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**Question Paper Code : 53174**

B.E./B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, APRIL/MAY 2019.

Second Semester

Civil Engineering

HS 6251 — TECHNICAL ENGLISH — II

(Common to all branches except Marine Engineering)

(Regulation 2013)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer ALL questions.

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

1. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the correct words choosing from the homophones given in brackets. (4 ×  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 2)
  - (a) My new shoes bit me and I have a wound on my \_\_\_\_\_ (heal / heel). I hope it \_\_\_\_\_ (heals / heels) fast.
  - (b) The police have been searching for the culprit for the past two weeks, but so far all \_\_\_\_\_ (their / there) efforts have been in \_\_\_\_\_ (vein / vain).
2. Rewrite the following in the passive form. (2 × 1 = 2)
  - (a) The government is negotiating a new treaty with the oil rich neighbouring state to import oil for domestic needs.
  - (b) By next year, the construction team would have completed the new lecture complex.
3. Fill in the blanks with suitable modal verbs: (4 ×  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 2)

(need, ought, can, may, should)

  - (a) Although the machine is old, it \_\_\_\_\_ still be repaired and used.
  - (b) You \_\_\_\_\_ not leave tiny objects lying on the ground. Such objects \_\_\_\_\_ be swallowed by children.
  - (c) If you want to learn to speak the language fluently, you \_\_\_\_\_ to work hard.

4. Make sentences using any TWO of the following phrasal verbs. (2 × 1 = 2)
- (a) use up
  - (b) throw away
  - (c) pick out
  - (d) look up
5. Combine the following sentences using any of the appropriate cause effect expressions given below. (2 × 1 = 2)
- (On account of, Because of, as a result of, due to)
- (a) The farmers in Haryana burn crop stubble in their fields. The atmosphere in Delhi is excessively polluted by smoke from crop stubble fires.
  - (b) The pace of life forces people to work hard without much relaxation. Many people suffer from stress and related diseases.
6. Make two sentences for **any one** of the following words using them as **noun** in one and as **verb** in another to show the difference in usage. (2 × 1 = 2)
- (a) project
  - (b) rock
  - (c) harvest
  - (d) use
7. Fill in the blanks using appropriate connectives choosing from the list given below. (4 ×  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 2)
- (this, when, which, then, these)
- The work of weathering is carried on mainly by the atmosphere, \_\_\_\_\_ affects rocks physically and chemically. Disintegration of rocks into fragments having the same chemical composition as the main mass is a physical change. The chief agents of \_\_\_\_\_ phenomenon are frost, temperature change, organ-isms, wind, rain, and lightning. Almost every rock contains some cracks or pore space, and moisture entering \_\_\_\_\_ openings freezes \_\_\_\_\_ the temperature is below 32°F.
8. Choose the right option which explains what the idiom (given in bold) means in the given sentences. (4 ×  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 2)
- (a) Being into the construction business for the last 10 years, I know all the **tricks of the trade**.
    - (i) Special techniques used in the profession that are unknown to outsiders
    - (ii) Illegal methods in the profession
    - (iii) Methods that are used to cheat someone
    - (iv) Complicated methods of conducting business

- (b) Fuel these days costs an **arm and a leg**.
- (i) Payment in kind
  - (ii) Payment with one's limbs
  - (iii) Very expensive
  - (iv) Very cheap
- (c) The engineering team entrusted with the job really **cut corners**. Now the entire job has to be redone.
- (i) Chopped off the edges
  - (ii) Did the job badly or cheaply
  - (iii) Made it look ugly
  - (iv) Travelled very fast
- (d) Despite the political pressure, the officer **stood her ground**.
- (i) Did not sit down
  - (ii) Stood on the floor
  - (iii) Maintained her position
  - (iv) Kept her balance

9. Fill in the blanks with right options to complete the collocations. ( $4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2$ )

