

Registration No. 

Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology

B.Sc. Special Honours Degree  
in  
Information Technology

Final Examination  
Year 1, Semester 2 (2019)

IT1080 – English for Academic Purposes

Duration: 3 Hours

Instructions to Candidates:

- ◆ This paper contains 12 pages without the cover page.
- ◆ This paper contains **five** main questions.
- ◆ Answer **all** the questions on the paper itself.
- ◆ Total marks for this paper is 100 which contribute to 50% of the final grade.

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Total 100

**Question 1****(Total = 20 Marks)****1.1****Read the passage and underline the suitable answer (Marks 1x4= 4 marks)**

Having no language, infants cannot be told what they need to learn. Yet by the age of three they will have mastered the basic structure of their native language and will be well on their way to communicative competence. Acquiring their language is a most impressive intellectual feat. Students of how children learn language generally agree that the most remarkable aspect of this feat is the rapid acquisition of grammar. Nevertheless, the ability of children to conform to grammatical rules is only slightly more wonderful than their ability to learn words. It has been reckoned that the average high school graduate in the United States has a reading vocabulary of 80000 words, which includes idiomatic expressions and proper names of people and places. This vocabulary must have been learned over a period of 16 years. From the figures, it can be calculated that the average child learns at a rate of about 13 new words per day. Clearly a learning process of great complexity goes on at a rapid rate in children.

1. What is the main subject of the passage?

- (A) Language acquisition in children
- (B) Teaching languages to children
- (C) How to memorize words
- (D) Communicating with infants

2. The word "feat" in line 5 is closest in meaning to which of the following?

- (A) Experiment
- (B) Idea
- (C) Activity
- (D) Accomplishment

3. The word "reckoned" in line 7 is closest in meaning to which of the following?

- (A) Suspected
- (B) Estimated
- (C) Proved
- (D) Said

4. According to the passage, what is impressive about the way children learn vocabulary.

- (A) They learn words before they learn grammar
- (B) They learn even very long words.
- (C) They learn words very quickly.
- (D) They learn the most words in high school.

## 1.2

**Read the passage and underline the suitable answer (Marks 2x8= 16 marks)**

There are two main hypotheses when it comes to explaining the emergence of modern humans. The 'Out of Africa' theory holds that homo sapiens burst onto the scene as a new species around 150,000 to 200,000 years ago in Africa and subsequently replaced archaic humans such as the Neandertals. The other model, known as multi-regional evolution or regional continuity, posits far more ancient and diverse roots for our kind. Proponents of this view believe that homo sapiens arose in Africa some 2 million years ago and evolved as a single species spread across the Old World, with populations in different regions linked through genetic and cultural exchange.

Of these two models, Out of Africa, which was originally developed based on fossil evidence, and supported by much genetic research, has been favored by the majority of evolution scholars. The vast majority of these genetic studies have focused on DNA from living populations, and although some small progress has been made in recovering DNA from Neandertal that appears to support multi-regionalism, the chance of recovering nuclear DNA from early human fossils is quite slim at present. Fossils thus remain very much a part of the human origins debate.

Another means of gathering theoretical evidence is through bones. Examinations of early modern human skulls from Central Europe and Australia dated to between 20,000 and 30,000 years old have suggested that both groups apparently exhibit traits seen in their Middle Eastern and African predecessors. But the early modern specimens from Central Europe also display Neandertal traits, and the early modern Australians showed affinities to archaic Homo from Indonesia. Meanwhile, the debate among paleoanthropologists continues, as supporters of the two hypotheses challenge the evidence and conclusions of each other.

1. Which of the following does the passage primarily discuss?
  - (A) Evidence that supports the “Out of Africa” theory
  - (B) Two hypotheses and some evidence on the human origins debate
  - (C) The difficulties in obtaining agreement among theorists on the human origins debate
  - (D) That fossils remain very much a part of the human origins debate
  
2. The word “emergence” in line 1 is closest in meaning to
  - (A) complexity
  - (B) development
  - (C) appearance
  - (D) decline
  
3. All of the following are true except the idea that
  - (A) three methods of gathering evidence are mentioned in the passage
  - (B) the multi-regional model goes back further in history.
  - (C) the Out of Africa model has had more support from scholars
  - (D) DNA studies offer one of the best ways in future to provide clear evidence.
  
