

BITS, PILANI-DUBAI
Dubai International Academic City, U.A.E.
Year I-Semester I 2010-2011
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION (CLOSED BOOK)

Course No: ENGL C123	Course Title: English Language Skills		
Date:27.12.10	Time:3 hours	Maximum Marks:120	Weightage:120

Note:

1. There are three parts of the question paper: Part A, Part B and Part C. Answer questions of Part A, Part B and Part C in the separate sheets provided for this purpose.
 2. Answer questions in the sequential order.
 3. Answer all questions.
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PART A

- I. Answer the questions below based on the information in the following passage.
(14 marks)

“Looking at Theatre History”

One of the primary ways of approaching the Greek theatre is through archeology, the systematic study of material remains such as architecture, inscriptions, sculpture, vase painting, and other forms of decorative art. Serious on-site excavations began in Greece around 1870, but W. Dörpfeld did not begin the first extensive study of the Theatre of Dionysus until 1886. Since that time, more than 167 other Greek theatres have been identified and many of them have been excavated. Nevertheless, they still do not permit us to describe the precise appearance of the *skene* (illustrations printed in books are conjectural reconstructions), since many pieces are irrevocably lost because the buildings in later periods became sources of stone for other projects and what remains is usually broken and scattered. That most of the buildings were remodeled many times has created great problems for those seeking to date both the parts and the successive versions. Despite these drawbacks, archeology provides the most concrete evidence we have about the theatre structures of ancient Greece. But, if they have told us much, archeologists have not completed their work, and many sites have scarcely been touched.

Perhaps the most controversial use of archeological evidence in theatre history is vase paintings, thousands of which have survived from ancient Greece. (Most of those used by theatre scholars are reproduced in Margarete Bieber's *The History of the Greek and Roman Theatre*). Depicting scenes from mythology and daily life, the vases are the most graphic pictorial evidence we have. But they are also easy to misinterpret. Some scholars have considered any vase that depicts a subject treated in a surviving drama or any scene showing masks, flute players, or ceremonials at be valid evidence of theatrical practice. This is a highly questionable assumption, since the Greeks made widespread use of masks, dances, and music outside the theatre and since the myths on which dramatists drew were known to everyone, including vase painters, who might well depict the same subjects as dramatists without being indebted to them. Those vases showing scenes unquestionably theatrical are few in number.

Written evidence about ancient Greek theatre is often treated as less reliable than archeological evidence because most written accounts are separated so far in time from the events they describe and because they provide no information about their sources. Of the written evidence, the surviving plays are usually treated as the most reliable. But the oldest surviving manuscripts of Greek plays date from around the tenth century, C.E., some 1500 years after they were first performed. Since printing did not exist during this time span, copies of plays had to be made by hand, and therefore the possibility of textual errors creeping in was magnified. Nevertheless, the scripts offer us our readiest access to the cultural and theatrical conditions out of which they came. But these scripts, like other kinds of evidence, are subject to varying interpretations. Certainly performances embodied a male perspective, for example, since the plays were written, selected, staged, and acted by men. Yet the existing plays feature numerous choruses of women and many feature strong female characters. Because these characters often seem victims of their own powerlessness and appear to be governed, especially in the comedies, some critics have seen these plays as rationalizations by the male-dominated culture for keeping women segregated and cloistered. Other critics, however, have seen in these same plays an attempt by male authors to force their male audiences to examine and call into question this segregation and cloistering of Athenian women.

By far the majority of written references to Greek theatre date from several hundred years after the events they report. The writers seldom mention their sources of evidence, and thus we do not know what credence to give them. In the absence of material nearer in time to the events, however, historians have used the accounts and have been grateful to have them. Overall, historical treatment of the Greek theatre is something like assembling a jigsaw puzzle from which many pieces are missing: historians arrange what they have and imagine (with the aid of the remaining evidence and logic) what has been lost. As a result, though the broad outlines of Greek theatre history are reasonably clear, many of the details remain open to doubt.

Glossary:

skene: a stage building where actors store their masks and change their costumes.

1. According to paragraph 1, why is it impossible to identify the time period for theatres in Greece?
 - a. There are too few sites that have been excavated and very little data collected about them.
 - b. The archeologists from earlier periods were not careful, and many artifacts were broken.
 - c. It is confusing because stones from early sites were used to build later structures
 - d. Because it is very difficult to date the concrete that was used in construction during early periods.

2. What can be inferred from paragraph 1 about the *skene* in theatre history?
 - a. Drawings in books are the only accurate visual records.
 - b. Not enough evidence is available to make a precise model.
 - c. Archaeologists have excavated a large number of them.

