

MAHARASHTRA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES EXAMINATION BOARD, PUNE
SEMESTER END EXAMINATION

B.Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture/B.Sc.(Hons.)(Forestry)/ B.Sc.(Hons.) A.B.M./ B.Sc.(Hons.) C.S.

Semester	: I (New)	Term	: I	Academic Year	: 2017-18
Course No.	: LANG 111	Title	: Comprehension and Communication Skills In English		
Credits	: 2(1+1)	Time	: 09.00 to 11.00	Total Marks	: 40
Day & Date	: Saturday, 10.12.2017				

- Note :
1. Solve ANY EIGHT questions from SECTION "A".
 2. All questions from SECTION "B" are compulsory.
 3. All questions carry equal marks.
 4. Draw neat diagrams wherever necessary.

SECTION "A"

- Q.1 Below are given initial-letter words and abbreviations. What do they mean? What do they stand for? What are their origins?
A.D and B.C., N.B., *et al.*, *op.cit.*
- Q.2 Do you agree that stress is a twentieth century illness? Why/ why not? How do you react to stress?
- Q.3 In what ways will you find fault with the older generation?
- Q.4 What is the difference between an occupation and a profession?
- Q.5 Given below are sentences from the essay 'War Minus Shooting'. If you agree, give reasons; if you don't, state the reasons.
a) Nearly all sports practiced nowadays are competitive.
b) Games have been built up into heavily financed activity.
- Q.6 What is the solution offered by Thurber regarding the use of 'only'?
- Q.7 What is the difference between education and literacy? Give an example.
- Q.8 When did the computing business start? On what two fronts is change happening rapidly in computer industry? With what other industry does the author compare the change? Why does the author compare the computing business with the world of high fashion?
- Q.9 How does an entertainer entertain or make people laugh? What are those moments? How do they create the right mood? What are the different ways of being entertained? How are they an asset to a party?
- Q.10 Write a few sentences telling what you think of 'A Short Story'?

SECTION "B"

- Q.11 Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions.
1) I small found two good jobs advertised in the *Indian Express*.
2) He decided to apply for both.
3) He typed out the application on his friend's laptop and printed them.
4) He attached copies of his CV with the applications.
- Q.12 Match the following pairs.

"A"		"B"	
1) Clear	b	vague	a) Pre-pone
2) Centre	d	periph	b) Vague
3) Postpone	a	prephone	c) Military
4) Civilian	c	military	d) Periphery

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SEMESTER END THEORY EXAMINATION

(Model Answers)

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SECTION "A"

Q. 1 AD and B.C.:

The terms *anno Domini* (AD) and *Before Christ* (BC) are used to label or number years in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. The term *anno Domini* is Medieval Latin and means "in the year of the Lord", but is often translated as "in the year of our Lord".

This calendar era is based on the traditionally reckoned year of the conception or birth of Jesus of Nazareth, with AD counting years from the start of this epoch, and BC denoting years before the start of the era. There is no year zero in this scheme, so the year AD 1 immediately follows the year 1 BC. This dating system was devised in 525 by Dionysius Exiguus (a 6th-century monk), but was not widely used until after 800.

N.B.:

Nota bene (plural form *notate bene*) is a Latin phrase meaning "note well". The phrase first appeared in English writing circa 1711.

Often abbreviated as N.B., N.b., or n.b. (without the punctuation in some styles: NB, Nb, or nb), and comes from the Latin roots *notāre* ("to note") and *bene* ("well"). It is in the singular imperative mood, instructing one individual to *note well* the matter at hand, i.e. to take notice of or pay special attention. In Modern English, it is used, particularly in legal papers, to draw the attention of the reader to a certain (side) aspect or detail of the subject on hand.

et al.:

et al. is an abbreviation for *et alia* (neuter plural). But it can also be an abbreviation for *et alii* (masculine plural), or *et aliae* (feminine plural). This phrase means "and others." Most commonly, *et al.* indicates other contributors (authors, editors, etc.) in a bibliographic list, such as "Feynman, Hawking, Sagan, *et al.*" There should always be a period after *et al.*, to show it is an abbreviation.

op.cit.:

Op. cit. is an abbreviation of the Latin phrase *opere citato*, meaning "in the work cited".

