



UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
English –CC12202 (July 2026)



Answer all the questions on this paper itself.

Time: 02 hours

Index No:

For Examiners' Use Only

Question No.	Maximum Marks	First Examiner	Second Examiner
01	15	.....	.....
02	10	.....	.....
03	20	.....	.....
04	25	.....	.....
05	10	.....	.....
06	20	.....	.....
Total	100	.....	.....
	=====	=====	=====

Signature of the First Examiner:

Date:

Signature of the Second Examiner:

Date:

QUESTION 01

Fill in each blank with the correct word from the box below.

cancer	longer	value	illnesses	cause
stopped	people	money	UK	annual
pounds	yearly	when	from	does

Smoking and Its Costs

The diseases connected to smoking are a big problem. Doctors think that the (1) medical cost for lung cancer, heart disease, and other (2) connected to smoking is between 12 and 35 million pounds. And smoking costs society (3) in other ways. Between 27 and 61 billion (4) are spent each year on sick days when (5) do not go to work, on wages that they do not receive when they are absent from work, and on work lost at the company when they are sick.

This money counts the wages of people who die of (6) at a young age and stop paying taxes. This (7) not count fires started by cigarettes, which kill 1,500 people (8) and injure another 4,000. Smoking costs every man, woman and child in the (9) from 110 to 250 pounds each year in lost work and wages. (10) you add another 50 to 150 pounds yearly in insurance costs, that comes to 160 to 410 pounds. If everyone (11) smoking, a family of four could have up to 1,640 pounds a year more.

Smoking will also (12) other problems. People who do not smoke will live (13) , and so they will take money (14) the government when they are old. But they will also work for more years and pay more taxes. In the end, the (15) value of a non-smoking nation is not in pounds. The good health of the people is the true value for us all.

Marks	1 st Examiner	2 nd Examiner
15		

QUESTION 02

Underline the most suitable answer in each sentence.

1. The report **completed** / **was completed** by the manager yesterday.
2. The letters **have sent** / **have been sent** to all the customers.
3. The students **invited** / **were invited** to attend the conference.
4. The committee **has solved** / **has been solved** the issue successfully.
5. The teacher **will announce** / **will be announced** the examination results tomorrow.
6. A new hospital **built** / **was built** in the town last year.
7. The police **arrested** / **was arrested** the suspect last night.
8. She **has chosen** / **has been chosen** as the team leader.
9. The manager **had signed** / **had been signed** the documents before the meeting started.
10. The employees **believed** / **is believed** that the company will expand soon.

Marks	1 st Examiner	2 nd Examiner
10		

QUESTION 03

Select the most appropriate option and write it in the given space.

1. Did you really understand(what/which/that) I told you?
2. Mr. Silva,(which/who/that) had recently been fired, had a long history of misconduct.
3. The victims, most of (which/whom/who) were adults, are being identified by the US authorities.
4. I like the scene (what/which/where) Dorothy meets Scarecrow.
5. This is the man (who/which/whom) I am in love with.
6. I was not honest with Kenneth, (that/-/which) made him furious.
7. The chancellor, (both of whose/both whose/both of whom) sons were arrested in the corruption operation, resigned yesterday.
8. The police searched the vehicle in (where/that/which) the gun was found.
9. The driver, (who/whose/whom) contract finishes at the end of the season, does not want to talk about his future.
10. Between 2000 and 2005, she wrote three novels, (either of which/none of which/none which) was published.

Marks	1 st Examiner	2 nd Examiner
20		

QUESTION 04

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The History of Pencil

A. The beginning of the story of pencils started with a lightning. Graphite, the main material for producing pencil, was discovered in 1564 in Borrowdale in England when a lightning struck a local tree during a thunder. Local people found out that the black substance spotted at the root of the unlucky tree was different from burning ash of wood. It was soft, thus left marks everywhere. Chemistry was barely out of its infancy at the time, so people mistook it for lead, equally black but much heavier. It was soon put to use by locals in marking their sheep for signs of ownership and calculation.

B. Britain turns out to be the major country where mines of graphite can be detected and developed. Even so, the first pencil was invented elsewhere. As graphite is soft, it requires some form of encasement. In Italy, graphite sticks were initially wrapped in string or sheepskin for stability, becoming perhaps the very first pencil in the world. Then, around 1560, an Italian couple made what are likely the first blueprints for the modern, wood-encased carpentry pencil. Their version was a flat, oval, more compact type of pencil. Their concept involved the hollowing out of a stick of juniper wood. Shortly thereafter, in 1662, a superior technique was discovered by German people: two wooden halves were carved, a graphite stick inserted, and the halves then glued together – essentially the same method in use to this day. The news of the usefulness of these early pencils spread far and wide, attracting the attention of artists all over the known world.

C. Although graphite core in pencils is still referred to as lead, modern pencils do not contain lead as the “lead” of the pencil is actually a mix of finely ground graphite and clay powders. This mixture is important because the amount of clay content added to the graphite depends on the intended pencil hardness, and the amount of time spent on grinding the mixture determines the quality of the lead. The more clay you put in, the higher hardness the core has. Many pencils across the world, and almost all in Europe, are graded on the European system. This system of naming used B for black and H for hard; a pencil’s grade was described by a sequence or successive Hs or Bs, such as BB and BBB for successively softer leads, and HH and HHH for successively harder ones. Then the standard writing pencil is graded HB.

