs to which of the following word families?**

- A. jubilant, euphoric, playful
- B. compact, diminutive, little
- C. cute, attractive, charming
- D. light, airy, spacious

**7) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that War and Peace, Anna Karenina, and Les Misérables are all**

- A. authored by Europeans
- B. dense and impenetrable

C. timeless classics D. awkward or unwieldy

**8) As used in paragraph 5, which is the best synonym for sustain?**

- A. maintain
- B. allow
- C. enforce
- D. yield

**9) Which of the following, if true, would present the biggest challenge to the author's argument set forth in paragraph 5?**

- A. Books are not made only from whole trees, but from wood chips and forest waste as well.
- B. The natural resources required to read an e-book on an e-reader are greater than the natural resources required to make a printed book.
- C. The results of a recent survey show that people who read e-books are more likely to be distracted during their reading and remember less of the book.
- D. Although the printing of the extremely popular Harry Potter book series had significant environmental impact, the Harry Potter movie series cost almost no trees to make and was also very well-liked.

**10) According to the author, which of the following reading tips and tools are offered by the e-reader?**

- I. line spacing customization
  - II. the ability to quickly jump to the end of a book
  - III. access to an online thesaurus at the touch of a finger
- A. I only
  - B. I and II only
  - C. II and III only
  - D. I, II, and III

**11) Which of the following best describes the organization of this passage?**

- A. introduction, thesis statement, supporting paragraphs, conclusion
- B. history, thesis statement, supporting paragraphs, conclusion
- C. advertisement, background, introduction, supporting paragraphs, examples, conclusion
- D. introduction, background, thesis statement, supporting paragraphs, conclusion