



MANIPAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

MANIPAL

(A constituent unit of MAHE, Manipal)

FIRST SEMESTER B. TECH.

MAKE UP EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2019

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH [HUM 1051]

Date of Exam: 21/12/2019

Time of Exam: 8:30-11:30

Max. Marks: 50

1A. Fill in the blanks with the correct option to complete the sentence. (5)

- A. Neither the team nor the captain _____ of the spectators.
- Has met the expectations
 - Have met the expectations
 - Has been met the expectations
 - Are meeting the expectations
- B. Although both the parties have proposed plans to reduce the deficit, only one _____.
- Of the two are viable
 - Of the two is viable
 - Of the two will viable
 - Of the two should viable
- C. Everyone in the department who worked with my friend personally congratulated her on her promotion and told her how much _____.
- they enjoyed her company
 - they have enjoyed her company
 - he/she had enjoyed her company
 - he/she is enjoying her company
- D. One of _____ of the book is its narrative technique.
- the most interesting aspects
 - the most interesting aspect
 - the more interesting aspect
 - the more interesting aspects
- E. Each of the students whom I have chosen to take part in the discussion _____ that he/she will be happy to do so.
- Has indicated
 - Has been indicated
 - Have indicated
 - Will indicate

1B. Identify the grammatically correct sentence in each of the following: (5)

A.

- a. The Director along with his associates have come.
- b. The Director along with his associates has come.
- c. The Director along with his associates is come.

B.

- a. The farmer had reaped the crop and sold it in the market.
- b. The farmer had reaped the crop and had sold it in the market.
- c. The farmer reaped the crop and had sold it in the market

C.

- a. The doctor prohibited him from taking sugar once he was diagnosed for diabetes.
- b. The doctor prohibited him from taking sugar once he was diagnosed with diabetes.
- c. The doctor prohibited him not to take sugar once he was diagnosed with diabetes.

D.

- a. The peacock is one of the most beautiful bird in the world.
- b. The peacock is one of the most beautiful birds in the world.
- c. The peacock is one of the most beautiful bird into the world.

E.

- a. Each of the boys was given a fountain pen.
- b. Each of the boys were given a fountain pen.
- c. Each of the boys were been given a fountain pen.

2A. Read the following passage and answer the questions given at the end. (3)

India's water crisis is clear and present, with implications for the health of the entire population. According to the Composite Water Management Index developed by Niti Aayog, 70% of the water resources are identified as polluted. This is based primarily on data supplied by States for calculating the index. If the water accessible to millions is contaminated, the problem is infinitely worse than that of availability. The system of ratings for States is based on their performance in augmenting water resources and watersheds, investing in infrastructure, providing rural and urban drinking water, and encouraging efficient agricultural use. It presumes that this 'hall of fame' approach will foster "competitive and cooperative federalism". What emerges from the early assessment is that States such as Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Telangana have initiated reforms for judicious water use, while populous ones such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have failed to respond to the challenge.

Tamil Nadu, which has a middling score, does well on augmentation of water sources, but is abysmally poor in ensuring sustainable use for farming. The trends that the data reflect of high to extreme stress faced by 600 million people call for speedy reforms. Two areas that need urgent measures are augmentation of watersheds that can store more good water, for use

in agriculture and to serve habitations, and strict pollution control enforcement. In this context, the Committee on Restructuring the Central Water Commission and the Central Ground Water Board, chaired by Mihir Shah, has called for a user-centric approach to water management, especially in agriculture. It advocates decentralisation of irrigation commands, offering higher financial flows to well-performing States through a National Irrigation Management Fund. Clearly, awarding an index rank should help advance such schemes, making States feel the need to be competitive. Yet, such approaches may not resolve seemingly intractable inter-State river disputes.

As the Cauvery issue has demonstrated, State governments would rather seek judicial intervention than be accused of bartering away the rights to a precious resource under a shared, cooperative framework. Groundwater extraction patterns need to be better understood through robust data collection; less than 5% of about 12 million wells are now under study. Steady urbanisation calls for a new management paradigm, augmenting sources of clean drinking water supply and treatment technologies that will encourage reuse. Pollution can be curbed by levying suitable costs. These forward-looking changes would need revamped national and State institutions, and updated laws. A legal mandate will work better than just competition and cooperation; it would make governments accountable.