D. In England, pencils continued to be made from whole sawn graphite. But with the mass production of pencils, they are getting drastically more popular in many countries with each passing decade. As demands rise, appetite for graphite soars. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), world production of natural graphite in 2012 was 1,100,000 tons, of which the following major exporters are: China, India, Brazil, North Korea, and Canada. When the value of graphite was

realized, the mines were taken over by the government and guarded. One of its chief uses during the reign of Elizabeth I in the second half of the 16th century was as molds for the manufacture of cannon balls. Graphite was transported from Keswick to London in armed stagecoaches. In 1751, an Act of Parliament was passed making it an offence to steal or receive "wad". This crime was punishable by hard labour or transportation.

E. The claim that the United States did not use pencils in outer space till they spent \$1000 to make a pencil to use in zero gravity conditions is in fact a fiction. It is widely known that astronauts in Russia used grease pencils, which don't have breakage problems. But it is also a fact that their counterparts in the United States used pencils in outer space before the real zero-gravity pencil was invented. They preferred mechanical pencils, which produced fine lines, much clearer than the smudgy lines left by the grease pencils that Russians favoured. But the lead tips of these mechanical pencils broke often. That bit of graphite floating around the space capsule could get into someone's eye, or even find its way into machinery or electronics short or other problems. But despite the fact that the Americans did invent a zero-gravity pencil later, they stuck to mechanical pencils for many years.

F. Against the backdrop of a digitalized world, the prospect of pencils seems bleak. The application of pencils has by now become so widespread that they can be seen everywhere, such as classrooms, meeting rooms, and art rooms, etc. A spectrum of users is likely to continue to use it into the future: students to do math work, artists to draw on sketch pads, waiters or waitresses to mark on order boards, make-up professionals to apply to faces, and architects to produce blueprints. The possibilities seem limitless.

Part A: Underline the most suitable answer.

1. When and where was graphite first discovered?
 - a) 1662 in Germany
 - b) 1564 in Borrowdale
 - c) 1751 in London
 - d) 1560 in Italy
2. Why did people originally mistake graphite for lead?
 - a) It was found in lead mines.
 - b) It looked similar in colour to lead.
 - c) It was heavier than lead.
 - d) It was used to produce weapons.
3. What was the main purpose of wrapping graphite sticks in string or sheepskin?
 - a) To make them more attractive.
 - b) To protect them from moisture.

- c) To provide support because graphite was soft.
 - d) To improve their colour.
4. How did the Italian couple in 1560 improve the design of the pencil?
- a) They used metal to encase graphite.
 - b) They hollowed out juniper wood to insert graphite.
 - c) They wrapped graphite in leather.
 - d) They used a machine to sharpen the pencil.
5. According to the passage, the method used in modern wooden pencils was first developed by
- a) England
 - b) Italy
 - c) Germany
 - d) Canada
6. What determines the hardness of a pencil core?
- a) The amount of clay added to the graphite
 - b) The amount of graphite used
 - c) The type of wood used for the pencil
 - d) The length of time the pencil is sharpened
7. Why did the British government guard graphite mines?
- a) Graphite had become an important and valuable resource.
 - b) People were using graphite illegally in schools.
 - c) The mines were dangerous.
 - d) The government wanted to stop pencil production.
8. Which countries are mentioned as major exporters of graphite today?
- a) England, Italy, Germany, and France
 - b) China, India, Brazil, North Korea, and Canada
 - c) Russia, USA, Germany, and Spain
 - d) China, Japan, the USA, and France
9. Which statement best explains why Americans continued to use mechanical pencils in space?
- a) They were cheaper than grease pencils.
 - b) They produced clearer writing despite their disadvantages.
 - c) They were invented in Russia.
 - d) They were easier to manufacture.
10. Which of the following best summarizes the passage?
- a) The passage explains how pencils became popular only in Europe.
 - b) The passage traces the discovery, development, uses, and continuing importance of pencils.

- c) The passage focuses mainly on graphite mining in Britain.
- d) The passage compares pencils with modern digital technology.

(1 x 10 = 10 Marks)

Part B: Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer.

1. The black substance discovered after the lightning strike was later identified as
2. The modern pencil "lead" is made by mixing graphite with
3. Pencils marked are considered the standard writing pencils in the European grading system.
4. In the 18th century, stealing graphite in Britain was punishable by hard labour or
5. Despite living in a digital age, the writer believes the for pencils seems limitless.

(2 x 5 = 10 Marks)

Part C: State whether the following sentences are 'True', 'False', or 'Not Given'.

1. The first wooden pencil was invented in England.
2. Germany introduced the technique of joining two wooden halves around graphite.
3. Mechanical pencils completely replaced grease pencils in Russia.
4. Stealing graphite became a punishable offence in eighteenth-century Britain.
5. The writer believes pencils will become completely unnecessary in the future.

(1 x 5 = 5 Marks)

Marks	1 st Examiner	2 nd Examiner
25		

QUESTION 05

Change the following sentences from active voice to passive voice.

1. By this time tomorrow, the machines will have processed the corn.

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.....

2. Someone should prune the orchard.

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3. Venura has written several articles on this issue.

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4. A late frost might have damaged the citrus trees.

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5. Everyone appreciates sustainable farming.

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6. Do they make cars in Korea?

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7. Has anyone cleaned the oven yet?

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8. The organizing committee did not send the invitations on time.

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9. The government is planning a new road near my house.

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10. The technician was monitoring the soil moisture at that time.

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Marks	1 st Examiner	2 nd Examiner
10		

QUESTION 06

Write an essay on ONE of the following topics in about 200 - 250 words:

- Balancing Academic Work and Personal Life as a First-Year Student
- The Importance of Agriculture in Our Country
- How to Be a Responsible Citizen

[illegible]

