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VASAVI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (Autonomous), HYDERABAD
B.E. (CBCS) VI-Semester Advanced Supplementary Examinations, July-2019

English for Competitive Examinations
(Open Elective-VI)

Time: 2 hours

Max. Marks: 50

Note: Answer ALL questions in Part-A and any FIVE from Part-B

Part-A (5 × 2 = 10 Marks)

1. **Sentence Equivalence: (select exactly two words that best complete the sentence)**
The cannons and cutlasses a ship carries may be quite sufficient to _____ the natives if they are troublesome.
A. Kill
B. Overawe
C. Intimidate
D. Disarm
E. Impress

2. **Text completion:**
In hindsight, Joe appreciated the taxing (i) _____, understanding that the struggles were created to be (ii) _____ in order to generate a character that can only be developed through hard work.
Blank (i) Blank (ii)
A. promises D. variable
B. activities E. arduous
C. freedoms F. mandated

3. **Para jumbles :**
1. In the sciences, even questionable examples of research fraud are harshly punished
A. But no such mechanism exists in the humanities - much of what humanities researchers call research does not lead to results that are replicable by other scholars.
B. Given the importance of interpretation in historical and literary scholarship, humanities researchers are in a position where they can explain away deliberate and even systematic distortion.
C. Mere suspicion is enough for funding to be cut off; publicity guarantees that careers can be effectively ended.
D. Forgeries which take the form of pastiches in which the forger intersperses fake and real parts can be defended as mere mistakes or aberrant misreading.
6. Scientists funding data have no such defences.
1. BDCA
2. ABDC
3. CABD
4. CDBA

4. **Odd One Out:**
A. Forecasts say that in just two years, the total quantum of e-waste generated around the world will be 50 million tonnes.
B. In China, for instance, 73.9 million computers, 0.25 billion mobile phones and 56.6 million televisions were sold in 2011.
C. Close to 90 per cent of the world's electronic waste — worth nearly \$19 billion — is illegally traded or dumped each year, to destinations half way across the world.
D. While Europe and North America are by far the largest producers of e-waste, Asia's cities are fast catching up as consumers of electronic goods and as generators of e-waste.

5. **Summary of the passage:**
Although almost all climate scientists agree that the Earth is gradually warming, they have long been of two minds about the process of rapid climate shifts within larger periods of change. Some have speculated that the process works like a giant oven or freezer, warming or cooling the whole planet

at the same time. Others think that shifts occur on opposing schedules in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, like exaggerated seasons. Recent research in Germany examining climate patterns in the Southern Hemisphere at the end of the last Ice Age strengthens the idea that warming and cooling occurs at alternate times in the two Hemispheres. A more definitive answer to this debate will allow scientists to better predict when and how quickly the next climate shift will happen.

A. Scientists have been unsure whether rapid shifts in the Earth's climate happen all at once or on opposing schedules in different hemispheres; research will help find a definitive answer and better predict climate shifts in future.

B. Scientists have been unsure whether rapid shifts in the Earth's climate happen all at once or on opposing schedules in different hemispheres; finding a definitive answer will help them better predict climate shifts in future.

C. Research in Germany will help scientists find a definitive answer about warming and cooling of the Earth and predict climate shifts in the future in the better manner.

D. More research rather than debates on warming or cooling of the earth and exaggerated seasons in its hemispheres will help scientists in Germany predict climate changes better in future.

Part-B (5 X 8 = 40 Marks)

- 6.a) **PASSAGE:** Most economists in the United states seem captivated by spell of the free market. [4]
Consequently, nothing seems good or normal that does not accord with the requirements of the free market.

A price that is determined by the seller or for that matter, established by anyone other than the aggregate of consumers seems pernicious. Accordingly, it requires a major act of will to think of price -fixing (the determination of prices by the seller) as both "normal" and having a valuable economic function. In fact, price-fixing is normal in all industrialized societies because the industrial system itself provides, as an effortless consequence of its own development, the price-fixing that requires. Modern industrial planning requires and rewards great size. Hence a comparatively small number of large firms will be competing for the same group of consumers. That each large firm will act with consideration of its own needs and thus avoid selling its products for more than its competitors charge is commonly recognized by advocates of free-markets economic theories. But each large firms will also act with full consideration of the needs that it has in common with the other large firms competing for the same customers. Each large firm will thus avoid significant price cutting, because price cutting would be prejudicial to the common interest in a stable demand for products. Most economists do not see price-fixing when it occurs because they expect it to be brought about by a number of explicit agreements among large firms; it is not.

