FINAL
Examination Paper

(COVER PAGE)

Session : APRIL 2015
Programme : Foundation In Business Information Technology (CFPI)
             Foundation In Design (CFDE)
Course : ENL1212/ENL1214: ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS 2
Date of Examination : 8 August, 2015 (Saturday)
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.

IMPORTANT NOTE : THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN OUT OF THE EXAMINATION HALL

Materials permitted : Nil
Materials provided : Nil

Examiner (s) : Ms. Malinee Sreedharan Nair
Moderator : Ms. Gurmit Kaur

This paper consists of 8 printed pages, including the cover page.
Instructions: This paper consists of FOUR (4) questions. Answer ALL the questions in the answer booklet provided.

QUESTION 1:

Reading Comprehension (40 marks)

Read the following passage, and answer the questions that come after it.

Part A (15 marks)

Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Many of the serious health concerns in modern America can be linked to poor diet. People who regularly consume foods high in sodium, sugar, and saturated fats not only increase their chances of obesity, but also increase their risks of developing heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, and several types of cancer. Although some people who regularly consume unhealthy foods do so knowingly, there is also a significant portion of the population that remains undereducated about proper nutrition. What is more, individuals who live in food deserts—areas in low-income neighborhoods that lack easy access to healthy, affordable food—may not even have the opportunity to obtain nutritious food. Although there have been some recent government efforts to reduce the number of food deserts, more community-based efforts should be encouraged and supported.

Food deserts are located in high-poverty areas such as sparsely populated rural areas or densely populated, low-income urban centers. Food deserts most often develop when major supermarket chains either relocate out of these areas or simply refrain from building stores there in the first place. Major food retailer chains tend to limit their store locations to wealthier urban or suburban neighborhoods. This means that those who live in high-poverty areas often also live miles away from the fresh meats, dairy products, and produce available at supermarkets. Residents of these areas who do not have cars are thus forced to travel long distances on public transportation to do their grocery shopping, or else they are limited to the food available at local convenience stores and gas stations. These types of food retailers often only sell packaged, processed foods that offer little nutritional value.

Furthermore, fast food restaurants are disproportionately concentrated in low-income areas; recent estimates suggest that those living in the poorest areas of a city experience 2.5 times more
exposure to fast food restaurants than the wealthiest inhabitants of the city. Because individuals who live in food deserts tend to get their meals from fast food restaurants or convenience stores, they often suffer from a variety of health issues. Research has found that individuals who live in low-income neighborhoods are much more likely to develop problems with obesity, diabetes, and hypertension than those who live in more affluent neighborhoods.

A solution to the problem of food deserts seems obvious: more supermarkets should be built in low-income neighborhoods. The problem with this solution, of course, is that it is difficult to lure supermarket chains into poor areas. Because poorer people have less money to spend on food, supermarket chains do not consider them to be attractive customers. One way that the government can help to offset this issue is by offering tax breaks or other incentives for supermarkets in low-income areas. In 2010, the Obama administration implemented the Healthy Food Financing program, which is a set of initiatives designed to help bring grocery stores into areas currently designated as food deserts. While this federal program is a commendable effort to improve low-income residents’ access to healthy food, local initiatives often have a stronger and more immediate impact. Community gardens, independent food stores, co-ops, and farmers’ markets are all examples of local initiatives that can substitute for or supplement the opening of a major chain supermarket. Despite the time, dedication, and funds required for community members to initiate such programs, these efforts can be incredibly beneficial, not only in providing people with access to healthier foods, but also in instilling a sense of community in the residents of these neighborhoods.

(Source: readtheory.org)

1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage? (1 mark)

A. Supermarkets’ Contributions to Obesity in America
B. The Dangers of Fast Food
C. Food Deserts: the Problem and the Solutions
D. Food Deserts and Rural America
E. Inconvenience Stores: Why Processed Food Will Kill You
2. Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that if supermarkets opened locations in more low-income areas, (2 marks)

A. members of low-income households would not be likely to go there because they are not concerned with eating healthy foods.
B. the supermarkets would be unable to compete with the fast food chains located in low-income areas.
C. the convenience stores in the area would likely be put out of business because of increased competition with grocery stores.
D. the health of low-income residents would be more likely to improve, as residents would have easier access to healthy food.
E. there would be an increase in community spirit among members of low-income neighborhoods.

