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MANIPAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Manipal University, Manipal – 576 104



I SEM. B.TECH. DEGREE END SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS - DECEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH (HUM 1001)

Time: 3 Hours.

Max. marks: 50

IA Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: 10

Did you hear? The genome of the banana has been sequenced, an important development in scientists' efforts to produce better bananas.

A look at that genome has revealed curious things, said Pat Heslop-Harrison, a plant geneticist at the University of Leicester in England who was a co-author of the report published this week in the journal Nature.

For example, there are regions of the banana genome that don't seem to be involved in making proteins but are shared by many different species of plants, far beyond bananas. What, he wonders, are they doing?

There are remnants of bits of banana streak virus spliced into the banana genome (too broken-up to cause disease, however).

There are whole sets of DNA repeats that plants normally have but bananas do not. And, intriguingly, three times since this genus of giant herbs took an evolutionary turn away from its relatives -- the grasses -- it has duplicated its entire set of chromosomes.

Two of the doublings took place at the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary 65 million years ago, back when the dinosaurs and lots of other species went extinct, Heslop-Harrison noted.

Duplications like this are known to have happened in other plant groups at this same time but haven't occurred since, Heslop-Harrison said. Scientists don't know why, but they believe having extra copies of genes may have imparted some stability to plants during a time of rapid climate change after an asteroid hit Earth.

Having more than one gene of each type means that if one gene of a set loses function, the plant still has another one that works. And there's more room for adaptability to new circumstances, because one gene could be altered and co-opted for new purposes and there would still be the other one left to perform the original job.

"Perhaps it's the reason [bananas have] done so well in the subsequent millions of (HUM-1001)

years," Heslop-Harrison said. "One can ask, will changes occurring in the world's climate now mean there's going to be a whole set of new genome duplications that will enable plants to survive? We don't know that, but it's interesting to consider."

The banana genome sequenced by the French scientists was from the Pahang, a wild Malaysian banana of the species *Musa acuminata*. It's a key species in the complicated evolution of the bananas and plantains people eat around the world, including the Cavendish banana that we buy at the supermarket.

The sterile Cavendish is a so-called triploid: It has three sets of chromosomes instead of the normal two. One of those genomes came from Pahang. The others came from other subspecies of *Musa acuminata*.

The changes occurred stepwise, and went something like this:

Thousands of years ago, two wild banana species from different parts of the islands of Southeast Asia were brought into the same range by people. They formed hybrids. A bit like mules, the hybrids were vigorous but fairly sterile.

The hybrids were kept going without sex through propagation of their shoots. At some point, the hybrids developed the ability to set fruit without being fertilized.

Then (for most bananas, including the Cavendish) came another **chance** event that caused the hybrids to end up with three sets of chromosomes. Every now and again, the few viable eggs and pollen that they made would mistakenly contain two sets of chromosomes instead of just one.

When a double-chromosome pollen combined with a single-chromosome egg (or vice versa), the result was a hopelessly sterile plant with even more vigorous fruit.

Events like this happened more than once and sometimes included other types of ancestral banana species.

Some scientists, in fact, have made a whole study of banana domestication and movement around the world. They've pieced the story together using quite different strands of information, including the genomes of wild and cultivated bananas, the microscopic relics of banana leaf material found at archaeological sites, and even the word for "banana" in different languages.

Questions:

1. In paragraph 2, the word "curious" is closest in meaning to

- A) inquisitive
- B) peculiar
- C) nosy
- D) intricate

2. What does paragraph 5 suggest about bananas?

- A) The banana genus may not yet be classifiable into a traditional category
- B) Bananas are actually a species of grass
- C) Bananas may now be categorized as "herbs" in supermarkets
- D) Because banana chromosomes duplicate themselves, they have better potential

for successful cloning

3. Why does the author use "intriguingly" to describe the phenomenon in paragraph 5?

- A) To imply that bananas are far more interesting than other fruits
- B) To make readers doubt the claims scientists are making about bananas
- C) To suggest that duplication of chromosomes is a rare and interesting occurrence in the plant world
- D) To encourage questions about whether bananas are grasses or herbs

4. Why is the observation in paragraph 6 important?

- A) It suggests that the banana mutated its genetic structure for survival
- B) It shows that bananas can be traced as far back as dinosaurs
- C) It suggests that bananas were fatal to dinosaurs and other species
- D) It proves that bananas are immune to atmospheric changes

5. The word "co-opted" in paragraph 8 is closest in meaning to

- A) decided upon together
- B) argued against
- C) removed from the study
- D) adopted

6. The quote in paragraph 9 most closely suggests

- A) Bananas may be an example of ways that species might alter their genetics to survive changes in the earth's climate and atmosphere
- B) That the genetic mutations of bananas have no implications for other species
- C) That genetic structure is the only factor that should be considered when predicting survival
- D) Though bananas have made it this far, there is no proof that they will survive the next wave of significant atmospheric changes.

