

**BITS, PILANI – DUBAI CAMPUS**  
**Knowledge Village, Dubai**  
**YEAR I - SEMESTER I 2005-2006**  
**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

**Date: 29.12.05; Course No: ENGL UC 121; Course Title: English Language Skills**  
**Time: 3 hours                      Maximum Marks:110                      Weightage: 110**

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**Notes:**

1. There are two parts of the question paper: Part A and Part B. Answer questions of Part A in the main answer book and those of Part B in the supplementary sheets provided for this purpose.
  2. Start answering every question from a fresh page.
  3. Answer questions in the sequential order.
  4. Answer all questions.
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**PART A**

- I      Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow on the basis of what is stated and implied in the passage.**

**( 12 marks )**

*The following passage is adapted from a short story, published in 1891.*

- Line**      Suddenly Lady Windermere looked eagerly round the room, and said, in her clear contralto voice, "Where is my chiromantist?"
- "Your what, Gladys?" exclaimed the Duchess, trying to remember what a chiromantist really was, and hoping it was not the same as a chiropodist.
- (5)**          "My chiromantist, Duchess; I can't live without him at present. I must certainly introduce him to you."
- "Introduce him!" cried the Duchess. "You don't mean to say he is here?" She began looking about for a small tortoise-shell fan and a very tattered lace shawl so as to be ready to go at a moment's notice.
- (10)**          "Of course he is here; I would not dream of giving a party without him. He tells me I have a pure psychic hand."
- "Oh, I see!" said the Duchess, feeling very much relieved. "He tells fortunes, I suppose?"
- "And misfortunes, too," answered Lady Windermere. "Any moment of
- (15)**      them. Next year, for instance, I am in great danger, both by land and sea, so I am going to live in a balloon, and draw up my dinner in a basket every evening. It is all written down on my little finger, or on the palm of my hand. I forget which."
- "But surely that is tempting Providence, Gladys."
- "My dear Duchess, surely Providence can resist temptation by this time.
- (20)**      Everyone should have their hands told once a month, so as to know what not to do. Of course, one does it all the same, but it is so pleasant to be warned. Ah, here is Mr. Podgers! Now, Mr. Podgers, I want you to tell the Duchess of Paisley's hand."

- "Dear Gladys, I really don't think it is quite right," said the Duchess,  
 (25) feebly unbuttoning a rather soiled kid glove.  
 "Nothing interesting ever is," said Lady Windermere. "But I must introduce you. Duchess, this is Mr. Podgers, my pet chiromantist. Mr. Podgers, this is the Duchess of Paisley, and if you say that she has a larger mountain of the moon than I have, I will never believe in you again."
- (30) "I am sure, Gladys, there is nothing of the kind in my hand," said the Duchess gravely.  
 "Your Grace is quite right," said Mr. Podgers, glancing at the little fat hand. "The mountain of the moon is not developed. The line of life, however, is excellent. You will live to a great age, Duchess, and be extremely happy.  
 (35) Ambition—very moderate, line of intellect not exaggerated, line of heart—"  
 "Now, do be indiscreet, Mr. Podgers," cried Lady Windermere.  
 "Nothing would give me greater pleasure," said Mr. Podgers, bowing, "if the Duchess ever had been, but I am sorry to say that I see great permanence of affection, combined with a strong sense of duty."  
 (40) "Pray go on, Mr. Podgers," said the Duchess, looking quite pleased.  
 "Economy is not the least of your Grace's virtues," continued Mr. Podgers, and Lady Windermere went off into fits of laughter.  
 "Economy is a very good thing," remarked the Duchess complacently.  
 (45) "When I married Paisley he had eleven castles, and not a single house fit to live in."  
 "And now he has twelve houses, and not a single castle," cried Lady Windermere. "You have told the Duchess's character admirably, Mr. Podgers, and now you must tell Lady Flora's." In answer to a nod, a tall girl stepped awkwardly from behind the sofa and held out a long, bony hand.  
 (50) "Ah, a pianist!" said Mr. Podgers. "Very reserved, very honest, and with a great love of animals."  
 "Quite true!" exclaimed the Duchess, turning to Lady Windermere. "Flora keeps two dozen collie dogs at Macloskie, and would turn our town house into a menagerie if her father would let her."  
 (55) "Well, that is just what I do with my house every Thursday evening," cried lady Windermere, laughing. "Only I like lions better than collie dogs. But Mr. Podgers must read some more hands for us. Come, Lady Marvel, show him yours."  
 But Lady Marvel entirely declined to have her past or her future exposed.  
 (60) In fact, many people seemed afraid to face the odd little man with his stereotyped smile and his bright, beady eyes; and when he told poor Lady Fermor right out before everyone that she did not care a bit for music, but was extremely fond of musicians, it was generally felt that chiromancy was a most dangerous science, and one that ought not to be encouraged, except in private.  
 (65) Lord Arthur Savile, however, who did not know anything about Lady Fermor's unfortunate story, was filled with curiosity to have his own hand read, and feeling somewhat shy about putting himself forward, crossed to where Lady Windermere was sitting and asked her if she thought Mr. Podgers would mind.

