

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 with 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)**

The modern age is an age of electricity. People are so used to electric lights, radio, televisions, and telephones that it is hard to imagine what life would be like without them. When there is a power failure, people grope about in flickering candlelight. Cars hesitate in the streets because there are no traffic lights to guide them, and food spoils in silent refrigerators.

Yet, people began to understand how electricity works only a little more than two centuries ago. Nature has apparently been experimenting in this field for millions of years. Scientists are discovering more and more that the living world may hold many interesting secrets of electricity that could benefit humanity.

All living cells send out tiny pulses of electricity. As the heart beats. It send out pulses of recorded electricity; they form an electrocardiogram, which a doctor can study to determine how well the heart is working. The brain, too, sends out brain waves of electricity, which can be recorded in an electroencephalogram. The electric currents generated by most living cells are extremely small; often so small that sensitive instruments are needed to record them. But in some animals, certain muscle cells have become so specialized as electrical generators that they do not work as muscle cells at all. When large numbers of these cells are linked together, the effects can be astonishing.

The electric eel is an amazing storage battery. It can send a jolt of as much as eight hundred volts of electricity through the water in which it lives. (An electric house current is only one hundred twenty volts.) As many as four fifths of all the cells in the electric eel's body are specialized for generating electricity, and the strength of the shock it can deliver corresponds roughly to the length of its body.

**1. What is the main idea of the passage?**

- (A) Electric eels are potentially dangerous
- (B) Biology and electricity appear to be closely related
- (C) People would be at a loss without electricity

- (D) Scientists still have much to discover about electricity
2. The author mentions all of the following as results of a blackout EXCEPT
- (A) refrigerated food items may go bad
  - (B) traffic lights do not work
  - (C) people must rely on candlelight
  - (D) elevators and escalators do not function
3. Why does the author mention electric eels?
- (A) To warn the reader to stay away from them
  - (B) To compare their voltage to that used in houses
  - (C) To give an example of a living electrical generator
  - (D) To describe a new source of electrical power
4. It can be inferred from the passage that the longer an eel is the
- (A) more beneficial it will be to science
  - (B) more powerful will be its electrical charge
  - (C) easier it will be to find
  - (D) tougher it will be to eat

## 1.2

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

Icebergs are among nature's most spectacular creations, and yet most people have never seen one. A vague air of mystery envelops them. They come into being somewhere-in faraway, frigid waters, amid thunderous noise and splashing turbulence, which in most cases no one hears or sees. They exist only a short time and then slowly waste away just unnoticed.

Objects of sheerest beauty, they have been called. Appearing in an endless variety of shapes they may be dazzlingly white, or they may be glassy blue, green, or purple, tinted faintly or in darker hues. They are graceful, stately, inspiring-in calm, sunlit seas.

But they are also called frightening and dangerous, because they are-in the night, in the fog, and in storms. Even in clear weather one is wise to stay a safe distance away from them. Most of their bulk is hidden below the water, so their underwater parts may extend out far beyond the visible top. Also, they may roll over unexpectedly, churning the waters around them.

Icebergs are parts of glaciers that break off, drift into the water, float about awhile, and finally melt. Icebergs afloat today are made of snowflakes that have fallen over long ages of time. They embody snows that drifted down hundreds, or many thousands, or in some cases maybe a million years ago. The snow fell in polar regions and on cold mountains, where they melted only a little or not at all, and so collected to great depths over the years and centuries.

As each year's snow accumulation lay on the surface, evaporation and melting caused the snowflakes slowly to lose their feathery points and become tiny grains of ice. When new snow fell on top of the old, it too turned to icy grains. So blankets of snow and ice grains mounted layer upon layer and were of such great thickness that the weight of the upper layers compressed the lower ones. With time and pressure from above, the many small ice grains joined and changed to larger crystals, and eventually the deeper crystals merged into a solid mass of ice.

Source:[https://www.academia.edu/19893245/A\\_colection\\_of\\_TOEFL\\_Reading\\_Comprehension\\_4](https://www.academia.edu/19893245/A_colection_of_TOEFL_Reading_Comprehension_4)

1. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?

