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**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR APPLIED SCIENCES
(Manipal University)**

I SEMESTER B.S. DEGREE EXAMINATION – JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: COMPOSITION (EN 111)

(COMMON TO ALL BRANCHES)

THURSDAY, 16th JUNE, 2016

Time: 3 Hours

Max. Marks: 100

✓ **Answer ANY FIVE full Questions.**

1. A. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

The large animals require a luxuriant vegetation, has been a general assumption which has passed from one work to another; but I do not hesitate to say that it is completely false, and that it has vitiated the reasoning of geologists on some points of great interest in the ancient history of the world. The prejudice has probably been derived from India, and the Indian islands, where troops of elephants, noble forests, and impenetrable jungles, are associated together in every one's mind. If, however, we refer to any work of travels through the southern parts of Africa, we shall find allusions in almost every page either to the desert character of the country, or to the numbers of large animals inhabiting it. The same thing is rendered evident by the many engravings which have been published of various parts of the interior. Dr. Andrew Smith, who has lately succeeded in passing the Tropic of Capricorn, informs me that, taking into consideration the whole of the southern part of Africa, there can be no doubt of its being a sterile country. On the southern coasts there are some fine forests, but with these exceptions, the traveler may pass for days together through open plains, covered by a poor and scanty vegetation. Now, if we look to the animals inhabiting these wide plains, we shall find their numbers extraordinarily great, and their bulk immense. We must enumerate the elephant, three species of rhinoceros, the hippopotamus, the giraffe, the bos caffer, two zebras, two gnus, and several antelopes even larger than these latter animals. It may be supposed that although the species are numerous, the individuals of each kind are few. By the kindness of Dr. Smith, I am enabled to show that the case is very different. He informs me, that in lat.in one day's march with the bullock-wagons, he saw, without wandering to any great distance on either side, between one hundred and one hundred and fifty rhinoceroses - the same day he saw several herds of giraffes, amounting together to nearly a hundred. At the distance of a little more than one hour's march from their place of encampment on the previous night, his party actually killed at one spot eight hippopotamuses, and saw many more. In this same river there were likewise crocodiles. Of course it was a case quite extraordinary, to see so many great animals crowded together, but it evidently proves that they must exist in great numbers. Dr. Smith describes the country passed through that day, as 'being thinly covered with grass, and bushes about four feet high, and still more thinly with mimosa-trees. 'Besides these large animals, everyone the least acquainted with the natural history of the Cape, has read of the herds of antelopes, which can be compared only with the flocks of migratory birds. The numbers indeed of the lion, panther, and hyena, and the multitude of birds of prey, plainly speak of the abundance of the smaller quadrupeds: one evening seven lions were counted at the same time prowling round Dr. Smith's encampment. As this able naturalist remarked to me, the carnage each day in Southern Africa must indeed be terrific! I confess it is truly surprising how such a number of animals can

find support in a country producing so little food. The larger quadrupeds no doubt roam over wide tracts in search of it; and their food chiefly consists of underwood, which probably contains much nutriment in a small bulk. Dr. Smith also informs me that the vegetation has a rapid growth; no sooner is a part consumed, than its place is supplied by a fresh stock. There can be no doubt, however, that our ideas respecting the apparent amount of food necessary for the support of large quadrupeds are much exaggerated. The belief that where large quadrupeds exist, the vegetation must necessarily be luxuriant, is the more remarkable, because the converse is far from true. Mr. Burchell observed to me that when entering Brazil, nothing struck him more forcibly than the splendour of the South American vegetation contrasted with that of South Africa, together with the absence of all large quadrupeds. In his Travels, he has suggested that the comparison of the respective weights (if there were sufficient data) of an equal number of the largest herbivorous quadrupeds of each country would be extremely curious. If we take on the one side, the elephants, hippopotamus, giraffe, bos caffer, elan, five species of rhinoceros; and on the American side, two tapirs, the guanaco, three deer, the vicuna, peccari, capybara (after which we must choose from the monkeys to complete the number), and then place these two groups alongside each other it is not easy to conceive ranks more disproportionate in size. After the above facts, we are compelled to conclude, against anterior probability that among the Mammalia there exists no close relation between the bulk of the species, and the quantity of the vegetation, in the countries which they inhabit.