(70) "Of course he won't mind," said Lady Windermere. "That is what he is here for. All my lions, Lord Arthur, are performing lions, and jump through hoops whenever I ask them."

1. Lady Windermere's attitude toward fortune telling can best be described as

- (a) wistful
- (b) reverent
- (c) dismissive
- (d) playful
- (e) serious

2. The Duchess wants to "be ready to go at a moment's notice" (line 9) because she

- (a) is afraid of chiropodists
- (b) is tired of Lady Windermere
- (c) is embarrassed at not being able to remember the difference between a chiropodist and a chiromantist
- (d) thinks having her fortune told would be tempting Providence
- (e) does not want to meet Mr. Podgers

3. The passage suggests that the Duchess wears a tattered shawl (lines 8-9) and soiled gloves ( line 25 ) because she

- (a) likes to save money
- (b) cannot afford to buy nicer ones
- (c) cares little about her appearance
- (d) prefers to buy nice things for her home
- (e) knew that this party would not require fancy dress

4. Lady Windermere's plan to live in a balloon and draw up her dinner in a basket ( line 16 ) indicates her

- (a) desire to impress the Duchess
- (b) inability to separate reality from fantasy
- (c) whimsical attitude toward fortune-telling
- (d) fear of the danger Mr. Podgers has predicted
- (e) respect for the accuracy of Mr. Podger's fortunes

5. Lady Windermere's speech in lines 19-22 shows that she

- (a) likes to give advice to others
- (b) dislikes knowing what is going to happen to her
- (c) believes that Mr. Podgers has amazing and uncanny powers

- (d) does not take either Providence or chiromancy very seriously
  - (e) makes a point of disagreeing with the Duchess whenever possible
6. The Duchess says, "I really don't think it is quite right" in line 24 because she
- (a) has philosophical and moral objections to fortunetelling
  - (b) thinks that trying to discern the future could be dangerous
  - (c) does not like to do what Lady Windermere tells her to do
  - (d) believes that Mr. Podgers is likely to predict bad events in her future
  - (e) is afraid that Mr. Podgers will reveal her secrets in front of Lady Windermere
7. Lady Windermere's use of the phrase "my pet chiromantist" ( line 27 ) suggests that Lady Windermere
- (a) provides for Mr. Podger's needs
  - (b) desires Mr. Podgers's companionship
  - (c) perceives Mr. Podger's devotion to her
  - (d) feels possessive toward Mr. Podgers
  - (e) likes to belittle Mr. Podgers in front of her friends
8. By characterizing the Duchess's line of intellect as "not exaggerated" (line 34 ), Mr. Podgers shows himself to be
- (a) tactful
  - (b) disdainful
  - (c) imaginative
  - (d) indifferent
  - (e) suspicious
9. The Duchess looks "quite pleased" ( line 40 ) because
- (a) her future is brighter than is Lady Windermere's
  - (b) she is relieved that Mr. Podgers is not a chiropodist
  - (c) her fears about tempting Providence have been allayed
  - (d) Mr. Podgers has not suggested any danger in her immediate future
  - (e) Mr. Podgers has described her characteristics positively
10. The word "reserved" in line 50 most nearly means
- (a) limited in scope
  - (b) retained for oneself
  - (c) characterized by reticence
  - (d) set aside for a particular purpose