- (A) The Melting of Icebergs
- (B) The Nature and Origin of Icebergs
- (C) The Size and Shape of Icebergs
- (D) The Dangers of Icebergs

2. The author states that icebergs are rarely seen because they are

- (A) surrounded by fog
- (B) hidden beneath the mountains
- (C) located in remote regions of the world
- (D) broken by waves soon after they are formed

3. The passage mentions all of the following colors for icebergs EXCEPT

- (A) yellow
- (B) blue
- (C) green
- (D) purple

4. According to the passage, icebergs are dangerous because they

- (A) usually melt quickly
- (B) can turn over very suddenly
- (C) may create immense snowdrifts
- (D) can cause unexpected avalanches

5. According to the passage, icebergs originate from a buildup of

- (A) turbulent water
- (B) feathers
- (C) underwater pressure
- (D) snowflakes

6. The formation of an iceberg is most clearly analogous to which of the following activities?

- (A) Walking on fluffy new snow, causing it to become more compact and icy
- (B) Plowing large areas of earth, leaving the land flat and barren
- (C) Skating across a frozen lake and leaving a trail behind
- (D) Blowing snow into one large pile to clear an area

7. In line 23, the expression "from above" refers to

- (A) sunlit seas
- (B) polar regions
- (C) weight of mountains
- (D) layers of ice and snow

8. The attitude of the author toward icebergs is one of

- (A) disappointment
- (B) humor
- (C) disinterest
- (D) wonder

**Question 2**

**(Total = 20 Marks)**

**2.1 Change each sentence from active voice to passive voice.**

**(1 x 12=12 marks)**

01. The city tax department assessed the house at \$70,000.

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02. The teacher has assigned a lot of homework for the weekend.

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03. The committee will announce the winner of the contest tomorrow.

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04. The city disposes the waste material in a variety of ways.

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05. I was surprised when I heard that they had approved my scholarship application.

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06. Journalists were bombarding the actor with questions.

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07. The government has passed a new law.

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08. The college didn't inform the students about class cancellations.

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09. Students cannot drop a course after the last day to withdraw.

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10. We held the event in a conference center.

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11. The college will refund your tuition if it cancels the course.

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12. The construction workers close the highways for repairs at night.

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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 8 = 8 marks)

FIAT

Fiat a) \_\_\_\_\_ (start) by a group of Italian businessmen in 1899. In 1903, Fiat, b) \_\_\_\_\_ (produce) 132 cars. Some of these cars c) \_\_\_\_\_ (export) by the company to the United States and Britain. In 1920, Fiat d) \_\_\_\_\_ (start) making cars at a new factory at Lingotto, near Turin. There was a track on the roof where the cars e) \_\_\_\_\_ (test) by technicians. In 1936, Fiat launched the Fiat 500. This car f) \_\_\_\_\_ (call) the Topolino – the Italian name for Mickey Mouse. The company grew, and in 1963, Fiat g) \_\_\_\_\_ (export) more than 300,000 vehicles. Today, Fiat is based in Turin, and its cars h) \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) all over the world.

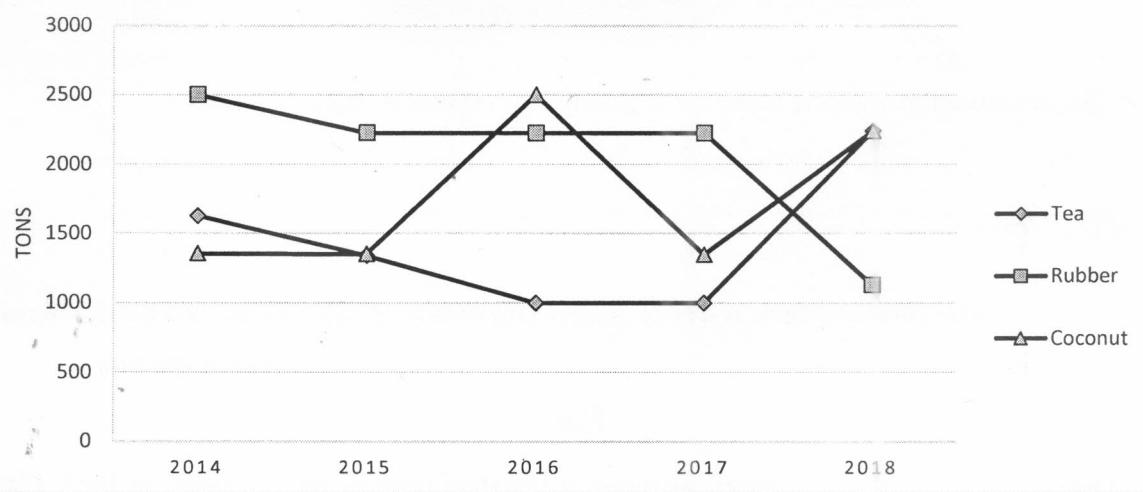
**Question 3**

**(Total = 20 Marks)**

The following line graph shows Agri Exports (in Tons) of Neverland between 2014 and 2018.

