

Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur

B.Tech, 1st Semester, Mid Semester Examination, February 2021

Professional Communication in English (HU 1101)

Full Marks: 30

Time: 45 min (for writing) +15 min (for uploading)

1. Answer the following questions:
 - a. Make sentences with the following idioms and also write their meanings. (1*2=2)
 - i. Bedlam let loose
 - ii. Star-crossed
 - b. Fill in the blanks with the correct words. (1*2=2)
 - i. Dr. C.N.R. Rao, an _____ (imminent/eminent) chemist, won the prestigious India Science Award in 2004.
 - ii. The research article was very informative and was written in clear, _____ (comprehensible/comprehensive) English.
2. Write a précis of the following passage and provide a suitable title to it. (8)

The conditions under which democracy can flourish are difficult to define; but one thing is clear that democracy is always a slow growth, whereas dictators may rise to power and inaugurate a new regime with dramatic suddenness and success, under suitable conditions. One great new force has appeared in the world since the Great War, the art of modern propaganda. It is invaluable to the dictator who can inculcate his creed day by day through the press, the cinema, the radio, the whole body of the people and can suppress all counter propaganda. It is a terrible danger to democracy, since it tends to destroy the sound and commonsense judgement of the people which depends on constant access to facts and on honest public discussion based on those facts. Then again the kindly and cooperative outlook which alone can make democracy a success depends on material conditions, on the economic security and welfare of the whole of the people; a starving man or a man in constant fear of unemployment cannot be expected to be a good citizen of democracy. And lastly, war is utterly hostile to democracy. The horrors and passion of war inevitably produce a war mentality under which the method of democracy becomes impossible. (207 words)
3. Write a paragraph in 100-150 words on the topic: Impact of Modern Technology in Education. (8)

4. Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions in **one or two sentences**:
(2.5*4=10)

Unsinkable Ship

Naval architects never claim that a ship is unsinkable, but the sinking of the passenger-and-car ferry Estonia in the Baltic surely should have never have happened. It was well designed and carefully maintained. It carried the proper number of lifeboats. It had been thoroughly inspected the day of its fatal voyage. Yet hours later, the Estonia rolled over and sank in a cold, stormy night. It went down so quickly that most of those on board, caught in their dark, flooding cabins, had no chance to save themselves. Of those who managed to scramble overboard, only 139 survived. The rest died of hypothermia before the rescuers could pluck them from the cold sea. The final death toll amounted to 912 souls. However, there were an unpleasant number of questions about why the Estonia sank and why so many survivors were men in the prime of life, while most of the dead were women, children and the elderly.

- a. Why was the sinking of the ferry, Estonia, an improbable accident?
- b. How did Estonia sink?
- c. What happened to the passengers of Estonia?
- d. What was unusual about the survivors of Estonia?