

Reg. No. : .....

Name : .....

Second Semester B.A./B.Sc. Degree Examination, September 2022

First Degree Programme under CBCSS

Language Course — English

EN 1211:1 — READING SKILLS

(2013 & 2014 Admission)

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Marks : 80

I. Answer **all** questions, each in a word or a sentence.

1. What is intensive reading?

2. Put the letters in correct order to form a word : ocdtro

3. What is the meaning of the underlined word in the sentence?

The mediocre talents stole the show while the genuinely talented languished in the margins.

4. Find the odd one out: freedom, imprison, incarcerate, shackles.

5. What is a dictionary?

6. Bring out the difference between the words, 'prescribe' and 'proscribe'.

7. What is a good reading speed?

8. Correct the sentence: 'I could come if I could'.

P.T.O.

9. What is skimming?
10. Define speed reading.

(10 × 1 = 10 Marks)

- II. Read the following passages and answer **any four** questions from each passage, each in a short paragraph not exceeding **50** words.

### PASSAGE I

Too many parents these days can't say no. As a result, they find themselves raising 'children' who respond greedily to the advertisements aimed right at them. Even getting what they want doesn't satisfy some kids; they only want more. Now, a growing number of psychologists, educators and parents think it's time to stop the madness and start teaching kids about what's really important: values like hard work, contentment, honesty and compassion. The struggle to set limits has never been tougher – and the stakes have never been higher. One recent study of adults who were overindulged as children, paints a discouraging picture of their future: when given too much too soon, they grow up to be adults who have difficulty coping with life's disappointments. They also have distorted sense of entitlement that gets in the way of success in the work place and in relationships.

Psychologists say that parents who overindulge their kids, set them up to be more vulnerable to future anxiety and depression. Today's parents themselves raised on values of thrift and self-sacrifice, grew up in a culture where 'no' was a household word. Today's kids want much more, partly because there is so much more to want. The oldest members of this generation were born in the late 1980s, just as PCs and video games were making their assault on the family room. They think of MP3 players and flat screen TV as essential utilities, and they have developed strategies to get them. One survey of teenagers found that when they crave for something new, most expect to ask nine times before their parents give in. By every measure, parents are shelling out record amounts. In the heat of this buying blitz, even parents who desperately need to say no find themselves reaching for their credit cards.

Today's parents aren't equipped to deal with the problem. Many of them, raised in the 1960s and 70s, swore they'd act differently from their parents and have closer relationships with their own children. Many even wear the same designer clothes as their kids and listen to the same music. And they work more hours; at the end of a long week, it's tempting to buy peace with 'yes' and not mar precious

family time with conflict. Anxiety about the future is another factor. How do well intentioned parents say no to all the sports gear and arts and language lessons they believe will help their kids thrive in an increasingly competitive world? Experts agree: too much love won't spoil a child. Too few limits will.

What parents need to find, is a balance between the advantages of an affluent society and the critical life lessons that come from waiting, saving and working hard to achieve goals. That search for balance has to start early. Children need limits on their behaviour because they feel better and more secure when they live within a secured structure.

Older children learn self-control by watching how others, especially parents act. Learning how to overcome challenges is essential to becoming a successful adult. Few parents ask kids to do chores. They think their kids are already overburdened by social and academic pressures. Every individual can be of service to others, and life has meaning beyond one's own immediate happiness. That means parents eager to teach values have to take a long, hard look at their own.

11. What values do parents and teachers want children to learn?
12. What are the results of giving the children too much too soon?
13. Why do today's children want more?
14. What is the balance which the parents need to have in today's world?
15. What is the necessity to set limits for children?
16. How do older children learn self-control?

#### PASSAGE II

If NSYNC singer Lance Bass can't afford the \$20 million price tag for a ride into space now, he should try again in, say, a decade.

But within a decade or so, even some of Bass's fans could afford a quick and safe trip to the suborbital edge of space – roughly 50-60 miles above earth, says Frank Seitzen, 5 president of the Space Transport Association.

"I think you're maybe 10 or 12 years away from having companies that are reliable and that can go through that process for \$5,000 or \$10,000," Seitzen said.

There's a hungry demand from would-be space tourists and a \$ 10 million prize is inspiring designers. The X Prize, created in 1994 to spur the development of new space travel technologies, has attracted at least 21 space vehicle designs from people in five countries. The non-profit X Prize Foundation, founded by a group of donors inspired by the \$25,000 Orteig Prize that Charles Lindbergh won in 1927, will give the prize.

