



UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA

Faculty of Engineering

End-Semester 3 Examination in Engineering: December 2016

Module Number: IS8201

Module Name: ENGLISH FOR THE PROFESSIONAL
WORLD

[Three Hours]

[Answer all questions]

Q1. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verb given in brackets

01. Travelling _____ much easier and more comfortable in the past hundred years. (become)
 02. I _____ a cake. That's why my hands are full of flour. (bake)
 03. When I first came to this house it _____ quite a noisy area. (be)
 04. He twisted his ankle while he _____. (play)
 05. Do you ever _____ the doors before you leave the house? (lock)
 06. My best friend and I _____ each other for 15 years. (know)
 07. Jack usually _____ but he _____ in the presence of his father. (smoke, not smoke)
 08. Did you _____ your breakfast? (have)
 09. I _____ this kind of work when I was a small boy. (do)
 10. He _____ the paper when his wife came home. (read)
- [1x10 =10 Marks]

Q2. Change the following active sentences into passive voice.

01. I did not beat her.
02. I will never forget this experience.
03. Mother made a cake yesterday.
04. The boy teased the girl.
05. Did she do her duty?
06. The tiger was chasing the deer.
07. She has written a novel.
08. She has learned her lessons.
09. Have you finished the report?
10. The police have caught the thief.
11. My brother has completed the work.
12. Somebody stole my pen yesterday.

13. Our team may win the match.
14. Nurses look after patients.
15. They are building some new houses near the river.

[1x15 =15 Marks]

Q3. Write Short notes on all of the following topics (50 – 75 words each)

01. Importance of English for an Engineer
02. Telephone etiquette
03. How to face an interview successfully
04. Use of Idiomatic Language

[5x4 =20 Marks]

Q4. Correct the errors in the following sentences and use punctuation marks appropriately.

01. "Tomorro we will be goin to Toms birthday party.

02. In to days I will be the fifth person to land on the moon.

03. Although I called him several times he didn't answer the phone.

04. If I was president I will make health care more affordable.

05. We going to the super market later?

06. Spot my dog is the faster runner in the whole neighborhood.

07. When i am sixteen i am gonna get my lisence.

08. The new criteria was rolled out and implemented company wide.

09. I am having the most expensive sports car in Sri Lanka

10. "Did you really do that"? asked Pasan.

[1x10= 10 Marks]

Q5. Read the text and answer the questions given below it.

"CALISTHENICS"

The world's oldest form of resistance training

- A From the very first caveman to scale a tree or hang from a cliff face, to the mighty armies of the Greco-Roman empires and the gymnasiums of modern American high schools, calisthenics has endured and thrived because of its simplicity and utility. Unlike strength training which involves weights, machines or resistance bands, calisthenics uses only the body's own weight for physical development.
- B Calisthenics enters the historical record at around 480 B.C., with Herodotus' account of the Battle of Thermopylae. Herodotus reported that, prior to the battle, the god-king Xerxes sent a scout party to spy on his Spartan enemies. The scouts informed Xerxes that the Spartans, under the leadership of King Leonidas, were practicing some kind of bizarre, synchronized movements akin to a tribal dance. Xerxes was greatly amused. His own army was comprised of over 120,000 men, while the Spartans had just 300. Leonidas was informed that he must retreat or face annihilation. The Spartans did not retreat, however, and in the ensuing battle they managed to hold Xerxes' enormous army at bay for some time until reinforcements arrived. It turns out their tribal dance was not a superstitious ritual but a form of calisthenics by which they were building awe-inspiring physical strength and endurance.
- C The Greeks took calisthenics seriously not only as a form of military discipline and strength, but also as an artistic expression of movement and an aesthetically ideal physique. Indeed, the term calisthenics itself is derived from the Greek words for beauty and strength. We know from historical records and images from pottery, mosaics and sculptures of the period that the ancient Olympians took calisthenics training seriously. They were greatly admired - and still are, today - for their combination of athleticism and physical beauty. You may have heard a friend whimsically sigh and mention that someone 'has the body of a Greek god'. This expression has travelled through centuries and continents, and the source of this envy and admiration is the calisthenics method.
- D Calisthenics experienced its second golden age in the 1800s. This century saw the birth of gymnastics, an organized sport that uses a range of bars, rings, vaulting horses and balancing beams to display physical prowess. This period is also when the phenomena of strongmen developed. These were people of astounding physical strength and development who forged nomadic careers by

demonstrating outlandish feats of strength to stunned populations. Most of these men trained using hand balancing and horizontal bars, as modern weight machines had not yet been invented.

