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B.E./B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022.

Second Semester

Civil Engineering

HS 3251 – PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH – II

(Common to : All Branches (Except Marine Engineering))

(Regulations 2021)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer ALL questions.

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

1. Fill in the blanks with suitable tense forms of the given verbs : (4 ×  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 2)

- (a) When Mani \_\_\_\_\_ (have) problems at school, his parents \_\_\_\_\_  
(usually help) him to cope with them.
- (b) We \_\_\_\_\_ (not / know) then that the car \_\_\_\_\_ (take) to the garage.

2. Complete the following conditional sentences : (2 × 1 = 2)

- (a) If I had only cleared my entrance exams, \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) She would buy the new mobile phone, if \_\_\_\_\_

3. Change the following dialogue to reported form : (2 × 1 = 2)

- Raj : Have you seen Anand and Vinay?
- Manoj : No Sir, I haven't seen them since yesterday.

4. Choose the right meaning for the highlighted idioms in the given sentences : (4 ×  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 2)

- (a) All our school friends meet **once in a blue moon**.
- (i) Frequently (ii) Sometimes
- (iii) Rarely (iv) Occasionally

(b) Anitha's arrogant behaviour with others has left her **high and dry**.

(i) to be poor (ii) to be sick

(iii) to be famous (iv) isolated

(c) The officer **took him to task**.

(i) praised him (ii) reprimanded him

(iii) dismissed him (iv) promoted him.

(d) The interview for that new job was **a piece of cake** for my brother. He got the job.

(i) very easy (ii) very tough

(iii) very detailed (iv) very enlightening

5. Change the following sentences to passive forms : (2 × 1 = 2)

(a) The Frombus system selects only one experiment per layer.

(b) Scientists have discovered traces of ice on the surface.

6. Rewrite the following as numerical adjectives : (4 ×  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 2)

(a) An electric cable which is 12 metres long.

(b) A company that is 50 years old.

(c) A tank with a capacity of 750 litres.

(d) A project lasting for three years.

7. Fill in the blanks with appropriate comparative forms of the words given in the bracket : (4 ×  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 2)

(a) My brother thinks he is \_\_\_\_\_ (intelligent) than me, but I don't agree.

(b) Do you think *Harry Potter* movies are \_\_\_\_\_ (good) than the books?

(c) He spent a year in India and loves spicy food. The \_\_\_\_\_ (hot) the food is, the more he likes it.

(d) My exam results are only marginally \_\_\_\_\_ (bad) than yours.

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8. Choose the right modal from the given list to complete the following sentences:  
(4 ×  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 2)
- (should, may, could, shouldn't, might, can, shall, ought to)
- (a) It is very cloudy today. Do you think it \_\_\_\_\_ rain later?  
(b) You \_\_\_\_\_ have paid the dues two weeks ago.  
(c) Mom says we \_\_\_\_\_ watch TV after we have finished our homework.  
(d) I left my file next to you just five minutes ago. You \_\_\_\_\_ have seen it.
9. Choose any two prepositional phrases and make one sentence for each one of them.  
(2 × 1 = 2)
- (a) in anticipation of  
(b) on a large scale  
(c) by coincidence  
(d) in good condition  
(e) out of the question
10. Combine the following sentences using appropriate relative clauses :  
(2 × 1 = 2)
- (a) I sent an email to my sister. She is living in New Zealand.  
(b) Overalls are clothes. People wear them to protect their clothes when they are working.

PART B — (5 × 16 = 80 marks)

11. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below :

Using Cellphones and Computers to Transmit Information

Modern technology can do some pretty incredible things. It's possible, with current technological capabilities, to transmit digital information over long distances using coding and decoding processes without losing the contents of the original information. The best part is we don't have to do anything besides send the message and wait for it to be received.

Consider, for instance, the cellular phone. It wasn't until the early 1980s that this mobile variation on the standard telephone was even available for people to use. Now, it seems like everyone has a cellphone, sending and receiving information in speedy ways invisible to the human eye.

There's so much going on below the surface of what we can see when we use our cellphones. One difference between a mobile phone and a traditional landline telephone is you can move the cellphone just about anywhere geographically and still talk to others. No matter how far the other person is, you can still understand each other's voices over the phone, thanks to radio waves and something called a cellular network.

