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Question Paper Code: 51101

B.E. / B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY 2016

First Semester

Civil Engineering

15UEN101 - TECHNICAL ENGLISH - I

(Common to ALL Branches)

(Regulation 2015)

Duration: Three hours

Maximum: 100 Marks

Answer ALL Questions.

PART A - (10 x 1 = 10 Marks)

1. Pick out the suitable tense form:

I _____ to change a light bulb that had burnt out.

- (a) try (b) had tried (c) were trying (d) is trying

2. Pick out the synonym for prudent:

- (a) excellent (b) provide (c) clever (d) protect

3. Choose the sentence in which subject and verb agree:

- (a) Every pale tomato slice, wilted pickle, and brown lettuce leaf had cost an extra 25 cents at Bernie's Burger Emporium
- (b) Every pale tomato slice, wilted pickle, and brown lettuce leaf had been cost an extra 25 cents at Bernie's Burger Emporium
- (c) Every pale tomato slice, wilted pickle, and brown lettuce leaf were cost an extra 25 cents at Bernie's Burger Emporium
- (d) Every pale tomato slice, wilted pickle, and brown lettuce leaf costs an extra 25 cents at Bernie's Burger Emporium

4. Choose the correct passive form from the options for the sentence given below:
The workers were constructing a bridge across the river.
- (a) A bridge is being constructed across the river by the workers
(b) A bridge has been constructed across the river by the workers
(c) A bridge was being constructed across the river by the workers
(d) A bridge was constructed across the river by the workers
5. Identify the sentence that has a preposition
- (a) Please close the door
(b) I am working hard
(c) We should abide by the principal's decisions
(d) Raju will discuss the topic later
6. Pick out the correct meaning of the given idiom: A bad patch
- (a) a difficult period
(b) a good period
(c) a confused period
(d) an interesting period
7. Fill in the blanks with suitable answer:
If I had enough money, I _____ to Japan
- (a) would go
(b) would have gone
(c) had go
(d) will go
8. Choose the appropriate question word:
_____ is your father? My father is a doctor.
- (a) Who
(b) What
(c) How
(d) Why
9. Choose the appropriate answer for the given sentence:
_____ book did I ask you to read?
You asked me to read Jonathan Swift's The Gulliver's Travel
- (a) What
(b) Which
(c) Where
(d) How
10. Supply the appropriate determiner:
I have only _____ money to be given to you
- (a) few
(b) some
(c) many
(d) most

PART - B (5 x 2 = 10 Marks)

11. How does Karan Singh elucidates the first prerequisite for a leader?
12. What are the four milestones in Dr. Kalam's career as he stated in his "My Vision for India"?

13. How could the writing has become easy for Virginia Woolf?
14. What does Peter Laurie point out in 'Computers' as a thematic point?
15. Explain Intellectual Independence through Narayana Murthy's What we learn from the west.

PART - C (5 x 16 = 80 Marks)

16. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The secrets of sleep were a mystery for centuries simply because there was neither the means to explore them, nor the need. Only when candles gave way to gas light, and gas to electricity, when man became able to convert night into day, and double his output by working shifts around the clock, did people seriously start wondering if sleep could be a waste of time. Our ability to switch night into day is very recent, and it is questionable if we will ever want, or be able, to give up our habit of enjoying a good night's sleep. However, a remarkable research project in London has already discovered a few people who actually enjoy insomnia. Even chronic insomniacs often get hours more sleep than they think. But, by placing electric contacts besides the eyes and on the head, it is possible to check their complaint by studying the tiny currents we generate which reveal the different brainwaves of sleep and wakefulness. This has shown that for some people seven or eight hours of sleep a night are quite unnecessary.

A lot of recent work has shown that too much sleep is bad for you, so that if you are fortunate enough to be born with a body which needs only a small amount of sleep, you may well be healthier and happier than someone who sleeps longer.

Every attempt to unravel secrets of sleep, and be precise about the function, raises many problems. The sleeper himself cannot tell what is going on and, even when he wakes, has only a very hazy idea of how good or bad a night he has had. The research is expensive and often unpopular, as it inevitably involves working at night. Only in the last few years have experts come up with theories about the function of sleep and the laws which may govern it.

The real advance in sleep research came in 1937 with the use of the electroencephalogram. The machine showed small - 50 microvolt-changes in the brain, so, for the first time, we could observe sleep from moment to moment. Before that time one could put the person to bed, watch him mumble, toss, turn, bring back a few rough memories of dreams, and that was about all. In 1937, it was possible to read out these changes, second by second. Then in 1959, two other things happened. Kleitman and Aserinsky, as they were looking at eye movements, trying to understand to brainwaves, noticed that after about ninety minutes there would be a burst of the EEG, as if the person was awake, and the eyes would move rapidly. It was not hard to guess that it was a dream. And indeed it was. Waking people

by during that period, they found they were dreaming; waking them up at other periods, they found no dreams.

The electroencephalograph shows that when we fall asleep we pass through a cycle of sleep stages. At the onset of sleep, the cycle lasts about ninety minutes during which you pass through stages one, two and three to stage four. This deepest form of sleep, and from it you retreat to stage two, and from there into REM, or rapid eye movement sleep. Here, for ten minutes on the first cycle and then gradually longer, it is thought that we do most of our dreaming.