7. According to the article, all are steps in the evolution of the banana EXCEPT

- A) Some banana hybrids began to develop three sets of chromosomes
- B) The merging of two different banana species
- C) Bananas reproduced widely and easily through fertilization
- D) Bananas developed the ability to develop fruit without fertilization

8. The word "chance" in paragraph 14 is closest in meaning to

- A) random
- B) gamble
- C) risky
- D) opportune

9. All are variations of banana mentioned in the article EXCEPT

- A) the Cavendish
- B) Dolus mundi
- C) Musa acuminata
- D) plantains

10. The word "domestication" in the final paragraph is closest in meaning to>

- A) housebroken
- B) well-controlled
- C) adapted for human consumption
- D) accepted within the culture

IB Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

10

First introduced in 1927, The Hardy Boys Mystery Stories are a series of books about the adventures of brothers Frank and Joe Hardy, teenaged detectives who solve one baffling mystery after another. The Hardy Boys were so popular among young boys, that in 1930 a similar series was created for girls featuring a sixteen-year-old detective named Nancy Drew. The cover of each volume of The Hardy Boys states that the author of the series is Franklin W. Dixon; the Nancy Drew Mystery Stories are supposedly written by Carolyn Keene. Over the years, though, many fans of both series have been surprised to find out that Franklin W. Dixon and Carolyn Keene are not real people. If Franklin W. Dixon and Carolyn Keene never existed, then who wrote The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew mysteries?

The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew books were written through a process called ghostwriting. A ghostwriter writes a book according to a specific formula. While ghostwriters are paid for writing the books, their authorship is not acknowledged, and their names do not appear on the published books. Ghostwriters can write books for children or adults, the content of which is unspecific. Sometimes they work on book series with a lot of individual titles, such as The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew series.

The initial idea for both The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew series was developed by a man named Edward Stratemeyer, who owned a publishing company that specialized in children's books. Stratemeyer noticed the increasing popularity of mysteries among adults, and **surmised** that children would enjoy reading mysteries about younger detectives with whom they could identify.

Stratemeyer first developed each book with an outline describing the plot and setting. Once he completed the outline, Stratemeyer then hired a ghostwriter to convert it into a book of slightly over 200 pages. After the ghostwriter had written a draft of a book, he or she would send it back to Stratemeyer, who would make a list of corrections and mail it back to the ghostwriter. The ghostwriter would revise the book according to Stratemeyer's instructions and then return it to him. Once Stratemeyer approved the book, it was ready for publication.

Because each series ran for so many years, Nancy Drew and The Hardy Boys both had a number of different ghostwriters producing books; however, the first ghostwriter for each series proved to be the most influential. The initial ghostwriter for The Hardy Boys was a Canadian journalist named Leslie McFarlane. A few years later, Mildred A. Wirt, a young writer from Iowa, began writing the Nancy Drew books. Although they were using prepared outlines as guides, both McFarlane and Wirt developed the characters themselves. The personalities of Frank and Joe Hardy and Nancy Drew arose directly from

McFarlane's and Wirt's imaginations. For example, Mildred Wirt had been a star college athlete and gave Nancy similar athletic abilities. Leslie McFarlane used elements of his small Canadian town to create Bayport, the Hardy Boys' fictional hometown.

Although The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books were very popular with children, not everyone approved of them. Critics thought their plots were unrealistic and even far-fetched, since most teenagers did not experience the adventures Frank and Joe Hardy or Nancy Drew did. The way the books were written also attracted criticism. Many teachers and librarians objected to the ghostwriting process, claiming it was designed to produce books quickly rather than create quality literature.

Regardless of the debates about their literary merit, each series of books has exerted an undeniable influence on American and even global culture. Most Americans have never heard of Edward Stratemeyer, Leslie McFarlane, or Mildred Wirt, but people throughout the world are familiar with Nancy Drew and Frank and Joe Hardy.

Questions

1) According to the passage, the Nancy Drew mystery series was introduced in

- A. 1925
- B. 1927
- C. 1929
- D. 1930

2) Ghostwriters are persons who

- A. write ghost stories
- B. prepare plots for detective stories
- C. Pay other authors to write novels
- D. Undertake writing according to a specific outline

3) According to the passage, which of the following people was a real writer?

- A. Carolyn Keene
- B. Franklin W. Dixon
- C. Leslie McFarlane
- D. Tom Hardy

4) According to the passage, the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew are

- A. teenage film stars
- B. ghostwriters
- C. characters in detective stories
- D. real people

5) As used in the passage (para 3), which is the best synonym for **surmised**?