- (a) The company decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the new sport shoe just before the start of the IPL season.
- (i) start
  - (ii) roll
  - (iii) launch
  - (iv) take
- (b) The researchers \_\_\_\_\_ their conclusions about the specimen from the large body of evidence they had collected.
- (i) drew
  - (ii) jumped
  - (iii) gave
  - (iv) did
- (c) The minister \_\_\_\_\_ the foundation stone for the new metro station that would link two of the important localities of the city.
- (i) set
  - (ii) laid
  - (iii) put
  - (iv) cut
- (d) He \_\_\_\_\_ an injury during the match and therefore had to pull out of the remainder of the tournament.
- (i) lived
  - (ii) survived
  - (iii) got
  - (iv) sustained

10. Complete the following conditional expressions. ( $2 \times 1 = 2$ )

- (a) If Raj had not lost the car key \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) If you prepare well for the interview \_\_\_\_\_.

PART B — (5 × 16 = 80 marks)

11. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow it. (16)

Some languages are spoken by quite small communities and they are hardly likely to survive. Before the end of the twentieth century many languages in Africa, Asia, and America will have passed into complete oblivion unless some competent linguist has found time to record them. The languages that remain are constantly changing with the changing needs and circumstances of the people who speak them. Change is the manifestation of life in language. The great languages of the world, such as English, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, and Arabic, are just as liable to change as Swahili, Tamil, or Choctaw. Change may, it is true, be artificially retarded in special conditions: for example in the great liturgical languages of mankind, such as Sanskrit, the language of the orthodox Hindu religion of India; or Pali, the sacred language of Buddhism; or Latin, the liturgical language of the Roman Church. By arduous schooling a man may train himself to read, write, and converse in these crystallized forms of speech. Sanskrit, Pali and Latin are magnificent and awe-inspiring exceptions to the otherwise universal principle of change. Their immutability depends upon two main factors or conditions: first, that they are not normally used in everyday conversation, but are entrusted instead to the care of a privileged class of priests and scholars; and secondly, that they possess memorable recorded literatures and liturgies which are constantly read and recited in acts of religious devotion and worship.

It is just because these two conditions do not apply to artificial languages like Volapuk, Esperanto, and Ido, that they, however carefully devised and constructed, cannot come alive and then escape from the law of change. Over one hundred artificial languages have been framed by men in recent times, but the three just named are far more widely known and used than any others. Volapuk, or 'World's Speech', was created by a Bavarian pastor named Johan Martin Schleyer, in 1879, when it was acclaimed with enthusiasm as the Future universal speech of mankind. Only eight years later, however, many of Volapuk's most ardent supporters abandoned it in Favour of the system invented by the 'hopeful doctor', Doktoro Esperanto, a Polish Jew named Lazarus Zamenhof (1859-1917). Esperanto is certainly an improvement upon Volapuk in that it is both more flexible and more regular. Even within Zamenhof's lifetime, however, the mechanism of Esperanto was improved in various ways, and in 1907 Ido (a made-up name consisting of the initials of International Delegation substantive suffix-o) was formulated. This Delegation included scholars prominent in various branches of learning, but its recommendations were not accepted by the main body of Esperantists who were reluctant to admit that all their well-established textbooks might now be out of date. Today Esperanto, and not its more advanced form Ido, is easily the first constructed language in the world and it has proved its worth at numerous international gatherings. It no longer aspires to supplant ethnic languages. Like those other artificial languages created in the twentieth century—Edgar de Wahl's Occidental (1922), Otto Jespersen's Novial (1928), Guisepe Peano's Interlingua, or Latino sine Flexione (1908), and Lancelot

Hogben's Interglossa (1943). and many more - Esperanto can be regarded as a valuable bridge-language which any man may find unexpectedly useful in unforeseen contingencies. Learning Esperanto is a pleasant pastime, and manipulating its regularized affixes and inflections may become a healthy form of mental gymnastics. Nevertheless, even loyal esperantists have been known to chafe and strain under the necessary bonds of orthodoxy. However much society may desire and demand that it should remain constant, 'language changes always and everywhere'. In the New World, where opportunities are limitless and enthusiasm boundless, and where whole families have been reputed to adopt Esperanto as their everyday language, it has become modified considerably within the space of one year to suit the special circumstances and way of life of that particular community. The worlds in which different social communities live are separate worlds, not just one world with different linguistic labels attached. An American and a Russian may converse Pleasantly in Esperanto about travel, food, dress, and sport, but they may be quite incapable of talking seriously in Esperanto about religion science or philosophy. 'Men imagine', as Francis Bacon said long ago, 'that their minds have command over language' but it often happens that language bears rule over their minds'. Whether we like it or not, we are all very much under the spell of that particular form of speech which has become the medium of discourse for our society.