Adapted from: *Voyage of the Beagle*, Charles Darwin (1890)

- i. The author is primarily concerned with
 - a. discussing the relationship between the size of mammals and the nature of vegetation in their habitats
 - b. contrasting ecological conditions in India and Africa
 - c. proving the large animals do not require much food
 - d. describing the size of animals in various parts of the world
 - e. explaining that the reasoning of some geologists is completely false
- ii. The word 'vitiated' most nearly means
 - a. infiltrated
 - b. occupied
 - c. impaired
 - d. invigorated
 - e. strengthened
- iii. According to the author, the 'prejudice' has led to
 - a. errors in the reasoning of biologists
 - b. false ideas about animals in Africa
 - c. incorrect assumptions on the part of geologists
 - d. doubt in the mind of the author
 - e. confusion in natural history
- iv. The flocks of migratory birds are mentioned to
 - a. describe an aspect of the fauna of South Africa
 - b. illustrate a possible source of food for large carnivores
 - c. contrast with the habits of the antelope

- d. suggest the size of antelope herds
- e. indicate the abundance of wildlife

- v. The 'carnage' refers to the
- a. number of animals killed by hunters
 - b. number of prey animals killed by predators
 - c. number of people killed by lions
 - d. amount of food eaten by all species
 - e. damage caused by large animals

- vi. To account for the 'surprising' number of animals in a 'country producing so little food', Darwin suggests all of the following as partial explanations except
- a. food which is a concentrated source of nutrients
 - b. rapid regrowth of plant material
 - c. large area for animals to forage in
 - d. mainly carnivorous animals
 - e. food requirements have been overestimated

- vii. The author makes his point by reference to all of the following except
- a. travel books
 - b. published illustrations
 - c. private communications
 - d. recorded observations
 - e. historical documents

- viii. Darwin quotes Burchell's observations in order to
- a. counter a popular misconception
 - b. describe a region of great splendor
 - c. prove a hypothesis
 - d. illustrate a well-known phenomenon
 - e. account for a curious situation

- ix. The author uses information provided by Dr. Smith to
- I supply information on quality and quantity of plant life in South Africa
 - II indicate the presence of large numbers of animals
 - III give evidence of numbers of carnivorous animals
- a. I only
 - b. II only
 - c. III only
 - d. I and II only
 - e. I, II and III

- x. Darwin's parenthetical remark (line 83-84) indicates that
 - a. Burchell's data are not reliable
 - b. Burchell's ideas are not to be given much weight
 - c. comparison of the weights of herbivores is largely speculative
 - d. Darwin's views differ from Burchell's
 - e. more figures are needed before any comparison can be attempted

1. B. Correct and rewrite the following sentences if necessary:

- i. For achieving success, we sometimes employ means which is unfair.
- ii. The Prime Minister congratulated M S Dhoni for his team's victory against Australia in T20 International Cricket Series.
- iii. Twenty thousand rupees are a meagre salary these days.
- iv. Even today, 30% of the country's population live below poverty line.
- v. Despite of all efforts by the government, a great deal of water is still wasted in various regions.
- vi. Each of the Williams sisters are a terrific tennis player.
- vii. Shakespeare as well as his contemporaries are still regarded the greatest dramatists in the entire range of English literature.
- viii. Neither Jude nor his brother have written the letter.
- ix. The bride was given a necklace as a heirloom by her mother-in-law.
- x. The British ruled over India for nearly two hundred years before they had handed it over to us. (10+10)

2. A well-known Australian university has offered scholarship to the meritorious students of ICAS. You wish to avail the scholarship and pursue your studies in that university. Prepare a statement of purpose (SOP) of about 300-350 words stating why you deserve to be selected. (20 marks)

3. A. Frame sentences using the following pairs of words so as to distinguish between the meanings.

- i. adept /adapt ii. altar/alter iii. assent/ascent iv. cannon/canon
- v. muscle/mussel

B. A well-known Australian university has offered scholarship to the meritorious students of ICAS. You wish to avail the scholarship and pursue your studies in that university. Prepare a Resume/CV to be submitted along with your SOP. The resume should include your personal details and other details. (05+15)

