THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

B.Sc. DEGREE PROGRAMME

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

COMMUNICATION SKILLS – PCU 2163

FINAL EXAMINATION– (2013-2014)

DURATION : Two(02) Hours

Date: 16/06/2014 **Time: 9.30 am-11.30 am**

Answer all questions

Index No.....

Instructions for candidates

This paper consists of five (05) questions for which **answers should be written in the annexed answer sheet.**

Please hand over the question paper and the answer sheet together.

Question 1

Complete the following passage with the correct form of the verb given within each bracket.

Some scientists (1) ..... (predict) that healthy adults and children may one day take drugs (2) ..... (improve) their intelligence and intellectual performance . A research group (3) ..... (suggest) that such drugs might become as common as coffee or tea within the next couple of decades.

To counter this, students (4)..... (take) exams might have to undergo certain drug tests like athletes and other sports persons do. Even now, there are several popular drugs that (5)..... (know) to improve mental performance, like Ritalin, which is given to children with problems of concentration. In fact, a particular drug given to people with trouble sleeping also (6) ..... (help) people to remember numbers.

However, these drugs (7) ..... (raise) serious legal and moral questions, but people already take vitamins to enhance their memory. Therefore, it (8) ..... (not/be) a simple problem to solve since there are some complicated aspects of this development to be scrutinized via research. It will probably be very challenging (9) ..... (decide) at what point a food supplement (10) ..... (become) an unfair drug in an examination. Therefore, the relevant authorities and researchers involved need to look into all the technical and socio – political complications with regard to this futuristic phenomenon.

(10 Marks)

Question 2

Read the sentences below and fill in the blanks using the given words.

(toxic, streamlined, unfathomably, boom, bustle, celebrated, dissidents, expedition, tremendous, recycling)

1. The United Nation's envoy has urged Havana to release imprisoned ..... and to allow freedom of expression.
2. Green Chemistry focuses on eliminating the use of ..... chemicals in Chemistry without stifling scientific progress.
3. The rain is terrific for the weeds, which continue to pop up all over the garden at a ..... pace.
4. Country's policy making processes need to be radically .....
5. The adventurer was not the only man to lose his life on the ill-fated .....
6. There are larger states in the United States and yet Nevada seems ..... vast with its semi- desert landscape.
7. Venture capital investments are seen as the primary precursor to economic growth, they have fuelled the dot-com ..... in the 1990 s.
8. The atmosphere on the campus is tranquil and peaceful, in sharp contrast to the hectic ..... of the London streets.
9. Unfortunately, many people are not familiar with the ..... concepts of basic household items.
10. He is an internationally ..... artist with regular shows across Europe, North America and Australia.

(10 Marks)

Question 3

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below.

Australian researchers have found that **microscopic** gold particles from underground ore deposits are present in tree leaves. Eucalyptus tree roots can **delve** more than 130 feet (40 meters) deep underground in a thirsty search for water.

The Nature Communications journal results, reported by a team of Australia's CSIRO Earth Science and Resource **Evaluation** science agency, settle a long-running **dispute**. Researchers had disagreed over whether gold particles seen in eucalyptus leaves were merely wind-blown or truly represented ore traces transported by roots.

The researchers compared eucalyptus tree leaves at gold **prospecting** sites in Western Australia with leaves from trees 2,625 feet (800 meters) away. They also grew eucalyptus trees in greenhouses with potting soil dosed with gold particles, as well as in normal potting soil without gold. Leaves **preferentially** stored microscopic gold particles about eight micrometers wide on average. Study authors **speculate** the particles came from underground, seemingly taken up by the root system of the trees. About 20 leaves needed to be sampled to statistically reveal the presence of gold underneath the trees.

For would-be gold miners, however, eucalyptus trees might offer cheaper, and better, clues to gold deposits, especially smaller ones that wide-area drilling tests might overlook. "Mineral **exploration** will benefit by **embracing** and understanding" how leaves might reveal secrets hidden underground, the study authors **conclude**.

PART A

1. Where did the researchers discover gold deposits?
2. What worried the researchers?
3. Name the tree that was used for the experiment.
4. How many leaves were required for a sample?
5. Who or what is expected to benefit from the result?

PART B

State whether the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE.

1. Gold particles are present on the leaves of trees.
2. The winds blow the gold particles on to trees.
3. The researchers looked for gold in prospecting sites.
4. Apparently the gold particles came from underground.
5. The research is helpful to exploration in minerals

PART C

Match the meanings of the words

	A		B
1	microscopic	**a**	assessment
2	delve	**b**	disagreement
3	evaluation	**c**	seeking
4	dispute	**d**	hypothesize
5	prospecting	**e**	search
6	preferentially	**f**	atomic
7	speculate	**g**	complete
8	exploration	**h**	specially
9	embracing	**i**	dig
10	conclude	**j**	accepting

(30 Marks)

QUESTION 4

Write a memo based on the following guidelines:

You are the Merchandising Manager of a Garment office. Write a memo addressed to the staff/ Merchandising Department with the current date. Inform them that Mr. Jack De Bruin will be in Sri Lanka from the 10th of May 2014. Also inform them that he will be visiting your factory on the 11th of May 2014.He will be meeting the senior merchandisers at 10.00 a.m. in the Board Room. Their attendance is compulsory. They should come prepared to answer any questions.

(25 Marks)

Question 5

Write a short essay on one of the following topics based on the guidelines given.

Your essay should be approximately 175-200 words only.

1) We are becoming increasingly dependent on computers. They are used in businesses, hospitals, crime detection and even to fly planes. What things will they be used for in future? Is this dependence on computers a good thing or should we be more suspicious of their benefits? Use specific details and examples in your answer.

2) The idea of going overseas for university study is an exciting prospect for many people. But while it may offer some advantages, it is probably better to stay home because of the difficulties a student inevitably encounters living and studying in a different culture. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

3) Tourism is becoming increasingly important as a source of revenue to many countries but its disadvantages should not be overlooked. What are some of the problems of tourism?

4) The mass media, including TV, radio and newspapers, have great influence in shaping people's ideas. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

(25 Marks)

Answer Sheet - PCU 2163

Index No.....

Q 1	Answers	Q 2	Answers
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	

QUESTION 3

	PART A		PART B (T/ F)
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	

PART C

Write the appropriate letter in the given boxes

1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	
5		10	

QUESTION 4

Memo

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QUESTION 5

Essay