More over those economists who argue that allowing the free market to operate without interference is the most efficient method of establishing prices have not considered the economies of non socialist countries other than the United States. These economies employ intentional price-fixing usually in an overt fashion. Formal price fixing by cartel and informal price fixing by agreements covering the members of an industry are common place. Were there something peculiarly efficient about the free market and inefficient about price fixing, the countries that have avoided the first and used the second would have suffered drastically in their economic development. There is no indication that they have. Socialist industry also works within a frame work of controlled prices. In early 1970's, the soviet union began to give firms and industries some of the flexibility in adjusting prices that a more informal evolution has accorded the capitalist system. Economists in the United States have hailed the change as a return to the free market. But Soviet firms are no more subject to prices established by free market over which they exercise little influenced than are capitalist firms.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to:

A. Refute the theory that the free market plays a useful role in the development of industrialized societies.

B. Suggest methods by which economist and members of the government of the United States can recognize and combat price-fixing by large firms.

C. Explain the various ways in which industrialized societies can fix in order to stabilized the free market

D. Argue that price-fixing, in one form or another, is an inevitable part of and benefit to the economy of any industrialized society.

E. Analysis of free markets in different economies

2. The passage provides information that would answer which of the following questions about price-fixing? I. What are some of the ways in which prices can be fixed? II. For what products is price-fixing likely to be more profitable than the operation of the free market? III. Is price-fixing more common in socialist industrialized societies or in non-socialist industrialized societies?

- A. I only
- B. III only
- C. I and II only
- D. II and III only
- E. I, II and III

3. The author's attitude toward "Most economists in the United States" can best be described as:

- A. Spiteful and envious
- B. Scornful and denunciatory
- C. Critical and condescending
- D. Ambivalent but deferential
- E. Uncertain but interested

4. It can be inferred from the author's argument that a price fixed by the seller "seems pernicious" because:

- A. People do not have confidence in large firms
- B. People do not expect the government to regulate prices
- C. Most economists believe that consumers as a group should determine prices.
- D. Most economists associate fixed prices with communist and socialist economies.
- E. Most economists believe that no one group should determine prices.

b) Without a doubt, one of the most interesting mythological characters is the Greek god Prometheus. [4]

A complex character with an undying love for the human beings he created, Prometheus embodies a rich combination of often contradictory characteristics, including loyalty and defiance, trickery and trustworthiness. He shows resilience and resolve in his actions yet weakness in his fondness for humankind.

To reward Prometheus (whose name means "forethought") and his brother Epimetheus ("afterthought") for helping him defeat the Titans, Zeus, the great ruler of Olympian gods, gave the brothers the task of creating mortals to populate the land around Mount Olympus. Prometheus asked Epimetheus to give the creatures their various characteristics, such as cunning, swiftness, and flight. By the time he got to man, however, there was nothing left to give. So Prometheus decided to make man in his image: he stood man upright like the gods and became the benefactor and protector of mankind.

Though Prometheus was particularly fond of his creation, Zeus didn't care for mankind and didn't want men to have the divine gift of knowledge. But Prometheus took pity on mortal men and gave them knowledge of the arts and sciences, including the healing arts and agriculture.

Always seeking the best for his creation, one day Prometheus conspired to trick Zeus to give the best meat of an ox to men instead of Zeus. He cut up the ox and hid the bones in layers of fat; then he hid the meat and innards inside the hide. When Prometheus presented the piles to Zeus, Zeus chose the pile that looked like fat and meat. He was enraged to find that it was nothing but bones.

To punish Prometheus for his deceit and his fondness for humans, Zeus forbade men fire—a symbol of creative power, life force, and divine knowledge. But Prometheus would not let his children be denied this greatest of gifts. He took a hollow reed, stole fire from Mount Olympus, and gave it to men. With this divine power, creativity, ingenuity, and culture flourished in the land of mortals.