4. The word “slim” in line 15 is closest in meaning to
  - (A) small
  - (B) narrow
  - (C) thin
  - (D) difficult
  
5. Which of the following is not true
  - (A) the vast majority of genetic studies have focused on living populations
  - (B) early modern human skulls all support the same conclusions
  - (C) both hypotheses focus on Africa as a location for the new species.
  - (D) early modern Australian skulls have similarities to those from Indonesia.
  
6. Which of the following is NOT true about the two hypotheses
  - (A) Both hypotheses regard Neandertals to be the predecessors of modern humans
  - (B) Genetic studies have supported both hypotheses
  - (C) Both hypotheses cite Africa as a location of origination.
  - (D) One hypothesis dates the emergence of homo sapiens much earlier than the other.

7. It can be inferred from the passage that,
- (A) there is likely to be an end to the debate in the near future
  - (B) the debate will interest historians to take part in it
  - (C) the debate is likely to be less important in the future
  - (D) there is little likelihood that the debate will die down.
8. According to the passage, the multi-regional evolution model posits far more diverse roots for our kind because
- (A) Evidence from examinations of early modern human skulls has come from a number of different parts of the world.
  - (B) DNA from Neandertal appears to support multi-regionalism
  - (C) Populations in different regions were linked through genetic and cultural exchange
  - (D) This has been supported by fossil evidence

**Question 2****(Total = 20 Marks)****2.1 Change each sentence from active voice to passive voice.****(1 x 12=12 marks)**

- 1) All the citizens should adopt eco-friendly practices.

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- 2) The press is slandering the common presidential candidate.

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- 3) I have handed over your package to the courier service.

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- 4) The solicitors drafted the new lease agreement with immediate effect.

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- 5) Engineers invest much time and energy in their sustainable projects.

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 .....

- 6) My supervisor is delivering the keynote speech at the conference.

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 .....

- 7) The English Literary Association organizes the annual debating championship.

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- 8) Researchers have identified plagiarism as a serious academic issue among university students.

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 .....

- 9) Undergraduates must draw a time frame when they conduct research.

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 .....

- 10) Corruption at state level has made the national economy dysfunctional.

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**2.2 Use the given verb in either active or passive form in a suitable tense and fill the blank.**

**(1 x 10 = 10 marks)**

Nowadays, Sri Lanka **1)**.....**(face)** a garbage crisis among other crises. It's clear that nothing **2)** ..... **(learn)** from the Meethotamulla garbage dump collapse which also **3)** ..... **(claim)** 32 lives. Even though Aruwakkalu sanitary landfill project **4)** ..... **(propose)** by the government as a long-term viable option, it seems to be a threat to Puttalam, apart from the Norochcholai Power Plant and the cement factory. Although plans **5)** ..... **(draw)** to establish this facility

by early next year, speculation is rife as to whether the project 6) ..... (do) under proper technical guidance. With that in mind this Daily Mirror article 7) ..... (shed) light on the current status of the project and shortcomings highlighted in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a fundamental document that needs to be in place when a construction 8) ..... (take place) in an environmentally sensitive area. But officials seem to have failed in drafting an effective EIA. This is mainly due to several risks and vulnerabilities that residents and the environment would face if the project 9) ..... (proceed) in a haphazard manner. The EIA erroneously asserts that there 10) ..... (be) no human habitations near the landfill site. But there are two large villages located 300 metres away from the site with a combined population of 5000 people.

Source: <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news-features/>

### Question 3

(Total = 20 Marks)

The following graph shows the rate of purchasing laptops, desktops and tablets per 100 people in Wonderland between January and June, in 2018.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant. Write at least 150 words.

