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Question Paper Code: 59052

B.E. / B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY 2018

Open elective

Civil Engineering

15UEN952 – ENGLISH FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

(Common to ALL branches)

(Regulation 2015)

Part-A (10x1=10 Marks)

I. Answer the following

1. Identify the correct meaning of the word : **Subtle**
(a) Not obvious (b) obvious (c) disagreeable (d) agreeable
2. Identify the correct meaning of the word : **larceny**
(a) Generous (b) Stealing (c) Lying (d) Honest
3. Spot the error in the sentence given below.
It takes me **a hour** to reach the temple.
(a) an hour (b) the hour (c) it take me (d) no error
4. Spot the error in the sentence given below.
I go to school on bus
(a) a bus (b) off the bus (c) to the bus (d) no error
5. Spot the error in the sentence given below.
Divide this apple among Shilpa and Sneha.
(a) between (b) in-between (c) with (d) no error
6. One word substitutions:
Killing of a human being - Homicide
(a) regicide (b) homicide (c) infanticide (d) uxoricide
7. One word substitutions:
A person pretending to be somebody he is not
(a) magician (b) rogue (c) liar (d) imposter

8. One who possesses many talents
 (a) versatile (b) nubile (c) exceptional (d) gift
9. Find out the meaning for the given idiom: *all in the same boat*
 (a) In similar situations (b) caught in a tight spot
 (c) bad day (d) urgent need
10. Find out the meaning for the given idiom: *Can't cut the mustard*
 (a) not skillful (b) skillful (c) dangerous (d) easy

PART – B (7 x 10= 70Marks)

(Answer either of the following questions)

1.a) Supply suitable conclusions for the given syllogisms (5X2=10)

- 1) All tractors have huge wheels. I drive a tractor. Therefore, _____
 (a) I am a tractor (b) I am a driver (c) my tractor has huge wheels
- 2) Bats frighten me. That is a bat. Therefore, _____
 (a) I am Batman (b) bats are frightened (c) I am frightened
- 3) All American bald eagles are black. The bird in my cage is black.
 Therefore, _____
 (a) the cage is black (b) this is a crow (c) this an American bald eagle
- 4) The scenery in Ireland is beautiful. I'm in Ireland. Therefore _____
 (a) Ireland is scenic (b) I am an Irish man (c) the scenery is beautiful
- 5) All bears have four legs. Balu is a bear. Therefore , _____.
 (a) bears must be legs (b) Balu is a bear (c) Balu has four legs

(or)

- b) 1) All men from Madurai are tough. Ashok hails from Maduari . Therefore,
 (a) all men are from Madurai (b) Ashok is a man (c) Ashok is tough
- 2) All men are mortal. Muniyandi is a man. Hence, _____.
 (a) men are mortal (b) Muniyandi is mortal (c) Muniyandi is a man
- 3) All birds lay eggs. Chicken lay eggs. So, _____.
 (a) eggs are chicken (b) all birds are chicken (c) chicken are bird
- 4) It gets dark during the night. It is dark now. Therefore _____.
 (a) it is dark (b) it is night (c) it is day
- 5) It gets really bright and sunny during the day. It is bright and sunny now.
 Therefore _____.
 (a) it is bright and sunny (b) it is noon (c) it is day time

2. Develop the hints given below in to a meaningful passage.

(a) Devan - clever thief - robs the rich - gives all to the sick and the needy - other thieves jealous - plan to get rid of him - challenge Devan to steal the King's pyjamas - Devan accepts challenge - finds king sleeping - opens a bottle of red ants on the bed - King badly bitten - cries for help - servants rush in pretends to look for ants - Devan removes King's pyjamas – escapes - other thieves dumbfounded - accept Devan their leader

(or)

(b) There- a beautiful village-valley-surrounded-mountains-sides-sheperds-lived-content-boy-used-take-father's-sheep-grazing-bad habit-crying wolf-no-wolf-around-day-pack of wolves-ambushed-flock-cried wolf-no-came-his –rescue –sheep-died. Boy-cried. –moral-story-don't-make up –when-comes-safety.

3. Write a report on the following.

(a) Cultural heritage festival that was organized in your locality.

(or)

(b) Thunder storm that hit your town recently.

4.(a) Rearrange these words to make meaningful sentences.

