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B. Arch 1st Semester Final Examination January 2009
English for Engineers [Hu-101A]

Full marks : 35

Time : 2 Hrs.

Answer all questions.

1. There is a move to replace the existing written examination system with online submissions. Consider the merits and demerits of this system. Write the index of this report and list at least six annexures with suitable descriptions. Work out the introduction to this report. [5+5]
2. Write a paragraph (100 words) on the topic, "Offence is the best form of defence". [5]
3. Write a letter to the editor of The Telegraph newspaper pointing out certain inaccuracies in their report of students' role in recent campus disturbances. [5]
4. Write a précis of the following passage. [5]

Experiments have shown that in selecting personnel for a job, interviewing is at best a hindrance, and may even cause harm. These studies have disclosed that the judgments of interviewers differ markedly and bear little or no relationship to the adequacy of the job. Of the many reasons why this should be the case, three in particular stand out.

The first reason is related to an error of judgments known as the halo effect. If a person has one noticeable good trait, their other characteristic will be judged as better than they really are. Thus, an individual who dresses smartly and shows self-confidence is likely to be judged capable of doing a job well regardless of his or her ability.

Interviewers are also prejudiced by an effect called the primacy effect. This error occurs when interpretation of later information is distorted by earlier connected information. Hence, in an interview situation, the interviewer spends most of the interview trying to confirm the impression given by the candidate in the first few moments. Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that such an impression is unrelated to the aptitude of the applicant.

The phenomenon known as the contrast effect also skews the judgment of interviewers. A suitable candidate may be underestimated because he or she contrasts with a previous one who appears exceptionally intelligent. Likewise, an average candidate who is preceded by one who gives a weak showing may be judged as more suitable than he or she really is.

Since interviews as a form of personnel selection have been shown to be inadequate, other selection procedures have been devised which more accurately predict candidate suitability. Of the various tests devised, the predictor which appears to do this most successfully is cognitive ability as measured by a variety of verbal and spatial tests.

5. Make a note using the tree diagram method from the following passage. [5]

Metals are very important for industries. We get metals from the earth. When we dig them up, they are mixed with many things under the earth. To get metals in their pure form, we have to separate them from less pure materials. How do we do that? First, the mixed metals are heated until they become liquid. Then, applying other processes, the metals are separated. Next, the separated metals are further made pure by means of some other processes. Then, applying other processes, the metals are separated. Then the pure metals are again heated to change them into liquid and the liquid is poured into pots of required shapes and sizes. After the liquid becomes cool and hard, it is used to manufacture many things. The subject Metallurgy tells us about these things.

6. The General Manager of Apnagar Appliances Ltd. Kolkata, is worried about the wastage of stationery in all outlets of the company. Draft a memo to be signed by him and sent to all outlet managers asking them to identify the reasons behind such wastage and also outline certain measures that may be adopted to minimize such wastage and expenditure. Attach a histogram to elucidate the change in expenditure patterns. [5]

