

BITS, PILANI-DUBAI
Dubai International Academic City, Dubai
Year I-Semester I 2008-2009
TEST I (OPEN BOOK)

Course No: ENGL UC 121 Course Title: English Language Skills
Date: 21.09.08 Time: 50 minutes Maximum Marks: 45 Weightage: 45
Note: Answer all questions

- I Write a paragraph in about 200 words beginning with the following sentence and developing the same theme or idea using a suitable technique.**

(22 Marks)

My job in a car-parts factory as a mechanic was very different from my job as a receptionist.

- II You are Jacob Rudman, Marketing Manager of a health centre called 'Life Fitness' in Dubai. You ordered fifteen treadmills from the firm 'Kettler' which is based in New York. On operation you realized that there was some functional defect. Investigation revealed that all the machines have the same defect. Draft a letter to Ms Jane Thompson, the Production Manager, requesting them to either repair or replace the machines.**

(23 Marks)

BITS, PILANI-DUBAI
Dubai International Academic City, Dubai
Year I-Semester I 2008-2009
TEST II (CLOSED BOOK)

Course No: ENGL C121 Course Title: English Language Skills -I
Date: 09.11.08 Time: 50 minutes Maximum Marks: 60 Weightage: 60

Note:

Answer each main question on a fresh page.

Answer all the questions in the same sequence given below.

Two 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. nurture
2. elaborate
3. rummage
4. functions
5. stubborn
6. Thursday
7. performance
8. square
9. unique
10. modernize
11. moment
12. wonderful
13. technology
14. acquit
15. distinct

II Indicate the syllabic structure of the following words in terms of consonants and vowels.

(8 marks)

1. options
2. mingling
3. perforation
4. bomber
5. hostility
6. diction
7. impression
8. assessing

III Write the structure of the following words in terms of prefix(es), stem(s) and suffix(es). (10 marks)

1. naturalization
2. eupeptic
3. peckish
4. betray
5. burdensome
6. geophysics
7. characterization
8. upwards

IV Rewrite the following sentences so as to make them grammatically correct and more effective. (12 marks)

1. Changing the oil every 3,000 miles, the car seemed to run better.
2. Students who seek their instructors' advice often can improve their grades.
3. Formerly, science was taught by the textbook method, while now the laboratory method is employed.
4. To visualize success is not the same as achieving it.
5. Nietzsche moved to Basel in 1869, he planned to teach classical philology.
6. A cactus will flower in spite of the fact that they receive little water.

- Of the many ways in which athletes and artists are similar, one is that,
- (20) unlike accountants or plumbers or insurance salesmen, to succeed at all they must perform at an extraordinary level of excellence. Another is that they must be willing to extend themselves irrationally in order to achieve that level of performance. A writer doesn't have to write all-out all the time, but he or she must be ready to write all-out any time the story requires it. Hold back and you
- (25) produce what just about any literate citizen can produce, a "pretty good" piece of work. Like the cautious pitcher, the timid writer can spend a lifetime in the minor leagues.

- And what more than failure—the strike out, the crucial home-run given up, the manuscript criticized and rejected—is more likely to produce caution or
- (30) timidity? An instinctive response to painful experience is to avoid the behavior that produced the pain. To function at the level of excellence required for survival, writers, like athletes, must go against instinct, must absorb their failures and become stronger, must endlessly repeat the behavior that produced the pain.

Passage 2

- The athletic advantages of this concentration, particularly for an athlete
- (35) who was making up for the absence of great natural skill, were considerable. Concentration gave you an edge over many of your opponents, even your betters, who could not isolate themselves to that degree. For example, in football if they were ahead (or behind) by several touchdowns, if the game itself seemed to have been settled, they tended to slack off, to ease off a little, certainly to relax their
- (40) own concentration. It was then that your own unwavering concentration and your own indifference to the larger point of view paid off. At the very least you could deal out surprise and discomfort to your opponents.

- But it was more than that. Do you see? The ritual of physical concentration, of acute engagement in a small space while disregarding all the
- (45) clamor and demands of the larger world, was the best possible lesson in precisely the kind of selfish intensity needed to create and to finish a poem, a story, or a novel. This alone mattered while all the world going on, with and without you, did not.

