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00270



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
PROGRAMME IN PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2011/2012
PAPER I – READING AND COMPREHENSION

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THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
LSC 2203
16 FEB 2013
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EXAMINATION DIVISION

Date : 16th February 2013
Time : 9.30 a.m. - 12.00 noon

INDEX NO. :
CENTRE :
I.D. NO. :

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 :

Answers should be written in your own words as far as possible. Marks will be deducted if complete sentences with irrelevant details are copied straight from the text

1.

1 Among the Sri Lankan traditional crafts rush and reed
2 weaving (refer picture) is a unique artistic skill that has
3 existed in Sri Lanka for many hundreds of years. This
4 craft thrived where traditionally, agriculture and paddy
5 farming were the main sources of
6 livelihood of the people. This craft brought
7 the community together for purposes of
8 gathering, drying and colouring of the rush
9 and reed.



10 Though it is a very valuable craft which can contribute immensely to the
11 economy of Sri Lanka much attention has not been paid to it. Today even
12 though some talent exists in the country, the skills are not effectively passed
13 down to the younger generations.

14 The common items produced with rush and reed are baskets, mats, bags, hand
15 bags, purses and various types of articles for domestic use. Almost all the
16 handicrafts have elaborate designs. These designs are carefully planned. A great
17 deal of experience and skill is required to collect the right size of reeds in the
18 amounts needed and the colours to ensure the production of the desired design.
19 The beauty of the design comes from the imagination, creativity and skills of
20 the weaver. Most designs are inspired from natural elements such as flowers,
21 birds and animal motifs and some by geometric forms.

22 Although there are various types of reeds and rush, only about ten have been
23 used for this purpose from generations with many more yet to be discovered.
24 Certain rush varieties help to purify the soil, due to their ability to remove
25 harmful chemicals from it.

(Adapted from an article published by SLT - 2013)

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Questions

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1. Briefly list 3 main facts about rush and reed weaving from the first paragraph. (Do not copy whole sentences.)

(03 marks)

2. Give two reasons why this craft is in danger of declining?

(02 marks)

3. What is a common feature of most of the handicrafts?

(02 marks)

4. What three aspects have to be considered in order to produce a good design?

(03 marks)

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

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1 Migration for employment is of vital importance to Sri Lanka as it reduces
2 the pressure on unemployment in the country. In recent years there appears
3 to be a decline in the number of housemaids departing for foreign
4 employment. There is a noticeable growth in the number of professional
5 and clerical job related worker categories migrating overseas, while there
6 was a decrease in the skilled and semi skilled categories. In 2010 migrant
7 workers earned the highest foreign exchange for the country. At present
8 23% of the total labour force of the country is engaged in foreign
9 employment.

10 Unskilled labour migration and feminization figure prominently in Sri
11 Lankan migration patterns. Unskilled female migrants are faced with labour
12 issues and harassment. The primary complaints made by them are **breach**
13 of contract, and non payment of salaries promised. Another is related to
14 physical harassment.

15 Though unskilled migrant **remittances** result in an increase in the foreign
16 exchange of the country, benefits to the workers as well as the recipients of
17 the income are not very significant. A study on the **impact** of remittances
18 on households show that though these households spend more on education
19 and health there is no **significant** improvement in these areas. It also
20 pointed out that how the remittances are utilized depended on the remittance
21 sender and user.

22 Certain measures have to be taken to protect the migrant workers in their
23 workplace as well as when they return to the country. The unskilled workers
24 especially, housemaids should be put through a training and educational
25 programme to improve their working efficiency abroad. Those who return
26 should be provided with basic management skills to encourage them to
27 invest their savings profitably.

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Questions

1. What benefit does Sri Lanka get from people departing for jobs abroad?

(02 marks)

2. Underline the correct answer.

Which one of these statements is not correct?