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

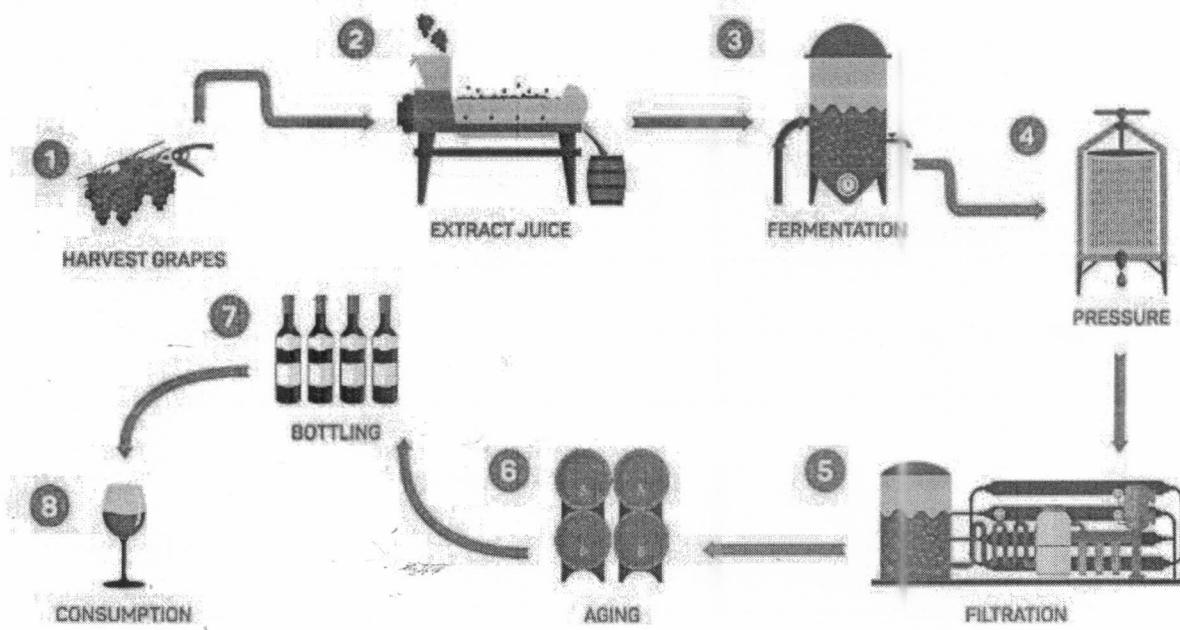
## AGRI EXPORTS OF NEVERLAND



**Question 4**

(Total = 20 Marks)

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



# THE WINE MAKING PROCESS

**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.

Climate change is a significant and lasting change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns over periods ranging from decades to millions of years. It may be a change in average weather conditions, or in the distribution of weather around the average conditions.

Climate change is caused by factors that include oceanic processes (such as oceanic circulation), biotic processes, variations in solar radiation received by Earth, plate tectonics and volcanic eruptions, and human-induced alterations of the natural world; these human-induced effects are currently causing global warming, and “climate change” is often used to describe human-specific impacts.

The world's oceans have warmed 50 percent faster over the last 40 years than previously thought due to climate change, Australian and US climate researchers reported Wednesday. Higher ocean temperatures expand the volume of water, contributing to a rise in sea levels that is submerging small island nations and threatening to wreak havoc in low-lying, densely-populated delta regions around the globe.

The study, published in the British journal Nature, adds to a growing scientific chorus of warnings about the pace and consequences of rising oceans. It also serves as a corrective to a massive report issued last year by the Nobel-winning UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

According to the authors, rising sea levels are driven by two things: the thermal expansion of sea water, and additional water from melting sources of ice. Both processes are caused by global warming. The ice sheet that sits atop Greenland, for example, contains enough water to raise world ocean levels by seven metres (23 feet), which would bury sea-level cities from Dhaka to Shanghai.

Trying to figure out how much each of these factors contributes to rising sea levels is critically important to understanding climate change, and forecasting future temperature rises, scientists say. But up to now, there has been a perplexing gap between the projections of computer-based climate models, and the observations of scientists gathering data from the oceans.

The new study, led by Catia Domingues of the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research, is the first to reconcile the models with observed data. Using new techniques to assess ocean temperatures to a depth of 700 metres (2,300 feet) from 1961 to 2003, it shows that thermal warming contributed to a 0.53 millimetre-per-year rise in sea levels rather than the 0.32 mm rise reported by the IPCC.

Source: <http://www.infosquares.com/readingcomprehension/esl-reading-comprehension19.html#>

**TITLE:**.....

## SUMMARY: