

C 3261

B.E./B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MAY/JUNE 2007.

Second Semester

(Regulation 2004)

Civil Engineering

HS 1151 — ENGLISH — II

(Common to all Branches Except Marine)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer ALL questions.

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

1. Match the words in column 'A' with their meanings in column 'B':

A	B
(a) anticipate	- a drawing, painting or photograph of a person
(b) repercussion	- friendly
(c) benign	- consider beforehand
(d) portrait	- result of an event or action

2. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate forms of the words:

Noun	Adjective	Person concerned
(a) conversation	conversational	-----
(b) biology	-----	biologist
(c) anthropology	anthropological	-----
(d) -----	atheistic	atheist

3. Rewrite the following expressions as shown in the given example:

Example: The pipe is three feet long

Answer: a 3- foot long pipe

- (a) a lamp of a power of 40 watts
- (b) a cooker with a capacity of 7 litres
- (c) a hotel having the status of 3 stars
- (d) a team of five members

4. Edit the following passage by correcting the mistakes in spelling, grammar and punctuation:

diamond itself is the only materiel hard enough to cut and polish diamonds — though recently high intensity light beams called lasers has been developed which can bear holes in them it may be necessary to split or kleave the large stones before they are cut and polished.

5. Fill in the blanks in the following passage with suitable prepositions:

One of the important benefits _____ machine civilization is that our standard of life has improved. There is much more variety _____ our lives. We have a wide choice of everything _____ wrist watches to flash lights. Food from any part of the world can be obtained _____ any season of the year.

6. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the appropriate tense forms of the verbs given in brackets:

- (a) I met him as he _____ (cross) the road.
(b) The gardener _____ (work) in the garden since 8 o'clock.
(c) He called for the taxi after he _____ (finish) the packing.
(d) Children normally _____ (respond) to praise and encouragement.

7. Add suitable prefixes 'hyper', 'ultra', 'sub' to the following words to match the meanings given against them:

- (a) _____ marine - very bright blue colour
(b) _____ group - a group that is part of another, larger group
(c) _____ sensitive - abnormally or extremely sensitive to certain drugs, chemicals, changes in temperature, etc
(d) _____ culture - the behaviour and beliefs of a particular group of people in society that are different from those of most people.

8. Make sentences expressing purpose using the hints given below:

Example: aerial: receives broadcast signals

Answer: An aerial is used to receive broadcast signals.

(a) a catalyst : speeds up a chemical process

(b) a clamp : holds two things firmly together

9. Fill in the blanks with two forms of the nouns given, the first one referring to an action and the second one to a substance:

	Verb	Noun 1	Noun 2
(a)	resist	_____	_____
(b)	preserve	_____	_____

10. Select any TWO from the words given in box and use them as nouns and verbs in separate sentences.

Example:

(a) The project (N) was implemented last year.

(b) The picture was projected (V) on the screen.

(i) purchase (ii) trap (iii) defeat

PART B — (5 × 16 = 80 marks)

11. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it:

Auctions are public sales of goods, conducted by an officially approved auctioneer. He asks the crowd assembled in the auction-room to make offers, or 'bids', for the various items on sale. He encourages buyers to bid higher figures, and finally names the highest bidder as the buyer of the goods. This is called 'knocking down' the goods, for the bidding ends when the auctioneer bangs a small hammer on a table at which he stands. This is often set on a raised platform called a rostrum.

The ancient Romans probably invented sales by auction, and the English word comes from the Latin 'auctio', meaning 'increase'. The Romans usually sold in this way the spoils taken in war; these sales were called 'sub hasta', meaning 'under the spear', a spear being stuck in the ground as a signal for a crowd to gather. In England in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries goods were often sold 'by the candle': a short candle was lit by the auctioneer, and bids could be made while it stayed alight.

Practically all goods whose qualities vary are sold by auction. Among these are coffee, hides, skins, wool, tea, cocoa, furs, spices, fruit and vegetables and wines. Auction sales are also usual for land and property, antique furniture, pictures, rare books, old china and similar works of art. The auction-rooms at Christie's and Sotheby's in London and New York are world-famous.

An auction is usually advertised beforehand with full particulars of the articles to be sold and where and when they can be viewed by prospective buyers. If the advertisement cannot give full details, catalogues are printed and each group of goods to be sold together, called a 'lot', is usually given a number. The auctioneer need not begin with Lot 1 and continue in numerical order; he may wait until he registers the fact that certain dealers are in the room and then produce the lots they are likely to be interested in. The auctioneer's services are paid for in the form of a percentage of the price the goods are sold for. The auctioneer therefore has a direct interest in pushing up the bidding as high as possible.