Again, Zeus punished man for Prometheus's transgression, this time by sending the first woman, Pandora, to Earth. Pandora brought with her a "gift" from Zeus: a jar filled with evils of every kind. Prometheus knew Zeus to be vengeful and warned Epimetheus not to accept any gifts from Zeus, but Epimetheus was too taken with Pandora's beauty and allowed her to stay. Eventually Pandora opened the jar she'd been forbidden to open, releasing all manner of evils, including Treachery, Sorrow,

Villainy, Misfortune, and Plague. At the bottom of the jar was Hope, but Pandora closed the lid before Hope could escape.

Prometheus drew Zeus's greatest wrath when he refused to tell Zeus which of Zeus's sons would kill him and take over the throne. Believing he could torture Prometheus into revealing the secret, Zeus bound his flesh and ate his liver, which would regenerate each night. But Prometheus refused to reveal his knowledge of the future to Zeus and maintained his silence. Eventually, Prometheus was released by Heracles (also known as Hercules), the last mortal son of Zeus and the strongest of the mortals. Soon afterwards, Prometheus received immortality from a dying centaur, to take his place forever among the great gods of Olympus.

1. The main idea of the first paragraph is that Prometheus

- a. is disrespectful of authority.
- b. is the mythological creator of humans.
- c. has many admirable characteristics.
- d. is a fascinating character because of his complexity.

2. The author's primary purpose in this passage is to

- a. demonstrate the vengeful nature of Zeus.
- b. show how much Prometheus cared for humans.
- c. create in readers an interest in mythology.
- d. relate the story of Prometheus.

3. Based on this passage, it can be inferred that Zeus disliked humans because

- a. Prometheus spent too much time with them.
- b. Prometheus cared for humans more than he did for Zeus.
- c. humans could not be trusted.
- d. humans did not respect Zeus.

4. Zeus becomes angry at Prometheus for all of the following EXCEPT

- a. creating man.
- b. giving man fire.
- c. being excessively fond of humans.
- d. refusing to reveal which of his sons would kill him.

7.a) **Which sentence characterizes rare collectibles? And explain why?** [4]

• As their name suggests, rare collectibles are scarce, hard to find items. They can be antiques that are desirable because of their age, type of craftsmanship or some other unique feature that represents the past. Some rare collectibles are so old that they are considered to be antiquities - artifacts of an ancient civilization such as ancient Greek or ancient Chinese society. Alternatively, rare collectibles can be of very recent origin, sometimes being only a few years old. The common denominator of all rare collectibles, no matter what their type or age, is rarity. Frequently, because of their scarcity and their appeal, rare collectibles are also valuable. But, whether they are valuable or inexpensive, rare collectibles are always important pieces in a collection.

b) **In which sentence does the author assert that one cannot put a price on distinctiveness? And explain why?** [4]

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8.a) **To discover the relation between rules, paradigms, and normal science, consider first how the historian isolates the particular loci of commitment that have been described as accepted rules. Close historical investigation of a given specialty at a given time discloses a set of recurrent and quasi-standard illustrations of various theories in their conceptual, observational, and instrumental** [4]

applications. These are the community's paradigms, revealed in its textbooks, lectures, and laboratory exercises. By studying them and by practicing with them, the members of the corresponding community learn their trade. The historian, of course, will discover in addition a penumbral area occupied by achievements whose status is still in doubt, but the core of solved problems and techniques will usually be clear.

Despite occasional ambiguities, the paradigms of a mature scientific community can be determined with relative ease. That demands a second step and one of a somewhat different kind. When undertaking it, the historian must compare the community's paradigms with each other and with its current research reports. In doing so, his object is to discover what isolable elements, explicit or implicit, the members of that community may have abstracted from their more global paradigms and deploy it as rules in their research. Anyone who has attempted to describe or analyze the evolution of a particular scientific tradition will necessarily have sought accepted principles and rules of this sort. Almost certainly, he will have met with at least partial success. But, if his experience has been at all like my own, he will have found the search for rules both more difficult and less satisfying than the search for paradigms. Some of the generalizations he employs to describe the community's shared beliefs will present more problems.

