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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR APPLIED SCIENCES

(Manipal University)

I SEMESTER B.S. DEGREE EXAMINATION – NOV. 2017

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH (IHS 112)

Friday, 24 November 2017

Time: 03 Hours

Max. Marks: 100

✓ Answer ANY FIVE full Questions.

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

Just as there are basic laws and principles that control your physical world, there are basic laws and principles that control your mental world as well. Before you can hope to operate your human success system properly, you need to know the basic laws that determine your behavior and affect your very being.

In this regard, you have no choice. You cannot decide to bypass these laws in an attempt to negate their application. They are present in all mental working and will always operate successfully to bring about the results you keep telling your mind you want.

The human mind is very much like a sophisticated electronic computer. When you acquire any new piece of advanced equipment, you normally take some time to carefully read the manual and basic operating instructions before turning it on to make it work. Operating instructions are important. They tell you how to get maximum performance out of the device, taking into account the specific tasks it was designed to perform. It should be the same with operating your own miraculous built-in machine. You were born as the most advanced living organism in the world, yet you lack the precise knowledge to get the most out of your internal success system. Of course, your automatic goal-stirring mechanism is always successful. But it is probably more successful at getting you what you don't want in life rather than what you do want. Understanding the mental laws will help you get what you do want, more often.

1. Why do we need to know the basic laws that govern behavior patterns?
2. How do the basic laws influence and operate to bring successful results?
3. Why are operating instructions important for all machines?
4. According to the passage, which is the most advanced living organism in the world?
5. What is the automatic goal stirring mechanism of our body that is successful mostly?
6. What do we do to get what we want?
7. What is the subject under discussion in the passage?
8. What is the objective of the passage?
9. What is the meaning of the word 'negate' in context with the second paragraph of the passage?

10. What does the phrase ‘**miraculous built-in machine**’ refer to according to the passage?

B. Correct and rewrite the following sentences if necessary:

1. The prime minister along with his attendants are coming tomorrow to address the sensational and controversial issues of terrorism.
2. With little imagination and enterprise the tournament could have been transformed into a major attraction.
3. They will come if you will invite them.
4. A honest European bought a conventional watch from a watch shop in North Bridge Road.
5. Although this book as well as those books of yours are similar in many ways, mine has an edge over many a book of yours.
6. Hari felt better after taking the medicine. 7. I had written a letter to him last week.
8. The sweets were distributed among several children.
9. Taj Mahal was constructed using the marble.
10. The competition will be held on 26 September, between 2 to 4 pm.

(10+10= 20 marks)

2. A well-known American 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.

(20marks)

3.A. A well-known American 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.

3.B. Read the following speech carefully and write a response (your impressions) of about 150-200 words.

My message today is titled “Life is hard” and it’s about how to live a great life despite the fact that life is difficult. Everybody wants to be happy in life. We all want to live a perfect life. We want that great job or a successful business. We want to be married to Mr. Right or Mrs. Perfect. We want to have great kids. We want to have friends that stick by us come rain or shine. We want to be able to have all the material things life has to offer and have all our problems just disappear. Everybody wishes for good life. It may be at different levels. One person may define a good life one way and another may describe it another way. For one person a good life may be just having three meals a day and a roof over their head. For another it may be having a huge mansion and a couple of million dollars in the bank. There are different levels and meanings to what a good life is. But whatever your definition of it, there is perhaps one thing that you may have in common with many other people. You might want

that good life stress free. You would like to have it without having to work so hard or struggle so much for it. That is a normal human expectation. Nobody likes to struggle through life. Unfortunately, that is also what may be stopping you from having that great life. The thought of all that work, all that planning, overcoming hurdles and resistance is enough to make a lot of people give up before they even start. It can all seem too overwhelming, and for many it all just doesn't seem be worth it. It's like being drained of energy just at the thought of running a marathon. Before you are even at the starting line the thought of all that running just scares you and tires you so much mentally you just decide not to go for it. It's just too hard. One of my favourite books is titled "The Road Less Travelled" by M. Scott Peck. The first sentence in the book is:

"Life is difficult." Now, if you pick up a book and the first thing it tells you is "life is difficult" you may just think "is this book going to get reassuring and encouraging after such a start? But, as Peck goes on to explain, once you accept that life is hard, it no longer becomes an issue that it's difficult. He says: *"Once we know that life is difficult- once we truly understand and accept it - then life is no longer difficult."* In life you will have difficulties getting anything you want. It is very rare to get anything in life without some degree of effort. Only if you win the lottery will you have everything without effort, and even then you would have had to go out and buy the lottery ticket anyway so it's not free at all. Life is hard – your boss will not always be the nicest person in the world. Your job will have challenges that you did not foresee. Your workmates will sometimes be a pain. You won't always get the salary and recognition that you want and deserve at work. Your clients may not be the nicest people in the world. Life is hard – your kids won't always be the ideal kids you want them to be. Your wife or husband may not be as perfect as you thought they were when you married them – in fact I can guarantee you they are not. Your home may not be the ideal place you would want it to be. You may not be the perfect wife or husband that you once thought you were. Life is hard – running a business is not as easy as you thought it would be. No one is lining up to bring money to your business, even though you are a really nice person and your business has great products to offer. I could go on and on with these examples, but the bottom line is that "Life is hard." I don't mean to say in all this that you don't deserve a break. I am not saying that you are not justified in thinking that you deserve more than what you have gotten from life and the world to this point. I am not saying that you are not justified in feeling the way that you feel. I know you have had it tough at times. I know that at times you feel that it's all very confusing and just too hard. I mean you have worked very hard. You've done all that you possibly could in your life whether it is at work or at home. But things just don't seem to have worked out as well as you had planned or hoped. It all just seems to have gone wrong and you don't know or understand how or why. But that's okay. It's normal. That's what being human is all about. That's what life is all about. Life is hard. Accept that. Once you do, you will feel better about your circumstances. Then you won't think of your situation as anything but what is common to every human being. Then you will think of your situation as a part of life. You will no longer beat yourself up about how bad things are or how you are not doing so well in one area or another. You will realise that you are only human. You make mistakes just like everybody else. You are not perfect just like everybody else. But don't stop there. Accepting that life is hard does not mean that you accept every circumstance and simply go with the flow. You see, there are two sides to this story. There is another side to this coin. On the one side of the coin is where you have the words "life is hard" inscribed, but if you turn that coin over you will find very small but powerful words. They read:

"You always have choices" No matter what situation you are in, you have a choice. No matter how bad things are, you have a choice. No matter what you think you can or cannot do, you have a choice. Now it may not be an easy choice, by any means. It may be a very difficult choice and the road you decide to take may be a tough one. It may push you way out of your comfort zone. It may mean that in the initial period your life may get even harder than it already is. But it is a choice nonetheless. A

lot of times you will actually find that the choices are not as hard as you thought they were. You may just have shut off your mind from seeing those choices and possibilities because you thought you had no choice. Once you become open to the idea that you are responsible for your life and that you have choices, you will find that you are no longer stuck just because life is hard.

At that point, life is still hard, but you have the final say. Your life becomes more meaningful and purposeful.

(10+10= 20 marks)

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. It's 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 grusome 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. (343 words)

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

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

(10+10= 20 marks)

5. Answer ANY TWO the following:

- 1.How does Santiago embody Hemingway's ideals for manhood?
- 2.Discuss symbolism in *The Old Man and the Sea*. To what effect does Hemingway employ such images?
- 3.Describe the important aspects of Santiago's relationship with Manolin.

(10+10=20 marks)

6. Answer ANY TWO of the following:

1. Discuss the importance of the sense of sight to the characters in the novella 'The Old Man and the Sea'
2. What is the role of the sea in 'The Old Man and the Sea'?
3. Discuss the themes of the novella 'The Old Man and the Sea'

(10+10=20 marks)

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

1. Genetic Research: Bettering the lives of humanity or destroying it?
2. Is gender equality a myth or a sustainable reality?

(20 Marks)

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

1. People/Students nowadays are very much possessive about their most prized possessions. What are the positive and negative aspects of materialism?
2. Describe three objects that symbolize our culture and explain why you selected them.

(20 Marks)