- E In the 1950s, Angelo Siciliano – who went by the stage name Charles Atlas – was crowned “The World’s Most Perfectly Developed Man”. Atlas’s own approach stemmed from traditional calisthenics, and through a series of mail order comic books he taught these methods to hundreds of thousands of children and young adults through the 1960s and 1970s. But Atlas was the last of a dying breed. The tides were turning, fitness methods were drifting away from calisthenics, and no widely-regarded proponent of the method would ever succeed him.
- F In the 1960s and 1970s calisthenics and the goal of functional strength combined with physical beauty was replaced by an emphasis on huge muscles at any cost. This became the sport of body building. Although body building’s **pioneers** were drawn from the calisthenics tradition, the sole goal soon became an increase in muscle size. Body building icons, people such as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sergio Oliva, were called mass monsters because of their imposing physiques. Physical development of this nature was only attainable through the use of anabolic steroids, synthetic hormones which boosted muscle development while harming overall health. These body builders also relied on free weights and machines, which allowed them to target and bloat the size of individual muscles rather than develop a naturally proportioned body. Calisthenics, with its emphasis on physical beauty and a balance in proportions, had little to offer the mass monsters.
- G In this “bigger is better” climate, calisthenics was relegated to groups perceived to be **vulnerable**, such as women, people recuperating from injuries and school students. Although some of the strongest and most physically developed human beings ever to have lived **acquired** their abilities through the use of **sophisticated** calisthenics, a great deal of this knowledge was discarded and the method was reduced to nothing more than an easily accessible and readily available activity. Those who mastered the rudimentary skills of calisthenics could expect to graduate to weight training rather than advanced calisthenics.
- H In recent years, however, fitness trends have been shifting back toward the use of frequently lead to joint pain, injuries, unbalanced physiques and weak cardiovascular health. As a result, many of the newest and most popular gyms and programs emphasize calisthenics-based methods instead. Modern practices often combine elements from a number of related traditions such as yoga, Pilates, kettle-ball training, gymnastics and traditional Greco-Roman calisthenics. Many

people are keen to recover the original Greek vision of physical beauty and strength and harmony of the mind-body connection

5.1 The text has eight paragraphs, A-H.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, A-H, in front of the relevant information.

- i. The origin of the word 'calisthenics' (.....)
- ii. The last popular supporter of calisthenics (.....)
- iii. The first use of calisthenics as a training method (.....)
- iv. A multidisciplinary approach to all-round health and strength (.....)
- v. Reasons for the survival of calisthenics throughout the ages (.....)
- vi. The use of a medical substance to increase muscle mass and strength (.....)
- vii. A reference to travelling showmen who displayed their strength for audiences (.....)

[1x7= 07 Marks]

5.2 Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the text for each blank.

During the sixties and seventies, attaining huge muscles became more important than 01)..... or having an attractive-looking body. The first people to take up this new sport of body building had a background in calisthenics but the most famous practitioners became known as

02)..... on account of the impressive size of their muscles. Drugs and mechanical devices were used to develop individual muscles to a monstrous size.

Calisthenics then became the domain of 'weaker' people: females, children and those recovering from 03)..... Much of the advanced knowledge about calisthenics was lost and the method was subsequently downgraded to the status of a simple, user-friendly activity. Once a person became skilled at this, he would progress to 04).....

Currently a revival of calisthenics is underway as extreme muscle building can harm the body leaving it sore, out of balance, and in poor 05).....

[1x5=05 Marks]

5.3 Make a meaningful sentence using each bold word given in the reading paragraph.

- i.
- ii.
- iii.
- iv.
- v.

[1X5=05 Mark]

Q6. Assume that you are a mid-level manager of a small company. The CEO, Mr. Rohan Perera, wants your views on a new computer network he is considering. The current network is adequate, but the new one will provide much greater capabilities for managing files, word processing, and accessing the database.

Write a brief memo about 100-120 words in which you list :

- the key factors that you believe must be taken into account in making the decision, and
- the trade-offs that must be considered.

[14 Marks]

Q7. You are interested in applying for a Civil engineering job position at "Caterpillar" Construction Company, #50, Main street, Colombo 05. Write only a cover letter to the Hiring Manager to send along with the résumé.

[14 Marks]