(a) Choose the option that best represents the meaning of the following words as they are used in the text. (6 × 1 = 6)

(i) competent

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| (1) skilled | (2) aggressive |
| (3) inept   | (4) rival      |

(ii) oblivion

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| (1) forgetfulness | (2) nothingness |
| (3) notice        | (4) Perception  |

(iii) retarded

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| (1) mad      | (2) hidden  |
| (3) conceded | (4) impeded |

(iv) immutability

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| (1) alteration | (2) fixation       |
| (3) Permanency | (4) changelessness |

(v) supplant

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| (1) succeed | (2) implant |
| (3) replace | (4) sow     |

(vi) manifestation

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| (1) demonstration | (2) symptom    |
| (3) sign          | (4) expression |

- (b) State whether the following statements are true or false. (6 × 1 = 6)
- (i) A language is considered alive and growing only if it changes over time.
  - (ii) Man cannot prevent language from changing.
  - (iii) Languages like Sanskrit and Latin are kept alive in their great bodies of literature.
  - (iv) Artificial languages like Esperanto are more than adequate to discuss serious subjects such as religion.
  - (v) Esperanto has remained unchanged ever since it was invented.
  - (vi) Occidental, Novial, Interlingua, Flexione are all names of artificial languages.
- (c) Choose the correct answer from among the given alternatives. (4 × 1 = 4)
- (i) Languages such as Latin, Sanskrit and Pali have been preserved
    - (1) By priests and scholars
    - (2) By competent linguists
    - (3) By their inventors
    - (4) By an international delegation
  - (ii) Which of the following is true about Esperanto?
    - (1) it has escaped the law of change that governs other languages
    - (2) It attempts to replace other natural languages
    - (3) It has regularised affixes and inflections
    - (4) It is used to converse about God
  - (iii) Ido, an improvement over Esperanto
    - (1) is more popular
    - (2) is not as popular
    - (3) has replaced Esperanto
    - (4) has replaced many ethnic languages
  - (iv) The languages that live and grow are the languages that
    - (1) are arduously learnt
    - (2) remain unchanging
    - (3) have crystallised forms of speech
    - (4) change according to the changing needs of the people who use them

12. (a) You are the Manager of a firm developing goods operating on solar power. You have been asked to submit a proposal (in about 300 words) to start a project on domestic goods. Your proposal should include details on which goods you wish to include and the need for such goods in the market, the demand and the scale of production. (16)

Or

- (b) You are the Manager of a professional computer coaching centre. There has been a proposal to expand and rebuild the centre. Write a report (in about 300 words) on the feasibility of the proposal including details such as the temporary shifting of computers, classes, estimated time and costs and the impact it would have on the popularity of the centre. (16)
13. (a) Write a letter of application and CV in response to an advertisement calling for Maintenance Engineers to The HR Manager, Hurix Systems, 123, Radhakrishnan Road, Mylapore, Chennai —4.

Or

- (b) Write an email application with CV in response to an advertisement for Project managers in the field of electrical, electronics and communication engineering to [technosolutions.hr@techno.com](mailto:technosolutions.hr@techno.com).
14. Write an article in about 300 words on ONE of the following topics. (16)

- (a) Child Labour in India.

Or

- (b) Climate Change and its impact in India.

15. (a) Write a checklist of eight items to check before going to write the End Semester examinations. (16)

Or

- (b) Write a checklist of eight items to check before going to make an important presentation. (16)