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

First Semester

Civil Engineering

HS 8151 – COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH

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

(Regulations 2017)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer ALL questions.

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

1. Fill in the blanks in the sentences given below with the correct phrasal verb from the options given.

(*point out, get on, find out, set aside, stay away, set up, get out*) (4 × ½ = 2)

- (a) As she does not know how to swim. I want her to _____ from the pond.
- (b) I suggest that you _____ some money for emergencies.
- (c) My family members _____ well with their neighbours.
- (d) I really want to _____ of this office and go for a walk.

2. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions: (4 × ½ = 2)

Long-haul flights have just got longer, with a non-stop flight _____ Singapore _____ New York. But 18 hours in the air creates its own challenges. A lot _____ preparation goes into the ultra-long haul flight. The aircraft is specifically designed _____ the journey with more space and extensive entertainment services. The flight crew are also specially trained.

3. Complete the following sentences using appropriate articles (*a, an, the*): (4 × ½ = 2)

- (a) Look at _____ woman over there! She is a famous playback singer.
- (b) _____ price of cooking gas keeps rising and so poor people in villages suffer a lot.

- (c) Yesterday, I was in _____ Russian restaurant. The restaurant served delicious food.
- (d) I read _____ amazing story last week.
4. Choose the word which is **opposite** in meaning to the underlined word:
(4 × ½ = 2)
- (a) The police officer exaggerated the damage caused by the protesters.
- (i) underwrote (ii) condemned
(iii) ignored (iv) underestimated
- (b) The speaker was unable to pacify the crowd.
- (i) excite (ii) antagonize
(iii) threaten (iv) challenge
- (c) The Branch manager of the Canara Bank in Adyar is a very strict person.
- (i) pleasant (ii) open hearted
(iii) lenient (iv) indifferent
- (d) My friend's attitude to poor people is deplorable.
- (i) commendable (ii) miserable
(iii) equitable (iv) desirable
5. Fill in the blanks with the comparative forms of the adjectives given in brackets:
(4 × ½ = 2)
- (a) Hotels in Chennai are (expensive) _____ than in Villupuram.
- (b) He is (good) _____ now than yesterday.
- (c) She's got (little) _____ money than you, but she doesn't care.
- (d) Monica played (bad) _____ than Catherine yesterday.
6. Fill in the blanks with the suitable collocation from the given options:
(4 × ½ = 2)
- (a) The meeting took almost six hours and so it was impossible to _____ (pay/give/make) attention all the time.
- (b) I think we should look for a new supplier– the one we have at the moment _____ (causes/makes/does) us too many problems.

- (c) Could you _____(give/make/do) me a favour and post these letters on your way home?
- (d) It took us all day to cleanup the house after the burglary. The thieves _____(did/took/made) a terrible mess.
7. Combine the two sentences below using the given connective: (2 × 1 = 2)
- (a) He has already delivered a good performance. Nobody can question his eligibility. (Since)
- (b) We all respect him. He is an honest man. (Because)
8. Fill in the blanks using suitable tense forms of the verbs given in brackets: (4 × ½ = 2)
- My friends and I were enjoying my birthday party when suddenly the lights _____(go) out. I thought that my brother _____(try) to scare everyone. I _____(shout), 'Switch the lights on!' but nothing happened. While we were waiting in the darkness, somebody _____(scream).
9. Fill in the blanks with a suitable modal verb from the given options: (4 × ½ = 2)
- (a) Excuse me, _____(could/may/might) you tell me where the bus stand is?
- (b) She _____(could/can/would) play the flute and the guitar.
- (c) Let's go for a walk, _____(will/can/shall) we?
- (d) You _____(couldn't/shouldn't/can't) leave your door unlocked when you go out.
10. Write the single word substitute for the given phrases, from the options given. (4 × ½ = 2)
- (a) Constant effort to achieve something:
(attempt/enthusiasm/vigour/perseverance)
- (b) To try to settle a dispute between two other parties:
(mediate/mediate/meddle/meditate)
- (c) That which cannot be avoided:
(infallible/inestimable/indifferent/inevitable)
- (d) Not suitable for eating: (spicy/tasteless/uneatable/inedible)

