



UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA

Faculty of Engineering

End-Semester 1 Examination in Engineering: July 2016

Module Number: IS1302

Module Name: Communication for Engineers

[Three Hours]

[Answer all questions]

Q1. Rewrite the following sentences correctly. (10 marks)

- 1) My father read Daily News everyday and my mother read the TIME Magazine.
- 2) We went to Galle to do some shopping.
- 3) in colombo i saw madhava, ravi and janith.
- 4) I am having the most expensive sports car in Sri Lanka.
- 5) i like to cook i like to make cake and pudding.
- 6) my uncle is having a black bmw.
- 7) I gave my friend a necklace, a bangle, some cosmetics for her's birthday.
- 8) Mens shirt are extremely expensive during the festival season.
- 9) My friend, ms.priya is indian.
- 10) "How about mcdonald's"? kamal suggested.

Q2. Read the following Text and Answer the questions. (15 marks - 1 each for the first 12 questions and 3 for the last one)

"Love Train"

When I was a little girl, I loved for my mom to tell me stories about herself. No matter how tired she was, she never **adumbrated** them. She would fill the tales with the minutest details, and they were always fascinating. Another thing she did was tell the stories with such **grandiloquence**! At different points she would stop and say, "Now what do you think that word means?" I would try to piece together what was happening in the story and make my best guess. To this day, when I want to bug my friends, I use the huge words that I first learned leaning on Mom's shoulder as she recounted a snippet of her life. My favorite story was the one about how my mom met my dad:

"I was 17 years old, but I already knew the kind of man I would marry. Take note: "He would not be too **garrulous**. I tell you, Rosa, it's important for a man to make interesting conversation, but he must also take time to listen to what you have to say.

"And never **impertinent**. I'll never forget when I was 16; a boy from my church named Joe Turner came and knocked on our door. He didn't look my momma in the

eye, and didn't say, 'Hello.' He just leaned against the door jamb and said,

'Rosa here?' "My momma raised her brow and said, 'She is, but not for boys such as yourself.' "But I **digress**. I'm supposed to be telling you about the day I met your daddy, right?

"Okay, so I was riding the Amtrak train between Providence and Philadelphia during my freshman year at Brown, and the door at the end of my car rattled open. "He was tall and swarthy. He wore a thick, ivory, cable knit sweater with a gray wool scarf wrapped firmly around his neck. I couldn't tell what his heritage was and that intrigued me. What was he -- Indian, Portuguese or Peruvian?" Mom would pause here and I would shout, "Cape Verdean!"

She'd continue: "Well, if I had been shy, I might have just looked out the train window. But then where would I be now? You wouldn't even be here! So I let my eyes lock with his as he wobbled down the moving train.

"He smiled a slight smile, not a big one. His eyes raised just enough to let me know he had spotted me too." I always loved this line and would smile at the image of my dad stumbling down the train and then noticing my radiant mom.

"So Rosa, once we spotted each other, your dad found a number of reasons to walk past me to go to the café car. "I was sitting by myself along the aisle. So finally, I just slid over to the window, leaving the seat next to me empty.

"Your dad came back with two cups of hot cocoa and sat down with a smile. And we had the most delightful conversation!

"I could tell right then that this was no **ephemeral** crush - this was the real deal. I was going to end up loving this man forever." And then the part I loved best about the story.

"We pull into the train station in Philadelphia, and it's time for me to get off. He was heading on to Washington where he was going to school.

"I prepared myself for some **hackneyed** expression as I got off the train. You know, 'Great meeting you,' or 'Good luck at school.'

"I also worried he might try to sneak a smooch, which would have been a big turn off. We'd just met!

"Instead, he took my hand gently and gave it a little squeeze. He said, 'If it's the thought that counts, consider yourself kissed.'"

Mama said she just about died when he said that! Then she said to herself, "That man will be my husband." And so he is.

- 1) As used at the beginning of the story, which is the best antonym for **adumbrated**?
 - a) detailed
 - b) lengthened
 - c) invented
 - d) simplified
 - e) understated

- 2) As used in the beginning of the story, which is the best definition for **grandiloquence**?
 - a) technical jargon
 - b) archaic speech
 - c) pithy expression
 - d) overly ornate or pompous language
 - e) foreign word or phrase

- 3) 3) What is ironic about the title of this passage?
 - a) Rosa's mother does not like clichés.
 - b) The passage has nothing to do with a song.
 - c) It is where Rosa's mother meets her husband-to-be.
 - d) The train only went a short distance but their love continued forever.
 - e) Rosa's mother could not have possibly loved her father after such a short train ride.

