

University of Information Technology & Sciences (UITS)

Faculty of Science and Engineering

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Term Final Examination, Autumn 2023

Course Code: GED 101

Course Title: The Four Skills of Communication in English I

Marks: 50

Time: 3 Hours

Part A (Reading)

Read the following passage with the techniques of reading strategies (Skimming, Scanning and Contextualizing) and answer according to the direction of question no. 1, 2 & 3.

For millennia, the coconut has been central to the lives of Polynesian and Asian peoples in the western world, on the other hand, coconuts have always been exotic and unusual sometimes rare. The Italian merchant traveller Marco Polo apparently saw coconuts in South Asia in the late 13th century, and among the mid-14th-century travel writings of Sir John Mandeville there is mention of 'great Nuts of Ynde' (great Nuts of India). Today, Images of palm fringed tropical beaches are cliches in the west to sell holidays, chocolate bars fizzy drinks and even romance.

Typically, we envisage coconuts as brown cannonballs that, when opened, provide sweet white flesh. But we see only part of the fruit and none of the plant from which they come. The coconut palm has a smooth, slender, grey trunk, up to 30 metres tall. This is an important source of timber for building houses, and is increasingly being used as a replacement for endangered hardwoods in the furniture construction industry. The trunk is surmounted by a rosette of leaves, each of which may be up to six metres long. The leaves have hard veins in their centres which, in many parts of the world, are used as brushes after the green part of the leaf has been stripped away. Immature coconut flowers are tightly clustered together among the leaves at the top of the trunk. The flower stems may be topped for their sap to produce a drink, and the sap can also be reduced by boiling to produce a type of sugar used for cooking.

Coconut palms produce as many as seventy fruits per year, weighing more than a kilogram each. The wall of the fruit has three layers: a waterproof outer layer, a fibrous middle layer and a hard inner layer. The thick fibrous middle layer produces coconut fibre, coir, which has numerous uses and is particularly important in manufacturing ropes. The woody innermost layer, the shell with its three prominent eyes, surrounds the seed. An important product obtained

from the shell is charcoal, which is widely used in various industries as well as in the home as a cooking fuel. When broken in half, the shells are also used as bowls in many parts of Asia.

Inside the shell are the nutrients (endosperm) needed by the developing seed. Initially, the endosperm is a sweetish liquid, coconut water, which is enjoyed as a drink, but also provides the hormones which encourage other plants to grow more rapidly and produce higher yields. As the fruit matures, the coconut water gradually solidifies to form the brilliant white, fat-rich, edible flesh or meat. Dried coconut flesh, 'copro', is made into coconut oil and coconut milk, which are widely used in cooking in different parts of the world as well as in cosmetics. A derivative of coconut fat glycerin, acquired strategic importance in a quite different sphere, as Alfred Nobel introduced the world to his nitroglycerine-based invention dynamite.

Their biology would appear to make coconuts the great maritime voyagers and coastal colonizers of the plant world. The large, energy-rich fruits are able to float in water and tolerate salt, but cannot remain viable indefinitely, studies suggest after about 110 days at sea they are no longer able to germinate. Literally cast onto desert island shores, with little more than sand to grow in and exposed to the full glare of the tropical sun coconut seeds are able to germinate and root. The air pocket in the seed, created as the endosperm solidifies, protects the embryo. In addition, the fibrous fruit wall that helped it to float during the voyage stores moisture that can be taken up by the roots of the coconut seedling as it starts to grow.

There have been centuries of academic debate over the origins of the coconut. There were no coconut palms in West Africa, the Caribbean or the east coast of the Americas before the voyages of the European explorers Vasco Da Gama and Columbus in the late 15th and early 16th centuries. 16th century trade and human migration patterns reveal that Arab traders and European sailors are likely to have moved coconuts from south and Southeast Asia to Africa and then across the Atlantic to the east coast of America, But the origin of coconuts discovered along the west coast of America by 16th century sailors has been the subject of centuries of discussion. Two diametrically opposed origins have been proposed: that they came from Asia, or that they were native to America, Both suggestions have problems. In Asia, there is a large degree of coconut diversity and evidence of millennia of human use - but there are no relatives growing in the wild. In America, there are close coconut relatives, but no evidence that coconuts are indigenous. These problems have led to the intriguing suggestion that coconuts originated on coral islands in the Pacific and were dispersed from there.

1. **Scrutinize the passage carefully and answer the following questions:** [4×1=4]
- a) What is the significance of coconut palm in the construction industry?
 - b) What are the uses of coconut shell?

- c) How can a type of sugar be produced using a special part of coconut palm?
- d. What is "Copro"?

2. Summarize the passage in no more than 4 sentences. [3×1=3]

3. Scan, identify and write down only True if the statement agrees with the information, False if the statement contradicts the information and Not Given if there is no information on this: [3×1=3]

- a) Coconut seed needs shade in order to germinate.
- b) Coconuts were probably transported to Asia from America in the 16th century.
- c) Coconuts found on the west coast of America were a different type from those found on the east coast.

Part B (Grammar)

4. Write down one synonym, one antonym and a sentence from any five of the given words: [5×1=5]

ephemeral, essential, generous, inclement, juvenile, knowledgeable, laconic

5. Rewrite the given sentences with the correct form of verbs in the bracket. [10×0.5=5]

- a) Many men (be) walking in the street.
- b) Some books owned by the professor (be) listed for sale.
- c) Watching movies (be) a great hobby.
- d) The singer and songwriter (has) received an award.
- e) The leader, accompanied by his followers, (be) attending the meeting.
- f) Five yards of fabric (be) needed for the dress.
- g) Singing and dancing (be) enjoyable activities.
- h) The pious (be) always respected.
- i) No one (has) any clue about the stolen purses.
- j) The subject Alice loves most (be) mathematics.

Part C (Writing)

6. Suppose you are Mahin an English Graduate. You are planning to pursue your second MA from a renowned foreign university. And one day you met with one of your school friends in front of the Swedish Embassy. Now Write a dialogue between you and your friend about the apply procedure for a Foreign University. [1×5=5]

7. Assume that you are Nasir and you have completed your B.Sc. in CSE [1×10=10]
from UITs. Now you are looking for a suitable position in Multinational
IT Company. The HR team of Radiance Technologies located at Banani is
looking for fresh Computer Science graduates for their web developing
wing. The circular was published at The Daily Sun at 10.11.23. Now write
a cover letter along with a detail CV to apply for the Position.
8. Write down an essay on any one of the following topics (300 words): [1×10=10]
a) A cause-and-effect essay on "Price Hike in Bangladesh"
b) A compare and contrast essay on "Developed and Developing Countries"
9. Look at the picture. Write down a story with the given picture. Give the [1×5=5]
writing an appropriate title(150 words).

