

Unique Paper Code : 52031105

Name of the course : B.Com (Programme)

Name of the paper : English Fluency

Semester : I

Maximum Marks : 75

Time limit : 3+1 (one hour reserved for downloading of question paper, scanning and uploading of answer sheets)

Students will attempt any **FOUR** questions.

All questions carry **equal** marks. (18.75 each)

Q.1 Comprehension:

Necessity is regarded as the mother of invention. inventions arise when a society has an unfulfilled need. Would-be inventors, motivated by profit or fame, perceive the need and try to meet it. Some inventor finally comes up with a solution superior to the existing technology.

A few inventions conform to this common-sense view. In 1942, the U.S. government established the Manhattan Project for building an atomic bomb before Nazi Germany could do so. Another instance is James Watt's 1769 steam engine to pump water out of coal mines. These examples deceive us into assuming that other inventions were also responses to perceived needs. In fact, most inventions were driven by curiosity or by a love of tinkering. After inventing a device, the inventor had to find an application for it. Only after it had been used for a considerable time did consumers feel that they "needed" it. Still other devices eventually found most of their use for other, unanticipated purposes. Such inventions include the airplane and automobile, the internal combustion engine and electric light bulb, the phonograph and transistor. Thus, invention is often the mother of necessity, rather than vice versa.

Thomas Edison's phonograph is a good example. According to him, the ten uses of phonograph include preserving the last words of dying people, recording books for blind people to hear, announcing clock time, and teaching spelling. Reproduction of music was not high on Edison's list of priorities. Edison thought it had no commercial value. In a few years he changed his mind and began selling phonographs as office dictating machines. Only after 20 years did Edison reluctantly concede that the main use of his phonograph was to record and play music.

Inventors often have to persist at their tinkering for a long time in the absence of public demand, because early models perform too poorly to be useful. This makes it difficult for an inventor to foresee whether his or her awful prototype might eventually find a use and thus warrant more time and expense to develop it. Each year, the United States issues about 70,000 patents, only a few of which ultimately reach the stage of commercial production. Even inventions that meet the need for which they were initially designed may later prove more valuable at meeting unforeseen needs. While James Watt designed his steam engine to

pump water from mines, it soon was supplying power to cotton mills, then (with much greater profit) propelling locomotives and boats.

Thus, the commonsense view of invention that served as our starting point reverses the usual roles of invention and need. It also overstates the importance of rare geniuses, such as Watt and Edison.

a). Find the correct answer.

(1x4 =4)

i). “It also **overstates** the importance of rare geniuses, such as Watt and Edison.” Find the **opposite** of the word in bold.

- a) Exaggerate
- b) Minimise
- c) Both a and b
- d) None of the above

ii). “Even inventions that meet the need for which they were initially designed may later prove more valuable at meeting **unforeseen** needs.” Which of the following can replace the expression in bold without changing the meaning?

- a) Unexpected
- b) Real
- c) unauthorized
- d) All of the above

iii). According to the passage, necessity leads to invention.

- a) Always
- b) Often
- c) Hardly
- d) Only sometimes

iv). “Thus, invention is often the mother of necessity, rather than **vice versa**.” Choose the option that means the same as the expression in bold.

- a) Opposite
- b) Contrary
- c) The other way round
- d) All of the above

b). Write short answers.

(2x3 = 6)

1. “A few inventions conform to this common-sense view.” Briefly explain what is referred to as the ‘common-sense view’.

2. Explain in your own words, the idea of invention described in the third paragraph.

3. Briefly explain the argument in the passage.

c). Write notes of the above passage using headings and sub-headings as well as recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. (8.75)

Q 2. Write a review of a movie or a web series you recently watched. (18.75)

Q.3. You are a travel agent. Write a dialogue with a customer enquiring about a holiday tour package to Jaipur. (10)

B. Write a Twitter post on the travel packages available through your agency. (8.75)

Q.4 Write a Facebook post providing information on the annual cultural festival of your college and inviting participation for the various competitions to be held as part of the two-day event. (8.75 marks)

b. Write a blog post on the annual cultural festival of your college. (10 marks)

Q. 5. A. Write an interview between a reporter and a police officer regarding arrangements made by the police for security during protests. (10 marks).

B. You were manhandled by the police during a peaceful protest. Prepare an FIR with all relevant details to be registered at the nearest police station. (8.75 marks)

Q6. A. Write a letter to the local telephone office to complain about the unusually high telephone bills you have been receiving. (10 marks)

B. Prepare an RTI application to enquire into the status of your complaint regarding the exorbitant bill for your telephone connection. (8.75 marks)