- 4) Why might the author have chosen Rosa as the narrator even though it is her mother who is telling the main story?
 - a) to make the story harder to follow
 - b) to make the story seem more straightforward
 - c) to make it clear that Rosa's mother has passed away
 - d) to make it clear that the story happened a long time ago
 - e) to allow the reader to hear the story from Rosa's perspective

- 5) As used in the beginning of the story, which is the best definition for **garrulous**?
 - a) conceited
 - b) talkative
 - c) narrow-minded
 - d) fawning
 - e) patronizing

- 6) Which situation best describes someone who has been impertinent, as used in the beginning of the story?
- a) A man crashes into the car in front of him.
 - b) A student gestures rudely to his teacher.
 - c) A child rushes out of the door, forgetting to say good-bye to his mom.
 - d) A woman refuses to let her son play video games before school.
 - e) A dog chases all the cats in the neighborhood.
- 7) As used in the story, which is the best antonym for **digress**?
- a) stop
 - b) stray
 - c) shorten
 - d) remember
 - e) stay on course
- 8) What may Rosa's mother intend to convey to her child by telling this story?
- a) advice about what to look for in a partner
 - b) regret that she met her husband on a train
 - c) the suggestion that Rosa might find her husband on a train
 - d) a yearning to go back to that time and place
 - e) the idea that education should come before marriage
- 9) Judging from the passage, what does Rosa's mother find most important in a husband?
- I. humor II. respectfulness III. originality
- a) I only
 - b) III only
 - c) I and II
 - d) II and III
 - e) I, II, and III
- 10) What is implied in the following paragraph from the middle of the story?
- "Well, if I had been shy, I might have just looked out the train window. Where would I be now? You wouldn't even be here! But I let my eyes lock with his as he wobbled down the moving train."
- a) Rosa's mother really wanted to simply look out of the window.
 - b) It is best to be outspoken in nearly all circumstances.
 - c) As soon as their eyes locked they fell in love.

- d) A slight change in circumstances could have greatly altered Rosa's mother's life.
- e) Life was hard before technology allowed trains to offer a smooth ride.

11) As used at the end of the story, which is the best definition for ephemeral?

- a) fleeting
- b) permanent
- c) ridiculous
- d) serious
- e) young

12) As used at the end of the story, which is the best antonym for hackneyed?

- a) happy
- b) humorous
- c) original
- d) overused
- e) turbulent

13) Write your opinion about Rosa's mother in about 50 words. (03 Marks)

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Q3. Complete the following sentences considering their subject-verb agreement.
(10 Marks)

- 1) None of you..... (claim) responsibility for this accident?
- 2) None of the students (have) done their homework.
- 3) Either my father or my brothers..... (be) going to sell the house.
- 4) Neither my brothers nor my father (be) going to sell the house.
- 5) (be) either my brothers or my father responsible?
- 6) A number of people (go) to Kandy during April.
- 7) The committee..... (decide) how to proceed.
- 8) The President, accompanied by his wife, (be) traveling to India.
- 9) Saman, where is the pencil I (give) you yesterday?
- 10) The team captain, as well as his players, (be) anxious.

Q4. Rewrite the following sentences by changing the underlined phrases to suit an academic writing style. (05 Marks)

- 1) People have come back to their homes after the bomb blast in the village
- 2) The authority is planning to cut down the welfare expenses of the company
- 3) The price of oil going up and down these days
- 4) The examination was like a walk in the park
- 5) The client asked for some guidelines

Q5. Write a précis of the following passage in about 110- 120 words. (20 Marks)

Communication is part of our everyday life. We greet one another, smile or frown, depending on our moods. Animals too, communicate, much to our surprise. Just like us, interaction among animals can be both verbal or non-verbal.

Singing is one way in which animals can interact with one another. Male blackbirds often use their melodious songs to catch the attention of the females. These songs are usually rich in notes variation, encoding various kinds of messages. Songs are also used to warn and keep off other blackbirds from their territory, usually a place where they dwell and reproduce.

Large mammals in the oceans sing too, according to adventurous sailors. Enormous whales groan and grunt while smaller dolphins and porpoises produce pings, whistles and clicks. These sounds are surprisingly received by other mates as far as several hundred kilometers away.

Besides singing, body language also forms a large part of animals' communication tactics. Dominant hyenas exhibit their power by raising the fur hackles on their necks

and shoulders, while the submissive ones normally "surrender" to the powerful parties by crouching their heads low and curling their lips a little, revealing their teeth in friendly smiles.

Colors, which are most conspicuously found on animals are also important means of interaction among animals. Male birds of paradise, which have the most gaudy colored feathers often hang themselves upside down from branches, among fluffing plumes, displaying proudly their feathers, attracting the opposite sex.