The abbreviation is used in an endnote or footnote to refer the reader to a

previously cited work, standing in for repetition of the full title of the work. *Op cit* thus refers the reader to the bibliography, where the full citation of the work can be found, or to a full citation given in a previous footnote. *Op. cit.* should never, therefore, be used on its own, which would be meaningless, but most often with the author's surname, or another brief clue as to which work is referred to. For example, given a work called *The World of Salamanders* (1999) by Jane Q. Smith, the style would typically be "Smith *op cit*", usually followed by a page number, to refer the reader to a previous full citation of this work (or with further clarification such as "Smith 1999, *op. cit.*" or "Smith, *World of Salamanders, op. cit*"

Q. 2 Yes, I do agree that stress is a twentieth century illness.

The twentieth century witnessed a tremendous progress in almost all the fields. This progress led to competition in every sphere of life. Everyone wanted to be successful giving rise to an urge to outcompete others. This 'rat-race' has many ill effects on the lifestyle of the man, for the life has become speedy to keep the pace with speed of progress. In this race, the people, who were not able to grab the opportunities, by this reason or that, got disheartened. Moreover, even the successful people can be seen under some kind of stress. The effects of this modern 'dis-ease' are evident in the form of blood pressure, heart attacks, diabetes, sleeplessness, anxiety and so on.

First of all I figure out where the stress is coming from. Instead of feeling like I dread day to day, I try to identify what I am actually stressed about. Is it a specific project at work, an upcoming exam, a dispute with my boss, a heap of laundry, a fight with my family? Then I try to consider what I can control and work on that. You can't control what your boss does, what your in-laws say or the sour state of the economy; you can control how you react, how you accomplish work, how you spend your time and what you spend your money on.

I Do what I love and manage my time well as one of the biggest stressors for many people is lack of time.

I review my daily and weekly activities to see what I can accomplish. I try to get sufficient sleep and do physical activity to come out of the stress. I always embrace mistakes - or at least don't drown in perfectionism. Another mindset that can exacerbate stress is perfectionism. Trying to be mistake-free and essentially spending your days walking on eggshells is exhausting and anxiety-provoking.

Q. 3 The older generation:

- Not ready to change with technology
- Very rigid and orthodox
- Always talk about saving money for future and don't enjoy present
- Very emotional
- Many parents will do anything to avoid having their kids experience even mild discomfort, anxiety, or disappointment — "anything less than pleasant," - with the result that when, as adults, they experience the normal frustrations of life, they think something must be terribly wrong.
- Older generation should think to prepare the children for the road, not the road for children.
- Older generation is child centered
- Living vicariously through children. Older generation take great pride in their children. When they succeed, it makes them happier than if they'd done it

themselves.

- Keep on Judging with others

Q. 4

The difference between occupation and profession is as follows.

Occupation is an activity undertaken by the person to earn his livelihood. It can be business, profession or employment that a person undertakes to make money. Many think that occupation and profession are synonyms, but the fact is they are different.

Profession is an activity that requires specialized training, knowledge, qualification and skills. It implies membership of a professional body, and certificate of practice. The individuals who undertake a profession of rendering personalized services are called professionals, who are guided by a certain code of conduct, set up by the respective body. A profession needs extensive training and specialized knowledge.

The difference between occupation and profession can be stated with a simple example: Designing a building would be called a profession, whereas, constructing a building is an occupation.