- d. It was not identified or studied until the early 1800s.
3. The word **primary** in the passage is closest in meaning to
- Reliable
 - Important
 - Unusual
 - Accepted
4. The word **precise** in the passage is closest in meaning to
- Attractive
 - Simple
 - Difficult
 - Exact
5. In paragraph 2, the author explains that all vases with paintings of masks or musicians may not be evidence of theatrical subjects by
- Arguing that the subjects could have been used by artists without reference to a drama.
 - Identifying some of the vases as reproductions that were painted years after the originals
 - Casting doubt on the qualifications of the scholars who produced the vases as evidence.
 - Pointing out that there were very few vases that have survived from the time of early dramas.
6. The word **controversial** in the passage is closest in meaning to
- Accepted
 - Debated
 - Limited
 - Complicated
7. In paragraph 3, the author states that female characters in Greek theatre
- Had no featured parts in plays
 - Were mostly ignored by critics
 - Did not participate in the chorus
 - Frequently played the part of victims
8. According to paragraph 3, scripts of plays may not be accurate because
- The sources cited are not well known
 - Copies by hand may contain many errors
 - They were written in very old language
 - The printing is difficult to read

9. The word **them** in the passage refers to
- events
 - sources
 - writers
 - references
10. Why does the author mention a jigsaw puzzle in paragraph 4?
- To demonstrate the difficulty in drawing conclusions from partial evidence
 - To compare the written references for plays to paintings on vases
 - To justify using accounts and records that historians have located
 - To introduce the topic for the next reading passage in the text book
11. Which of the following statements most accurately reflects the author's opinion about vase paintings?
- Evidence from written documents is older than evidence from vase paintings.
 - The sources for vase paintings are clear because of the images on them.
 - The details in vase paintings are not obvious because of their age.
 - There is disagreement among scholars regarding vase paintings.
12. An introduction for a short summary of the passage appears below. Complete the summary by selecting the **THREE** answer choices that mention the **most important points** in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not included in the passage or are minor points from the passage.

Write the corresponding alphabet of the three answer choices that you have made.

Greek theatre has been studied by a variety of methods

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Answer Choices

- Because the Greeks enjoyed dancing and music for entertainment outside of the theatre, many scenes on vases are ambiguous.
- Historical accounts assembled many years after the actual theatrical works were presented give us a broad perspective of the earlier theatre.
- Although considered less reliable, written records including scripts, provide insights into the cultural aspects of theatre
- Archaeological excavations have uncovered buildings and artifacts, many of which were vases with theatrical scenes painted on them.
- For the most part, men wrote the plays for Greek theatre, but choruses and even strong roles were played by women.
- Computer simulations can recreate the image of a building that is crumbling as long as the dimensions and layout are known.

II. Revise the sentences given below to make them *grammatically effective*
(14 marks)

1. It is easier to speak in abstractions than grounding one's thoughts in reality.
2. The king returned to the clinic where he had undergone heart surgery in 2000 in a limousine sent by the white house.
3. At the age of ten, my parents took me on my first balloon ride.
4. When Gloria set the pitcher on the glass-topped table, it broke.
5. Many government officials privately admit that the polygraph is unreliable, however, they continue to use it as a security measure.
6. Our English professor asked us to very carefully reread the sonnet, looking for subtleties we had missed on a first reading.
7. Jill's natural ability and her desire to help others has led to a career in the ministry.

III. Use the following pair of words in *separate sentences*, clearly bringing out the meaning of each word.

(12 marks)

1. allusion – illusion
2. compliment – complement
3. elicit – illicit

PART B

I. You are Abhay Sharma, Marketing Manager of E-Max Electronics, Dubai. Your company specializes in making electronic equipment. Write a *sales letter* to Al Nabooda LLC, Dubai to promote the sales of a newly manufactured overhead projector for their use. Point out its various features and facilities. Invent the necessary details.

(20 marks)

II. Only identify the following words as *Simple, Compound or Complex*.

(8 marks)

1. Example
2. Playground
3. Dramatically
4. Precedence
5. Roller
6. Gullible
7. Conscience
8. Letterhead

III. Match the column. Write your *answers in words*, alphabets and numbers will be marked wrong.

(12 marks)

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Ameliorate | a.)Craniology |
| 2. Flippant | b.)Bifocal |

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. Benediction | c.)Riddle |
| 4. Study of human faces | d.)Sadist |
| 5. Eyeglasses with two lenses | e) Extremely large |
| 6. Enigma | f.)Done secretly |
| 7. Colossal | g.)Pyrophobia |
| 8. Fear of fire | h.)Make something better |
| 9. Clandestine | i.)Happy go lucky |
| 10.Overlook | j.)A Christian prayer |
| 11. Confound | k.)Disregard |
| 12. Inflict pain on others | l.)Confuse or Surprise |

PART C

- I. Use the following pairs of *phrasal verbs* in your own sentences that bring out their meanings clearly. Both the phrasal verbs of each pair should be incorporated in *one sentence*. You may change the order of the phrasal verbs of a pair in the sentence.**

(16 marks)

1. call for and call forth
2. take to and turn away
3. bring in and turn in
4. make for and make off
5. go through and live through
6. do out and do with
7. carry out and carry on
8. put across and put in

- II. Phonetically *transcribe* the following words using IPA.**

(9 marks)

1. passages
2. adjective
3. shirked
4. stubborn
5. persuasion
6. support
7. acquiesce
8. example
9. multisyllabic

