The Open University of Sri Lanka
B.Sc. Degree Programme (Level – 04)
PCU2163 – Communication Skills

Final Examination 2012/13
Date : 5th June 2013 Time Allowed: 2 hours (9.30-11.30)

Answer **All** Questions. Answers for questions 1, 2 and 3 should be done in the question paper whereas for the answers of questions 4 & 5, you may use answer papers.

1. Complete the text using expressions from the box below

(2x10=20 marks)

declined	***peak***	***fell***	***rise***	***consistently***
rocketed	***increased***	***steadily***	***less***	***dropped***

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate in Germany was compared to the unemployment rate in Ireland. In 2000, 8 per cent of the German workforce was unemployed, which was twice as high as Ireland. Unemployment in Germany (1)..... slightly in 2001. However, after this the unemployment rate rose (2)..... over the next four years, to (3)..... at almost 11 per cent. Between 2006 and 2008 the unemployment rate of Germany (4)..... rapidly to well under 8 per cent. Before the unemployment rate (5)..... to almost 7 per cent in 2010, there was a slight (6)..... The unemployment rate in Ireland (7)..... remained at around 4.3 per cent from 2000 to 2007. In 2003, the unemployment rate was slightly higher and in 2008, Ireland's unemployment rate (8)..... by 2.5 per cent. Over the next two years the unemployment rate (9)..... to an all-time high of 13.7 per cent in 2010. In the first seven years the Irish rate of unemployment is significantly (10)..... than the rate of Germany.

2. Fill in the blanks using the *correct form* of the verb given within brackets.

(2x 10= 20 marks)

equip	***make***	***use***	***require***	***be***
range	***install***	***illuminate***	***compose***	***plug***

Low – Voltage Landscape Lighting

Landscape lighting describes a large and varied family of outdoor lighting fixtures. These versatile, weatherproof lights can be used to (1) ..... pathways, flower beds, trees, fences, driveways, stone walls, doorways and many more. There are dozens of low-voltage lighting fixtures and accessories available in a variety of styles, sizes, colours and finishes. Nearly every system, regardless of its complexity, (2)..... of four basic parts. They are the transformer, low-voltage electrical cable, pathway lights and accent features.

Transformer: The power behind every low – voltage system (3)..... the transformer. It (4)..... into a GFCI – protected outdoor electrical outlet and steps down the house current from 120 volts to 12 volts. Most transformers (5)..... with a 24 – hour timer that allows users to decide when the lights go on and off automatically. Transformers are rated according to the maximum wattage output. Models (6)..... from about 44 watts to 900 watts. To determine which size transformer you need, simply add up the wattage of all the lights in the system.

Low- Voltage Electrical Cable: The cable used for landscape lighting is specifically (7)..... for burial underground. It runs from the transformer to each light fixture in the system.

Pathway Lights: They are designed for (8)..... along walkways and driveways, this type of fixture represents the most stylish landscape lights. Shiny copper or plated- metal fixtures stand out, while green, black or brown painted fixtures can blend in with the surroundings.

Accent Fixtures: The unsung heroes of any landscape lighting design are the accent lights. These specialty fixtures, which are often hidden from view, include floodlights, spotlights, up lights and wall-wash fixtures. They (9)..... to shine lights on trees, shrubs, walls, flower beds, fences, ponds and other landscape features. Apart from them, putting in a typical low-voltage lighting system (10)..... three major steps: laying the cable, installing the transformer and connecting the lights.

3. Read the following paragraphs on the production process of a newspaper and complete the flow chart mentioned below. *(2 x 10 = 20 marks)*

ROBOTS AT WORK

A

The newspaper production process has come a long way from the old days when the paper was written, edited, typeset and ultimately printed in one building with the journalists working on the upper floors and the printing presses going on the ground floor. These days the editor, subeditors and journalists who put the paper together are likely to find themselves in a totally different building or maybe even in a different city. This is the situation which now prevails in Sydney. The daily paper is compiled at the editorial headquarters, known as the prepress centre, in the heart of the city, but printed far away in the suburbs at the printing centre. Here human beings are in the minority as much of the work is done by automated machines controlled by computers.

B

Once the finished newspaper has been created for the next morning's edition, all the pages are transmitted electronically from the prepress centre to the printing centre. The system of transmission is an update on the sophisticated page facsimile system already in use on many other newspapers. An image setter at the printing centre delivers the pages as film. Each page takes less than a minute to produce, although for colour pages four versions, once each for black, cyan, magenta and yellow are sent. The pages are then processed into photographic negatives and the film is used to produce aluminium printing plates ready for the presses.

C

A procession of automated vehicles is busy at the new printing centre where the Sydney Morning Herald is printed each day. With lights flashing and warning horns honking, the robots (to give them their correct name, the LGVs or laser guided vehicles) look for the entire world like enthusiastic machines from a science fiction movie, as they follow their own random paths around the plant busily getting on with their jobs. Automation of this kind is now standard in all modern newspaper plants. The robots can detect unauthorized personnel and alert security staff immediately if they find an "intruder"; not surprisingly, tall tales are already being told about the machines starting to take on personalities of their own.

