

EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA
FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION IN ARTS & CULTURE
2011/2012 (October 2016) (REPEAT)

AC 1112 Basic English – I



Instructions to the candidates:

1. Time: Two (02) Hours.
2. Answer all the questions on the paper itself.
3. Marks will be deducted for wrong spellings and grammar.
4. Read each question carefully.
5. Write your Index Number clearly on the space given.
6. This paper contains eight (08) pages.

Index Number:

Question – 01

Televisions show sounds and pictures. They get data from cables, discs, or over-the-air signals. They turn this data into sounds and images. People watch news and shows on them. You probably call them TVs. John Baird made the first TV in 1925. It had one colour. It could only show 30 lines. This was just enough room for a face. It didn't work well, but it was a start. The first TV station was set up in 1928. It was in New York. Few people had TVs. The broadcasts were not meant to be watched. They showed a Felix the Cat doll for two hours a day. The doll spun around on a record player. They were experimenting. It took many years to get it right. By the end of the 1930s, TVs were working well. America got its first taste at the 1939 World's Fair. This was one of the biggest events ever. There were 200 small, black and white TVs set up around the fair. The U.S. President gave a speech over the TVs. The TVs were only five inches big but the people loved it. They wanted TVs. But World War II was going on during this time. Factories were busy making guns and bombs. When the war was over, TV spread across the country. By 1948 there were 4 big TV networks in America. They aired their shows from 8 to 11 each night. Local shows were aired at other times. Most of the time, nothing was shown at all. TV was not "always on" like it is now. Colour TVs came out in 1953. They cost too much money for most. Also, shows were aired in black and white. By 1965, color TVs were cheaper. TV stations started airing shows in colour. People had to switch if they wanted to see the shows. Now most TVs are high-def. This means that they have many lines on them. This makes the image clear. TVs have come a long way since Baird's 30 line set. High-def TVs have 1080 lines. There are state of the art sets called 4K TVs. These TVs have 3,840 lines. Some people watch TV in 3D. I wonder what they will come up with next. Smell-o-vision anyone?

A. Underline the most suitable answer.

1. When did color TVs come out?
a. 1925 b. 1953 c. 1939 d. 1965
2. Which was not true about the first TV?
a. It could only show one color. b. It only had 30 lines.
c. It did not have sound. d. It did not work well.
3. When did networks start showing programs in color?
a. 1948 b. 1953 c. 1965 d. 1939
4. Why did the first TV station only show Felix the Cat for two hours a day?
a. They were running tests. b. Felix the Cat was really popular.
c. Felix the Cat had been a big radio star. d. Felix the Cat was the only show that they had.
5. Which of these events slowed the spread of TVs?
a. The World's Fair of 1939 b. The Civil War
c. The election of the U.S. President. d. World War II
6. What is the author's main purpose in writing this?
a. He is trying to explain how a TV works. b. He is telling readers how TVs became popular.
c. He is describing the history of the TV. d. He is trying to get people to watch more TV.
7. Why did many families switch to color TVs in 1965?
a. Color TVs cost a lot of money. b. Many shows were only shown in color.
c. Color TVs came out in 1965. d. World War II ended and troops returned home.
8. Why was 1939 an important year for TV?
a. Many Americans were introduced to TV. b. The first color TV was released.
c. The first TV station began broadcasting. d. John Baird created the first TV.
9. How many lines does a 4K TV have?
a. 30 b. 1,080 c. 4,000 d. 3,840
10. Which happened first?
a. The 1939 World's Fair b. The release of high-def TVs c. The end of World War I
d. The release of color TVs

(10 X 2 = 20 marks)

Question - 02

Fill in the blanks using correct form of the verbs given in the box. One is done for you as example.

feel	repeat	have	put	give	find
write	forget	want	memorize		

I met an old friend in the street. She ^{1.} _____ me her phone number. I didn't ^{2.} _____ it down but I ^{3.} _____ it and was ^{4.} _____ it many times in my head. The next day I ^{5.} _____ to phone my friend but I couldn't remember the number. Luckily, I ^{6.} _____ her in the phone book. She laughed. 'Of course you ^{7.} _____ the number. Why didn't you write it down? At school you always ^{8.} _____ a terrible memory,' she said. I ^{9.} _____ silly. Did I really have a terrible memory then? Well, not anymore! Now, where did I ^{10.} _____ my keys?