III. Arrange the following sentences in the *right order* so as to form a coherent paragraph and also identify the topic sentence. You are not required to rewrite the sentences; *just write the sentence numbers in the correct order.*

(15 marks)

1. Standing outside my house, I watched Paras going about his job, collecting garbage from other houses in the same manner.
2. He did not seem to have taken notice of my presence.
3. It was interesting to watch Paras swinging and doing sort of lip-synching even as he took the buckets from me.
4. Even as I was standing in front of him, the boy, wearing a striped T-shirt had his eyes half closed.
5. Paras, as we call him, was swaying in ecstasy to the beats of some film song he was enjoying through the ear phones connected to a mobile phone in his pocket.
6. The act continued while he emptied them into a big plastic drum and brought the buckets back to me.
7. As the bell rang, I opened the door to find out who the visitor was.
8. The sight aroused curiosity in me.
9. I could not help smile.
10. I stood silently for a few seconds observing his behavior.
11. But that day, he looked as if he was in a trance.
12. Surely, it must have been some very scintillating song the lad was listening to, unmindful of the surroundings.
13. Having seen me through his partially open eyes, he nonchalantly signaled me to bring out the garbage buckets.
14. Trying to know more about him and his passion for music, I called him out.
15. It was the familiar figure of our garbage collector on his daily beat.

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Year I-Semester I 2010-2011
TEST II (OPEN BOOK)

Course No: ENGL C123 **Course Title: English Language Skills**
Date:28.11.10 **Time:50minutes** **Maximum Marks:60** **Weightage:60**
Note: Answer each question on a fresh page.

- I. You are Mr. Sanjay Parihar, the Purchase Manager of Cosmos Star Services, Dubai and you had ordered around 12 Computers from Acer Group .You have received the consignment and on operation, found that there is a defect in the CPU of some of the computers. Write a *claim letter* to the Sales Manager for a suitable adjustment.
(30 marks)

- II. Write a paragraph in about 200 words beginning with the following sentence and developing the same theme or idea using a suitable technique. Please *indicate the number of words* used at the end of the paragraph you have written.

The reality shows have a negative impact on society.

(30 marks)

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Year I-Semester I 2010-2011
TEST I (CLOSED BOOK)

Course No: ENGL C123 **Course Title: English Language Skills I**
Date: 17.10.10 **Time: 50 minutes** **Maximum Marks: 75** **Weightage: 75**

Note:

Answer each main question on a fresh page.

Answer all the questions in the same sequence given below.

Marks will be deducted if the sequence is not maintained.

- I. Phonetically transcribe the following words using IPA and indicate the primary stress on the transcribed version. (30 marks)**
1. expatriate
 2. analogy
 3. arithmetic (adj)
 4. volunteer
 5. fluffed
 6. forecourts
 7. once
 8. adequate
 9. plumber
 10. punctuations
- II. Indicate the syllabic structure of the following words in terms of consonants and vowels. (10 marks)**
1. congregationalism
 2. biography
 3. heirloom
 4. taxonomist
 5. hue
- III. Rewrite the following sentences so as to make them grammatically correct and more effective. (14 marks)**
1. To give my family a comfortable, secure home life.
 2. To acquire a degree in almost any field, two science courses must be completed.
 3. Death Valley National Monument, located in Southern California and Nevada, is one of the hottest places on earth, temperatures in this area have soared as high as 134 degrees.
 4. There was a social worked and a crew of twenty volunteers at the scene of the accident.

5. After braiding Ann's hair, Sue decorated them with ribbons.
6. Hooked on romance novels, I learned that there is nothing more important than being rich, looking good and to have a good time.
7. The patient should try to if possible avoid going up and down the stairs.

IV. Write the structure of the following words in terms of prefix(es), stem(s) and suffix(es). (11 marks)

1. vandalism
2. pragmaticality
3. turbulent
4. unjustifiable
5. bureaucratism
6. misinterpretation
7. teleconference
8. intercultural
9. grammar
10. nevertheless
11. likewise

V. Use *each* of the following words to *construct a sentence* which clearly brings out its meaning:

(10 marks)

1. mortify
2. insidious
3. exhort
4. innocuous
5. egregious

II. Match the words in Column A to the word, which comes closest in meaning, given in Column B.

(8 marks)

Write your answers in the space provided.

Column A	Column B	Answers
1. surfeit	a. apathy	1. _____
2. condone	b. destituteness	2. _____
3. condign	c. steadfast	3. _____
4. artifice	d. embarrass	4. _____
5. staunch	e. worthy	5. _____
6. veracious	f. origin	6. _____
7. penury	g. excess	7. _____
8. unctuous	h. condemn	8. _____
9. nonchalance	i. pardon	9. _____
10. Elysium	j. flagrant	10. _____
11. censure	k. defiant	11. _____
12. abash	l. false	12. _____
13. provenance	m. truthful	13. _____
14. pugnacious	n. paradise	14. _____
15. egregious	o. ingenuity	15. _____
16. recalcitrant	p. belligerent	16. _____