The alternating black and white striped coats of zebras have their roles to play too. Each zebra is born with a unique set of stripes which enables its mates to recognize them. When grazing safely, their stripes are all lined up neatly so that none of them loses track of their friends. However, when danger such as a hungry lion approaches, the zebras would dart out in various directions, making it difficult for the lion to choose his target.

Insects such as the wasps, armed with poisonous bites or stings, normally have brightly painted bodies to remind other predators of their power. Hoverflies and other harmless insects also make use of this fact and color their bodies brightly in attempts to fool their predators into thinking that they are as dangerous and harmful as the wasps too.

Q6. Write short descriptions on **Any Three** of the following topics (80-100 words each) (05 marks each)

- 1) Non-verbal communication
- 2) Ways of using modern technology in improving communication skills
- 3) Importance of impromptu speeches
- 4) Ways to improve effective listening skills
- 5) Barriers to communicate in formal situations

Q7. Complete the sentences by selecting suitable words from the following list. Use one word only once.

and, one, suddenly, after, as, then, meanwhile, in the end, later, first.

(1x 10 =10 marks)

I like doing sports (1)..... it helps me to relax. (2).....
afternoon I was walking home after a football match when (3)..... I heard
a scream from the next street (4)..... I got to the corner I saw the accident;
a man was lying under a police horse. One of the men who was watching said "His leg
is broken;" "It's not broken;" I said.

"It's an injury called sprain. He's sprained his ankle. I know what to do. Please phone
for an ambulance." A police officer phoned for an ambulance and I thought quickly;
we learn about accidents and injuries at school. Yesterday's lesson was about sprains

and I remembered it. This is what to do: (5)..... put something under the leg. (6)..... keep the leg cold with some ice. "Please get me some ice," I shouted. "Try that café there." (7)..... that put something around the leg and (8)..... put the leg up but with something under it. I did all that and in a few minutes (9)..... the ambulance came. (10)..... the man was OK and the emergency service thanked me.

Q8. Read the passage, choose the appropriate words from the list of the words and fill in the blanks. (15 Marks)

Table Tennis Course Open to Public

Celebrations began yesterday at the Sri Lanka Table Tennis Court, Bullers Road to mark the opening of the freshers' course. At the opening (1) Mr. Perera, the head of the Hilton Hotelier's Association paid tribute to the Chinese builders of the project for their close (2) with table tennis course. "We have had very friendly dealings with Table Tennis Course Board (TTCB)," said Mr. Perera. They have worked very closely with local (3) companies and this joint venture has meant that we are able to open the course in this setup as it was planned to yield (4) results.

"It's been a great (5) working on this project", said Mr. Ziang Zung, the head of the TTCB.

Mr. Perera and Mr. Ziang Zung joined as the first (6) on the course. Mr. Nirosch Silva, Provincial Council Minister, who said afterwards "we are very fortunate to have these new (7) on our doorstep. The course will help the tourist (8) here and all year round business".

"Comments from visitors were equally (9) This is one of the most desirable courses I have played on", said Michael from Manhattan. "I'll certainly be coming down here again during the summer vacation. They tell me there are a lot of sunny days with (10) of 25 degrees". On the course there were also visitors from India, Nepal, England, Myanmar and Florida. Speakers from these countries expressed their best wishes saying that these (11) will attract more tourists so that the Sri Lanka TTCB will be experiencing more peak periods in the future.

Sites under (12) include one in Maldives and another in the South of the island. Mr. Perera said "I will be visiting Maldives to see the (13)..... up. We are in close (14) with colleagues in the North Central, and Northern part of the (15) So we will be having a great wind fall in this respect."

1)	a) ceremony	b) ceremonial
	c) ceremonious	d) ritual
2)	a) collaborations	b) competition
	c) tournament	d) encounter
3)	a) consternation	b) contraction
	c) construction	d) continuation
4)	a) excellent	b) poor
	c) expensive	d) pathetic
5)	a) prestigious	b) prestige
	c) pleasing	d) pleasure
6)	a) players	b) participants
	c) member	d) ideal
7)	a) facile	b) factual
	c) facilities	d) faculties
8)	a) industrialization	b) industrialism
	c) industry	d) institution
9)	a) energizing	b) enthusiastic
	c) enthusiasm	d) enthuse
10)	a) weather	b) temperature
	c) season	d) atmosphere
11)	a) faculty	b) convenient
	c) faculties	d) facilities
12)	a) concern	b) care
	c) consideration	d) project
13)	a) sum	b) reverse
	c) prompt	d) finish
14)	a) contract	b) contacts
	c) talks	d) touch
15)	a) land	b) Islands
	c) Island	d) nation