The Open University of Sri Lanka
Faculty of Engineering Technology
Department of Mathematics and Philosophy of Engineering

0439

Study Programmes	: Bachelor of Science Honours in Engineering
	: Bachelor of Software Engineering Honours
	: Bachelor of Industrial Studies Honours
Name of the Examination	: Final Examination
Course Codes and Title	: **MHJ4241/MHJ4271: History of Technology**
Academic Year	: 2024/25
Date	: 27th February 2026
Time	: 14:00-18:00h
Duration	: 04 hours

General instructions

1. This is an Essay type, Open Book Examination.
2. Answer all FIVE questions.
3. DO NOT copy directly from a text. If you have to quote, do so within inverted commas.
4. Answers for each question should start from a new page.
5. Non-adherence to these instructions will cause reduction in marks.

1. Technology has played a major role in shaping human societies from ancient times to the modern world. Studying the history of technology helps us understand how technological changes occur and their dynamic nature. Explain the importance of studying the 'History of Technology' as an undergraduate subject by highlighting five key factors. (20 marks)

2. In ancient times, Sri Lanka developed an advanced village tank system to collect and manage water for agriculture and other needs. These tanks were not only technical systems but also social and environmental entities that supported people's life and economic stability. Describe how the village tank systems contributed to economic stability in the island. (20 marks)

3. Ancient Indian mathematicians made important contributions to the knowledge of mathematics. This knowledge later spread to other parts of the world and influenced modern mathematical knowledge. Analyze how the developments of ancient Indian mathematics shaped present-day mathematical concepts. (20 marks)

4. Ancient Islamic societies, especially in the Middle East, constructed various building types using advanced engineering knowledge. These constructions were influenced by economic strength, religious beliefs, and environmental conditions. Discuss how economic and religious factors influenced building technologies in ancient Islamic societies. (20 marks)

5. Printing technology developed in different parts of the world, in different times. Social needs, cultural traditions, and religious movements strongly influenced the development and spread of printing technologies. Examine how social and cultural factors influenced the development of printing technologies in China and West. (20 marks)

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