

Question Paper

Exam Date & Time: 06-May-2019 (02:00 PM - 05:00 PM)



MANIPAL ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR APPLIED SCIENCES I SEMESTER B.Sc. (APPLIED SCIENCES) IN ENGINEERING END SEMESTER THEORY EXAMINATION-APRIL/MAY 2019 COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH [IHS 112]

Marks: 100

Duration: 180 mins.

Answer 5 out of 8 questions.

1) **Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow in a sentence each:** (10)

A) You know that you're doing something big when your company name becomes a verb. Ask Xerox. In 1959 they created the first plain paper copy machine. It was one of the most efficacious products ever. The company name Xerox grew into a verb that means "to copy," as in "Bob, can you Xerox this for me?" Around 50 years later, the same thing happened to Google. Their company name grew into a verb that means "to do an internet search." Now everyone and their grandma knows what it means to Google it.

Unlike Xerox, Google wasn't the first company to invent their product, not by a long shot. Lycos released their search engine in 1993. Yahoo! came out in 1994. AltaVista began serving results in 1995. Google did not come out until years later, in 1998. Though a few years difference may not seem like much, this is a major head start in the fast moving world of tech. So how did Google do it? How did they overtake their competitors who had such huge leads in time and money? Maybe one good idea made all the difference.

There are millions and millions of sites on the internet. How does a search engine know which ones are relevant to your search? This is a question that great minds have been working on for decades. To cognize how Google changed the game, you need to know how search engines worked in 1998. Back then most websites looked at the words in your query. They counted how many times those words appeared on each page. Then they might return pages where the words in your query appeared the most. This system did not work well and people often had to click through pages and pages of results to find what they wanted.

Google was the first search engine that began considering links. Links are those blue underlined words that take you to other pages when you click on them. Larry Page, cofounder of Google, believed that meaningful data could be drawn from how those links connect. Page figured that websites with many links pointing at them were more important than those that had few.

He was right. Google's search results were much better than their rivals. They would soon become the world's most used search engine.

It wasn't just the great search results that led to Google becoming so well liked. It also had to do with the way that they presented their product. Most of the other search engines were cluttered. Their home pages were filled with everything from news stories to stock quotes. But Google's homepage was, and still is, clean. There's nothing on it but the logo, the search box, and a few links. It almost appears empty. In fact, when they were first testing it, users would wait at the home page and not do anything. When asked why, they said that they were, "waiting for the rest of the page to load." People couldn't imagine such a clean and open page as being complete. But the fresh design grew on people once they got used to it.

These days Google has its hands in everything from self-driving cars to helping humans live longer. Though they have many other popular products, they will always be best known for their search engine. The Google search engine has changed our lives and our language. Not only is it a fantastic product, it is a standing example that one good idea (and a lot of hard work) can change the world.

- a. Quote a title that best expresses the main idea of this text?
- b. Give a synonym that best defines the word "cognize" as used in the third paragraph.
- c. How did Google improve search quality in 1998?
- d. Give an antonym to the word "efficacious" as used in the first paragraph
- e. According to the author, why did Google become so popular?
- f. What inference do you draw from the fourth paragraph?
- g. Write a synonym that best defines the word "cluttered" as it is used in the fifth paragraph.
- h. Which was the first company that released its search engine?
- i. Why does the author discuss Xerox in this text?
- j. What is the author's main purpose in writing this text?

B)

Correct and rewrite the following sentences if necessary:

(10)

- a. Neither Germany nor India have any right to investigate the matter.
- b. She couldn't cope up with her studies as she had a different educational background.
- c. The list of items are on the desk.
- d. The duel broke out between several people on the street.
- e. The class representative was awarded with a certificate for monitoring the class well.
- f. The earth as well as the other planets revolve around the sun.
- g. Most individuals appear to have a inherent fear of failure, but failure is actually your best friend.
- h. Everybody are different, so what works for you may well be different than what works for everybody else.
- i. Despite of all efforts by the government, a great deal of water is still wasted in various regions.
- j. The Prime Minister congratulated M S Dhoni for his team's victory against

Australia in T20 International Cricket Series.

- 2) A well-known American University has offered scholarship to the meritorious (20) students of ICAS. You wish to avail the scholarship and pursue your study in that university.

Prepare a statement of purpose of about 450-500 words stating why you deserve to be selected.

- 3) A well-known American University has offered scholarship to the meritorious (10) students of ICAS. You wish to avail the scholarship and pursue your study in that university.

A)

Prepare a Resume/CV. The resume should include your personal details and other details.