Source: https://hindi.bankersadda.com/2018/06/reading-comprehension-for-sbi-po_25.html

Choose the most appropriate answer from the options:

A. According to the passage, the issue of the water crisis in India

- a. revolves primarily around the unavailability of adequate water
- b. is alarming due to the pollution concerns related to the water
- c. is never perceived seriously by the government
- d. is limited to only a few states

B. According to the passage, Tamil Nadu has a middling score and does well on augmentation of water resources, but it lacks in?

- a. ensuring strict pollution control enforcement.
- b. providing Rural and Urban drinking water
- c. ensuring sustainable use for farming.
- d. advocating proper water cleaning treatments.

C. According to the passage, a way forward to the water crisis issues among the states would be

- a. a shared, cooperative framework
- a. inflow of financial incentives
- b. availability of an appropriate legal mandate
- c. bartering away the right to resources

2B. Choose the word that is SIMILAR in meaning to the words given: **(2)**

A. AUGMENTING

- a. Compressing
- b. Dominating
- c. Retrenching
- d. Amplifying

B. INTRACTABLE

- a. Amenable
- b. Stubborn
- c. Docile
- d. Submissive

2C. Write on the following in about 250 words: (5)

In view of the ideas expressed in the passage, do you think India need to adopt an innovative method to resolve water crisis issue?

3A. Write on ANY ONE of the following in about 300 words: (5)

1. How would one describe Tom Sawyer's ingenuity of getting the fence painted in comparison to modern day managerial skills?
2. Describe the act of fate in the story of Albert Edward Foreman and discuss such possibilities of luck in terms of real life experiences.

3B. Write on ANY ONE of the following in about 300 words: (5)

1. Developing one's observational skills helps in interpersonal communication and problem solving skills. Elaborate with reference to the text *The look-out man*.
2. Compare and contrast Billy's honesty and ethics during his encounter with Mr. Bidwell and explain its necessity in today's world scenario.

4A. Choose the right word to fill in the blanks. Write only the word. (5)

1. The post-war government had the _____ task of reconstructing the ravaged city. (unruffled/obstinate/enormous)
2. The grey clouds and the drizzling rain suited the old man's _____ mood well. (complacent/melancholy/infirm)
3. The unruffled captain of the ship _____ assured the passengers that there was no danger from the impending storm. (tranquilly/laboriously/leisurely)
4. She had the _____ habit of bluntly saying exactly what she thought. (disconcerting/benign/unimpeachable)
5. The new employee is almost embarrassingly _____ to anyone in authority. (exemplary/obsequious /irreproachable)

4B. Read the following excerpts of the speech by Mr. N R Narayana Murthy at Lal Bahadur Sastry Institute of Management: Write your response to the speech in about 250-300 words. (5)

Ladies & Gentlemen,

When I got the invitation to speak here, I decided to speak on an important topic on which I have pondered for years – the role of Western values in contemporary Indian society.

The word community joins two Latin words com (“together” or “with”) and unus (“one”). A community, then, is both one and many. It is a unified multitude and not a mere group of people. As it is said in the Vedas: Man can live individually, but can survive only collectively. Hence, the challenge is to form a progressive community by balancing the interests of the individual and that of the society. To meet this, we need to develop a value system where people accept modest sacrifices for the common good.

What is a value system? It is the protocol for behaviour that enhances the trust, confidence and commitment of members of the community. It goes beyond the domain of legality – it is about decent and desirable behaviour. Further, it includes putting the community interests ahead of your own. Thus, our collective survival and progress is predicated on sound values.

There are two pillars of the cultural value system – loyalty to family and loyalty to community. One should not be in isolation to the other, because, successful societies are those which combine both harmoniously. It is in this context that I will discuss the role of Western values in contemporary Indian society.

I am happy as long as we practice these values – whether we call it Western or old Indian values. As an Indian, I am proud to be part of a culture, which has deep-rooted family values. We have tremendous loyalty to the family. For instance, parents make enormous sacrifices for their children. They support them until they can stand on their own feet. On the other side, children consider it their duty to take care of aged parents.