PART B — (5 × 16 = 80 marks)

11. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Subsistence farming using bullocks was largely replaced with large tracts of land ploughed by tractors and mechanized harvesters and using (GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms) to enhance crop immunity. The next phase in the evolution of agriculture is a large-scale single crop unit, that will give unprecedented output when drones are deployed for multiple functions. With the rapidly growing population, environmental degradation, global warming and the reduction of arable land, food security will be an acute issue that can be solved with the extensive use of drone technology. By 2050, the global population will be around 10 billion, and to avoid food shortage, agricultural production will have to be doubled.

Precision agriculture, using GPS (Global Positioning System), GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) and drones, maximizes the farm yield and helps the farmers to determine which crop is most suited as per the soil quality and geological conditions. The use of technology also warns the farmers in advance to take precautionary measures in case of unforeseen vagaries of nature.

While precision agriculture is no more a new concept, it is further undergoing transformations and embedding new technologies for better optimization of agricultural problems. Drones have a big role to play in precision agriculture and the role of drones will increase and deliver the best quality outcome. Drones fitted with high-resolution cameras and precise sensors can be flown over thousands of hectares of farms and gather data related to pest damage, crop stress and agricultural yield per hectare. Drone imagery will assist the farmers to monitor what is going on in their farm, without the need of surveying the farm by hiring people for it.

Farmers will get a precise idea about which areas they should focus more, where to allocate more resources, and whether or not the area is suited for a particular crop or not, and what would be the probability of a high yield. This will certainly empower the farmers and mitigate uncertainty and vulnerability that always hovers over the agricultural sector. It is not that only the big farmers will benefit from drone technology. It is sure that drones will be widely used as essential machines for cultivation, if the government gives incentives to small farmers for using this technology.

Apart from capturing aerial imagery, drones can also be used for sprinkling water and pesticides on the crops. This will save both time and wastage since the drones figure out and spray as per the requirements. Similarly, they can be deployed to spray herbicides on the farms. This will be a highly efficient method as currently herbicides are sprayed over the entire length and breadth of a farm, but using drones, herbicides can be sprayed directly on the

unwanted weeds in the farm. Other special types of drones can also determine the exact quantity of fertilizers that may be needed in the fields. This will not only save fertilizers but also maintain the ecological balance. On the whole, farmers can save time, money, and increase their knowledge about the growth patterns of different crops. As a result of the use of this new technology, there will be an increase in agricultural production without affecting the environment.

(a) Select the correct answer from the given options: (5 × 1 = 5)

- (1) The main idea of the passage is about
 - (A) the use of new pesticides in agriculture
 - (B) the use of effective herbicides in agriculture
 - (C) the importance of organic farming
 - (D) the use of drones in agriculture to improve productivity and ensure ecological balance
- (2) Which of the following is not listed in the text as a main threat to food security?
 - (A) Environmental degradation
 - (B) Global warming
 - (C) Growing population
 - (D) Illiteracy
- (3) Precision agriculture means
 - (A) a way to generate additional income
 - (B) a farm management approach
 - (C) a new game using drones
 - (D) an innovative method to create job opportunities in agriculture
- (4) Which of the following is not used in precision agriculture?
 - (A) Drones
 - (B) GNSS
 - (C) Laser spectroscopy
 - (D) GPS
- (5) According to the author, the food crisis in future can be tackled by
 - (A) controlling population growth rate
 - (B) expanding arable land
 - (C) popularizing organic farming
 - (D) using innovative agriculture methods

