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**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR APPLIED SCIENCES**  
(MAHE, MANIPAL)

**I SEMESTER B.S. DEGREE EXAMINATION – APRIL / MAY 2018**

**SUBJECT: COMPOSITION (EN 111)**

**Tuesday, 15 May 2018**

**Duration: 3 Hours**

**Max Marks: 100**

✓ **Answer ANY FIVE full Questions.**

1.A. Read the following passage and the following questions below:

People often ask which is the most difficult language to learn, and it is not easy to answer because there are many factors to take into consideration. Firstly, in a first language the differences are unimportant as people learn their mother tongue naturally, so the question of how hard a language is to learn is only relevant when learning a second language.

A native speaker of Spanish, for example, will find Portuguese much easier to learn than a native speaker of Chinese, for example, because Portuguese is very similar to Spanish, while Chinese is very different, so first language can affect learning a second language. The greater the differences between the second language and our first, the harder it will be for most people to learn. Many people answer that Chinese is the hardest language to learn, possibly influenced by the thought of learning the Chinese writing system, and the pronunciation of Chinese does appear to be very difficult for many foreign learners. However, for Japanese speakers, who already use Chinese characters in their own language, learning writing will be less difficult than for speakers of languages using the Roman alphabet.

Some people seem to learn languages readily, while others find it very difficult. Teachers and the circumstances in which the language is learned also play an important role, as well as each learner's motivation for learning. If people learn a language because they need to use it professionally, they often learn it faster than people studying a language that has no direct use in their day to day life.

Apparently, British diplomats and other embassy staff have found that the second hardest language is Japanese, which will probably come as no surprise to many, but the language that they have found to be the most problematic is Hungarian, which has 35 cases (forms of a nouns according to whether it is subject, object, genitive, etc). This does not mean that Hungarian is the hardest language to learn for everyone, but it causes British diplomatic personnel, who are generally used to learning languages, the most difficulty. However, Tabassaran, a Caucasian language has 48 cases, so it might cause more difficulty if British diplomats had to learn it.

Different cultures and individuals from those cultures will find different languages more difficult. In the case of Hungarian for British learners, it is not a question of the writing system, which uses a similar alphabet, but the grammatical complexity, though native speakers of related languages may find it easier, while struggling with languages that the British find relatively easy.

No language is easy to learn well, though languages which are related to our first language are easier. Learning a completely different writing system is a huge challenge, but that does not necessarily make a language more difficult than another. In the end, it is impossible to say that there is one language that is the most difficult language in the world.

Questions:

- i) The question of how hard a language is to learn is relevant to
  - a. First language acquisition
  - b. Second language acquisition
  - c. Both first and second language acquisition
  - d. All of the above
- ii) Portuguese is definitely easier than Chinese.
  - a. True
  - b. False
- iii) Which of the following is true according to the passage:
  - a. Chinese is the hardest language in the world to learn
  - b. Foreigners find Japanese language easier to learn
  - c. Japanese speakers may find Chinese language easier to learn
  - d. All of the above
- iv) Which of the following is not a factor in the process of language acquisition?
  - a. The role of teachers
  - b. Role of parents
  - c. Role of learner's motivation for learning
  - d. None of the above
- v) According to British diplomatic personnel, the most difficult language to learn is
  - a. Chinese
  - b. Hungarian
  - c. Japanese
  - d. Tabassaran
- vi) Which of the following language has the highest number of cases (forms of nouns)?
  - a. Chinese
  - b. Hungarian
  - c. Japanese
  - d. Tabassaran
- vii) Which of the following is not true according to the passage ?
  - a. Hungarian alphabet is similar to that of British
  - b. Hungarian writing system poses problem to British learners
  - c. Grammatical complexities of Hungarian language poses problem to British learners
  - d. British learners find Hungarian language difficult to learn
- viii) The writer thinks that learning a new writing system is easy
  - a. True
  - b. False
- ix) According to the passage, .....is the most difficult language in the world to learn
  - a. English
  - b. Japanese
  - c. Tabassaran
  - d. No definite answer
- x) Culture of an individual also plays a role in making language learning process easier or difficult
  - a. True
  - b. False

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

- i) Reena has been travelling for 5 years.
- ii) Every one of the workers receive the same benefits.
- iii) If I am a child, I would have played in the rain.
- iv) Her father prevented her to go out.
- v) The reason Steve chose ABC University was that they offered good scholarships for students.
- vi) The members of the jury was unmoved by the defendant's plea for leniency and returned a verdict of guilty.
- vii) The boy was absorbed into a book.
- viii) By next Christmas, we will have been here for eight years.
- ix) There is a ugly toad in the flower pot. Please throw it away.
- x) Let her lay on the couch for a while. She looks quite ill.

