



# INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR APPLIED SCIENCES

MAHE, MANIPAL

B.Sc. (Applied Sciences) in Engg.

End – Semester Theory Examinations – Nov./ Dec. 2020

**I SEMESTER - COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH (IHS 112)**

(Branch: Common to all)

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Date: 01 December 2020**

**Max. Marks: 50**

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- ✓ Answer ALL the questions.
  - ✓ Missing data, if any, may be suitably assumed
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**1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow in a sentence each: (10 Marks)**

Concussions are brain injuries that occur when a person receives a blow to the head, face, or neck. Although most people who suffer a concussion experience initial bouts of dizziness, nausea, and drowsiness, these symptoms often disappear after a few days. The long-term effects of concussions, however, are less understood and far more severe. Recent studies suggest that people who suffer multiple concussions are at a significant risk for developing chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disorder that causes a variety of dangerous mental and emotional problems to arise weeks, months, or even years after the initial injury. These psychological problems can include depression, anxiety, memory loss, inability to concentrate, and aggression. In extreme cases, people suffering from CTE have even committed suicide or homicide. The majority of people who develop these issues are athletes who participate in popular high-impact sports, especially football. Although both new sports regulations and improvements in helmet technology can help protect players, the sports media and fans alike bear some of the responsibility for reducing the incidence of these devastating injuries.

Improvements in diagnostic technology have provided substantial evidence to link severe—and often fatal—psychological disorders to the head injuries players receive while on the field. Recent autopsies performed on the brains of football players who have committed suicide have shown advanced cases of CTE in every single victim.

In response to the growing understanding of this danger, the National Football League (NFL) has revised its safety regulations. Players who have suffered a head injury on the field must undergo a "concussion sideline assessment"—a series of mental and physical fitness tests—before being allowed back in the game. In an effort to diminish the amount of head and neck injuries on the field, NFL officials have begun enforcing stricter penalty calls for helmet-to-helmet contact, leading

with the head, and hitting a defenseless player. Furthermore, as of 2010, if a player's helmet is accidentally wrenched from his head during play, the ball is immediately whistled dead. There is hope that these new regulations, coupled with advances in helmet design, will reduce the number of concussions player endure, and thus curb the number of CTE cases.

Efforts by the NFL and other professional sports leagues are certainly laudable; indeed, we should commend every attempt to protect the mental and physical health of players. However, new regulations at the professional level cannot protect amateur players, especially young people. Fatal cases of CTE have been reported in victims as young as 21. With appropriate equipment and form, tackling need not be dangerous. Proper tackling form—using the arms and shoulders to aim for a player's midsection rather than leading with the top of the head—should be taught at an early age. Youth, high school, and college leagues should also adopt safety rules even more stringent than the NFL's. Furthermore, at an early age, athletes should be educated about the serious dangers of head injuries.

Perhaps the most important factor in reducing the number of traumatic brain injuries, however, lies not with the players, the coaches, or the administrators, but with the media and fans. Sports media producers have become accustomed to showcasing the most aggressive tackles and the most intense plays. NFL broadcasts often replay especially violent collisions, while the commentators marvel at the physical prowess of the players involved. Some sports programs even feature weekly countdowns of the hardest hits. When the media exalts such hazardous behavior, professionals are rewarded for injuring each other on the field, and amateurs become more likely to try to imitate their favorite NFL athletes. Announcers, commentators, television producers, and sportswriters should engage in a collective effort to cease glorifying brutal plays. In turn, fans should stop expecting their favorite players to put their lives on the line for the purposes of entertainment. Players must stop being encouraged to trade their careers, health, happiness, and their lives for the sake of a game.

- a. Quote a title that best expresses the main idea of this text?
- b. What is the author's main purpose in writing this text?
- c. What inference do you draw from the second paragraph?
- d. In paragraph 3, the author claims, "young athletes should be educated about the dangers of head injuries at an early age". What does the author imply?
- e. What is the author's main purpose in the final paragraph?
- f. "Efforts by the NFL and other professional sports leagues are certainly laudable; we should commend every attempt to protect the mental and physical health of players."

What does the word 'laudable' mean in the given context?