We believe: Mathru devo bhava – mother is God, and pithru devo bhava – father is God. Further, brothers and sisters sacrifice for each other. In fact, the eldest brother or sister is respected by all the other siblings. As for marriage, it is held to be a sacred union – husband and wife are bonded, most often, for life. In joint families, the entire family works towards the welfare of the family. There is so much love and affection in our family life.

Unfortunately, our attitude towards family life is not reflected in our attitude towards community behaviour. From littering the streets to corruption to breaking of contractual obligations, we are apathetic to the common good. In the West – the US, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand – individuals understand that they have to be responsible towards their community.

The primary difference between the West and us is that, there, people have a much better societal orientation. They care more for the society than we do. Further, they generally sacrifice more for the society than us. Quality of life is enhanced because of this. This is where we need to learn from the West.

In the West, there is respect for the public good. For instance, parks free of litter, clean streets, public toilets free of graffiti – all these are instances of care for the public good. On

the contrary, in India, we keep our houses clean and water our gardens everyday – but, when we go to a park, we do not think twice before littering the place.

Corruption, as we see in India, is another example of putting the interest of oneself, and at best that of one's family, above that of the society. Society is relatively corruption free in the West. For instance, it is very difficult to bribe a police officer into avoiding a speeding ticket.

This is because of the individual's responsible behaviour towards the community as a whole. On the contrary, in India, corruption, tax evasion, cheating and bribery have eaten into our vitals. For instance, contractors bribe officials, and construct low-quality roads and bridges. The result is that society loses in the form of substandard defence equipment and infrastructure, and low-quality recruitment, just to name a few impediments. Unfortunately, this behaviour is condoned by almost everyone.

Another interesting attribute, which we Indians can learn from the West, is their accountability. Irrespective of your position, in the West, you are held accountable for what you do. However, in India, the more 'important' you are, the less answerable you are. For instance, a senior politician once declared that he 'forgot' to file his tax returns for 10 consecutive years – and he got away with it. To quote another instance, there are over 100 loss making public sector units (central) in India. Nevertheless, I have not seen action taken for bad performance against top managers in these organizations.

Dignity of labour is an integral part of the Western value system. In the West, each person is proud about his or her labour that raises honest sweat. On the other hand, in India, we tend to overlook the significance of those who are not in professional jobs. We have a mind-set that reveres only supposedly intellectual work.

For instance, I have seen many engineers, fresh from college, who only want to do cutting-edge work and not work that is of relevance to business and the country. However, be it an organization or society, there are different people performing different roles. For success, all these people are required to discharge their duties. This includes everyone from the CEO to the person who serves tea – every role is important. Hence, we need a mind-set that reveres everyone who puts in honest work.

Yet another lesson to be learnt from the West, is about their professionalism in dealings. The common good being more important than personal equations, people do not let personal relations interfere with their professional dealings. For instance, they don't hesitate to chastise a colleague, even if he is a personal friend, for incompetent work.

In India, I have seen that we tend to view even work interactions from a personal perspective. Further, we are the most 'thin-skinned' society in the world – we see insults where none is meant. This may be because we were not free for most of the last thousand years. Further, we seem to extend this lack of professionalism to our sense of punctuality. We do not seem to respect the other person's time.

Most of our behaviour comes from greed, lack of self-confidence, lack of confidence in the nation, and lack of respect for the society. To borrow Gandhi's words: There is enough in this world for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed. Let us work towards a society where we would do unto others what we would have others do unto us. Let us all be responsible citizens who make our country a great place to live. In the words of Churchill:

Responsibility is the price of greatness. We have to extend our family values beyond the boundaries of our home.

Finally, let us work towards maximum welfare of the maximum people – Samasta janaanaam sukhino bhavantu. Thus, let us – people of this generation, conduct ourselves as great citizens rather than just good people so that we can serve as good examples for our younger generation.

5. Write an essay in about 500-600 words on any ONE of the following topics: (10)

1. Is Space Exploration necessary?
2. Facebook- Instagram-Snapchat: Are Digital Connections making us better Human Beings?
3. Increasing Natural Calamities - Nature's Response to Human Intervention.