Q. 5

- a. It is true that nearly all the sports practiced nowadays are competitive. Competition is composed of victory of one over the other or defeat of one by the other. If the competition is between two or more groups, then the individual prestige of each group is at stake. In order to maintain the pride and the prestige of one's group or one's own place winning becomes an absolute must. Victory in any competition boosts the nationalistic feeling of the winning group. Every individual belonging to the winning group or supporting that group derives immeasurable satisfaction and pride. Therefore, nearly all the sports practiced nowadays are competitive.
- b. True. With the advent of the electronic media, the comfort of watching every match sitting at the drawing-room and interacting with the supporters at the stadium and at other places, however distant they could be, through the Internet and through the cell phones has increased the cost of organizing and telecasting any event. The finances required for popularizing a sport has also increased. The funding agencies such as the governments and the corporate houses provide very meagre funds. Therefore, the organizing agencies opt for sponsors and raise enormous amount of funds through advertisements and telecast rights. Funds are generally utilized for the maintenance of the stadium, playgrounds, payments to the players, hospitality, travel and other logistics. Thus, any game or sport without funds will not flourish and spread. Though Hockey is the National Sport of India, Cricket haunts the minds of every Indian. It is mainly because of availability of funds for Cricket. IPL is a world phenomenon in the sense that every country gets an opportunity to play in India. Besides, it generates an abundant amount of money and honour to the individual players. Since the teams comprise players from different countries, no nation has any occasion to celebrate as a group or as a team.

Q. 6

Thurber says that there are expressions in English which are, at times, very confusing. They create tricky situation if not used properly and in appropriate way. The placement of preposition 'Only', for example, can altogether alter the entire meaning of an expression.

Author, therefore, advises to avoid use of such ambiguous words or expressions. One should instead use other suitable alternatives to make one's meaning crystal

clear. He gives an example as well.

The best way is often to omit "only" and use some other expression. Thus, instead of saying: "He only died last week," one could say: "It was no longer ago than last Thursday that George L. Wodoloffing became an angel." Moreover, this is more explicit and eliminates the possibility of a misunderstanding as to who died. The greatest care in this regard, by the way, should be taken with the verbs "to die," "to love", "to embezzle" and the like. In this connection, it is well never to use "only" at the beginning of a sentence — "Only one person loves me." for example. This, of course, makes it necessary to capitalize "only" and there is the risk of a hurried reader taking it for a proper noun and confusing it with the late Richard Olney, who was Secretary of State under Cleveland.

- Q. 7 Education is a process through which a society passes on the knowledge, values and skills from one generation to another. Education is acquired through the formal institutions like school, colleges and universities. One is literate when one can read and write. One does not need to write long essays to be literate. Reading and writing short sentences is enough. Also, being literate means one can solve simple mathematical problems. It can be said that one need to be literate to do good in this world. Our day to day activities require literacy. Earlier, school was not compulsory and hence literacy was uncommon. Now, every child is sent to school, which make them literate. Literacy gives one factual information so that they can read a document before putting their signature, follow signs of the road or calculate the amount of change.

Literate and educated are words that people usually use interchangeably like they are synonymous. They are different and are independent of each other. A literate person might not be educated and vice versa. But literacy does help one to get educated. Education is not just about getting a degree and passing in exams. Education offers knowledge to people. It lets them open their minds to new things and helps them perceive things in new ways. Education helps one to get rid of their prejudices, superstitions, etc to be a rational human being able to not just take in information but understand if it is indeed worth it or not. Being educated is exposing oneself to several aspects of life. Both literacy and education help one in the long run. Unfortunately, we only run behind literacy and evade education. One is only considered good enough when they produce their degrees. But then, it is possible for one to have a lot of degrees and yet not be educated. Again, the wisest man in the town may not be literate.

- Q. 8 The computing business only started during the second world war and has been in existence for such a short time, it has produced a very rich and complicated culture all its own. The pace of change is so fast that anyone with a good idea has an excellent chance of making a mark on the computer industry. Change is happening on two fronts simultaneously. The hard ware of computer is getting daily cheaper and more powerful. This means that job which a few years ago could only be attempted on huge machine by the dedicated attendants can now be done as routine on tens of thousands of office desks. The second change is that computing is being brought out into the light of every day to be the tool of every man. No long are these machines used only by a lavishly paid caste of high priests talking their own brand of mumbo-jumbo; they have been joined by perfect ordinary people who are interested in getting a job done rather than in the intricacies of computing. This is changing computers in just the same way that mass markets changed motorcars. Since, the cars began to be sold on the mass

market they had to become reliable, standardized and comfortable. Far from being willing to regrind the piston every twenty miles, the new car owner was upset with simple faults like fault in cigarette lighter. The same thing is happening to computers.