(5X2=10)

1) wore a hat he of coconut made fiber his on head.

2) parts many coffee popular in world the is very of.

3) cave could explore not they torch the without a.

4) the storm shed damaged the was during.

5) the dog James talking sat next to himself to.

(or)

(b) 1) she me told she that me loves

2) friend my John good is guy a

3) dream all bike I riding day about

4) beach the sea breeze and went blue sky the I to enjoyed the

5) I like movies go to the to Fridays on

5. Write a précis on the following passage.

(a) A life of action and danger moderates the dread of death. It not only gives us fortitude to bear pain, but teaches us at every step the precarious tenure on which we hold our present being. Sedentary and studious men are the most apprehensive on this score. Dr. Johnson was an instance in point. A few years seemed to him soon over, compared with those sweeping contemplations on time and infinity with which he had been used to pose himself. In the still life of a man of letters there was no obvious reason for a change. He might sit in an arm chair and pour out cups of tea to all eternity would it had been possible for him to do so. The most rational cure after all for the inordinate fear of death is to set a just value on life. If we mere wish to continue on the scene to indulge our head-strong humour and tormenting passions, we had better be gone at once,; and if we only cherish a fondness for existence according to the good we desire from it, the pang we feel at parting which it will not be very server.

(or)

(b)For all the evidence of early ball sports played elsewhere in the world, the evolution of football as we know it today took place in Britain. The game that flourished in the British Isles from the eighth to the 19th centuries featured a considerable variety of local and regional versions - which were subsequently smoothed down and smartened up to create the modern-day sports of association football, rugby football and, in Ireland, Gaelic football. Primitive football was more disorganised, more violent, more spontaneous and usually played by an indefinite number of players. Frequently, games took the form of a heated contest between whole villages - through streets and squares, across fields, hedges, fences and streams. Kicking was allowed, as in fact was almost everything else. Sometimes kicking the ball was out of the question due to the size and weight of the sphere being used - in such cases, kicking was instead limited to taking out opponents. Curiously, it was not until nine years after the rules of football had been first established in 1863 that the size and weight of the ball were finally standardised. Up to then, agreement on this point was usually reached by the parties concerned when they were arranging the match, as was the case for a game between London and Sheffield in 1866. This encounter was also the first where the duration was prearranged for 90 minutes.

6. Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow.

(a) The Rio Grande

Although not the longest river in America, the Rio Grande is one of the most important. But, unlike other significant rivers, it is not used for shipping. In fact, oceangoing ships cannot navigate the waters. No, what makes the Rio Grande so important is its location. Since 1846, it has been the official border of Texas and Mexico.

Rio Grande Geography

The Rio Grande is either the fourth or fifth longest river system in North America. It all depends on how it is measured. Because the river twists so much, it occasionally changes course. And these course shifts can cause it to be longer or shorter. At its last official measure, the Rio Grande clocked in at 1,896 miles. The river starts in Colorado and extends downward to the Gulf of Mexico. Downward is the best way of describing it too. Not only does the river extend south, but it also starts in the mountains and gets lower and lower in elevation as it extends to the Gulf. Its name is Spanish for the “Big River,” but the Rio Grande is actually known as Rio Bravo in Mexico. “Bravo” translates as “furious,” so the name makes sense. Because of its twists and turns, it certainly does seem to be angrier than most rivers!

The Rio Grande Today The Rio Grande today is mostly used as a source of drinking water. Sadly, much of the water has been drained from the river. Parts of the river are almost dry! This is because people use more water from the river than the river can get back from rain and other sources. Experts are working to correct this, though, with hopes

of restoring the river to its past strength. Today, the river is important as a source of water for Texans and Mexicans. More important, it is a symbol of cooperation between two nations. Though borders like the Rio Grande separate nations, they are also shared spaces. The Rio Grande is therefore a symbol of friendship and peace between two peoples.

1) According to the passage, why is the Rio Grande so important?

- (a) It is a source of drinking water for most of the United States.
- (b) It is the border of Texas and Mexico.
- (c) It is the longest river system in the United States.
- (d) It is known by two different names.