(10 X 2 = 20 marks)

Question - 03

Complete the following passage by using appropriate proposition given in the brackets:

The Great Pyramid ^{1.} (at/on/for) Giza is one ^{2.} (at/of/for) the world's most amazing landmarks. Rising high ^{3.} (down/at/above) the Sahara Desert in the Giza region of northern Egypt, the Great Pyramid stands some 450 feet into the burning desert sky and occupies an area ^{4.} (at/of/through) 13 acres. The rough climate of the Sahara has actually caused the pyramid to shrink 30 feet ^{5.} (from/on/to) its original height. The pyramid was such an amazing feat of engineering that it remained the tallest structure in the world ^{6.} (between/for/above) over 3800 years! The entire pyramid was originally faced with polished limestone to make it shine brilliantly in the sun. Most Egyptologists, scientists who study ancient Egypt, agree that the Great Pyramid was built around 2560 BC, a little more than 4,500 years ago. It took tens of thousands of workers twenty years to build. The pyramid contains ^{7.} (on/at/over) two million stone blocks.

⁸..... (Until/About/Although) most of the blocks weigh two or three tons, weigh up to 80 tons!

The Great Pyramid of Giza was ordered built ⁹..... (by/on/to) the Pharaoh Khufu magnificent tomb. His vizier (advisor), Hemon, is credited with being the pyramid's architect. Khufu's pyramid is actually part of a complex of pyramids that includes the Pyramid of Khafre, the smaller Pyramid of Menkaure, a variety of smaller pyramids and structures, and the Great Sphinx. The Great Pyramid of Giza is the last remaining ¹⁰..... (for/around/of) the Seven Wonders of the World.

(Source: <http://mrnussbaum.com/readingcomp/egypt>)
(10 X 1 = 10)

Question – 04

Fill-in the blanks with suitable articles (a/an/the).

The papaya or papaw, is the plant *Carica papaya*, one of the 22 accepted species in the *Carica* of ¹..... family Caricaceae.

It is native to the tropics of the Americas, perhaps from southern Mexico and neighboring Central America. It was first cultivated in Mexico several centuries before ²..... emerged among the Mesoamerican classical civilizations.

The papaya is ³..... large, tree-like plant, with ⁴..... single stem growing from the base to 10 m (16 to 33 ft) tall, with spirally arranged leaves confined to the top of the trunk. ⁵..... lower trunk is conspicuously scarred where leaves and fruit were borne. The leaves are large, 70 cm (20–28 in) in diameter, deeply palmately lobed, with seven lobes. Unusually for such plants, the trees are dioecious. ⁶..... tree is usually unbranched, unless lopped. The flowers are similar in shape to the flowers of the *Plumeria*, but are much smaller and white. They appear on the axils of the leaves, maturing into large fruit - 15–45 cm (5.9–17.7 in) long and 10–30 cm (3.9–11.8 in) in diameter. The fruit is ⁷..... type of berry.^[6] It is ripe when it feels soft (as soft as ⁸..... ripe avocado or ⁹..... bit softer) and its skin has attained ¹⁰..... amber to orange hue.