**(10+10)**

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.

**(20)**

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

- i) Alter/Altar ii) assent/accent iii) appraise/apprise iv) allowed/aloud v) effect/affect

3.B. 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.

**(05+15)**

4. Read the following passage:

As what geographers had estimated, around twenty percent of the earth's surface is occupied by deserts. A majority of us view deserts as one unique kind of landscape -- areas with little or no rainfalls.

In actual fact, there are differences between the deserts, though of varying degrees. While it is common for a laymen like us to see deserts as rocky or covered with gravel or pebbles, there were some where large sand dunes inhabit. Despite the fact that rainfall is minimal, temperature does change in deserts, ranging from seasonal ones to daily changes where extreme hotness and coldness are being experienced in the day and night.

Unfavorable conditions in the deserts, especially the lack of water, have been discouraged many living things from inhabiting these landscapes. Nevertheless, there are exceptionally surviving ones that through their superb tactics, have managed to live through and are still going strong. One such kind was the specialist annual plants which overcome seasonal temperature changes with their extremely short, active life cycles. In events of sudden rain, the plant seeds pullulate and grow very quickly to make full use of a rain water. Their flowers bloomed and set seeds that ripen quickly too in the hot sun. Once the water runs dry, the mother plant die, leaving behind the drought-resistant seeds, waiting patiently for the next rainy season to arrive.

The Cacti, native in American deserts, adopts to the dry surroundings by having an unique body structures. The plant has swollen stems to help store water that carries it through months. By having sharp pines instead of leaves, water loss through respiration is minimized. Besides, these pointed pines also help the plant ward off grazing animals, thus enhancing its survival period.

Beside plants, there are also animals with distinct surviving tactics in deserts too. For instance, Skinks (desert lizards) metabolizes stored fats in their bulbous tails, producing water to supplement their needs, just like what camels do with the stored food in their humps during long journeys through deserts. Antelopes like the addax, have very low water needs and hence are able to tolerate the conditions in deserts, extracting moisture from the food they eat.

Finally, there are the sandgrouses ( desert birds ) which do not have special features to overcome the drought-like nature in deserts. Hence, to survive in these hot, dry deserts, they need to spend a large part of their time flying in search of waterholes. (406)

.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)

4.C. Punctuate the following:

on behalf of the great state of illinois crossroads of a nation land of lincoln let me express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of addressing this convention tonight is a particular honor for me because lets face it my presence on this stage is pretty unlikely my father was a foreign student born and raised in a small village in kenya he grew up herding goats went to school in a tin roof shack his father my grandfather was a cook a domestic servant to the british but my grandfather had larger dreams for his son through hard work and perseverance my father got a scholarship to study in a magical place america that shone as a beacon of freedom and opportunity to so many who had come before while studying here my father met my mother she was born in a town on the other side of the world in Kansas her father worked on oil rigs and farms through most of the depression the day after pearl harbor my grandfather signed up for duty joined pattons army marched across europe back home my grandmother raised a baby and went to work on a bomber assembly line after the war they studied on the G.I. Bill bought a house through F.H.A. and later moved west all the way to hawaii in search of opportunity and they too had big dreams for their daughter a common dream born of two continents

(Excerpt - speech made by Mr Barack Obama, Former President of United States of America, 2004  
Democratic National Convention Keynote Address)

Delivered 27 July 2004, Fleet Center, Boston

4. D. Write a paragraph on “Absolute power corrupts absolutely”

(05+05+05+05)

5. Answer ANY TWO of the following:

A. Comment on the title and its relevance ‘Atlas Shrugged’

B. Write a note on John Galt.

C. Explain the theme of individualism in the novel.

6. Answer ANY TWO of the following:

- A. Explain in what ways Julia differs from Winston. Consider her behavior, her motivation, and her goals
- B. The novel, 1984 is rife with irony. Explain.
- C. Discuss the role of the Brotherhood in the dynamics of Oceania's society and in the novel.

**(10+10)**

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

- A. Violence in the media promotes violence in the society.
- B. Euthanasia (Mercy Killing) must be banned.

**(20)**

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

- A. Role of parenting in a child's life.
- B. Impact of cellphones on society.

**(20)**