- (i) There is a decline in all categories of people going abroad for jobs
- (ii) Less females are seeking jobs as housemaids abroad
- (iii) There is an increase of people in the professional and clerical categories going abroad
- (iv) Less skilled and semi-skilled categories of people are going abroad

(03 marks)

3. What two features are common to the migration pattern of Sri Lanka?

(02 marks)

4. In short statements/phrases write out 3 types of harassment faced by the female migrants.

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)

(03 marks)

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5. Underline the correct answer.
A study of how unskilled migrant remittances are utilized show

- (i) a great deal of improvement in these house holds
- (ii) that more money is spent on education and health
- (iii) that the recipient always used the money wisely
- (iv) that the sender has no control over the money spent

(03 marks)

6. In which two areas do migrant housemaids need help?

- (i)
- (ii)

(02 marks)

7. How can they be helped on their return?

(02 marks)

8. Give the meanings of these words.

- (i) breach in paragraph 2 line 12.
- (ii) remittances in paragraph 3 line 15.
- (iii) impact in paragraph 3 line 17.
- (iv) significant in paragraph 3 line 19.

(04 marks)

9. Given below are the main ideas of the four paragraphs in the passage. Write the correct number of the paragraph in the box provided.

- How remittances are utilized
- State of migration in Sri Lanka
- Problems faced by female workers
- Guidance for the migrant workers

(04 marks)

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

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1 In order to facilitate the progress of society we have to **ensure** that our
2 children are given the opportunity to receive a quality education at the highest
3 level.

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4 The main challenge we have to face in realizing this goal is the lack of
5 opportunities for higher education. In 2009, about 70% of high school
6 graduates in America entered some kind of a higher educational institute, the
7 number of Sri Lankans entering public universities was as low as 4%. The
8 number of technical colleges and vocational training institutions existing
9 today are not sufficient to cater to those who fall behind at the A/L's. Though
10 the number of universities and the number admitted to each university has
11 increased annually, they cannot absorb all the qualified students.

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12 One solution proposed for solving this problem is to expand the state
13 university system. **This** is not **affordable** for a country like ours. Those who
14 are responsible for state education have not planned to produce the graduates
15 required for the changing needs of society. Hence, there are unemployed
16 graduates even among the **meagre** number passing out of state universities.
17 Thus the issue of private universities has arisen.

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18 A private university is an institution independent of state control. Opinion is
19 divided on the need for private universities. There are many arguments for and
20 against the setting up of **these** universities.

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21 At present there is a debate about the need to set up private universities.
22 Those who oppose private universities feel that it would harm the present
23 free education system in Sri Lanka. However the limited number of seats in
24 state universities makes it necessary to create institutes of higher learning
25 though they may be privately funded. It will result in students who are
26 qualified but unable to enter universities to remain in Sri Lanka and join a
27 private university saving valuable foreign exchange. Private universities
28 will provide a quality education to compete with other state and private
29 universities.

30 Those not in favour of private universities feel that graduates from state
31 universities will be at a disadvantage at the point of seeking employment.
32 Further it is feared that lecturers in state universities will join the private
33 universities for higher pay.

Questions

1. In a short sentence/phrase give the main idea expressed in paragraph 1?

(02 marks)

2. Why are high school graduates in America mentioned in the passage?

(02 marks)

3. Underline the correct answer.

According to the passage the goal is

- (a) giving opportunities for higher education
- (b) obtaining higher education
- (c) setting up private universities
- (d) expanding state university education

(02 marks)

4. In your own words give the two examples given in the passage to prove the lack of facilities for higher education in Sri Lanka.

(i)

(ii)

(04 marks)

5. Why do some undergraduates remain unemployed?

(03 marks)

6. What is the basic definition of a private university?

(02 marks)

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7. From the passage pick out 3 reasons why private universities are opposed and 3 reasons in favour of private universities?

Opposition to private universities

(a)

(b)

(c)

In favour of private universities

(a)

(b)

(c)

(06 marks)

8. What is your opinion of the setting up of private universities? In a sentence express your own view.

(03 marks)

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