2) In paragraph 3, the author most likely writes that “downward is the best way of describing it too” to

- (a) prove that the Rio Grande’s water levels have gone down recently
- (b) argue that the Rio Grande has changed shape over the years
- (c) highlight the fact that the Rio Grande flows south and from high elevations
- (d) explain why the Rio Grande is known as the Rio Bravo down in Mexico

3) Based on its use in paragraph 4, the word furious most nearly means

- (a) angry
- (b) large
- (c) twisted
- (d) dry

4) According to the passage, the Rio Grande has endpoints in

- (a) Texas and the Gulf of Mexico
- (b) New Mexico and Colorado
- (c) Texas and Mexico
- (d) Colorado and the Gulf of Mexico

5) Rio Grande is a _____.

- (a) River
- (b) Lake
- (c) Pond
- (d) Puddle

(or)

b) The Incredible Machine

Everyone has a favorite attraction at an amusement park, and I am no different. However, unlike most people who seem to prefer rollercoasters, my favorite ride is a little more gentle. Every time I go to Coney Island, Navy Pier, or the Santa Monica Pier, I absolutely have to ride the Ferris wheel. The Ferris wheel is simple and yet also quite complex. That

is, riding it is easy, but how it works is complicated. A series of carts are attached to a wheel, which is attached to a rim. That rim rotates vertically around an axis, and gravity keeps the carts upright. As simple as the ride seems, only advanced engineers can make safe and fun Ferris wheels.

What It Lacks in Thrills...

While the Ferris wheel is not as thrilling as a rollercoaster, it is still very exciting. The fact of being high in the air makes it so much more entertaining than a lot of rides. I mean, how often do you hang from that high up in daily life? Nevertheless, I have to admit, I don't seek Ferris wheels out because of their excitement. Rather, I find them very relaxing. At the top of the Ferris wheel, you get beautiful sights of the park. You also get a sense of calm that you don't get in the hustle and bustle of the park below. Additionally, Ferris wheels are also gorgeous to look at when they are lit up at night. In fact, the original Ferris wheel was designed as much to be seen as to be ridden.

It Happened at the World's Fair

The first Ferris wheel was made by and named after George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr. He designed it for the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. It was the tallest attraction there, standing 264 feet high. However, visitors to the fair were impressed by the size of the ride as well as the mechanics of it. In 1893, anything that was not turned by hand was considered a sight to see. And the wheel, which was a machine, was truly incredible to see. Further, as one visitor put it, the wheel was amazing because it seemed to be missing support. That is, it did not look like it could stand on its own. And yet it did and even rotated!

They Keep Reaching Higher and Higher

Ferris wheel technology has only improved since then. Most of today's Ferris wheels are much larger than that first one. The largest in the world is the "Singapore Flyer," which stands slightly taller than twice what Ferris's did! Today, the Ferris wheel is the most common amusement park ride. But that does not mean you should take them for granted. Instead, be thankful for Ferris' invention. The next time you're at an amusement park, don't just look up at the impressive wheel in the sky on your way to a newer attraction. Take it for a spin!

- 1) As used in paragraph 1, the word attraction most nearly means
(a) sense (b) park (c) ride (d) vision

- 2) It can be understood that Coney Island, Navy Pier, and the Santa Monica Pier are all examples of
(a) amusement parks (b) Ferris wheels (c) vacation spots (d) boat docks

- 3) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best antonym for complex?
(a) impressive (b) beautiful (c) exciting (d) simple
- 4) What does the author like best about Ferris wheels?
(a) the impressive engineering and beauty of them
(b) the excitement and thrills they guarantee
(c) the beautiful sights and relaxation they allow
(d) the fact that most amusement parks have one
- 5) According to the passage, the Ferris wheel was originally designed for
(a) Coney Island (b) the world's fair (c) Disneyworld (d) Singapore

7.(a) Use the following idioms in sentences of your own. (5X2=10)

1. a blessing in disguise
2. a leopard can't change his spots
3. a hot potato
4. barking up the wrong tree
5. add fuel to the fire

(or)

- (b)**
1. apple of my eye
 2. all bark no bite
 3. against the clock
 4. come hell or high water
 5. every cloud has a silver lining

Part-C (1x 20= 20Marks)

III. Attempt an essay on any one of the given topics below.

1. Current political scenario in Tamil Nadu.
 2. A celebrity who has inspired you the most.
 3. Express why you like a particular sport.
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