4. Read the following passage :

Superstition is a belief based on fear or ignorance and not on the laws of science. People belonging to all kinds of caste, creed or community has their own set of believes in these omens, whether they are rich eleti class or backward class. Its an universal phenomenon. , and has been a intergral part of the society. India is the land of superstitions. Superstitions have come down for us from our ancestors. They don't have any scientific reasoning behind it but some sort of magic or wrath of god or even evil spirits was considered the reason behind bad omens. But, in

this 21st century, despite of making advancement in science and technology, many people have strong conviction about these superstitions. Sacrificing animals and innocent children are the gruesome form of superstition in India. Sudden stops or changing of paths when a cat crosses your way, odd number of sneezes before going out of the house is believed as bad omen. Hanging black shoes at the back of vehicles-a truck or bus is a very common sight in India. Treating of a widow not as the human being but as an object, and in some areas a ritual of sati is nothing but the belief of people of India which is not backed off by any scientific reason, but is done in fear of society which have come down because of our ancestors. There is certain superstitions which are supports by scientific reasons and common sense, like for example: Sleeping with your head on south so that the harmful effects related to blood pressure and other diseases that asymmetry with the Earth's magnetic field would create. Superstitions are deeply routed in the society. It's not very easy to eradicate it from our society. For this first of all one should not considers religion and superstition as same. The common matters or actions of day-today life should not be looked at with a superstitious motif. It's high time that people from all walks of life develops a scientific temper to do away with superstitions. (344 words)

4. A. Rewrite the passage correcting the errors and underline the corrections made.
(There are no punctuation errors.)

B. Write a summary of the given passage (around 1/3 of its length)

C. Punctuate the following:

every other week a new study is released that either demonizes or eulogizes coffee are there grounds for concern under the aromatic froth
diabetes a study of 14,000 people in Finland the worlds greatest per capita consumer of coffee found that women who drank three to four cups a day cut their risk of developing diabetes by 29 per cent for men it was 27 per cent. Researchers arent sure why but suspect that the antioxidants in coffee help deliver insulin to the bodys tissues. Researchers in hawaii monitored the health of more than 8,000 Japanese American men for 30 years and discovered that those who drank a cup of coffee a day had less than half the incidence of Parkinsons disease. A possible clue as to why caffeine promotes the release of dopamine a substance involved with movement and usually depleted in Parkinsons sufferers. A Californian study of 980 post menopausal women found that those who drank two cups of coffee a day suffered a greater loss in bone density than those who didnt. How come Because caffeine acts as a diuretic, increasing the amount of calcium excreted in urine. For most of us the humble cup of coffee is simply a harmless and enjoyable way to kick start the day or give us an excuse for some time out. However it is important to remember that different people exhibit different tolerance levels to caffeine—it is, after all, a drug.

- D. Write a paragraph on “One man's trash is another man's treasure.”

(5+5+5+5)

5. Answer ANY TWO of the following:

- A. In the novel 'Atlas Shrugged' Ayn Rand intended to validate her philosophy of Objectivism in action. How relevant is this philosophy in the real world at present?
- B. How does the novel 'Atlas Shrugged' by Ayn Rand define morality? Elaborate this by citing examples from the novel.
- C. The novel 'Atlas Shrugged' is a celebration of business. Elucidate.

(10+10)

6. Answer ANY TWO of the following:

- A. Discuss the role of the 4 ministries in the novel '1984' by George Orwell.
- B. Discuss Winston Smith as a heroic figure. What qualities does he possess that could define him as one?
- C. Explain how History and memory are actively erased and rewritten in the novel '1984', so as to support the omnipotence and infallibility of The Party and its pronouncements.

(10+10)

7. Write an argumentative essay on ANY ONE of the following in about 500 to 600 words.

- A. Homeschooling is better than traditional school.
- B. Only the rich and the famous are talking of intolerance.

(20 marks)

8. Write an expository essay on ANY ONE of the following in about 500 to 600 words.

- A. Global Warming
- B. Internet and Gaming Addiction

(20 marks)

