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 THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF
 SRI LANKA
 23 MAY 2009
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 EXAMINATION DIVISION

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OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 PROGRAMME IN PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH – LSC 2203
 FINAL EXAMINATION – 2007/2008
 PAPER I – READING AND COMPREHENSION

Date : 23rd May 2009

Time : 9.30 a.m. - 12.00 noon

INDEX NO. :
 CENTRE :

Instructions : Answer All Questions.

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Question No:	Marks Obtained	Maximum
1	20
2	25
3	30
Total	75

Percentage %

Signature of Examiner :

Name :

4. Combined allowance

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4:1 When payable :- Subject to the provisions of section 12, an officer travelling on duty will be paid an allowance to cover the combined cost of his subsistence and lodging, for periods which he is absent from his station on official duty, provided the total distance travelled exceeds seven miles.

20. Travelling Expenses on Change of Station: Combined Allowance

20:1 An officer transferred from one station to another may claim the full Combined Allowance for himself, his wife and each of his children over the age of twelve, and half the Combined Allowance for each of his children between the ages of three and twelve for every day or part of a day actually spent on travelling and necessary detention on the road. The Combined Allowance is not payable in respect of a son over the age of twenty one or a child under the age of three.

5:4 Restriction of use of a Hired Car

An officer entitled to motor or car mileage who has regular and extensive travelling to do monthly over routes not covered by the railway should be required by the Head of Department to keep a conveyance and be paid a fixed transport allowance.

5:5 Government Vehicle :

A private or a private hired vehicle should not be used on a journey for which a government vehicle is available.

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4. What is the Combined Allowance?

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(02 marks)

5. (i) Which members of an officers family are entitled to Combined Allowance when he changes station?

(02marks)

(ii) Which members are not entitled to the Combined Allowance?

(02marks)

6. When is an officer permitted the use of a hired car?

(02 marks)

7. Complete the following sentences with appropriate phrases selected from the passage. The phrases should be meaningful and grammatical.

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(i) for a journey a private or hired vehicle should not be used.

(02 marks)

(ii) An officer if the rail facility is available on the route he has to take.

(02 marks)

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below it.

1 While Sri Lanka's most famous export today might be tea, historically the
2 most important has been cinnamon. In fact, so strong is the **affinity** between
3 cinnamon and Sri Lanka that the very botanical name of the spice-
4 *Cinnamon Zeylanicum* - is derived from the island's former name Ceylon.
5 Today Sri Lanka is still the world's leading source of cinnamon, producing
6 not only four - fifths of the world's output but its choicest grades as well.
7 Throughout the long history of the island, particularly from the 16th through
8 the 18th centuries, cinnamon was the main article of trade for foreign traders
9 who invaded Sri Lanka.

10 In the early days, in Sri Lanka, cinnamon was collected from wild natural
11 groves owned by the kings. After the coastal provinces were conquered by
12 the Dutch East India Company, small commercial groves were planted. The
13 Dutch made cinnamon a state monopoly in 1656 in the Dutch-ruled coastal
14 provinces; breeches of the Dutch Laws relating to cinnamon were even
15 punishable by death. Before the arrival of the western nations the cinnamon
16 trade was in the hands of the Arabs, who traded in it with the Greeks and
17 Romans but who kept the source and manner of obtaining it a closely

9. Why was cinnamon important to the Europeans in the past?

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(02 marks)

10. Cinnamon was mainly used as a spice for food.
Name three other purposes for which it was used.

(02 marks)

11. Explain the meanings of the following in your own words.

- (a) affinity in paragraph 1 line 2.
- (b) enhance in paragraph 3 line 21.

(02 marks)

12. In a phrase or statement sum up the main idea of each paragraph.

- Paragraph 1.
- 2.
- 3.

(03 marks)

3. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below it.

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1 Every year thousands of highly specialized professionals and academics
2 leave the developing world for the affluent countries in the north. These
3 doctors, engineers, lecturers, researchers, senior managers as well as
4 students are tempted by the more attractive career opportunities, salaries
5 and living conditions. However, this skilled migration also known as 'brain
6 drain' is not restricted to the developing countries alone. Such migration
7 between western countries is also on the rise.

8 The United States is the main attraction. Since the 1990's, some 900,000
9 skilled professionals - mainly Information and Communication Technology
10 workers from India, China and the Russian Federation have migrated to the
11 United States. The effects of this migration on home governments are
12 incalculable. Governments use scarce resources to subsidize the education
13 and specialized training of these professionals, who then depart for other
14 countries. The same governments also struggle to fill posts in public
15 services and cope with skill shortages in key economic sectors.

16 Many argue that those governments experiencing a significant outflow of
17 professional workers should take incentive measures such as tax and
18 welfare concessions to limit the extent of outward migration from South to
19 North. It has also been suggested that receiving countries should limit their
20 recruitment of professionals in the fields which would be injurious to the
21 economics of the home countries.

22 According to a UNESCO official, until the early 1990's, the term 'brain
23 drain' evoked the idea of a one-way permanent migration of skilled people
24 from the developing world to the North. Migration is no longer regarded as
25 a one-way process. It is now considered as a circulation of skills and
26 manpower that can benefit both the sending and receiving countries.

28 Another positive aspect is that most migrants from developing countries
29 contribute massively to their economies by sending remittances to their
30 families.

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(Adapted from an article in Education Today)

Questions

1. Why do professionals in the developing world leave for developed countries?

(02 marks)

2. Is this statement **TRUE** or **FALSE** ?

'Skilled migration is a phenomena that is common only to developing countries.'

(01 mark)

Support your answer with a statement from the passage.

(01 mark)

3. (i) What evidence is there to show that the United States is the country which attracts most professionals.

(02 marks)

(ii) Which field attracts most migrants?

(01mark)

- 4. In your own words state the two types of disadvantages faced by home governments due to the migration of skilled professionals.

(03 marks)

- 5. What action can be taken by governments to prevent the migration of their skilled professionals?

(02marks)

- 6. How can the receiving countries control the outflow from developing countries?

(02 marks)

- 7. What was the attitude to the 'brain drain' before the 1990's?

(02 marks)

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8. What is the current attitude to the 'brain drain'?

(02 marks)

9. How do skilled migrants help their national economies?

(02 marks)

10. Explain the term 'sending and receiving countries.'

(02 marks)

11. What do these words refer to

(i) **their** in paragraph 3 line 19.

(ii) **It** in paragraph 4 line 25.

(02 marks)

12. Explain the following in your own words.

(a) **affluent** in paragraph 1 line 2.

(b) **restricted** in paragraph 1 line 6.

(c) such migration in paragraph 1 line 6.

(d) scarce in paragraph 2 line 12.

(04 marks)

13. Give a title to this passage.

(02 marks)

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