

Question Paper

Exam Date & Time: 23-Jun-2022 (09:00 AM - 12:00 PM)



MANIPAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
MANIPAL
(A constituent unit of MAHE, Manipal)

SECOND SEMESTER B.TECH. EXAMINATIONS (MIT, MANIPAL) - JUNE/JULY 2022
SUBJECT : HUM 1053 : COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH AND HUMAN VALUES

Marks: 50

Duration: 180 mins.

Answer all the questions.

1. Read the comprehension passage and answer the questions on it.

Whatever you may think about India's policy stance on the Russian invasion of Ukraine one thing is clear: this is not just a conflict far away to which we can afford to remain indifferent. The war in Ukraine has affected us in India already, and most of the rest of the world besides.

The rise in oil prices has already hurt us gravely. Whereas the government's budget had been based on the assumption that global oil prices would average about \$75 a barrel, they shot well above \$100, touching \$130-140 on occasion, and have thrown the finance minister's numbers completely out of kilter, with immediate and medium-term repercussions for our economy and growth prospects. The war has also brought about a serious rise in commodity prices, since Ukraine and Russia were responsible, in good times, for some 30-40 per cent of global wheat exports. While India is not a wheat importer and our farmers may even profit in the short term from being able to export some Indian wheat at prices higher than the guaranteed MSP announced by the government other agricultural commodities have also risen in price. For instance, 70 per cent of the sunflower oil and seeds that India consumes used to come from Ukraine and we now need to look for substitute sources, which will be more expensive.

India's is perhaps a modest example: we have been weathering the storm so far, including through increasing our imports of Russian oil and fertilisers. But other countries have not been so lucky. Muslim countries observing Ramadan have found the daily *iftar* becoming more expensive, with items scarce in many countries. Countries like Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh and Iran buy more than 60 per cent of their wheat from Ukraine and Russia; the former was known as a breadbasket to the world, and bread itself has become unaffordable. Nor will Ukraine be able to plant its usual wheat crop as long as the war endures, prolonging global wheat shortages. The World Food Program estimates that 41 million people in west and central Africa face a food and nutrition crisis, as people are reeling from the highest-ever prices for essential commodities like grain, oil and fertiliser. Yet ironically, the wheat already in Ukraine's granaries risks rotting uneaten because the war has made it impossible to ship it out.

Ukraine's European neighbours are the most directly affected, with some five million refugees crossing into neighbouring countries and the tough economic sanctions on Russia biting into their economies too. Rising oil and gas prices have affected every European country severely, as well as many farther afield.

According to the Bank for International Settlements, 60 per cent of the world's advanced economies are suffering annual inflation rates above 5 per cent; in Britain, consumer price inflation reached its highest levels in three decades. Inflation has hit India, too; our inflation, like most emerging economies, is higher than anytime this century, with most of the developing world seeing inflation rates above 7 per cent. Countries that had just begun to recover from the devastating consequences of the pandemic and associated lockdowns have now been hit with a "double whammy". In our own neighbourhood, Sri Lanka has been the worst affected, with its economy near collapse, forcing it to default on its debts. The crisis in Pakistan's economy in turn played a part in the ouster of Imran Khan, by diluting the support he might have enjoyed had he been the steward of good times rather than presiding haplessly over economic failure. Now his successors have to look for means to service Islamabad's huge external debt. Countries as far apart as Nepal, Tunisia, Sierra Leone and Bolivia are facing a debt crisis attributable directly to the war.

Our globalised world is simply less able to cope with war and the resultant sanctions, supply-chain disruptions and restrictions of currency flows. For a few heady years we enjoyed the fruits of inter-dependence, as trade and currency flowed freely and prosperity transcended borders. Today, we are realising that even a local war in the 21st century can have a global impact. The bombs and bullets recognise no frontiers. The need for peace has never been greater.

Source: <https://www.theweek.in/columns/shashi-tharoor/2022/04/22/our-globalised-world-is-less-able-to-cope-w>

- 1A) According to the writer, 'the war in Ukraine': (1)
- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Has affected India more than it affected the rest of the world | Has affected India as well as the rest of the world | Has not affected India as much as it affected the rest of the world | Has not affected India as it remained indifferent |
|--|---|---|---|
- 1B) Which of the following **is not correct** according to the passage? (1)
- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Indian economy may be hurt by rise in oil prices due to war in Ukraine | Indian economy may be hurt by rise in wheat prices due to war in Ukraine | Indian economy may be hurt by rise in sunflower oil prices due to war in Ukraine | Indian economy may be hurt by rise in prices on agricultural commodities due to war in Ukraine |
|--|--|--|--|
- 1C) Global wheat shortage is likely to extend for a longer period because: (1)
- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 41 million people in west and central Africa face a food and nutrition crisis | Ukraine may produce the required wheat crop only after the war stops | Wheat in Ukraine's granaries risks rotting uneaten because the war has made it impossible to ship it out | Countries like Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh and Iran do not import wheat from Russia |
|---|--|--|---|
- 1D) According to the author 'economic sanctions on Russia': (1)
- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Is likely to end the war on Ukraine | Will have spill over effect on European economies | Will help the developing economies to control inflation | Is likely to help Ukraine to fight the war |
|---|---|---|--|
- 1E) The war on Ukraine has shown that: (1)
- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Local war in the 21st century is not limited to the region | Globalised world is able to sustain the impact of war due to interdependence | Developing economies are the worst hit when the war takes place | Countries should protect the borders to minimise the impact of war |
|---|--|---|--|
- 1F) The rise in oil price as well as prices of agricultural commodities _____ economies of the nations across of the globe. (1)
- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Has influenced | Have influenced | Are influencing | Influencing |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
- 1G) Neither _____ European country nor _____ Asian country can remain indifferent to the crisis at this point of time. (1)
- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| a, | an, an | the, | an, a |
| an | a | a | a |
- 1H) Countries that had just begun to recover from the devastating consequences of the pandemic and associated lockdowns have now been hit with a "**double whammy**". The word 'double whammy' means: (1)
- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| A situation that is bad in two different ways | A situation that warrants immediate action | A situation that is unprecedented | A situation that requires two different solutions |
|---|--|---|---|
- 1I) _____ had he been the steward of good times rather than presiding '**haplessly**' over economic failure. The word 'haplessly' means. (1)
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Casually | Unfortunately | Providentially | Dejectedly |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
- 1J) The conflict between Russia and Ukraine _____ going on _____ 2014 when Russia invaded Crimea. (1)
- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| has been, since | have been, since | is, since | have been, for |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|

