

Indian Institute of Engineering Science & Technology, Shibpur
1st Semester B. Tech. (Groups V-VII) Midterm Examination, January 2022
Professional Communication in English –HU 1101

Full marks: 30

Time: 45 mins (writing) &15 mins (uploading)

Attempt all questions:

1. Write a précis of the following passage and also give a suitable title. (8+2=10)

The end of the world is certainly no laughing matter but in the star-studded *Don't Look Up*, writer-director Adam McKay sees the funny side of a looming disaster without ever losing sight of the sobering reality of mankind's indifference to the threats that the planet faces.

With a cast to die for (Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Jonah Hill, Timothee Chalamet, Mark Rylance and, what's more, Cate Blanchett and Meryl Streep), *Don't Look Up*, out on Netflix, hits the right buttons, pulls no punches and lands quite a few stinging jabs bang on target.

In the line of the film's fire are power-crazed politicians, corporate czars and co-opted scientists peddling their convenient delusions to a crowd lulled and manipulated through news cycles aimed at achieving collective complacency and complicity. At first flush, the tone of the film wavers a bit, going back and forth between the subtle and precise to the superficial and wacky. That is clearly a part of the narrative design. What holds *Don't Look Up* together is the witty and hard-hitting core of McKay's screenplay.

Against the backdrop of a pandemic that refuses to go away and an ever-worsening global warming scenario, the points that the scathing satire makes are unfailingly relevant and urgent. To those that have turned brushing uncomfortable truths under the carpet into an industry, McKay's delivery style may appear somewhat breathless and overly alarmist but nothing that the film places on the table can be dismissed as a figment of a fevered imagination running away from the facts on the ground.

(Total no. of words: 257)

2. Web writing has established itself as an important mode of communication. What are the basic guidelines one must adhere to while writing for the web? (10)
3. Answer the following questions according to the instructions given:
 - a) Give the one word substitute for (1*3=3):

A student who stays away from school without telling his/her parents.

A medicine that cures all ailments.

Someone whose philosophy in life is to eat, drink, and be merry.

b) Make sentences with the following idioms (1*3=3):

Achilles' feet, Bedlam let loose, To have a bee in the bonnet

c) Correct the errors in the following sentences (1*4=4)

When learning how to box, the technique is of utmost importance.

Though he is rich but he is kind.

This is a 9-meters scale.

I can write as fast, if not faster than her.