It took many evolutions in phone technology to get where we are today, but the current cellphone wirelessly transmits information by connecting to a cellular network. Mobile phone operators provide these cellular networks, which function with the help of cellphone towers, and then calls are made over what is known as a radio link. Through this process, information—in this case, voice input—is broken down and reassembled over the radio link, so the person on the other end instantaneously hears what is said.

In other words, as you speak into the phone, your voice is converted into an electrical signal, transmitted in the form of a radio wave by these towers, and then converted back into the sound of your voice by the phone on the receiving end. All this happens in the blink of an eye while you chat over the phone without any distortion.

The process of transmitting digital information is not exclusive to telephones. Computers are another instrument that can receive, decode and convert information, though typically this information is not a person's voice, but written content.

The first computer showed up around 1941, but it was much more limited in its capabilities than computers now. In fact, computers are everywhere—sometimes they are so small we do not think of them as computers at all, though they serve the same function as the computers we have at home, the office or school.

Much like cellular telephones, computers were actually first used to transmit sensitive information across geographical spaces by the military at a point when government officials worried it would be possible to knock out a country's entire telephone grid.

Computer engineers began finding ways to link their computers together in order to share information among them. This linking began with just a couple of computers and grew to the millions which connect regularly today. Ultimately, that's how what we know as the Internet was developed.

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Wireless computer networking is also similar to cellular phone use in that computers use the same networks our mobile phones use.

While you speak into the telephone using your voice, you typically insert data into your computer by typing on the keyboard. You may decide to share information through an email or access information on a website by typing in or visiting what is known as a hyperlink.

When you use the Internet to share and access information, you connect to the relevant network. You can send a message from your computer to another computer anywhere in the world and it will arrive almost immediately, going through many different networks in the process.

Still, the information you send does not travel in a single piece; instead, it is broken down into smaller digital information. As with a cellphone, the information you send is fragmented into tiny pieces and then reconstructed once it's reached its destination. Along with your message comes other information, for instance about ordering, or how the message should be restructured to make sense to the reader. Your message will also include more basic data about where it came from and where it is supposed to go.

Computers and the Internet require many high-tech and complicated pieces to run properly, but something known as a router is a key instrument that keeps information being sent from one computer to another going along the correct pathway. The Internet also relies on telephone wires and satellite links for wireless information sharing.

It's important to note that for the Internet to work as it does, many companies have to agree to work with one another. The Internet is really a collection of networks working together toward a common goal of allowing information to be shared.

I. Based on the passage, choose the right option for the following questions:

(8 × 1 = 8)

- (a) What are two examples of technology that send information over long distances?
- (i) The human eye and computers
  - (ii) Government officials and computers
  - (iii) Cellphones and the human eye
  - (iv) Cellphones and computers

- (b) What does the author compare to cellphones in this passage?
- (i) The author compares companies to cellphones
  - (ii) The author compares engineers to cellphones
  - (iii) The author compares computers to cellphones
  - (iv) The author compares cellular networks to cellphones.
- (c) A cellphone sends and receives information in a speedy way invisible to the human eye. What evidence from the passage supports this statement?
- (i) When a person speaks into a cellphone, his or her voice is broken down and reassembled over a radio link, so the person on the other end instantaneously hears what is said.
  - (ii) When computers first showed up around 1941, they were used to transmit sensitive information across geographical spaces by the military because of worries.
  - (iii) Although people may take for granted the ease with which they can pass along information through computers, many forces are at work to make computer more reliable.
  - (iv) Like cellphones, computers can receive, decode, and convert information, though like typically this information is written content rather than someone's voice.
- (d) What is one way that computer use has changed over time?
- (i) Computers were first used in homes, schools, and offices to send different kinds of information, but now they are used only by the military to send sensitive information.
  - (ii) Computers were first used by the military to send sensitive information, but now they are used in homes, schools, and offices to send different kinds of information.
  - (iii) Computers used to send a person's voice from one place to another, but now they send only written content.
  - (iv) Computers used to send a person's voice from one place to another, but they have been gradually replaced by landline telephones.