Each design team is hoping to develop the first reusable rocket capable of blasting a pilot and two to five passengers to a height of 62 miles. NASA awards astronaut status for 15 flights above 50 miles.

Some design contestants boast that such trips will be available by 2005, although the first few travellers will face \$ 1,00,000 bills until the market matures.

Despite steep prices and lagging technology, Seitzen and others are convinced that a lucrative travel business awaits. Space Adventures, a travel agency that helped coordinate the first 20 tourist trip to the International Space Station last year by US businessman Dennis Tito, claims it has collected \$2 million in deposits from more than 120 would-be suborbital tourists. For client Wally Funk, who has paid her deposit, suborbital travel is a disappointing, yet feasible, alternative to decades of trying to reach space. Funk, a retired aviation safety investigator says, "I would do (a space station trip) in a heartbeat, but I can't because I'm 25 not a millionaire."

Compared to Tito's groundbreaking effort last year, future suborbital flights look easy. Tito was subjected to rigid medical requirements and a gruelling six-month training course in Russia.

But suborbital travellers will need only a few days of training and, pending FAA approval, 30 would have to pass a much lower bar for medical standards. "We always say that if you can safely ride a rollercoaster, then you are fit for a suborbital flight," says Space Adventures spokeswoman Tereza Predescu.

Four commercial spaceports, which launch rockets into space like airports launch planes, are already licensed to operate by the FAA in Virginia, California, Alaska and Florida, and 35 they are eager to welcome extra business from space tourists, negating the need to catch a ride to Russia.

For those reasons, suborbital travel may represent a \$1 billion a year market, according to Space Adventures President and CEO Eric Anderson. Translated, that's 10,000 travellers paying \$1,00,000 each during the first few years of adventure space travel.

17. Name the first tourist to the international Space Station. What difficulties did he face?
18. Why is Lance Bass unable to have a ride into space now? What is likely to happen in a decade?
19. Which two factors are inspiring the designers of new space vehicle-the reusable rocket?
20. How do you think suborbital tourism is a poor alternative to space travel?
21. What are the prospects of suborbital travel? Give two examples in support of your answer.
22. What are the prerequisites for space travelling?

(8 × 2 = 16 Marks)

III. Answer **any six** of the following questions, each in a paragraph not exceeding **100** words.

23. What is untextual meaning, give one example?
24. What are the different types of dictionaries? Which type of dictionary would benefit a learner most?
25. Write an appreciation of the following poem in about **100** words.

I'm Nobody! Who are you?

Are you – Nobody-Too?

Then there's a pair of us?

Don't tell! They'd advertise—you know!

How dreary—to be-Somebody!

How public-like Frog—

To tell one's name – the livelong June –

To an admiring Bog!

26. Read the following article and make notes from it.

When plastic waste is burnt, a complex weave of toxic chemicals is released. Breaking down polyvinyl chloride (PVC) – used for packaging, toys and coating electrical wires — produces dioxin, an organochlorine which belongs to the family of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). A recent Dioxin Assessment Report brought out by the United States Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) says the risk of getting cancer from dioxin is ten times higher than reported by the agency in 1994. Yet the Delhi government is giving the green signal to a gasification project which will convert garbage into energy without removing plastic waste. Former transport minister Rajendra Gupta, the promoter of this project, says this is not necessary. He claims no air pollution will be caused and that the ash produced can be used as manure. An earlier waste-to-energy project set up in Timarpur failed. The new one, built with Australian assistance, will cost Rs. 200 crore. It will generate 25 megawatts of power and gobble 1,000 tonnes of garbage every day.

27. Write a movie review of a recent movie that you have seen.
28. What is dramatic monologue? Examine with reference to any poem you have studied of the same genre.
29. What is point of view in narration?
30. What is contextual meaning?
31. What are SPE and SQ3R?

(6 × 4 = 24 Marks)

IV. Answer **any two** of the following questions, each in about **two to three** pages.

32. How can passages be understood effectively?
33. Write an essay on the importance of reading in developing vocabulary.
34. How does Owen eschew the idea of a compassionate soldier in the poem, "Insensibility"?
35. "All happy families resemble one another, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way". Exemplify the quote family.

(2 × 15 = 30 Marks)

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