- (b) State whether the following statements are true or false: (5 × 1 = 5)
- (i) The use of drones in the agricultural sector will benefit only big/large farmers.
 - (ii) Herbicide is used to destroy insects or other organisms harmful to cultivated plants.
 - (iii) Drones can be used not only to give data but also to sprinkle water and pesticides on the crops.
 - (iv) Precision technology can solve certain agricultural problems if it incorporates new technology.
 - (v) Drone technology will pave the way for empowerment of farmers.
- (c) Choose the right meaning for the given words based on the passage: (6 × 1 = 6)
- (i) Unprecedented (first paragraph)
 - (1) important (2) irregular
 - (3) never known before (4) pleasant
 - (ii) Immunity (first paragraph)
 - (1) power (2) protection against a disease
 - (3) ability (4) talent
 - (iii) Unforeseen (second paragraph)
 - (1) impossible (2) not anticipated
 - (3) uninteresting (4) imaginative
 - (iv) Vulnerability (fourth paragraph)
 - (1) creativity (2) fight
 - (3) mechanism (4) easily hurt or attacked
 - (v) Figure out (fifth paragraph)
 - (1) imagine (2) encircle
 - (3) determine (4) worship
 - (vi) deploy (fifth paragraph)
 - (1) make use of (2) arrange
 - (3) replace (4) complete

12. (a) Select any ONE group of jumbled sentences and rewrite them in the correct order: (16)
- (i) They threatened to kill her if she refused to cooperate with them.
 - (ii) A lady doctor living alone had the scare of her life when burglars broke into her house in Chennai, made away with gold and diamond ornaments and cash a week back.
 - (iii) Then they forced her to give up her gold bangles and chain before making away with the rest of the valuables from the cabinet.

- (iv) They reportedly went through the rooms in the ground and first floors before barging into her room.
- (v) They immediately combed the area but could not find the miscreants.
- (vi) As soon as they left with the stolen items, the doctor rang up the police who rushed to the spot.
- (vii) After completing the official formalities, the police registered the complaint and promised her that they would catch the burglars.
- (viii) Later, scientific and fingerprint experts examined the scene and collected evidence.

Or

- (b) (i) The function commenced with a welcome dance by the university dance team, NITRA.
- (ii) The inauguration of the new academic year 2018-19 at Prime University was held on 6th June 2018.
- (iii) Then, the Registrar of the university, welcomed the dignitaries and the students.
- (iv) This was followed by the ceremonious lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries and coordinators of all the departments.
- (v) Next, Mr. Siddhartha, the CEO of Estonian Software company, in his special address stressed the importance of innovation and creativity in technical education.
- (vi) The inaugural function concluded with National Anthem.
- (vii) After the welcome address, the Vice Chancellor of the university in his inaugural address emphasized the need greater collaboration between classroom learning and research.
- (viii) Dr. Simon, Director Centre for Research, proposed the vote of thanks.

13. Write two narrative paragraphs on any ONE of the following topics. Each paragraph should not exceed 125 words: (16)

- (a) Your summer vacation

Or

- (b) Your most exciting day at school

14. (a) Your brother has received a job offer from a reputed software company in Mumbai. He is unwilling to accept the appointment since he feels that the company is too far away from his hometown. Write a letter highlighting the scarcity of job opportunities in recent times for the newly graduated students and advise him to accept the job offer and gain work experience for a better future. Write a letter to your brother asking him to take up the appointment. In your letter,

(i) Highlight the scarcity of jobs available for fresh candidates.

(ii) Advise him on the need to accept the offer, since it will give him the work experience that he requires. (16)

Or

(b) Your friend is obsessed with social media and she spends very little time on his studies. His addiction to social media has had a negative effect on his academic life. Write a letter to your friend explaining the effects of addiction to social media and advising him to get out of this bad habit. In your letter,

(i) Explain the consequences of social media addiction.

(ii) Suggest some ways (not less than three) by which she/he free himself/herself from the excessive addiction to social media. (16)

15. (a) Write an essay not exceeding 250 words on the benefits of regular physical exercise. (16)

Or

(b) In recent times, burglary is a common problem in almost all cities. Write an essay in not more than 250 words about the safety measures that people can follow to prevent burglaries. (16)