D

The robots' principal job, however, is to shift the newsprint (the printing paper) that arrives at the plant in huge reels and emerges at the other end sometime later as newspapers. Once the size of the day's paper and the publishing order are determined at head office, the information is punched into the computer and the

LGVs are programmed to go about their work. The LGVs collect the appropriate size paper reels and take them where they have to go. When the press needs another reel its computer alerts the LGV system. The Sydney LGVs move busily around the press room fulfilling their two key functions to collect reels of newsprint either from the reel stripping stations, or from the racked supplies in the newsprint storage area. At the stripping station the tough wrapping that helps to protect a reel of paper from rough handling is removed. Any damaged paper is peeled off and the reel is then weighed.

E

Then one of the four paster robots moves in. Specifically designed for the job, it trims the paper neatly and prepares the reel for the press. If required the reel can be loaded directly onto the press; if not needed immediately, an LGV takes it to the storage area. When the press computer calls for a reel, an LGV takes it to the reel loading area of the presses. It lifts the reel into the loading position and places it in the correct spot with complete accuracy. As each reel is used up, the press drops the heavy cardboard core into a waste bin. When the bin is full, another LGV collects it and deposits the cores into a shredder for recycling.

F

The LGVs move at walking speed. Should anyone step in front of one or get too close, sensors stop the vehicle until the path is clear. The company has chosen a laser guide function system for the vehicles because, as the project development manager says "The beauty of it is that if you want to change the routes, you can work out a new route on your computer and lay it down for them to follow". When an LGV's batteries run low, it will take itself off line and go to the nearest battery maintenance point for replacement batteries. And all this is achieved with absolute minimum human input and a much reduced risk of injury to people working in the printing centres.

G

The question, newspaper workers must now ask, however is, "how long will it be before the robots are writing the newspapers as well as running the printing centre, churning out the latest edition every morning?"

Choose *No More Than Three Words* from the text to complete the flow chart below.

The Production Process

The newspaper is compiled at the editorial headquarters by the journalists.

The final version of the text is (1) ..... to the printing centre.

The pages arrive by (2).....

The pages are converted into (3).....

(4)..... are made for use in the printing presses.

The LGVs are (5) ..... by computer.

The LGVs (6)..... the reels of paper.

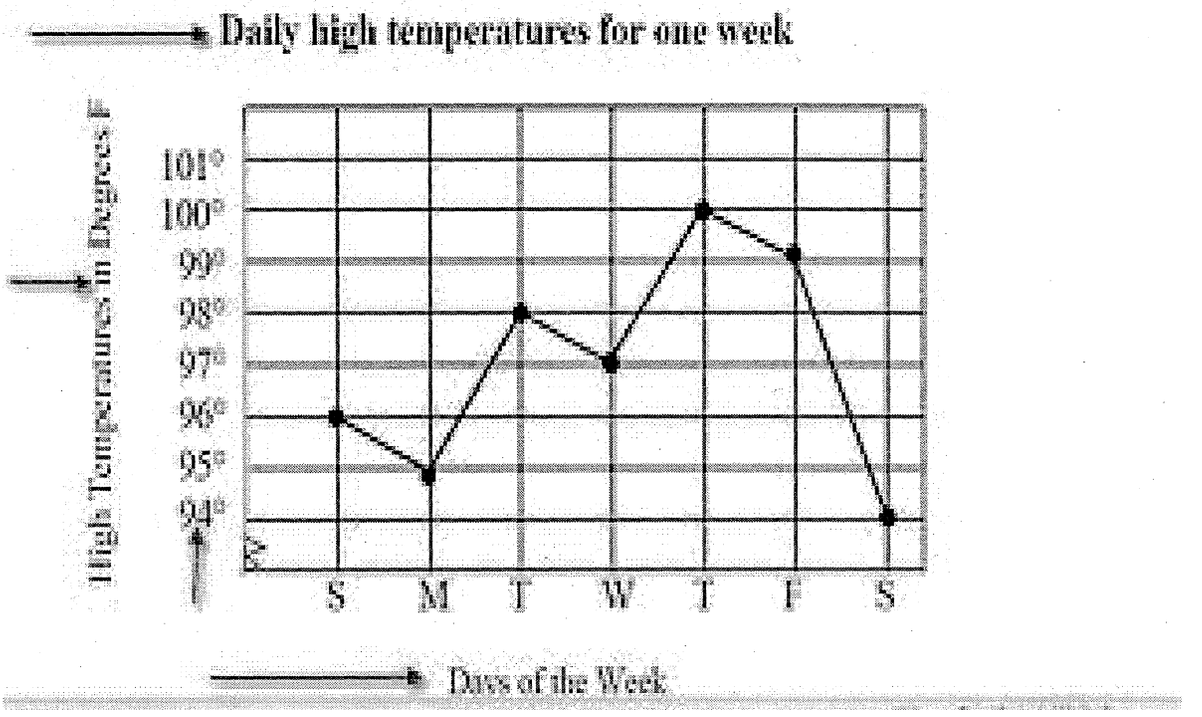
The LGVs remove the (7)..... from the reel.

The reel is (8) ....

The reel is trimmed and prepared by the (9)..... .....

The reel is taken to the press.	The reel is taken to the **(10)** ....

4. Summarise the information given in the line graph below by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where necessary. Write at least 150 words. *(20 Marks)*



5. Write an essay on any one of the following topics (175- 200 words).

(20 arks)

A) "Education and employment are creating a distance in human relations." Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to develop your essay.

B) Many people believe that social interaction in today's society is limited to online social network sites like Facebook. Do you think that the mentioned limited social interaction is positive or negative?

C) Most students are now required to carry out their higher studies in English medium. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the above statement.