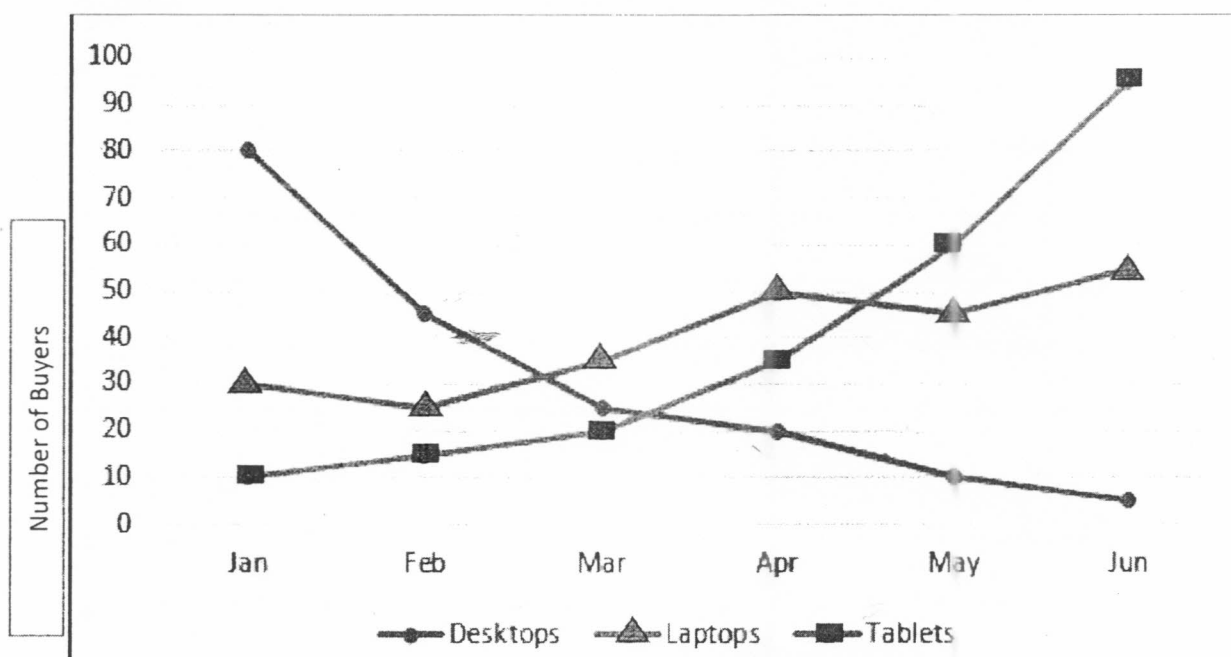
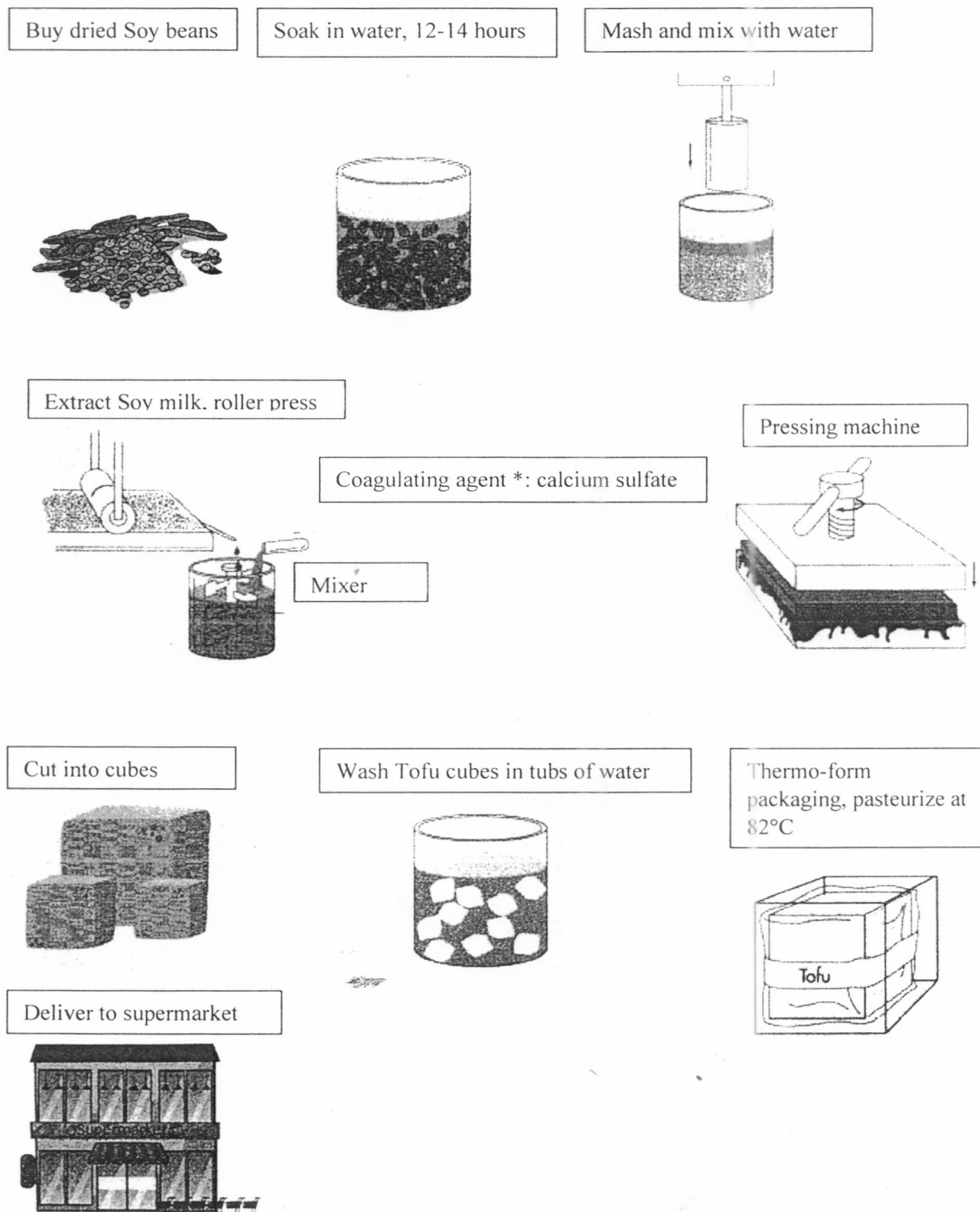