- g. State one factor that contributes to the incidence of CTE in amateur players
- h. According to the passage why does media use phrases such as aggressive tackles,” “most intense plays,” “violent collisions,” “hardest hits,” “dangerous behavior,” and “brutal plays”?
- i. Give a synonym that best defines the word “wrenched” as used in the third paragraph?
- j. Provide an antonym to the word “stringent” used in the fourth paragraph?

**2. Correct and rewrite the following sentences if necessary (10 Marks)**

- a. He read the letter half a dozen times but cannot understand the message.
- b. The list of selected candidates are announced.
- c. The younger you are, the more quicker you learn.
- d. Despite of working hard, he failed to earn enough money.
- e. Everyone sweep the garbage and throws it into the middle of the street.
- f. A trench to light a fire were made using spades by ten young men.
- g. Neither cooking vessels nor groceries was brought by the travelers.
- h. Flyovers has become a boon to the people in avoiding traffic jams.
- i. In a joint family every member are looked after with great care by the elders.
- j. Mr. Wright’s recreation include singing, playing golf and football.

**3. Read the following speech (by Bruno Pieters on The business of truth, TED 2013) carefully and write a response (your impressions) of about 250-300 words. (10 Marks)**

I'm going to start with a quote from Maya Angelou

"If you get, give.

If you learn, teach."

I'm not going to tell you what I have learned about life, about myself and about what I believe is my truth.

The first thing I have learned is who I am.

I am a fashion designer and I am the founder of Honest by, but first and foremost, I am a human being.

I love how we have described ourselves in our dictionary, if you look up the definition of a human being you will see that it says a human being is a kind and compassionate entity. It was good to read that again because I think over the years I forgot what it really meant to be human.

The second thing that I have learned is my purpose in life. That can be a hard question to answer but for me the answer was very simple. My purpose in life is to be human, and how do I fulfil that purpose? By being human in: My relationships, my diet, my consumption and in my work. When it comes to relationships I started by being kind and compassionate towards myself, so that I would be mentally and physically able to show kindness and compassion towards others. In my diet, I

became vegan this year, because I believe that the world and all beings living on this planet are not here for me, but I am here for them; to love them, to admire them, and to protect them. In my consumption, I try to consume more consciously everyday by only buying what I believe in. In my work, I think that this is where I have made the biggest change.

Honest by.

I launched Honest by last year in January. Honest by is the first 100% transparent company in the world. We offer our customers sustainable fashion made in Europe. We share all the information about our products with our customers, from the origin of the raw material to the entire price calculation including the markup we place on a product. The reason why I created honest by is because this service is something that I wanted as a consumer. Because I believe one needs that level of transparency to be able to make the right choices and consume more humanely. At the moment we are the only brand offering 100% transparency to the public, which makes me very happy as a CEO, but as a consumer it doesn't. So what I try to do in my personal life is help other companies to become more sustainable and transparent, by only buying products from brands that are in sync with my values and by using my voice. When I'm in a store I always ask the people who work there the same questions: Who made it? Where it was made? And how it was made? Because I need to know what I'm paying for and who I'm financially supporting through my purchase.

Another thing I've learned is, all that matters today besides love, is money. And this doesn't need to be a sad thing. Money has become a universal language that is understandable to all. And if we learn to speak money well, it can become a very powerful and positive tool for change. Now there are moments when I do doubt if my shopping really makes a difference. But then I try to remember all the crazy things we do for money. We abuse our children, we abuse our animals and our environment sometimes just to get a dollar, or a euro from someone. That is how important every purchase is. That is how important everyone is. Everyone matters.

I would like to finish with a quote from Gandhi

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

I think that is my favorite quote of all time because it reminds me that change does not depend on others and all it really takes is one person who remembers their humanity, and that our freedom lies in our responsibilities.

**4. Answer ANY ONE of the following: (10 Marks)**

- a. Critically analyse Santiago's character and his relationship with Marlin in the novel *The 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. What are some of the themes represented in the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*?

**5. Write an argumentative essay (on ANY ONE of the following) in about 500 to 600 words. (10 Marks)**

- a. There has recently been much discussion on violence in music, film, and television that children enjoy. The violence that the youngsters hear and see through TV, film, and music leads them to behave in violent ways. Some experts argue that the media is to be blamed for this. Explain your answer in a detailed essay.
- b. Humans should embrace new technologies at the expense of the natural world. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer in a detailed essay. Use facts, statistics and studies to supplement your views.

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