Others, however, will seem a shade too strong. Phrased in just that way, or in any other way he can imagine, they would almost certainly have been rejected by some members of the group he studies. Nevertheless, if the coherence of the research tradition is to be understood in terms of rules, some specification of common ground in the corresponding area is needed. As a result, the search for a body of rules competent to constitute a given normal research tradition becomes a source of continual and deep frustration. Recognizing that frustration, however, makes it possible to diagnose its source. Scientists can agree that a Newton, Lavoisier, Maxwell, or Einstein has produced an apparently permanent solution to a group of outstanding problems and still disagree, sometimes without being aware of it, about the particular abstract characteristics that make those solutions permanent. They can, that is, agree in their identification of a paradigm without agreeing on, or even attempting to produce, a full interpretation or rationalization of it. Lack of a standard interpretation or of an agreed reduction to rules will not prevent a paradigm from guiding research. Normal science can be determined in part by the direct inspection of paradigms, a process that is often aided by but does not depend upon the formulation of rules and assumption. Indeed, the existence of a paradigm need not even imply that any full set of rules exists.

1. What is the author attempting to illustrate through this passage?

- a. Relationships between rules, paradigms, and normal science
- b. How a historian would isolate a particular 'loci of commitment'
- c. How a set of shared beliefs evolves into a paradigm
- d. Ways of understanding a scientific tradition
- e. The frustrations of attempting to define a paradigm of a tradition

2. The term 'loci of commitment' as used in the passage would most likely correspond with which of the following?

- a. Loyalty between a group of scientists in a research laboratory
- b. Loyalty between groups of scientists across research laboratories
- c. Loyalty to a certain paradigm of scientific inquiry
- d. Loyalty to global patterns of scientific inquiry
- e. Loyalty to evolving trends of scientific inquiry

3. The author of this passage is likely to agree with which of the following?

- a. Paradigms almost entirely define a scientific tradition.
- b. A group of scientists investigating a phenomenon would benefit by defining a set of rules.
- c. Acceptance by the giants of a tradition is a sine qua non for a paradigm to emerge.
- d. Choice of isolation mechanism determines the type of paradigm that may emerge from a tradition.
- e. Paradigms are a general representation of rules and beliefs of a scientific tradition.

- b) This year alone, more than 8,600 stores could close, according to industry estimates, many of them the brand-name anchor outlets that real estate developers once stumbled over themselves to court. [4]
Already there have been 5,300 retail closings this year... Sears Holdings—which owns Kmart—said in March that there's "substantial doubt" it can stay in business altogether, and will close 300 stores

this year. So far this year, nine national retail chains have filed for bankruptcy. Local jobs are a major casualty of what analysts are calling, with only a hint of hyperbole, the retail apocalypse. Since 2002, department stores have lost 448,000 jobs, a 25% decline, while the number of store closures this year is on pace to surpass the worst depths of the Great Recession. The growth of online retailers, meanwhile, has failed to offset those losses, with the ecommerce sector adding just 178,000 jobs over the past 15 years. Some of those jobs can be found in the massive distribution centers Amazon has opened across the country, often not too far from malls the company helped shutter. But those are workplaces, not gathering places. The mall is both. And in the 61 years since the first enclosed one opened in suburban Minneapolis, the shopping mall has been where a huge swath of middle-class America went for far more than shopping. It was the home of first jobs and blind dates, the place for family photos and ear piercings, where goths and grandmothers could somehow walk through the same doors and find something they all liked. Sure, the food was lousy for you and the oceans of parking lots encouraged car-heavy development, something now scorned by contemporary planners. But for better or worse, the mall has been America's public square for the last 60 years. So what happens when it disappears? Think of your mall. Or think of the one you went to as a kid. Think of the perfume clouds in the department stores. The fountains splashing below the skylights. The cinnamon wafting from the food court. As far back as ancient Greece, societies have congregated around a central marketplace. In medieval Europe, they were outside cathedrals. For half of the 20th century and almost 20 years into the new one, much of America has found their agora on the terrazzo between Orange Julius and Sbarro, Waldenbooks and the Gap, Sunglass Hut and Hot Topic. That mall was an ecosystem unto itself, a combination of community and commercialism peddling everything you needed and everything you didn't: Magic Eye posters, wind catchers. Air Jordans. ... A growing number of Americans, however, don't see the need to go to any Macy's at all. Our digital lives are frictionless and ruthlessly efficient, with retail and romance available at a click. Malls were designed for leisure, abundance, ambling. You parked and planned to spend some time. Today, much of that time has been given over to busier lives and second jobs and apps that let you swipe right instead of haunt the food court. ' Malls, says Harvard business professor Leonard Schlesinger, "were built for patterns of social interaction that increasingly don't exist.

