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Question Paper Code: 51101

B.E. / B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2015.

First Semester

Civil Engineering

15UEN101 - TECHNICAL ENGLISH

(Common to ALL branches)

(Regulation 2015)

Duration: Three hours

Maximum: 100 Marks

Answer ALL Questions.

PART A - (10 x 1 = 10 Marks)

1. Select the suitable tense form:

Father _____ the office a little while back. He'll be here shortly.

- (a) had left (b) has left (c) has been leaving (d) had been leaving

2. Pick out the synonym for prudent:

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

3. Pick out the sentence in which subject and verb agree:

- (a) A trophy, along with a cash award, was distributed to the students
(b) A trophy, along with a cash award, were distributed to the students
(c) A trophy, along with a cash award, are distributed to the students
(d) A trophy, along with a cash award, distributed to the students

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. Fill in the blanks with suitable answer
If I were a king, I _____ you my minister.
(a) would make (b) will make (c) would have made (d) will have made
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. Find out the equivalence of the given phrase from the options below: call off
(a) continue (b) cancel (c) postpone (d) prepone
8. Choose the appropriate question word:
_____ is your father? My father is a doctor.
(a) Who (b) What (c) How (d) Why
9. Fill in the blanks using the suitable homophones:
The lady _____ over the death of her son.
(a) whale (b) vale (c) veil (d) wail
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. Why does Dr. Karan Singh term the youth as ‘immense reservoir of strength’?
12. What are the four milestones in Dr. Kalam’s career as he stated in his “My Vision for India”?
13. What is Virginia Woolf’s tone of speech in “Professions for Women”?
14. What does Peter Laurie point out in ‘Computers’ as a thematic point?
15. What, according to Narayana Murthy, are the three basic things that we need to 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 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 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 the Commissioner of Police inviting him to be the Chief Guest and to inaugurate the Annual Sports Meet. (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) You are the students' secretary in charge of organizing the Annual Arts Day 2016. Prepare a checklist of important eight points about the tasks to be accomplished for the smooth conduct of the programme. (8)

(ii) Write a set of eight instructions to ensure safety in flood prone areas. (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 carefully and make notes:

On the afternoon of the 14th of June, 1727, two horsemen might have been perceived galloping along the road from Chelsea to Richmond. The foremost, cased in the jackboot of the period, was a broad faced, jolly-looking and very corpulent cavalier, but by the manner in which he urged his horse, you might see that he was a bold as well as skillful rider. Indeed no man loved sport better, and in the hunting fields of Norfolk, no squire rode more boldly after the fox or cheered Ring-wood and Sweetlip more lustily than he who now thundered over the Richmond Road.

The man speedily reached Richmond Lodge, and asked to see the owner of the mansion. The mistress of the house and her ladies, to whom our friend was admitted, said he could not be introduced to the master however pressing the business might be. The master was asleep after his dinner; he always slept after his dinner; and woe be to the person who interrupted him! Nevertheless, our stout friend of the jackboots put the affrighted ladies aside, opened the forbidden door of the bedroom, wherein upon the bed lay a little gentleman: and here the eager messenger knelt down in his jack-boots.

He on the bed started up, and with many oaths and a strong German accent asked who was there, and who dared to disturb him. 'I am Sir Robert Walpole' said the messenger. The awakened sleeper hated Sir Robert Walpole.

'I have the honour to announce to your Majesty that your royal father King George I died at Osnaburg, on Saturday last, the 10th instant'.

‘Dat is one big lie!’ roared out! His Sacred Majesty King George II; but Sir Robert Walpole stated the fact and from that day till three-and-thirty years after, George, the second of the name ruled over England. (16)

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

Or

(b) Elaborate in 300 words Dr. Karan Singh’s statement “A leader must have the national perspective in mind, so that the national integration can be strengthened”. (16)