(e) marked by lack of enthusiasm

11. In addition to telling people's fortunes, Mr. Podgers

- (a) describes their characteristics
- (b) describes their past endeavors
- (c) describes their present occupations
- (d) encourages their unspoken plans
- (e) tells them how to avoid the difficulties that he foresees

12. In line 59, the word "declined" most nearly means

- (a) failed
- (b) drooped
- (c) refused
- (d) descended
- (e) deteriorated

**II** Use the following pairs of phrasal verbs in your own sentences. Both the phrasal verbs of *each pair should be incorporated in one sentence.*  
( 20 marks )

- 1. put back and put out
- 2. bring in and turn in
- 3. go through and live through
- 4. call for and call forth
- 5. set out and bring out
- 6. look over and look to
- 7. take to and turn away
- 8. carry out and carry through
- 9. do out and do with
- 10. make for and make off

**III** Correct the following sentences if they contain an error, or write *No Error*.  
( 10 marks )

- 1. Young people in my culture have less freedom than young people not only in the United States in their choice of life-style but also in their choice of careers.
- 2. Puppies, like children, both need love and discipline to become responsible citizens.
- 3. Women don't smoke as much as men do, neither do they drink as much alcohol.
- 4. Nuclear accidents can happen, nuclear power plants must have strict safety controls.

5. Many students attend classes all morning, and then they work all afternoon, and they also have to study at night, so they are usually exhausted by the weekend.
6. Everyone must be in their seat before the instructor takes the roll.
7. The child stared at the movie monster with huge, innocent eyes.
8. Flunking out of school, my parents demanded that I get a job.
9. Pesky mosquitoes, humidity that is high, and sweltering heat make summer an unpleasant time for me.
10. The teacher said that he was a poor student because he waited until the last minute to study for the exam, completed his lab problems in a careless manner, and his motivation was low.

**IV** Write the *structure* of the following words in terms of *stem(s)*, *prefix(es)*, and *suffix(es)*. ( 13 marks )

1. automobile
2. subdivision
3. wakefulness
4. inventions
5. humankind
6. atmosphere
7. workshop
8. earthquake
9. increasingly
10. restatement
11. dramatically
12. telecommuting
13. internationalization

### **PART B**

**I. Match the words in column A with the word which comes closest in meaning and given in Column B (15 marks)**

#### **Column A**

- (1) Consummate
- (2) Specious
- (3) Venial
- (4) Condign
- (5) Punctilious
- (6) Squeamish
- (7) Repugnant
- (8) Aegis
- (9) Censure

#### **Column B**

- (a) criticism
- (b) queasy
- (c) skilled
- (d) modify
- (e) protection
- (f) deceptive
- (g) pardonable
- (h) mockery
- (i) incompatible

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| (10) Bowdlerize | (j) careful   |
| (11) Blighted   | (k) extol     |
| (12) Insidious  | (l) challenge |
| (13) Perfidy    | (m) ruined    |
| (14) Impugn     | (n) treachery |
| (15) Encomium   | (o) cunning   |

**II. Use *each* of the following words to *construct a sentence* which clearly brings out its meaning:** (10 marks)

- (1) esoteric
- (2) virtuoso
- (3) entrench
- (4) mitigate
- (5) ascent
- (6) momentous
- (7) perspicuous
- (8) travail
- (9) ephemeral
- (10) minuscule

**III. You recently purchased a 'Stay-Cool' window air conditioner from EMAC Electronics. After two weeks of use you realized that it is not functioning properly. As Samuel Johnson, write a letter of complaint demanding an appropriate action. Invent the necessary details.** (15 marks)