3. As used in paragraph 3, which is the best synonym for affluent? (1 mark)

A. healthy
B. updated
C. energetic
D. distant
E. wealthy

4. Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that the author considers major supermarkets to be … (2 marks)

I. more interested in increasing their profits than in helping people.
II. unwilling to build new stores in low-income neighborhoods despite incentives offered by the Healthy Food Financing program.
III. guiltier than fast food restaurants of contributing to the obesity epidemic.

A. I only
B. II only
C. I and II only
D. II and III only
E. I, II, and III
5. As used in paragraph 5, which is the best synonym for commendable? (1 mark)
   A. enviable
   B. praiseworthy
   C. essential
   D. superficial
   E. unique

6. What is a ‘food desert’? (1 mark)

7. Why do fast food restaurants deliberately target the poor? (2 marks)

8. Why would some people knowingly eat food considered ‘unhealthy’? (2 marks)

9. How would community initiatives benefit residents of poorer areas? (2 marks)

10. In what way or ways could education improve the diet of poorer people? (1 mark)

PART B: Summary writing (10 marks)

In about 50 words, summarize the passage. Give your summary a title.
PART C

(15 marks)

Read each paragraph and identify the topic (2 marks), and the main idea (3 marks). The main idea has to be expressed in a complete sentence.

1. The `idea box` is a useful concept in management. It was first introduced in the early twentieth century by Kodak in the United States and Michelin in France. The managers of these companies used idea boxes to collect suggestions from employees about improving production. Today the idea box is not much used in the United States or Europe. However, it is used a lot in Japan. Japanese managers have found it to be a very valuable resource. Employees often know more than managers about the details of production. In the long run, their suggestions can make a real difference to the company. Employees who offer useful ideas may receive extra money in their paychecks.

   Topic:  
   Main Idea:  

2. The giant panda bear is a favorite of children and animal lovers throughout the world. For many people, it is also symbolic of the sad situation for many other kinds of animals. Though so well known and loved, the panda is slowly dying out. At present, there are only about 1230 wild pandas left in the world. They all live in China, in the forests of Sichuan and Shaanxi provinces. Pandas used to be common in other areas. However, as the human population increased and the forests shrank, panda territory gradually disappeared. And so did the pandas. Now the Chinese government has created a number of `panda reserves` to protect the pandas. Within these reserves, human settlement and tree cutting will be limited.

   Topic:  
   Main Idea:  

3. What happens when you ask someone to draw a map of the world? The results can be very interesting. Few people, in fact, have a very accurate idea of what the world looks like. You might expect some errors in the positions of the countries. After all, this is a task that requires a certain skill with a pencil and a good memory. But many people do not even know the relative size of continents! They tend to enlarge them or make them smaller, according to their point of view. For this reason, the home continent is often drawn too large. A Brazilian, for example, tends to enlarge the continent of South America, while a Vietnamese enlarges Asia.

   Topic:  
   Main Idea:  
QUESTION 2

Correct the errors in the sentences below. Not all the sentences contain errors. If the sentence is correct, write C in the spaces provided.

1. If there is a will, there is a way.

2. Holding his broken arm in agony.

3. The little boy grabbed the ice-cream then ran off to his mother.

4. Screaming loudly, the woman ran at the intruder in her home.

5. Driving down the road, a dog was seen chasing a cat.

6. Typing furiously, the essay was finished.

7. Though in his eighties, the heavy box was easily carried by Tom.

8. Broken and dusty, Clarence found a computer in the shed.

9. Stella loves to bake, dance and writing.

10. Holding up a dainty hand, the dancer signaled to the man.
QUESTION 3: Business Correspondence (20 marks)

You have seen an advertisement for an event manager in the newspaper. You have had some experience managing some events for a well-known company in Malaysia. The advertisement asks for young people between the ages of 19 to 25 to manage an event for the launch of a new smartphone. They want enthusiastic people with a lot of creativity and initiative.

Your task: Write a letter to apply for the position. In your letter, express your interest, and explain why you would be a good candidate for this position. Invent all necessary details to make this a formal letter.

QUESTION 4: WRITING (30 marks)

Choose one of the topics given below and write a 300-350 word essay on it. Your essay should have a clear thesis statement, relevant topic sentences and supporting details, as well as an introduction and a suitable conclusion.

(a) What are the main causes and effects of individual success?

(b) There is evidence that technology is causing a number of health problems among users of all ages. Discuss some of the health problems that are caused with the use of technology.

(c) The library is the best source of information for students. Argue for or against this idea.

--THE END--

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