(1 X 10 = 10)

Question - 05

Last week you stayed in á hotel with your family. The service (food and cleanliness) was not to the standard. You have paid Rs 10,000/- for a day and stayed for two days. So you have decided to write a letter of complaint to the management of the hotel. Write a suitable letter using 150 words. Imagine any other necessary details. **DO NOT WRITE ADDRESSES.**

Dear Manager,

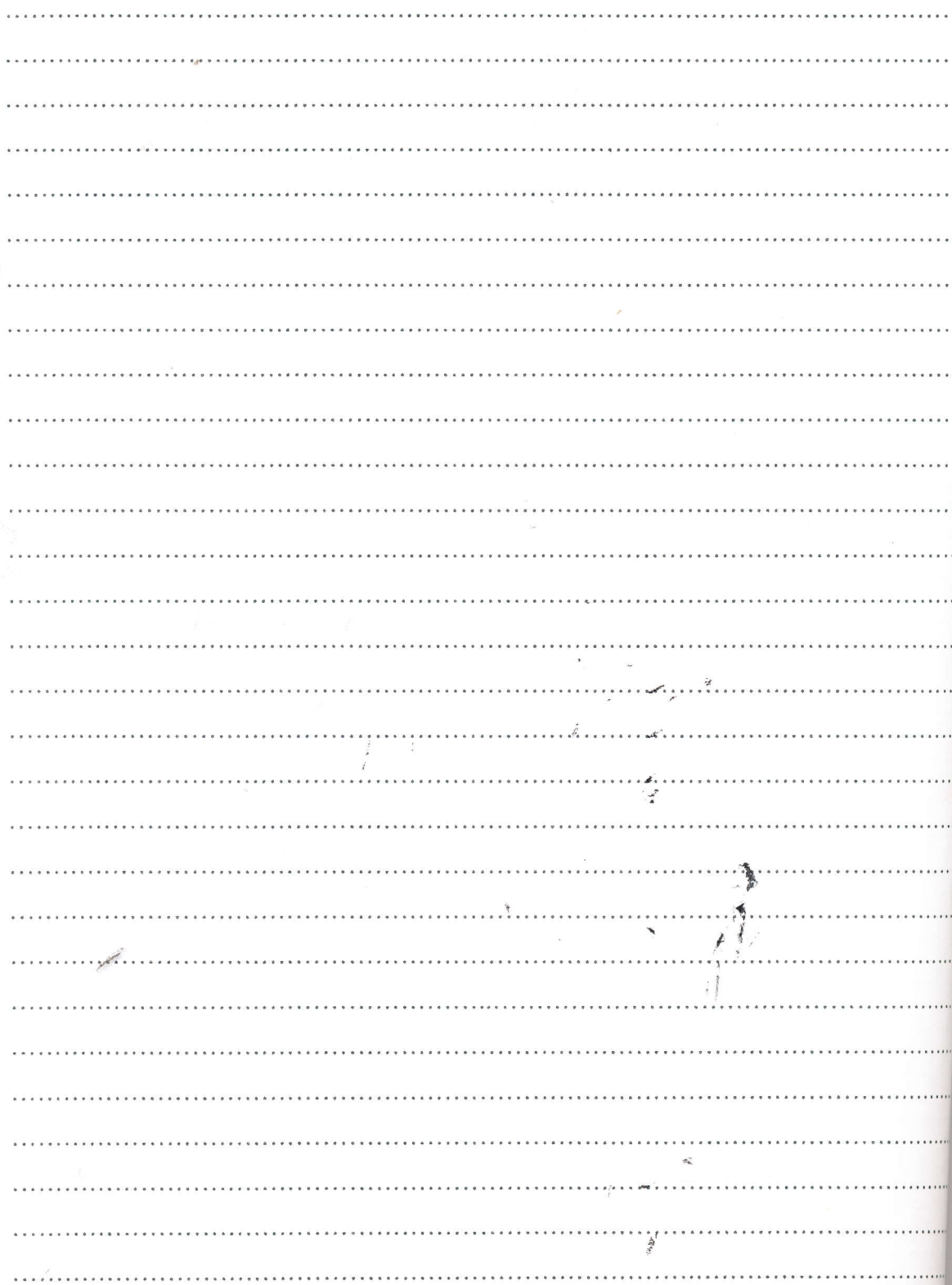
(1 X 15 = 15 marks)

Question – 06

Write an essay on any one of the following topics in about 250 words:

- (a) The happiest moment that you have ever experienced.
- (b) The greatest discovery
- (c) If you happen to meet your favorite actor/actress

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing an essay.



(1 X 25 = 25)