Session : APRIL 2014

Programme : Foundation In Business Information Technology (CFPI)
             Foundation In Design (CFDE)

Course : ENL1212/ENL1214: ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS 2

Date of Examination : 21st July 2014

Time : 11.00am – 1.00pm Reading Time: Nil

Duration : 2 Hours

Special Instructions :

This paper consists of FOUR (4) questions.

Answer ALL FOUR (4) questions in the answer booklet provided.

Materials permitted : Nil

Materials provided : Nil

Examiner (s) : Ms. Michelle Shalini

Moderator : Ms. Gurmit Kaur

This paper consists of 7 printed pages, including the cover page.
Instructions: This paper consists of FOUR (4) questions. Answer ALL questions.

Question 1: (30 marks)

Read the passage below and answer the following questions.

The writer, Paul Theroux, travelled through Asia by train about 35 years ago. In this passage, he describes his journey from the north of Pakistan as far as the city of Lahore.

The Khyber Mail to Lahore Junction
Rashid, the conductor on the sleeping car, helped me find my compartment, and after a moment’s hesitation he asked me to have a look at his tooth. It was giving him aches, he said. The request was not surprising. I had told him I was a dentist. I was getting tired of people asking me so many questions: Where do you come from? What do you do? Married or single? Any children? This nagging made me evasive, secretive, foolish, an inventor of far-fetched stories. Rashid made the bed and then opened up, tugging his lip down to show me a tooth rotted with decay.

‘You’d better see a dentist in Karachi,’ I said. ‘In the meantime chew your food on the other side.’

Satisfied with my advice (and I also gave him two aspirins), he said, ‘You will be very comfortable here. German-built carriage, about fifteen years old. Heavy, you see, so no shaking.’

It had not taken long to find my compartment. Only three were occupied – the other two by army officers – and my name was on the door, printed large on a label. By this stage of my travels, I could tell on entering a train what sort of a journey it would be. The feeling I had on the Khyber Mail was slight disappointment that the trip would be so short – only twelve hours to Lahore. I wished it were longer: I had everything I needed. The compartment was large, well-lighted and comfortable, with a toilet and sink in an adjoining room; I had a drop-leaf table, well-upholstered seat, mirror, ashtray, chrome bottle holder, the works. I was alone. But if I wished to have company I could stroll to the dining car or stand in the passage with the army officers.

Nothing is expected of the train passenger. In planes, the traveller is condemned to hours in a tight seat; ships require high spirits and sociability; cars and buses are unspeakable. The sleeping car is the most painless form of travel.
‘What time does the Khyber Mail get to Karachi?’

‘Timetable says seven-fifteen in the night,’ said Rashid. ‘But we will be five and a half hours late.’

‘Why?’ I asked.

‘We are always five and a half hours late. It is the case.’

I slept well and was awakened at six the following morning by a Sikh with a steel badge pinned to his turban that read Pakistan Western Railways.

‘Do you want breakfast?’

I said yes.

‘I’m coming at seven o’clock.’

He brought an omelette, tea and toast, and for the next half-hour I sprawled, reading my book and finishing my tea. Then, I snapped up the shade and flooded the compartment with light.

In brilliant sunshine we were passing rice fields and stagnant pools full of white lotuses and standing herons. Farther on, we startled a pair of pistachio-green parrots; they flew up, getting greener as they rose. Looking out of a train window in Asia is like watching an unedited travelogue without the soundtrack: people patting pie-shaped mud bricks and slapping them on to the side of a mud hut to dry; men with bullocks and submerged ploughs, preparing a rice field for planting. Just outside Lahore, I saw a town of grass huts and cardboard shelters where everyone was in motion — sorting fruit, folding clothes, fanning the fire, shooing a dog away and mending a roof.

SECTION A – Comprehension

Based on the passage, answer the following questions.

(a) Explain why the writer had claimed to Rashid that he was a dentist.

(b) What detail in particular does Rashid claim will make the German-built carriage comfortable?
(c) Give TWO (2) reasons why the writer felt disappointed that his trip would be so short. (2 marks)

(d) Explain, using your own words, the difference the writer mentions between travelling by rail and travelling by ship. (2 marks)

(e) Explain, using your own words, why the writer thinks people find travelling in a sleeping car ‘attractive.’ (3 marks)

(f) Which phrase in the final paragraph is used to emphasize the color of the flying parrots? (1 mark)

(g) Explain, using your own words, what the writer means by ‘this nagging made me evasive.’ (2 marks)

(h) Explain, using your own words, what the writer means by ‘a vehicle that allows residence’ (line 32). (2 marks)

SECTION B – Vocabulary (8 marks)

Choose EIGHT (8) of the following words. The words are highlighted in bold in the passage. For each of them, give ONE (1) word or short phrase (of not more than SEVEN (7) words which has the same meaning as the word in the passage.

A compartment (line 1)  
B far-fetched (line 6)  
C comfortable (line 11)  
D occupied (line 13)  
E condemned (line 22)  
F unspeakable (line 23)  
G stagnant (line 38)  
H startled (line 39)  
I travelogue (line 41)  
J mending (line 45)
SECTION C – Summary Writing

Write a summary of what the writer enjoyed about his journey on the Khyber Mail train. Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than 150 words.

Question 2: Error Correction

The following sentences may contain misplaced modifiers, run-ons, and fragments. Rewrite the sentences correctly.

1. She almost needed one day to complete the assignment.

2. Her boyfriend opened the door with an appalling groan.

3. We nearly waited one month for the answer to our questions.

4. My friend took me for a ride after showering and shaving on the skyway.

5. On the way to watch a movie, a bee stung Dean.

6. Every company demands certain things from its employees this one insists that they do a full day's work.

7. Alaska is usually terribly cold, however, it's one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen.

8. My neighbor talks about me behind my back then, when she sees me on the street, she puts on a big smile and gives me a friendly greeting.

9. In order to study well, students must be able to concentrate, it's hard to pay attention while the television is showing a loud, action program.

10. There were some cars in the parking lot, one of them was mine.
Question 3 - Letter Writing

(20 marks)

You are studying in Malaysia and recently attended a concert by the group Hotplay. However, you were disappointed with the concert and decide to write to the organizers.

Read the advertisement for the concert and the email below from your friend. Then, using the information appropriately, write a letter to the organizer, Mr. Wilden, stating what you were dissatisfied with and asking for appropriate action. Invent any other details you need to make the complaint clear. Your letter should be written in about 200 words.

**Hotplay**

With support act "Boyglow"

In the new 3,000 seat
Bukit Jalil Indoor Stadium

*Tickets: RM265*

Organizer: Harvey Wilden
GLP Entertainment

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From: Marilyn@gmail.com.my

Subject: That concert!

That concert was dreadful—I'm really cross I spent RM265 on it. And no seats—we couldn't see a thing. That support act was rubbish as well. Why did they play for so long? There was hardly any time left for Hotplay. Will you write and complain as your English is better than mine?
Question 4 - Essay

Write an essay in about 300 words on one of the topics below.

1. Should cheating in exams be considered a good reason for expulsion? Choose your stand and support it with valid reasons.


3. What are the effects of violent video games on young children or teenagers? Discuss.

--THE END--

ENL1212/1214 (F)/ Apr2014Session