- I was learning first in muscle, blood, and bone, not from literature and not
- (50) from teachers of literature or the arts or the natural sciences, but from coaches, in particular this one coach who paid me enough attention to influence me to teach some things to myself. I was learning about art and life through the abstraction of athletics in much the same way that a soldier is, to an extent, prepared for war by endless parade ground drill. His body must learn to be a soldier before heart,
- (55) mind, and spirit can.

- Ironically, I tend to dismiss most comparisons of athletics to art and to "the creative process." But only because, I think, so much that is claimed for both is untrue. But I have come to believe—in indeed I have to believe it insofar as I believe in the validity and efficacy of art—that what comes to us first and
- (60) foremost through the body, as a sensuous affective experience, is taken and transformed by mind and self into a thing of the spirit. Which is only to say that

what the body learns and is taught is of enormous significance --at least until the last light of the body fails.

1. Why does the author of Passage 1 consign his manuscript to a desk drawer?
 - a. To protect it from the inquisitive eyes of his family
 - b. To prevent its getting lost or disordered
 - c. Because his publisher wishes to take another look at it
 - d. Because he chooses to watch a televised baseball game
 - e. To set it aside as unmarketable in its current state

2. Why is the author of Passage 1 "comforted by the behavior of baseball players" (lines 1-2)?
 - a. He treasures the timeless rituals of America's national pastime.
 - b. He sees he is not alone in having to confront failure and move on
 - c. He enjoys watching the frustration of the batters who strike out.
 - d. He looks at baseball from the viewpoint of a behavioral psychologist.
 - e. He welcomes any distraction from the task of revising his novel.

3. What function in the passage is served by the discussion of the nerves in the ankle in line 8?
 - a. It provides a momentary digression from the overall narrative flow
 - b. It emphasizes how strong a mental impact Henderson's home run must have had on Moore.
 - c. It provides scientific confirmation of the neuromuscular abilities of athletes.
 - d. It illustrates that the author's interest in sports is not limited to baseball alone.
 - e. It conveys a sense of how confusing it is for the mind to deal with so many simultaneous messages.

4. The word "registered" in line 12 means
 - a. Enrolled formally
 - b. Expressed without words
 - c. Corresponded exactly
 - d. Made an impression
 - e. Qualified officially

5. The attitude of the author of Passage 1 to accountants, plumbers, and insurance salesmen (line 20) can best be described as
 - a. Respectful
 - b. Cautious
 - c. Superior
 - d. Cynical
 - e. Hypocritical

6. In the final two paragraphs of Passage 1, the author appears to

- a. Romanticize the writer as someone heroic in his or her accomplishments
 - b. Deprecate athletes for their inability to react to experience instinctively
 - c. Minimize the travail that artists and athletes endure to do their work
 - d. Advocate the importance of literacy to the common citizen
 - e. Suggest that a cautious approach would reduce the likelihood of future failure
7. The author of Passage 2 prizes
- a. His innate athletic talent
 - b. The respect of his peers
 - c. His ability to focus
 - d. The gift of relaxation
 - e. Winning at any cost
8. The word "settled" in line 39 means
- a. Judged
 - b. Decided
 - c. Reconciled
 - d. Pacified
 - e. Inhabited
9. What does the author mean by "indifference to the larger point of view" (line 41)
- a. Inability to see the greater implications of the activity in which you were involved
 - b. Hostility to opponents coming from larger, better trained teams
 - c. Reluctance to look beyond your own immediate concerns
 - d. Refusing to care how greatly you might be hurt by your opponents
 - e. Being more concerned with the task at hand than with whether you win or lose
10. What is the function of the phrase "to an extent " in line 53?
- a. It denies a situation
 - b. It conveys a paradox
 - c. It qualifies a statement
 - d. It represents a metaphor
 - e. It minimizes a liability
11. The author finds it ironic that he tends to "dismiss" most comparisons of athletics to art" (line 56) because
- a. Athletics is the basis for great art
 - b. He finds comparisons generally unhelpful
 - c. He is making such a comparison
 - d. He typically is less cynical
 - e. He rejects the so-called "creative process"