**IV. Write the following passage in orthography** (15 marks)

(1) dezæt pla:nt pɔpjuleɪfɪnz hæv səfɪstɪkeɪtɪd saɪkəlɔdʒɪkəl biheɪvjərəl treɪts ðæt eɪd səvaɪvl ɪn ærɪd kændɪfɪnz. sʌm send aut lɔŋ, ju:ʒuəli di:p tæpru:ts, ʌðəz ju:təlaɪz ʃæləu bət waɪdspred ru:ts wɪtʃ əlau ðəm tə əbsɔ:b la:dʒ, ɪntəmɪtənt fləuz əv wɔ:tə. sə:tn pla:nts prətɛkt ðə æksəs tə wɔ:tə; leɪtə əlaɪnɪŋ ðə stəumætə tə əʊpən wen ðə ɪnvəɪrənmənt li:dn̩ tə gæs ɪksfeɪndʒ ɪz mɔ: feɪvərəbl.

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# **BITS, PILANI – DUBAI CAMPUS**

**Knowledge Village, Dubai  
YEAR I - SEMESTER I 2005-2006  
TEST III (CLOSED BOOK)**

**Course No: ENGL UC 121      Course Title: English Language Skills  
Date: 13.12.05   Time: 50 minutes   Maximum Marks: 40   Weightage : 40**

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**NOTE: ( Answer all questions )**

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**I      Each of the questions below consists of a word in capital letters, followed by five words or phrases. Choose the word or phrase that is most nearly similar in meaning to the word in capital letters and write the letter of your choices on your answer paper.**

**( 8 marks)**

**1.      MELLIFLUOUS**

- (a)      porous
- (b)      honeycombed
- (c)      strong
- (d)      smooth
- (e)      viscous

**2.      MISANTHROPE**

- (a)      benefactor
- (b)      philanderer
- (c)      man-hater
- (d)      aesthete
- (e)      both (a) and (b)

**3.      REPUDIATE**

- (a)      besmirch
- (b)      appropriate
- (c)      annoy
- (d)      reject
- (e)      avow

**4.      REPUGNANCE**

- (a)      belligerence
- (b)      tenacity
- (c)      renewal



- (d) pity
- (e) loathing

5. **SUTURE**

- (a) seam
- (b) reflection
- (c) knitting
- (d) tailor
- (e) past

6. **IMPECUNIOUS**

- (a) affluent
- (b) without money
- (c) afflicted
- (d) afraid
- (e) affectionate

7. **INNOCUOUS**

- (a) not capable
- (b) not dangerous
- (c) not eager
- (d) not frank
- (e) not peaceful

8. **AUGMENT**

- (a) make noble
- (b) anoint
- (c) increase
- (d) harvest
- (e) reach

**II** Use *each* of the following words to *construct a sentence* which clearly brings out its meaning: ( 5 marks )

- 1. ethnology
- 2. benediction
- 3. jettison
- 4. herpetologist
- 5. rescind

**III Convert the following information into footnote, list of references, and bibliography. ( 6 marks )**

Name of the Book/ Journal	Name of the Article	Page No.	Name of the Author	Year of Publication	Edition / Vol. No.	Name of Publisher	Place of Publication
English Skills	-----	210-218	Patricia Dunkel, Phyllis L. Lim	2000	Second	McGraw-Hill	New York
English Language Teaching	Communicative Approach	56-64	C. Nuan, John Leon, W. M. Gleason, Tim Wilfred	March 6, 2002	VI. 03	----- --	-----

**IV. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct form of the phrasal verb from the roots given in brackets. (9 marks )**

Zedco chief Executive Barry Douglas has (1)\_\_\_\_\_ (put) a new plan designed to (2)\_\_\_\_\_ (sort) the company's problems. It is only twelve months since zedco tried to strengthen its position by (3)\_\_\_\_\_ (take) Alpha Plastics. But the deal (4)\_\_\_\_\_ (fall), and Alpha managed to (5)\_\_\_\_\_ (fight) Zedco's attempts to take control. Since then Zedco has performed poorly and has (6)\_\_\_\_\_ (fall) in the race for market share. Managing Director James has had to (7)\_\_\_\_\_ (step), and Barry Douglas has (8)\_\_\_\_\_ (take) the task of rescuing the company. There are fears that the new plan will mean (9)\_\_\_\_\_ (lay) staff in order to reduce expenditure.