Studies of people who volunteered to be locked up for weeks in an observation chamber with no idea of whether it is night or day, give remarkable results. We are not in fact, twenty-four hour creatures. Put people in such circumstances and, even though the patterns of sleep continue, the day is extended to about twenty-five and a half hours. Without any clues to time, these people go to sleep the first night about an hour later than usual, the next night an hour later, and so on. So that, after about ten days, the person is going to sleep at three O'clock in the afternoon, thinking that he is still going to sleep at midnight.

Today, jet-lag is a familiar hazard for the seasoned traveler. Travel across time zones plays havoc with the biological clock rhythms of the human body. For the active pilot, who is rarely in one place, it is not known if it is time for breakfast or dinner and the impact of jet-lag on his sleep is critical. Several air disasters have been partly caused by overtired pilots ignoring the natural laws of sleep. Much research is directed to find out what these laws are and to what extent pilots and astronaut dare disobey them. But they are laws which affect all of us, and not just pilots.

- (a) Choose the response which best reflects the meaning of the text. (8 x 1 = 8)
- (i) Only after the invention of electricity did people start
 - (1) to really enjoy insomnia
 - (2) asking themselves if sleep was a waste of time
 - (3) to need to do research into sleep
 - (4) giving up the habit of sleeping so much
 - (ii) It seems that most people
 - (1) need a lot of sleep
 - (2) sleep too much
 - (3) need less sleep than we thought
 - (4) need more sleep than we thought
 - (iii) The electroencephalograph records
 - (1) eye movements

- (2) the frequency of dreams
 - (3) the time it takes to have a dream
 - (4) small currents in the brain
- (iv) Dreams seem to be associated with
- (1) deep sleep
 - (2) rapid eye movements
 - (3) jet-lag
 - (4) overtiredness
- (v) The people in the observation chamber
- (1) went to sleep an hour earlier than usual each night
 - (2) started to go to bed in the afternoon
 - (3) slept for a much longer period than usual
 - (4) went to sleep about an hour later than usual
- (vi) Jet - lag means
- (1) being unable to sleep properly on aero planes
 - (2) the clock says it is one time and the body says it is another
 - (3) it is a different time in different parts of the world
 - (4) prolonging the day from twenty -four hours to twenty-five and a half hours
- (vii) Which of the following is *not* a suitable alternative for convert? (1st paragraph)
- (1) change
 - (2) turn
 - (3) altar
 - (4) transform
- (viii) A seasoned traveler is (7th paragraph)
- (1) someone who travels at certain times of the year only
 - (2) someone who is accustomed to travelling
 - (3) someone who does not like travelling
 - (4) someone who suffers from travelling

(b) Fill in the following statements

(4 x 2 = 8)

- (i) People who suffer from insomnia get _____
- (ii) REM is _____
- (iii) The cycle of sleep-stages lasts _____
- (vi) The year 1937 is important as _____

17. (a) Write a letter to the editor of a leading daily detailing on the hazards of using mobile phones by the drivers while driving. Suggest feasible solutions to the problem. (16)

Or

- (b) Write a letter to your Principal asking permission to attend a two day workshop on Website Development at Anna University, Chennai. Assume necessary details. (16)

18. (a) (i) Imagine that you are the Class Representative. You have planned an industrial visit with your classmates. Prepare a checklist of eight most important activities that you have to make. (8)
- (ii) Write a set of eight instructions that must be followed in order to maintain safety in temporary structures erected for special events. (8)

Or

- (b) (i) Write a set of eight instructions to be followed to maintain a two wheeler. (8)
- (ii) Write a check list containing a set of eight items for preparing a power point presentation for a national level symposium. (8)

19. (a) Study the following table carefully and write a short paragraph describing the distinction between red and white phosphorous. (16)

Sl.No.	Property	Red phosphorous	White phosphorous
1.	Colour	Chocolate brown	Almost colourless
2.	Smell	Odourless	Garlic smell
3.	Solubility in water	Insoluble	Insoluble
4.	Solubility in Carbon disulphide	Insoluble	Soluble
5.	Exposed in darkness	No phosphorescence	Phosphorescence
6.	Physiological action when heated	Not poisonous	Poisonous
7.	Chlorine gas	Takes fire only	Burns spontaneously

Or

- (b) Read the following passage and make notes on it.

Man, at first, seemed to have no very promising outlook in the general struggle of existence. He was still a rare species, less agile than the monkey in climbing trees to

escape from wild beasts, almost destitute, no natural protection against cold in the way of fur, hampered by his long infancy, and with difficulty securing food in competition with other species. His only initial advantage was his brain. Gradually, this one advantage proved cumulative and transformed him from a hunted fugitive into the Lord of Earth.

The early steps in this process are pre-historic and their order is conjectural. He learned to tame fire, which had presented dangers similar in kind, though less in degree, to those of the release of nuclear energy in our own day. Fire not only improved his food, but by being kept burning at the mouth of his cave ensured his safety while he slept. He invented spears and bows and arrows. He dug concealed pits in which infuriated mammoths hopelessly struggled. He domesticated animals and at the dawn of history discovered the uses of agriculture. (16)

20. (a) Explain Dr. Kalam's visions for India in 300 words. (16)

Or

(b) Explore the qualities of a leader through Karan Singh's The Nation's Strength in 300 words. (16)