12. The authors of both passages would agree that
- a. The lot of the professional writer is more trying than that of the professional athlete
 - b. Athletics has little to do with the actual workings of the creative process
 - c. Both artists and athletes learn hard lessons in the course of mastering their art
 - d. It is important to concentrate on the things that hurt us in life
 - e. Participating in sports provides a distraction from the isolation of a writer's life
13. How would the author of Passage 2 respond to the author of Passage 1's viewpoint that a failure such as giving up a key home run can destroy an athlete?
- a. An athlete learns through his body that failure is enormously significant and affects him both physically and spiritually.
 - b. Athletes of great natural skill suffer less from the agonies of failure than less accomplished athletes do
 - c. If an athlete plays without holding back, he will surpass athletes who are more inherently adept
 - d. If the athlete focuses on the job at hand and not on past errors, he will continue to function successfully.
 - e. Athletes are highly sensitive performers who need to be sheltered from the clamor and demands of the larger world.

II Which of the following words are simple, compound or complex?

(12 marks)

1. Expunge
2. Prolific
3. Reticent
4. Muralist
5. Humankind
6. Malaprop
7. Centipede
8. Bigot
9. Bellicose
10. Facer
11. Landscape
12. Slapdash

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

(15 marks)

1. The joys of climbing mountains, especially if one is a novice climber without the proper equipment, escapes me.
2. My objections are, first, the injustice of the measure; second, that it is unconstitutional.
3. Raoul's motivation to succeed in this program seems to be greater than his sister.
4. I had never been in the place before, I had difficulty in finding my way about.
5. Without a friend to counsel him, the temptation proved irresistible.
6. People enjoy themselves immensely at UConn women's basketball games. You don't have to be an expert in basketball to get caught up in the crowd's enthusiasm.
7. Cost-efficient and convenient, many of today's corporate employees are being trained through computer-assisted instruction.
8. Having submitted the conference registration form after the deadline, special permission by the chairperson was needed before she could give her presentation.
9. People are crazy to think one can become a radiologist without studying many hours because he or she just can't learn it all by cramming at the last minute.
10. As a species, humankind has always responded well when our survival has been challenged, and they'll do so again now.

IV You are William Roche and work as Sales Manager in American Insurance Ltd.. Your company has recently launched a new group medical insurance policy and has asked you to promote its sale. . Draft a letter to be sent to about 1,000 companies in U.A.E..

(20 marks)

PART B

- I. Use the following pairs of words/idioms in your own sentences to elicit the meaning of each them clearly. Both the words, of each pair, should be used in a single sentence. (20 marks)

- 1 allusion and collusion
- 2 sham and nonchalance
- 3 flagrant and fragrant
- 4 momentary and momentous
- 5 flaunt and flout

- 6 perspicacious and perspicuous
- 7 veracious and censorious
- 8 official and officious
- 9 come to grief and ins and outs
- 10 megalomania and virtuoso

II. Phonetically transcribe the following words and mark their primary stress
(10 marks)

1. Egregiousness
2. Nescient
3. Incurable
4. Equestrian
5. Synchronize

III. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct form of the phrasal verb from the roots given in brackets. Write only the phrasal verbs (not the sentence) in the answer book.
(10 marks)

- 1 Politicians these days are so dishonest, that they are either trying to impress each other or to _____ each other _____ (do) the whole time.
- 2 He had _____ (live) the worst years of the depression.
- 3 While we were having coffee, two thieves _____ (make) with our suitcases.
- 4 They are _____ (put) three names for the Shelly prize.
- 5 The supermarket chain will be relabelling new packs and _____ (put) shelf warning stickers.
- 6 Though it is more expensive to buy than to rent a house, one has to _____ (set) cost the solid benefits of house ownership.
- 7 Growing confidence in the new leaders helped to _____ the soldiers _____ (carry) an arduous campaign.
- 8 To escape the monotony of life, some people _____ (take) adventure sports.
- 9 The electricity supply must be _____ (turn) at mains before you alter the lighting circuit.
- 10 During times of crisis, political parties should _____ (put) political differences and work together.

IV. write a paragraph in about 175 words using an appropriate technique. The paragraph should begin with the following sentence: (20 marks)

Injuries may harm a player physically, but worse than the physical discomfort they create, it is the psychological trauma they cause that is of concern.