**V. In the following sentences replace the underlined words or expressions by a phrasal verb of the root given below. ( 6 marks)**

*Bring, live, do, put, set, call,*

- The reform bill the government introduced was a shock to the opposition.
- Hypocrites are so dishonest that they either try to impress or criticize others all the time.
- He had experienced and survived the worst years of the depression.
- Three weeks later Leslie visited our place briefly on his way to playing golf.
- After climbing for three days, we started on our last stage of our climb.
- In order to complete the project successfully, the team members decided to ignore their personal differences.

**VI. Transcribe the following sentence in phonetic script: (6 marks )**

1. Very closely associated with the beauty of the mountains are some special emotions which the highest and wildest peaks provoke.

# **BITS, PILANI – DUBAI CAMPUS**

Knowledge Village, Dubai

YEAR I - SEMESTER I 2005-2006

TEST II (CLOSED BOOK)

Course No: ENGL UC 121

Course Title: English Language Skills

Date: 17.11.05 Time: 50 minutes

Maximum Marks: 40

Weightage : 40

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**NOTE: ( Answer all questions )**

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**I      *Transcribe* the following words and indicate *the stressed syllable* .**  
**( 15 marks )**

1.      murmurs
2.      accustomed
3.      cumbersome
4.      content (verb)
5.      authorize
6.      wallet
7.      unique
8.      evacuee
9.      tranquility
10.    anchorage

**II      Give *two* examples of each:**  
**( 6 marks )**

1.      *dis-* as prefix and *-ed* as suffix
2.      *mis* as prefix and *-ed* as suffix
3.      *three stems* only

**III      Rewrite the sentences to make them error free and effective.**  
**( 3 marks )**

1. Many people want neither to read a product's warranty not sending it into a company.
2. learning a new language is like learning to swim it takes a lot of practice.
3. When radiation monitors in Sweden indicated an increase in radiation levels over Scandinavia.

**IV Choose the correct answer:**

**( 8 marks )**

1. The cars were \_\_\_\_\_ for almost an hour before the traffic jam began to clear.  
(a) stationary  
(b) stationery
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ cause of his troubles is his laziness.  
(a) principal  
(b) principle
3. He went \_\_\_\_\_ so quickly that we didn't recognize him.  
(a) passed  
(b) past
4. My father \_\_\_\_\_ urges me to get a job.  
(a) continuously  
(b) continually
5. The red sweater is a perfect \_\_\_\_\_ to the outfit.  
(a) compliment  
(b) complement
6. The prisoner was \_\_\_\_\_ even though he presented evidence clearly proving that he was no where near the scene of the crime.  
(a) abandoned  
(b) indicted  
(c) rescinded  
(d) exculpate
7. The chairman \_\_\_\_\_ the decision of the board members, describing it as \_\_\_\_\_ of every worth ideal that the organization had hitherto upheld.  
(a) defend – denial  
(b) lamented – negated  
(c) criticized – fulfillment

(d) applauded –repudiation

8. In the Han Mortuary art, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are combined; one tomb may contain eerie supernatural figures placed next to ordinary likeness of government administrators at work.

- (a) fantastic – mundane
- (b) inventive – remorseful
- (c) illusory – derivative
- (d) unique - historical

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

( 8 marks )

- 1. fealty
- 2. verbose
- 3. propensity
- 4. ameliorate

# **BITS, PILANI – DUBAI CAMPUS**

**Knowledge Village, Dubai**

**YEAR I - SEMESTER I 2005-2006**

**TEST I (OPEN BOOK)**

**Course No: ENGL UC 121**

**Course Title: English Language Skills**

**Date: 18.09.05 Time: 50 minutes**

**Maximum Marks: 30**

**Weightage :30**

**NOTE: ( Answer all questions )**

- I Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow on the basis of what is stated and implied in the passage.**

**( 6 marks )**

*The following passage is about Anna "Grandma" Moses, an American painter who lived from 1860 – 1961.*

