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B.E./B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016.

Second Semester

Civil Engineering

HS 6251 — TECHNICAL ENGLISH – II

(Common to all branches except marine engineering)

(Regulations 2013)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer ALL questions.

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

1. Rewrite the following sentences in impersonal passive form : (2 × 1 = 2)
  - (a) We used this auditorium only on special occasions.
  - (b) The paint prevents the metal from corrosion.
2. Fill in the blanks with the correct homophones from the words given : (4 × ½ = 2)
  - (a) Buy some \_\_\_\_\_ (stationery/stationary) from the shop.
  - (b) Empty bottle has little \_\_\_\_\_ (wait/weight).
  - (c) The opening \_\_\_\_\_ (scene/seen) of the play was set in the forest.
  - (d) The king requested \_\_\_\_\_ (piece/peace) in his kingdom.
3. Fill in the blanks with modal verbs conveying the meaning indicated in the brackets : (4 × ½ = 2)
  - (a) \_\_\_\_\_ I borrow your book? (Permission)
  - (b) You \_\_\_\_\_ submit your records for correction tomorrow. (obligation)
  - (c) I \_\_\_\_\_ accept this offer if I were you. (Advice)
  - (d) The books \_\_\_\_\_ arrive tomorrow. (Certainty)

4. Use the appropriate phrasal verbs chosen from the given list :  $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2)$   
(Washed away, look to, put off, give up)
- (a) We will have to \_\_\_\_\_ meeting.
  - (b) Rough seas \_\_\_\_\_ 100 houses in the coastal towns.
  - (c) Young cricketers \_\_\_\_\_ Sachin Tendulkar.
  - (d) You need to \_\_\_\_\_ your bad habits.
5. Combine each pair of sentences given below with suitable cause and effect expressions :  $(2 \times 1 = 2)$
- (a) The steel tray is painted black. The black paint prevents the heat from escaping.
  - (b) Rani fainted in the class. She did not have her breakfast.
6. Frame sentences by using any TWO of the following words both as a noun and a verb without change in spelling :  $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2)$
- (a) Name
  - (b) Clean
  - (c) Look
  - (d) Talk.
7. Rewrite the following as Numerical Expressions :  $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2)$
- (a) A pipe that is 5 feet long
  - (b) A journey of 1000 miles
  - (c) A budget estimate of 5 lakhs.
  - (d) A conference lasting 3 days.
8. Use the following idioms by choosing the correct one for the blanks given. Make necessary changes in tenses :  $(4 \times \frac{1}{2} = 2)$   
(behind bars, cats and dogs, hale and hearty, lame excuse)
- (a) My grandfather is 95, but he is still \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) His brother is \_\_\_\_\_ for stealing bikes
  - (c) My uncle and aunt still fight like \_\_\_\_\_ though they have been married 20 years.
  - (d) Most people give a \_\_\_\_\_ for not coming to work on time.

9. Complete the following sentences by inserting the suitable collocations in the blanks taken from the given list : (4 × ½ = 2)

(tasted awful, splendid performance, proper manner, delicious meal)

- (a) My mother cooked us a \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) The food in the restaurant \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) The dance master praised him for his \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Radha dresses in a \_\_\_\_\_ when she goes abroad.
10. Combine the two sentences with appropriate clause : (2 × 1 = 2)
- (a) Plastic is banned in many cities. People still use it.
- (b) Dr. Kumar is a scientist. He has written many books.

PART B — (5 × 16 = 80 marks)

11. Attempt both (a) and (b) :

A close look at the facts relating to political interference in administration shows that it is not a one-way process. There is often a nexus between power hungry and corrupt politicians and civil servants with convenient principles. Many civil servants are only too anxious to oblige the politicians, and then cash the obligation when they need some special favour. So the attitude of self-righteousness adopted by the civil service is sometimes only a way of covering their own flaws by blaming others.

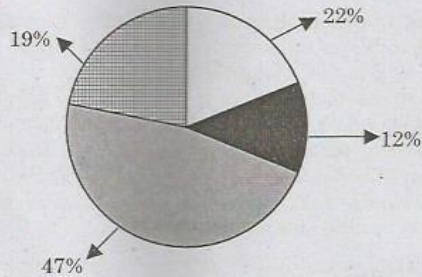
Every now and then some retired civil servants come out with his memoirs, painting a glorious picture of the heights of administrative efficiency reached during his reign. There is often the suggestion that had there not been so much political interference, things would have been even more fantastic. It is not unusual for the self styled hero to blame not only interfering politicians but also fellow civil servants who are idiots or crooks, for his failures. This attitude of smug self-satisfaction is, unfortunately, developed during the years of service. Self preservation rather than service is encouraged by our whole system of rules and procedures. The remedy has to be drastic and quickly effective. The over protection now granted to civil servants must end. Today to remove an erring civil servant is just not possible. And the only thing that the highest authority in the Government, both in the State and at the centre, can do is to transfer an official from one job to another. The rules for taking disciplinary action are so complicated that, in the end, the defaulting civil servants gets away, and gets his full emoluments even for the period of the disciplinary proceedings, thus making it a paid holiday for him.

The result is that the administration has become rule-oriented and not result-oriented. Action is possible against the official who takes some interest in his work, but no action is ever taken against a person who does not deliver the goods. If the country is to adopt a result-oriented approach, it is necessary to link job performance with job retention.