The world of computing is not totally orderly, surgically sterile in its logic. In fact, the computing business is strangely like the world of high fashion. Computing too has its share of fads and fashions, oddballs, fanatics, churlitans and lunatics - and a large number of hard-working, interesting, sensible people who are fascinated to be at the frontier of human progress, doing whatever seems best at the time to help the whole thing forward. Hence, the author compared the computer with high fashion.

- . 9 Some people tell jokes and stories and make people laugh or be deeply moved. Other people try to tell a story or a joke which may be just as good but ... total failure! Laughter, emotions, and the wish to understand are all within each person. The successful entertainer releases laughter, emotions and interest, but there are moments when people are ready to be interested and they aren't. A good entertainer is very sensitive to the right and wrong moment and listens and looks to see how the other person feels. Of course, good entertainers can create the right mood and expectation before beginning their joke or story game or trick, and will find a way of linking what they want to do with what has been happening.

Your personality, the personality of the other person (or people), the occasion and the place where you are and several other things contribute to entertainment. Some people are naturally quiet and enjoy listening and encouraging other people to speak that is one way of being entertained. There are other who don't mind talking and they may even want to control everything and organize all the entertainment! And such people can also be a wonderful asset to a party. Some old people are full of youthful fun and some young people are rather old fashioned; people's personalities are more important than their age. It takes all sorts to make a world, all sorts of people can contribute to the whole art of being amusing so that all can share a good time together. Each one must say, 'Your pleasure is mine'

- 10 'A Short Story' tells the story of Man in real sense of the word. In the history of evolution of life on the earth, a breed called 'Man' came to existence. Other animals and plant life also came to existence along with the man. At the early stage the mankind was not developed as we see today. But, men were more intelligent than the other animals; they started thinking and improving themselves. This developed a kind of superiority complex in the man.

Among the men, some were superior to other and had the quality of leading. They made other men to follow them. These superiors are called leaders. The leaders forced other not to work but kill other animals to eat for their survival. And the other blindly followed the leaders. The tradition is, by and large, continued till today.

The population of the man increased and the animals decreased as a cruelty of man to the other animals. A day came when there were not enough animals to eat. Therefore, the leader asked fellow men to grow their own food. Hence, man started cultivating crops. By the time the only animals survived in spite of the brutality of man - were small animals - rabbits and mice. These small creatures used to destroy the crops the man grew. Therefore, the cunning and greedy leaders

ordered to kill those small creatures too calling them as a threat. Eventually, all the wild life was perished. The leaders boasted that finally they got rid of all the pests – so-called threat to man – fooling the followers what destruction they had done to themselves and the nature.

The man's number kept increasing. The planet became too small to occupy all the men. All the resources fall short to feed the mankind. They had not enough place even to sleep comfortably. One day a leader saw some starving people eating his crops. These starving people were the unwanted new creatures for him and ordered his men to kill this new kind starving ones calling them a menace.... This will definitely happen to us if we imprudently follow the greedy and shrewd leaders and rulers. May be, most of us would fall under the category of starving people. Thus, the story is symbolic of how we are destroying natural resources heading to our doom.

SECTION "D"

Q. 11 Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions.

- Small found two good jobs advertised in the *Indian Express*.
- He decided to apply for both.
- He typed out the application on his friend's laptop and printed them.
- He attached copies of his CV with the applications.

Q.12 Match the pairs.

	"A"	"B"
a.	Clear	ii. Vogue
b.	Crime	iv. Periphery
c.	Postpone	i. Pre-pono
d.	Civilian	iii. Military