- A. guessed
- B. questioned
- C. knew
- D. proved

6) According to the passage, The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books were created based on the idea that

- A. romantic books for adults are popular
- B. children enjoy reading about characters they can relate to
- C. girls and boys are not interested in the same things
- D. plenty of ghostwriters are available.

7) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that Leslie McFarlane and Mildred Wirt

- A. disliked writing according to a specific formula
- B. did not respect the art of ghostwriting
- C. were unsuccessful in their previous occupations
- D. found it helpful to write from personal experience

8) According to the passage, some teachers and librarians objected to ghostwritten books such as The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew Mystery Stories because they

- A. disapproved of mystery stories
- B. thought the books were too expensive
- C. believed the books were not quality literature
- D. disliked Edward Stratemeyer's business practices

9) Which of the following best describes the author's opinion about The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew book series?

- A. unsuitable for young readers
- B. objectionable literature
- C. popular and influential
- D. overwhelmingly good

10) The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew Series had

- A. one separate ghostwriter each
- B. the same ghostwriter
- C. ghostwriters named Franklin W. Dixon and Carolyn Keene
- D. several ghostwriters over the years

1. A. One of the students came up with an unique concept to market the product.
B. One of the student came up with a unique concept to market the product.
C. One of the students came up with a unique concept to market the product.
2. A. Each of the monitors must be tested before we pay for it.
B. Each of the monitors must be tested before we pay for them.
C. Each of the monitor must be tested before we pay.
3. A. The doctor had already given an appointment when she had emembered that Tuesday was her day-off.
B. The doctor had already given an appointment when she remembered that Tuesday was her day-off.
C. The doctor already given an appointment when she had remembered that Tuesday was her day-off.
4. A. The company uses econometric models in its market forecasts.
B. The company use econometric models in their market forecasts.
C. The company uses econometrics models in it's market forecasts.
5. A. Either India or the rest of the nations have to root out terrorism.
B. Either India or the rest of the nations has to root out terrorism.
C. Either India or the rest of the nations could be able to root out terrorism.
6. A. The President along with the members of his family, has arrived for a brief stay.
B. The President along with the members of his family, have arrived for a brief stay.
C. The President along with the members of his family, have had arrived for a brief stay.
7. A. Make sure that you will make the most of this opportunity.
B. Make sure that you would make the most of this opportunity.
C. Make sure that you make the most of this opportunity.
8. A. Every student of the college know the importance of self-discipline.
B. Every student of the college knows the importance of self-discipline.
C. Every student of the college is knowing the importance of self-discipline.

9. A) I have not attended any of the classes last semester.
B) I did not attend any of the classes last semester.
C) I had not attended any of the classes last semester.
10. A) My neighbor and friend has often come to my rescue.
B) My neighbor and friend have often come to my rescue.
C) My neighbor and friend are always coming to my rescue.

III Read the following passage.

Humor is the tendency to look at things from the mirthful or incongruous side. It is the quality that make something laughable or amusing. Humor is the ability to perceive, enjoy, or express what is an amusing or comical. It is being the source of laughter and the catalyst of smiles. Humor is the spark that light our eyes as well as the cause of tears that never grow old. Humor is a state of mind.

Most of we have a tendency to regard a clever sence of humor as the distinction of a person which is good hearted and friendly, someone people feels at ease with. They are a "life of the party" we always invite and the co-worker who always has a joke. Everyone have the jocular family member that they always look forward to seeing. We remember the childrens in school that always made the class break into laughter. Humor is never forgetted when we reminisce and it is just as amusing as it was first time.

Humor can be used as like a sniper's gun, picking people off when they least expecting it. When we use humor to hurt, we abuse the fundamental essence of this wonderful gift. We must teach our children the difference between what is funny and what is cruel. A joke is never humorous if it is at the expence of another.

Some people using humor to hide before their real emotions. Using humor to help get through difficult times is a lot different than using humor to hide from them. Hiding behind humor can be a serious problem; it cannot be an only way of expressing our emotions. Some of the greatest comedian have been secretly depressed. Using humor as a defense mechanism can be the serious mental health issue.

Those who uses humor to its best advantage teach others by example. Instead of getting angry when something going wrong, we should try to look for the humor in the situation. It eases tensions and keeps things of perspective. Humor can be able to energize us when a task has become tedious. Humor can make even the worst of situation tolerable.

Humor having been the source of entertainment throughout history. Today humor is practiced in movies, plays, songs, television shows and radio. Humor has had brought fame and fortune to those who have mastered their power. Humor is the

universal language. Although it is true that different people find humor in different things, we all like to laugh.

Humor should be a prerequisite to life's lessons. It is helping keep us sane; keeps us from taking ourselves too seriously. It calms our apprehensions and puts life's imperfections into perspective.

