

BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME

Term-End Examination

June, 2008

ELECTIVE COURSE : ENGLISH

EEG-4 : ENGLISH FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Note : Answer *all* questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow it :

Hitherto we have been considering the uninspired teacher, who works his or her way dully and mechanically through the prescribed curriculum. But teachers may be, and frequently are, charming, intelligent, and persuasive. They may put things well; they may speak in a way that will command attention and awake emotion and enthusiasm; they may have a power of making difficulties seem easy. The child will listen to such teachers and will greatly appreciate them — particularly if he has an examination to pass in the near future. But the more

accomplished a teacher is in the art of lecturing or coaching, the worse he is as an educator. Working on the old-fashioned system, the clever teacher (deplorable paradox!) does almost more harm than the stupid one. For the clever schoolmaster makes things too easy for his pupils; he relieves them of the necessity of finding out things for themselves. By dint of brilliant teaching he succeeds in almost eliminating the learning process. He knows how to fill his pupils with ready-made knowledge, which they inevitably forget (since it is not their knowledge and cost them nothing to acquire) as soon as the examination for which it was required is safely passed. The stupid teacher, on the other hand, may be so completely intolerable that the child will perhaps be driven, despairingly and in mere self-defence, to educate himself in which case the incompetent shepherd will have done, all unwittingly, a great service to his charge, by forcing him into a rebellious intellectual independence.

(a) Answer the following questions :

- (i) What does the author mean by the phrase the *uninspired teacher* ? 2
- (ii) Name four qualities which, according to the author, teachers generally have. 2
- (iii) Why does the author say that an accomplished teacher is not always a good teacher ? 3
- (iv) Explain the paradox mentioned in the passage. 2
- (v) In what way is a foolish teacher better than an accomplished teacher ? 3

(b) Say whether the following statements are *true* or *false* :

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(i) In the long run a brilliant teacher is the best teacher.

(ii) According to the author, the best teacher is one who provides ready-made knowledge to the students.

(iii) The passage suggests that a stupid teacher does better service to the pupils than a clever one.

(iv) Students tend to forget the ready-made knowledge provided to them.

(c) Find words from the passage which are close in meaning to the following words :

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(i) very often

(ii) not readily

(iii) regrettable

(iv) by means of

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow it :

The prospect of a general and permanent lowering of environmental resistance becomes grimly and increasingly real with each passing year as the number, variety, and destructiveness of insecticides grow. With the passage of time we may expect progressively more serious outbreaks of insects, both disease-carrying and crop-destroying species, in excess of anything we have ever known.

“Yes, but isn’t this all theoretical ?” you may ask, “surely it won’t really happen — not in my lifetime, anyway.”

But it is happening, here and now. Scientific journals have already recorded some 50 species involved in violent dislocations of nature’s balance by 1958. More examples are being found every year. A recent review of the subject contained references to 215 papers reporting or discussing unfavourable upsets in the balance of insect populations caused by pesticides.

Sometimes the result of chemical spraying has been a tremendous upsurge of the very insect the spraying was intended to control as when blackflies in Ontario became 17 times more abundant after spraying than they had been before. Or when in England an enormous outbreak of the cabbage aphid — an outbreak that had no parallel on record — followed spraying with one of the organic phosphorus chemicals.

At other times spraying, while reasonably effective against the target insect, has let loose a whole Pandora’s box of destructive pests that had never previously been abundant enough to cause trouble. The spider mite, for

example, has become practically a world-wide pest as DDT and other insecticides have killed off its enemies. The spider mite is not an insect. It is a barely visible eight-legged creature belonging to the group that includes spiders, scorpions and ticks. It has mouth parts adapted for piercing and sucking, and a prodigious appetite for the chlorophyll that makes the world green. It inserts these minute and stiletto-sharp mouth parts into the outer cells of leaves and evergreen needles and extracts the chlorophyll. A mild infestation gives trees and shrubbery a mottled or salt-and-pepper appearance; with a heavy mite population, foliage turns yellow and falls.

(a) Say whether the following statements are *true* or *false* :

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- (i) The population of certain insects is increasing with the passage of time.
- (ii) The side-effects of some pesticides are much more alarming than their use.
- (iii) The use of pesticides is disturbing nature's balance.
- (iv) The blackflies in Ontario were brought under control with the help of chemicals.
- (v) DDT has proved very useful in controlling insects.

- (b) (i) What was the effect of spraying the organic phosphorous chemical in England ? 2
- (ii) Why has the spider mite spread all over the world ? 2
- (iii) Name three creatures belonging to the group of the spider mite. 2
- (iv) What is chlorophyll ? 2
- (v) How does the spider mite affect chlorophyll ? 2
- (c) Pick out words from the passage which are opposite in meaning to the following words : $2\frac{1}{2}$
- (i) temporary
- (ii) constructive
- (iii) raising
- (iv) practical
- (v) scarce
- (d) Pick out words from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following words/phrases : $2\frac{1}{2}$
- (i) hardly
- (ii) foes
- (iii) huge
- (iv) marked with different colours
- (v) leaves and branches

3. Write an essay in about 250 words on any **one** of the following : 20

- (i) Effective presentation skills are a necessity in the business world
- (ii) Protection of environment is a global requirement
- (iii) The uses of technology in the household

4. Write a dialogue in about 200 words : 20

Two friends are discussing the advantages and disadvantages of mobile phones

5. Write a report in about 250 words. The terms of reference are given below : 20

As a Regional Marketing Manager of a reputed publishing house you have been asked to investigate the reasons for the drastic fall in the sale of the English texts books of your company.

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