1. The central idea of this passage is that:

- A) the closure of malls has affected the economic and social life of middle-class America
- B) the advantages of malls outweigh their disadvantages.
- C) malls used to perform a social function that has been lost
- D) malls are closing down because people have found alternate ways to shop.

2. Why does the author say in paragraph 2, 'the massive distribution centers Amazon has opened across the country, often not too far from malls the company helped shutter'?

- A) To highlight the irony of the situation
- B) To indicate that malls and distribution centres are located in the same area
- C) To show that Amazon is helping certain brands go online
- D) To indicate that the shopping habits of the American middle class have changed.

3. In paragraph 1, the phrase "real estate developers once stumbled over themselves to court" suggests that they

- A) took brand-name anchor outlets to court
- B) collaborated with one another to get brand-name anchor outlets
- C) were eager to get brand-name anchor outlets to set up shop in their mall
- D) malls are closing down because people have found alternate ways to shop.

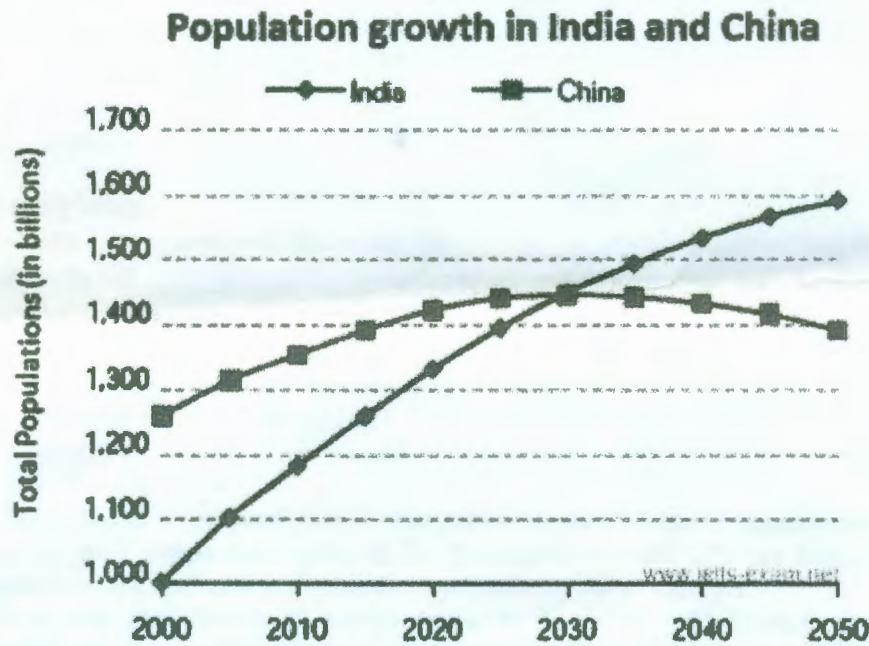
9.a) Most schools offer some type of physical education program to their students. Why is it important? Should physical education classes be required or optional? [4]

b) **To what extent do you agree or disagree.** [4]
 "When a country develops its technology, the traditional skills and ways of life die out. It is pointless to try and keep them alive."

10.a) **Build Essays based on the following issue** [4]
 Important truths begin as outrageous, or at least uncomfortable, attacks upon the accepted wisdom of the time."

b) "As we acquire more knowledge, things do not become more comprehensible, but more complex and more mysterious." [4]

- 11.a) **Express your opinion, idea, or reason based the topic given.** [4]
 Neighbors are the people who live near us. In your opinion, what are the qualities of a good neighbor? Use specific details and examples in your answer.
- b) **Express your opinion, idea, or reason based the topic given.** [4]
 The government is going to give some money either to support the arts or to protect the environment. Which do you think the government should choose? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- 12.a) The graph below shows population figures for India and China since the year 2000 and predicted population growth up until 2050. [4]
 Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Source: UN Population Division: Medium variant

- b) The table below gives information about a restaurant's average sales in three different branches in 2016. [4]
 Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Average	Vancouver Georgia Street	Vancouver Dunsour Street	Vancouver Drake Street
Number of Transactions	854	750	390
Transaction Value	\$10.89	\$5.61	\$9.02
Number of Eat-In Transactions	405	358	200
Number of Take-Away Transactions	449	392	190
Most popular item	Chicken Burger	Chicken Wings	Chicken Pasta