(a) (i) Choose the correct option : (4 × 1 = 4)

- (1) The facts relating to the problem of political interference indicate that :
  - (A) Honest bureaucrats are always being troubled by politicians.
  - (B) Politicians are often misled and trapped by civil servants.
  - (C) Politicians and civil servants co-operate to gain mutual advantages.
  - (D) Politicians and civil servants use interference as an excuse for victimising the common man.
- (2) Civil servants who write their memoirs after retiring :
  - (A) Claim that they would have achieved outstanding success if interference had not come in the way.
  - (B) Prove that constant political interference made it impossible for them to do anything properly.
  - (C) Complain that the credit for their achievements goes to dishonest politicians.
  - (D) Prove that people of inferior quality in the civil service bring about interference.
- (3) The existing system of administration seems to encourage civil servants :
  - (A) To become self-styled heroes and boss over others.
  - (B) To present a glorious picture of the administration.
  - (C) To become self-centred and concerned mainly about their own gain.
  - (D) To become self-righteous and fight back against corrupt politicians.
- (4) The problem with the present set-up needing urgent action is :
  - (A) A lack of accountability on the part of civil servants.
  - (B) A lack of control over the power of politicians.
  - (C) A neglect of the ideals of self-righteousness.
  - (D) Complicated rules and procedures that greatly reduce efficiency.

- (ii) Give short answers : (2 × 2 = 4)  
(1) How do the government punish the erring Civil Servant?  
(2) What is written by the civil servants in their memoirs?  
(iii) Prepare a check list of four things that a person should do to become a civil servant : (4 × 1 = 4)
- (b) The following chart represents how the British accessed the Internet in the year 2010. Analyse the given data and write a paragraph of 150 words : (4 × 1 = 4)  
How the British accessed the internet in 2010?



● mobile ○ dial up ● cable ● no internet access

12. (a) Read any one of the following passages and answer the questions given below :

On the death of Alexander the great his vast empire was almost immediately broken up into three main divisions. In the East, his General Seleucus Nikator founded an empire comprising Persia, Mesopotamia, Syria and part of Asia Minor, that is, almost all the area from the Hellespont to the Indus. The capital of this empire was Antioch, which became one of the greatest commercial centres of those times, through which merchandise for Arabia, India and China flowed into the Mediterranean.

The second division of the Alexandrian empire was the Graeco-Egyptian kingdom founded by Ptolemy I, another general of Alexander. Its chief city was Alexandria which, with its safe harbour and splendid library, became for a long time the most important centre of Greek civilization and culture in the ancient world.

The third and the smallest division was Macedon, ruled by Antigonus and his successor, who had partial control over Greece till 146 B.C. In that year, Greece was made a Roman province under name of Achaea. Later, both Syria and Egypt were also conquered by the Romans.

- (i) Write a short summary of the above given passage in not more than 100 words. (6)  
(ii) Answer the following questions in not more than 3 sentences : (5 × 2 = 10)  
(1) Who was Antigonus?  
(2) When Alexander died, what happened to his empire?

- (3) Name the biggest division of Alexander's Empire and its boundaries.
- (4) What may be the reasons for the disintegration of Alexander's empire? Give two reasons.
- (5) What are the specialities of Antioch, the city in the East?

Or

- (b) Read the following passage and answer the questions given below :

Now the question arises, what is the secret of the longevity and imperishability of Indian culture? Why is it that such great empires and nations as Babylon, Assyria, Greece, Rome and Persia, could not last more than the footprints of a camel in the shifting sands of the desert, while India which faced the same ups and downs, the same mighty and cruel hand of time, is still alive and with the same halo of glory and splendour? The answer is given by Prof. J. B. Pratt of America. According to him Hindu religion is the only religion in the world which is 'self-perpetuating and self-renewing.

Unlike other religions 'not death, but development' has been the fate of Hinduism. Not only Hindu religion but the whole culture of the Hindus has been growing changing and developing in accordance with the needs of time and circumstance without losing its essential and imperishable spirit. The culture of the Vedic ages, of the ages of the Upanishads, the philosophical systems, the Mahabharata, the Smirities, the Puranas, the commentators, the medieval saints and of the age of the modern reformers is the same in Spirit and yet very different in form. Its basic principles are so broad based that they can be adapted to almost any environment of development.

- (i) Write a short summary of the above given passage in not more than 100 words : (6)
- (ii) Answer the following questions in not more than 3 sentences : (5 × 2 = 10)
  - (1) What changes has the spirit of Indian culture undergone during its long history right from the vedic age down to the present times?
  - (2) What is the characteristic quality of the basic principles of Indian culture?
  - (3) What, according to J.B. Pratt, is the secret of the longevity and imperishability of Indian culture?
  - (4) What is the speciality of the Hindu religion when compared to other religion?
  - (5) To what is the perishing cultures compared to?

13. (a) Write a letter to your friend reviewing a regional movie which you watched recently.

Or

- (b) Write a letter to your friend congratulating him for winning National Level General Knowledge competition.

14. (a) Write a letter of application for the post of Software Engineer. Candidates should have good communication skills and leadership skills. Send your Resume to :

HRD Manager,  
Global Info tech,  
Chennai.

Or

- (b) Samsung requires Production Engineers for their new factory near Chennai. Engineering graduates with 2 years experience in manufacturing industry Send your e-resume to samsunghrc@gmail.com.

15. (a) Assume that you are the class representative of your class. You have recently visited Kalpakkam atomic power station. Write a report to your Head of the Department about your visit to Kalpakkam in detail.

Or

- (b) Write a feasibility report on the introduction of a new beauty soap in the market to the Managing Director of your company.