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- (e) What is this passage mostly about?
- (i) computers, the Internet, and how the military uses technology to protect people.
  - (ii) cellphones, landline telephones, and the reasons people have trouble hearing each other over the phone.
  - (iii) mobile phone operators, government officials, and companies that work with one another.
  - (iv) cellphones, computers, and how they send information from one place to another.
- (f) Read the following sentence :
- "It's possible, with current technological capabilities, to **transmit** digital information over long distances using coding and decoding processes without losing the contents of the original information"
- What does the word **transmit** mean in the sentence above?
- (i) harm
  - (ii) conduct
  - (iii) hear
  - (iv) send
- (g) Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.  
Information is transmitted by different kinds of modern technology, \_\_\_\_\_ cellphones and computers.
- (i) in conclusion
  - (ii) instead
  - (iii) especially
  - (iv) never
- (h) Which sentence is NOT true according to the passage?
- (i) Sharing of information is possible only when we can link computers.
  - (ii) The information we pass through computer is sent in its complete form.
  - (iii) Internet needs sophisticated components for it to function properly.
  - (iv) We need to connect to a network to share information.

II. Choose the right option for the following questions : (4 × 1 = 4)

- (a) The phrase '*evolution*' in the passage means
- (i) development
  - (ii) rounds
  - (iii) chance
  - (iv) addition
- (b) The phrase '*it was much more limited in its capabilities*' means
- (i) had a limited storage
  - (ii) had a narrow approach in information processing
  - (iii) was not very efficient in its working
  - (iv) had a very low battery
- (c) In the phrase, '*sensitive information*', the word 'sensitive' means
- (i) delicate
  - (ii) subtle
  - (iii) tricky
  - (iv) classified
- (d) What does the word '*exclusive*' in the passage mean?
- (i) restricted
  - (ii) private
  - (iii) controlled
  - (iv) inhibited

III. Say True or False : (4 × 1 = 4)

- (a) There are no major differences between mobile phone and traditional landline phones.
- (b) Computers were first used to transmit sensitive information for military.
- (c) When we share information through computers, it is not broken into smaller digital information like we do in telephone towers.
- (d) Internet relies on satellite links as well as telephone wires for information sharing.



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12. (a) City corporation has started building storm water drains all over the city and completing them in a short time. But the storm water drains in your area has been left incomplete causing great inconvenience to the residents. You tried contacting the officials but no proper response. Write a letter to the Editor about this problem along with a few recommendations to address the issue. (16)

Or

- (b) You are working in a multinational online retail company. You receive a complaint letter about getting a defective product beyond the stipulated time limit. Write a letter responding to the customer giving reasons for your inability to replace the product. Give appropriate reasons for your stand and try giving the customer some offers to placate him/her. (16)
13. (a) You are working as a Project Engineer in a Production Company. They want to launch a new computer servicing through a mobile app. They want you to conduct a survey to see the market for such services. Conduct a survey and submit a report of your recommendations to your management. (16)

Or

- (b) You are the Manager of a Software Firm in Chennai. The server which caters to the whole office crashes due to unforeseen reasons. Due to this sudden crash, the work comes to a standstill for more than two days leading to a financial loss in crores. The backup of files was also not done for that week, leading to a major loss of data which the company can ill afford. You have been asked by your MD to conduct an investigation and submit a report about the Server Crash. (16)
14. (a) Zena Systems wants fresh Engineering graduates from any stream for their new branch in Coimbatore. Write a job application along with a cover letter and send it to The HR, Zena Systems, 148, Prithvi Avenue, Raja Annamalipuram 4<sup>th</sup> Main Road, Chennai – 28 by speed post. (The Hindu, 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month, 2022)

Or

- (b) You have been working as an Executive Engineer in a private company for past two years. You want to move to a bigger organization to gain more experience. You come to know there is a vacancy in engineering division in Hon Hai Precision Industry, which is a leading manufacturing company in the world. Write a letter to their HR Manager in Bangalore office which is at Royal Enclave, 17, Whites Road, Bangalore 45 along with your resume.

15. Write an essay on any one of the topics for not more than 300 words. (16)

(a) Is it ethical to replace human workers with automation?

Or

(b) How can we be sure that students are learning what they need to know? Will having a standardized national test help? How should testing in schools be handled?

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