- Line** As technology progresses at breakneck speed and the world becomes faster-paced and more complex, many art appreciators find themselves drawn to the simplicity of American primitive art. The word "primitive" is not the insult it may appear to be. It is a term used to describe the work of an artist who has had no formal
- (5) training. Perhaps the most famous of American primitive artists is Anna Robertson Moses, better known as Grandma Moses. She is known not only for her paintings of early American life, but for a remarkable personal circumstance. Grandma Moses began her painting career in her late seventies and continued to paint past her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- (10) By the time she died in 1961, Moses had lived through war and economic depression. She had seen the world transformed through technology; automobiles, television, and telephones would all have become commonplace within her lifetime. While she died long before the modern computer, the fax machine, and the cellular phone had been invented, she had witnessed enormous
- (15) technological progress, and the complication that inevitably accompanies it. Grandma Moses painted with a nostalgic eye to an even more innocent era. Her artistic style, unpretentious and unpolished, complemented the subject of her work. Her paintings depict rural life: townsfolk ice-skating, a village blanketed in snow, a covered wagon, villagers collecting maple sugar. They evoke a combined
- (20) sense of community and connection to the land that, by the middle of the twentieth century, many people must have sensed to be a thing of the past.
- If Moses' subject was idealized small-town America, her life, itself, embodied American ideals. What, after all, could be more a part of the American character than a self-definition? After a lifetime spent as a farm wife, Moses
- (25) created a new identity for herself as an artist. In her last years, even as her health and vision failed, she continued to produce her art. American culture values entrepreneurship and self-definition; Grandma Moses epitomized these things in

her personal life, even as she tapped into another American preoccupation: nostalgia for our past.

- (30) Perhaps people who seek out the American primitive work of artists like Grandma Moses see in it more than a depiction of a simpler life. Perhaps they recognize in it the same values that so many modern Americans hold dear: motivation, individuality, and a strong connection between past and present. As primitive art takes viewers to a simple time, it also reinforces the dearly held
- (35) American belief that anyone, at any age, can become a national icon.

1. Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?
  - (a) The Life of Grandma Moses
  - (b) The Many Styles of American Art
  - (c) A History of American Primitive Art
  - (d) Small-Town America: A Favorite Subject of Artists
  - (e) Grandma Moses: An American Artist
2. The author defines the word *primitive* (lines 4-5) in order to
  - (a) compare several kinds of American art
  - (b) clear up a possible misunderstanding
  - (c) broaden the reader's understanding of American history.
  - (d) solve a long-standing mystery
  - (e) offer an interpretation of an art form
3. The author would most likely agree with which of the following?
  - (a) Grandma Moses is America's most beloved artist.
  - (b) People who like primitive art are unlikely to enjoy more sophisticated art.
  - (c) Grandma Moses lived in a time as innocent as the scenes she painted.
  - (d) Grandma Moses is as popular for what she represents as for her art.
  - (e) Americans prefer art that reminds them of the technological progress they have made.
4. In line 17, the word *complemented* most closely means
  - (a) praised
  - (b) completed
  - (c) matched
  - (d) filled up
  - (e) amounted to
5. The passage mentions that Grandma Moses used to be a farm wife (line 24) in order to show that Moses



- (a) reinvented herself
- (b) overcame poverty
- (c) used her rural background in her art
- (d) felt deep nostalgia for simpler times
- (e) was innocent of modern technology

6. The passage lists all of the following as American traits except

- (a) tendency to idealize the past
- (b) entrepreneurship
- (c) desire for self-definition
- (d) individuality
- (e) love of art

**II** Write a *paragraph of about 150 words* beginning with the following sentence and developing the same theme or idea using cause-and-effect technique.  
( 12 marks)

*Attending college has changed my personality in positive ways.*

**III**

You are William Harris, Marketing Manager of 'Modern Electronics', Mumbai. Your company specializes in making electronic equipment for schools and colleges. Write a sales letter to all the principals of Higher Secondary schools in your town to promote the sale of a new film projector your company has recently manufactured. Point out its features and facilities.  
( 12 marks)