B)

Read the following speech (by Kare Anderson on Be an opportunity maker, TED@IBM, September 2014) carefully and write a response (your impressions) of about 150-200 words. (10)

My idea to reimagine the world is to see it one where we all become greater opportunity-makers with and for others. There's no greater opportunity or call for action for us now than to become opportunity-makers who use best talents together more often for the greater good and accomplish things we couldn't have done on our own. And I want to talk to you about that, because even more than giving, is the capacity for us to do something smarter together for the greater good that lifts us both up and that can scale. I also want to point something else out: Each one of you is better than anybody else at something. That disproves that popular notion that if you're the smartest person in the room, you're in the wrong room. What I'm asking you to consider is what kind of opportunity- makers we might become, because more than wealth or fancy titles or a lot of contacts, it's our capacity to connect around each other's better side and bring it out. And I'm not saying this is easy, and I'm sure many of you have made the wrong moves too about who you wanted to connect with, but what I want to suggest is, this is an opportunity. I started thinking about it way back when I was a Wall Street Journal reporter and I was in Europe and I was supposed to cover trends and trends that transcended business or politics or lifestyle. So I had to have contacts in different worlds very different than mine, because otherwise you couldn't spot the trends. And third, I had to write the story in a way stepping into the reader's shoes, so they could see how these trends could affect their lives. That's what opportunity-makers do. And here's a strange thing: Unlike an increasing number of Americans who are working and living and playing with people who think exactly like them because we then become more rigid and extreme, opportunity-makers are actively seeking situations with people unlike them, and they're building relationships, and because they do that, they have trusted relationships where they can bring the right team in and recruit them to solve a problem better and faster and seize more opportunities. They're not affronted by differences, they're fascinated by them, and that is a huge shift in mindset, and once you feel it, you want it to happen a lot more. This world is calling out for us to have a collective mindset, and I believe in doing that. It's especially important now. Why is it important now? Because things

can be devised like drones and drugs and data collection, and they can be devised by more people and cheaper ways for beneficial purposes and then, as we know from the news every day, they can be used for dangerous ones. It calls on us, each of us, to a higher calling. So here's what I'm calling for you to do. Remember the three traits of opportunity-makers.

Opportunity-makers keep honing their top strength and they become pattern seekers. They get involved in different worlds than their worlds so they're trusted and they can see those patterns, and they communicate to connect around sweet spots of shared interest. So what I'm asking you is, the world is hungry. I truly believe, in my firsthand experience, the world is hungry for us to unite together as opportunity-makers and to emulate those behaviors as so many of you already do - I know that firsthand - and to reimagine a world where we use our best talents together more often to accomplish greater things together than we could on our own. Just remember, as Dave Liniger once said, "You can't succeed coming to the potluck with only a fork."

Thank you very much.

Read the following passage:

4) **Rewrite the passage correcting the errors and underline the corrections made.** (10)

A)

1. Though there is so much talk about positive thinking, there is misunderstanding of what it really was. 2. Been positive doesn't mean ignoring what is happening around you and living within some kind of a "positive bubble". 3. You cannot expect someone going through problems or disasters, or living in difficult circumstances, to ignore his/her current condition or start thinking positively right away. 4. It is more easier to think positively when in comfortable situations, but not when in the midst of problems, disasters or a harsh situation, unless you are trained to do so. 5. Being positive, like any other skill, require gradual development and training. 6. No one could speak a new foreign language, before studying and practicing for some time. A person, who is not trained, cannot lift heavy weights, run or swim like a trained athlete. 7. Saying that everything are going to be all right, forcing yourself to smile with no reason, or ignoring problems and difficulties, without trying to solve them, is not being positive. It is being impractical. 8. Positive people expect a best and believe that a bad situation would improve, but they are also practical people. 9. They look for oppurtunities and for solutions, instead of doing nothing and blaming everybody for their troubles. You cannot always control external circumstances, but you can change your attitude and the way you feel. By being positive you do not allow problems and difficulties to overpower you and affect your mind and moods, and therefore, you feel happier and suffer less. 10. Positive thinking means to be hopeful, and hope bring light and happiness into the soul. (263 WORDS)

B) **Write a summary of the given passage (around 1/3 of its length)** (10)

5) **Answer ANY TWO of the following:** (20)

a. Critically analyze Santiago's character and his relationship with the sea in the novel Old Man and the Sea.

- b. Explain the significance of nature in Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea.
- c. Explain the themes presented in this novel by Ernest Hemingway.

(10+10=20

marks)

- 6) **Answer ANY TWO of the following:** (20)

- a. Write briefly the plot of the novel Old Man and the Sea.
- b. In the novel 'The Old Man and the Sea', the sea is characterized with both positive and negative connotations. Elucidate with reference to the events in the novella.
- c. Explain the relevance of the title "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:** (20)

- a. Women Empowerment is limited to debates.
- b. Country is the priority and not elections.

- 8) **Write an expository essay on ANY ONE of the following in about 500 to 600 words:** (20)

- a. Advantages and disadvantages of extremely long life
- b. Evolution of communication in the last 20 years

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