Fig 01: Rate of Purchasing Laptops, Desktops and Tablets

**Question 4****(Total = 20 Marks)**

The following diagram shows the process of making Tofu. Describe the process. (150 -200 words)



\*Coagulate: to cause to become viscous or thickened into a coherent mass



**Question 5****(Total = 20 Marks)****Summarize the following text (word count = not more than 130 words).****Give a suitable title for your summary. Write ONE word in each box in the grid provided.**

Glaciers around the world can range from ice that is several hundred to several thousand years old and provide a scientific record of how climate has changed over time. Through their study, we gain valuable information about the extent to which the planet is rapidly warming. They provide scientists a record of how climate has changed over time. Today, about 10% of land area on Earth is covered with glacial ice. Almost 90% is in Antarctica, while the remaining 10% is in the Greenland ice cap.

Rapid glacial melt in Antarctica and Greenland also influences ocean currents, as massive amounts of very cold glacial-melt water entering warmer ocean waters is slowing ocean currents. And as ice on land melts, sea levels will continue to rise.

Since the early 1900s, many glaciers around the world have been rapidly melting. Human activities are at the root of this phenomenon. Specifically, since the industrial revolution, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions have raised temperatures, even higher in the poles, and as a result, glaciers are rapidly melting, calving off into the sea and retreating on land.

Scientists project that if emissions continue to rise unchecked, the Arctic could be ice free in the summer as soon as the year 2040 as ocean and air temperatures continue to rise rapidly.

Melting glaciers add to rising sea levels, which in turn increases coastal erosion and elevates storm surge as warming ~~air~~ and ocean temperatures create more frequent and intense coastal storms like hurricanes and typhoons. Specifically, the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are the largest contributors of global sea level rise. Right now, the Greenland ice sheet is disappearing four times faster than in 2003 and already contributes 20% of current sea level rise

Today, the Arctic is warming twice as fast as anywhere on earth, and the sea ice there is declining by more than 10% every 10 years. The glacial melt we are witnessing today in

Antarctic and Greenland is changing the circulation of the Atlantic Ocean and has been linked to collapse of fisheries in the Gulf of Maine and more destructive storms and hurricanes around the planet.

What happens in these places has consequences across the entire globe. As sea ice and glaciers melt and oceans warm, ocean currents will continue to disrupt weather patterns worldwide. Industries that thrive on vibrant fisheries will be affected as warmer waters change where and when fish spawn. Coastal communities will continue to face billion-dollar disaster recovery bills as flooding becomes more frequent and storms become more intense. People are not the only ones impacted. In the Arctic, as sea ice melts, wildlife like walrus are losing their home and polar bears are spending more time on land, causing higher rates of conflict between people and bears.

Source: <https://www.worldwildlife.org>

**TITLE:**.....  
 .....

**SUMMARY:**