The auctioneer must know fairly accurately the current market values of the goods he is selling, and he should be acquainted with regular buyers of such goods. He will not waste time by starting the bidding too low. He will also play on the rivalries among his buyers and succeed in getting a high price by encouraging two business competitors to bid against each other. It is largely on his advice that a seller will fix a 'reserve' price, that is, a price below which the goods cannot be sold. Even the best auctioneers, however, find it difficult to stop a 'knock-out', whereby dealers illegally arrange beforehand not to bid against each other, but nominate one of themselves as the only bidder, in the hope of buying goods at extremely low prices. If such a 'knock-out' comes off, the real auction sale takes place privately afterwards among the dealers.

(a) Write the response which best reflects the meaning of the text: ($6 \times 1 = 6$)

(i) Auctioned goods are sold

- (1) For the highest price offered
- (2) Only at fixed prices.
- (3) At a price less than their true value.
- (4) Very cheaply.

(ii) The end of the bidding is called 'knocking down' because

- (1) The auctioneer knocks the buyer down.
- (2) The auctioneer knocks the rostrum down.
- (3) The goods are knocked down on to the table.
- (4) The auctioneer bangs the table with a hammer.

- (iii) The Romans used to sell by auction
- (1) Spoilt goods.
 - (2) Old worn-out weapons.
 - (3) Property taken from the enemy.
 - (4) Spears.
- (iv) A candle used to burn at auction sales
- (1) Because they took place at night.
 - (2) As a signal for the crowd to gather.
 - (3) To keep the auctioneer warm.
 - (4) To limit the time when offers could be made.
- (v) An auction catalogue gives prospective buyers
- (1) The current market values of the goods.
 - (2) Details of the goods to be sold.
 - (3) The order in which goods must be sold.
 - (4) Free admission to the auction sale.
- (vi) The auctioneer may decide to sell the 'lots' out of order because
- (1) He sometimes wants to confuse the buyers.
 - (2) He knows from experience that certain people will want to buy certain items.
 - (3) He wants to keep certain people waiting.
 - (4) He wants to reduce the number of buyers.
- (b) State whether the following statements are true or false: (4 × 1 = 4)
- (i) An auctioneer likes to get high prices for the goods he sells because it keeps the customers interested.
 - (ii) A clever auctioneer encourages rivals to compete in high bidding.
 - (iii) 'Knock-outs' are illegal agreements between auctioneers and dealers.
 - (iv) A 'knock-out' is arranged to keep the price in the auction-room low.

(c) Choose the definition which best reflects the meaning of the word as it is used in the text (6 × 1 = 6)

(i) Bidder

- (1) one who buys
- (2) one who sells
- (3) auctioneer
- (4) one who makes an offer

(ii) Prospective

- (1) ambitious
- (2) intending
- (3) fortune-hunting
- (4) uninterested

(iii) Registers

- (1) notices
- (2) writes down
- (3) authorizes
- (4) changes

(iv) Pushing up

- (1) raising
- (2) rising
- (3) growing
- (4) exceeding

(v) Current

- (1) electrical
- (2) up-to-date
- (3) useful
- (4) flowing

(vi) Comes off

- (1) goes wrong
- (2) is successful
- (3) is taken away
- (4) can be removed

12. (a) Write a set of eight instructions that are to be followed by commuters to ensure safe and happy journey while travelling by buses.

Or

- (b) Assume that you are the Deputy Warden of the college hostel. You think that life in a hostel is a new experience to most of the first year B.E./B.Tech. students. Write a set of eight instructions to make their stay in the hostel a happy one.

13. (a) Imagine that your father has sent a cheque worth Rs.30000/- and that you wish to use this amount to purchase a computer. Prepare a checklist of eight important items that need to be verified while purchasing a computer.

Or

- (b) Imagine that you have been assigned with the task of conducting a 2-day training programme on 'Interview Skills'. Prepare a checklist of eight important activities that you would like to undertake for conducting this programme successfully.

14. (a) Read the following advertisement published in 'The Hindu' and write a letter of application. Enclose your resume with the letter of application:

MAX WEALTH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

PRIVATE LIMITED

A leading civil engineering company with its head office in Kolkata and projects across India invites applications for the following positions for a housing project in Chennai.

- I. Assistant Engineers
2. Project Engineers

Experience

2- 3 years relevant work experience in construction sites

Qualification

BE./B.Tech.

Send your application to:

The Manager, P&A,
Max Wealth Co. Pvt. Ltd.,
45, Santhome High Road,
R.A.Puram, Chennai- 600 028.

Or

- (b) Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper complaining about the bad road conditions, burglaries and poor light facilities in your residential area. In your letter, give suggestions to solve the problems you have discussed.
15. Write two paragraphs on any one of the following topics. Each paragraph should not exceed 125 words:
- (a) Advantages and disadvantages of using robots as substitutes for human workers in domestic and industrial contexts.

Or

- (b) Lifestyle of a middle class Indian family in the year 2070
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