Answer the question at the end of the following passage in about 300 words:

Whatever you may think about India's policy stance on the Russian invasion of Ukraine one thing is clear: this is not just a conflict far away to which we can afford to remain indifferent. The war in Ukraine has affected us in India already, and most of the rest of the world besides.

The rise in oil prices has already hurt us gravely. Whereas the government's budget had been based on the assumption that global oil prices would average about \$75 a barrel, they shot well above \$100, touching \$130-140 on occasion, and have thrown

the finance minister's numbers completely out of kilter, with immediate and medium-term repercussions for our economy and growth prospects. The war has also brought about a serious rise in commodity prices, since Ukraine and Russia were responsible, in good times, for some 30-40 per cent of global wheat exports. While India is not a wheat importer and our farmers may even profit in the short term from being able to export some Indian wheat at prices higher than the guaranteed MSP announced by the government other agricultural commodities have also risen in price. For instance, 70 per cent of the sunflower oil and seeds that India consumes used to come from Ukraine and we now need to look for substitute sources, which will be more expensive.

India's is perhaps a modest example: we have been weathering the storm so far, including through increasing our imports of Russian oil and fertilisers. But other countries have not been so lucky. Muslim countries observing Ramadan have found the daily iftar becoming more expensive, with items scarce in many countries. Countries like Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh and Iran buy more than 60 per cent of their wheat from Ukraine and Russia; the former was known as a breadbasket to the world, and bread itself has become unaffordable. Nor will Ukraine be able to plant its usual wheat crop as long as the war endures, prolonging global wheat shortages. The World Food Program estimates that 41 million people in west and central Africa face a food and nutrition crisis, as people are reeling from the highest-ever prices for essential commodities like grain, oil and fertiliser. Yet ironically, the wheat already in Ukraine's granaries risks rotting uneaten because the war has made it impossible to ship it out.

Ukraine's European neighbours are the most directly affected, with some five million refugees crossing into neighbouring countries and the tough economic sanctions on Russia biting into their economies too. Rising oil and gas prices have affected every European country severely, as well as many farther afield.

According to the Bank for International Settlements, 60 per cent of the world's advanced economies are suffering annual inflation rates above 5 per cent; in Britain, consumer price inflation reached its highest levels in three decades. Inflation has hit India, too; our inflation, like most emerging economies, is higher than anytime this century, with most of the developing world seeing inflation rates above 7 per cent. Countries that had just begun to recover from the devastating consequences of the pandemic and associated lockdowns have now been hit with a "double whammy". In our own neighbourhood, Sri Lanka has been the worst affected, with its economy near collapse, forcing it to default on its debts. The crisis in Pakistan's economy in turn played a part in the ouster of Imran Khan, by diluting the support he might have enjoyed had he been the steward of good times rather than presiding haplessly over economic failure. Now his successors have to look for means to service Islamabad's huge external debt. Countries as far apart as Nepal, Tunisia, Sierra Leone and Bolivia are facing a debt crisis attributable directly to the war.

Our globalised world is simply less able to cope with war and the resultant sanctions, supply-chain disruptions and restrictions of currency flows. For a few heady years we enjoyed the fruits of inter-dependence, as trade and currency flowed freely and prosperity transcended borders. Today, we are realising that even a local war in the 21st century can have a global impact. The bombs and bullets recognise no frontiers. The need for peace has never been greater.

- 2) ***Our globalised world is simply less able to cope with war.*** (10)
Do you agree with the view? Substantiate your response.

Answer the following in 300-400 words:

- 3) Is there a need to emphasize the importance of humanities in a world that is increasingly tending towards science and technology? Accordingly, should the curriculum in educational institutions be revamped? Substantiate your answer with reference to the texts discussed in class. (10)

Answer the following in 300-400 words:

- 4) What are the traits and values that make an individual successful in professional and personal life? Are these traits universal? Substantiate your answer with reference to the texts discussed in class. (10)

Write an essay on ANY ONE of the following in 500-600 words.

- 5) English will be the only Global Language in the Future. (10)
6) Will there be a Time when further Technological Advancements will Stop? (10)

-----End-----