(448 words)

A. Rewrite the passage correcting the errors and underline the corrections made. (There are no punctuation errors.) (5)

B. Write a summary of the given passage (5)

IV

Read the following speech by Rahul Bose (founder of the NGO Foundation which aims to remove all kinds of discrimination is also on the board of Citizens for Justice and Peace, a Global Ambassador for the American India Foundation and a World Youth Ambassador for the World Youth Peace Movement) carefully and write a response (your impressions) of about 150-200 words. (5)

“I have a Dream “That the 26/11 attack on Mumbai will spur civil society to unite and present a force that government will never again ignore.

That in time we will have the maturity to reflect on the mistakes India might have made to incite such hatred.

That our new generation of political leaders will truly look beyond party lines and do what astonishingly few leaders in post-independent India have done – their duty.

That Hemant Karkare’s work on the Malegaon case will not lose momentum or integrity.”

I have a dream “That one day, the next time women are thrashed anywhere in a pub in India, the entire country’s women will march half to Mangalore, stopping the entire city for months, the other half to the Prime Minister’s – stopping the government for months.

That 100 million Indian Children will not go to bed hungry every night. 100 million is two United Kingdoms.

That pregnant women will never again have their wombs slit, their living fetuses torn out and dashed to death while they were set on fire – Gujarat 2002. That there will not be a rape every 23 minutes in this country. Or a dowry death every 33 minutes.”

I have a dream “That small farmers will never again have to apologise to their children and then commit suicide.

That Article 377 making homosexuality a crime will be abolished.

That when a girl goes to her mother and says her uncle or her father has molested

her, she will not be asked – Are you sure? And she will not be told – Don't be silly – you're imagining things. That Muslims who fled Bombay in 1992, will return to their homes and M F Husain will return to his."

I have a dream "Of a time when we will cheer a Younis Khan sixer as we cheer a Yuvraj Singh one.

Of a time when no girl child will ever have to walk the 3 KM average to fetch water everyday - instead she will spend that time in a school.

That we will allow people with AIDS to work with us, eat with us, live with us – with dignity. Where God is not a Setu, a pandal blocking the street or the reason for jihad, but is linked with our hopes, our hearts, our homes."

I have a dream "That one day I will be six inches taller. Have a full head of hair. Look nineteen forever..... And always have the right, witty answer when face to face with a beautiful woman."

But I also have a dream "That I will never ever be scared to speak the truth.

That one day I will have the means, the time, the heart to gather all the street children in this country, put them on a train and take them to a land where they can heal. Where they can play, laugh, eat, do nothing.

That we realize that – slum dwellers – are not the cockroaches of the world..... They are fathers forced out of their villages through poverty, now struggling to make money pushed and abused by the police..... They are mothers working as Kaamwalis in three houses a day so that their children can do what they didn't – go to school..... They are children, who have like all children an equal dose of delight and tears in them, not dirty, lice – ridden creatures shivering in the rain holding today's papers in a plastic bag."

I have a dream "Where every Indian plays a sport, any game, for at least an hour a day.

Where no hockey player will ever again have to sell his medals to feed himself.

Where we win twenty Olympic gold medals in London 2012 – [if we do things right, its possible.] Where the Indian Rugby team wins the World Cup – [We are ranked 83rd now – I will cheer from my wheelchair."]

I have dream "That one day we will all stop what we're doing..... working on laptops, tending to hundreds of patients, sweating it out at cricket practice, running our homeopathy clinic, trying to balance the books at your non-profit organization, begging our child to have one more bite, commuting in a local train, closing that complex merger

We will stop everything what we're doing and suddenly realize, all of us together, at the same, precise moment,..... that we are all Indians and that there is no one like us on this planet – we are unique.

Because we fight with words all the time, with fists sometimes, we talk loudly on our phones, laugh loudest at our own jokes, we are sexist, smelly, love sweets, swear we will exercise tomorrow and don't believe in queues.

But that we are also moved by tears by a sad film song, we fight to pay the bill in a restaurant, you cannot leave our home without at least a cup of tea (and thepla and vadai and shingada and matthi),

.....we feel guilty when we don't stand up if someone elderly walks into the room, we don't shake hands – we hug, we are all first cricket selectors, then

bankers, lawyers, bad actors,
we stand up and cheer during the climax of Chak De, we all watch terrible soaps
on television and swear we don't and we all love Sachin Tendulkar.

And at that moment,..... that moment when we realize we are all the same, the choice will be ours – to turn to the stranger on our side and say – we are 1.2 Billion. The world is six billion. That’s one Indian for every four non-Indians. Sounds Good - Let’s do it.”

V Write an Essay (500-600 words) on any ONE of the following: 10

- A. Have Modern Gadgets destroyed Sociability?**
B. The ever widening Generation Gap
