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INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE PENANG (5072 32-U)  
LAUREATE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

FINAL  
Examination Paper

(COVER PAGE)

Session : January 2012

Programme : Foundation in Business Information Technology Programme

Course : ENL1214 : English Language Skills 2

Date of Examination : 5 March 2012

Time : 8a.m. – 10a.m. Reading Time : Nil

Duration : 2 Hours

Special Instructions :

This paper consists of **FOUR (4)** questions. Answer **ALL** the questions in the answer booklet provided.

Materials permitted : Nil

Materials provided : Nil

Examiner(s) : Irene Chin

Moderator : Sharon Shamini

*This paper consists of 2 printed pages, including the cover page.*

## Question 1

(20 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

### THE HUBBLE TELESCOPE

The 32,000-word novella *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells, published in 1895, is generally credited with popularizing the idea of time travel by means of a time machine, a vehicle which takes the occupant backward or forward in time. Dozens of sequels and adaptations over the years have further promoted the notion. Indeed, Albert Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity lays the foundation for the possibility of time travel. So far, no one has demonstrated the ability to travel in time. However, time machines have been constructed, and they do allow glimpses into the past.

The most **efficacious** time machine currently in existence is the Hubble Telescope, named after the American astronomer Edwin P. Hubble. Its capability to locate distant astronomical targets and lock in on them, permitting their faint light to **aggregate** on its detectors, allows it to peer far into the past. Light travels 186,000 miles per second. The Hubble Telescope has looked back in time at 10,000 galaxies whose light left them billions of years ago. Therefore, by utilizing the telescope as a time machine, astronomers are able to contemplate galaxies as they were eons ago.

Although the telescope was launched into space in 1990, its inception was almost a half-century earlier as astronomer Lyman Spitzer, Jr. mulled over the possibility of a large space telescope in a 1946 report, *Astronomical Advantages of an Extra-Terrestrial Observatory*. Because the Earth is bathed in its constantly **churning** atmosphere, earth-based telescopes cannot penetrate deep space and the atmosphere distorts the view. Telescopes were constructed on mountains, but there was still no way to wholly escape the effects of the layers of gases enveloping the Earth.

During the 1960s, the Space Race between the then Soviet Union and the United States was accelerating. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration ( NASA ) was established. Funds for space **endeavors** were abundant, and plans for a large space telescope, by then designated the LST, were underway. The designs called for a 2.4-meter primary telescope mirror which could be transported into space by one of NASA's rockets. According to National Geographic's *Imaging Space and Time*, the resolving power of the deep space telescope would be "equivalent to being able to distinguish the left and right headlights of a car in California seen from New York, or features less than 1/30,000<sup>th</sup> the size of the full moon, This was at least a tenfold increase over the atmospheric limit."

One of the primary challenges involved in successfully transporting the telescope into space was protecting the mirror from the jarring vibrations that occur during rocket launch. It was crucial that the mirror be able to withstand the shuttle's vicissitudes as well as the volatile atmospheric conditions found in space. If not, the precise shape of the mirror could be compromised, and its imaging capability significantly weakened.

After the telescope had been launched, astronomers subsequently realized that the primary mirror had not been ground correctly. A lens in the test instrument was about 1 millimeter askew, which is large by optical standards. In 1993, space-walking astronauts installed corrective lenses which improved the eyesight of the Hubble. In 2009, the corrective lenses themselves were replaced with a supersensitive spectrograph with built-in corrective lenses. The new spectrograph is expected to provide **insight** into the origins of stars and galaxies.

The successor to Hubble, the James Webb Space Telescope, is expected to be launched in 2014. It will observe only in infrared, so it will complement the Hubble Telescope which observes in the visible and ultraviolet light ranges.

The Hubble currently has the capability to view galaxies that were formed 13.7 billion years ago, long before humans existed, in an area called the Hubble Ultra Deep Field. Astronomers aspire to see beyond this area to a time that is devoid of galaxies, a time before galaxies had formed. If H.G. Wells was onto something in his novella, that time may be close at hand. As one of the characters in the popular work asked, "If Time is really a fourth dimension of Space, why is it, and why has it always been regarded as something different? And why cannot we move in Time as we move about in the other dimensions of Space?"

Less than a decade after Well's novella, Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity seems to **concur** with Well's character by proposing that travelling through space at the speed of light would alter time by causing it to dilate, raising the possibility of not merely glimpsing the past, but perhaps traveling to it.

1. According to the passage, which of the following statements is/are TRUE of the Hubble Telescope?

- I It is unable to observe light on the infrared part of the spectrum.
- II It will be replaced by the James Webb Space Telescope in 2014.
- III It was initially constructed in 1946, but not launched until 1990.
- IV It is located on a mountain to increase its resolving power tenfold.

- A I only
- B I and II only
- C I, II and III only
- D I, II, III and IV

*1 mark*

2. According to the passage, who had the idea for the Hubble Telescope?

- A H.G. Wells
- B Albert Einstein
- C Lyman Spitzer, Jr.
- D Edwin P. Hubble

*1 mark*

3. In paragraph 2, the word *efficacious* most closely means

- A effective
- B efficient
- C striking
- D active

*1 mark*

4. Which of the following best explains why the Hubble is successful as a space telescope?

- A Its construction was based on scientific facts in Spitzer's 1946 report.
- B A successor telescope is being planned to be launched in 2014.
- C It was built during the Space Race because money was available.
- D It was used as a literary vehicle by H.G. Wells in his novella.

*3 marks*

5. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A draw a comparison between H.G. Wells' notion of time travel with Albert Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity.
- B examine difficulties in the construction of corrective lenses for the Hubble's primary mirror.
- C discuss the construction of the Hubble Space telescope as a tool for exploring deep space.
- D dispute the argument that the Hubble Telescope functions as a modern-day time machine.

*3 marks*

6. From the passage, we can conclude that the author regards time travel as

- A a work of fiction and an improbability in the reality of astronomy.
- B an interesting literary discussion, but proven impossible by Einstein's theory.
- C a ridiculous idea whose time has come and gone.
- D a persuasive topic in fiction, and a hypothetical possibility in the light of Einstein's theory.

*3 marks*

7. It can be inferred from the passage that scientists believe that time is

- A a constant.
- B unidirectional.
- C a spatial dimension.
- D an impenetrable mystery.

*3 marks*

8. Give the meaning of the words below as they are used in the passage.

- (a) aggregate ( Paragraph 2 )
- (b) churning ( Paragraph 3 )
- (c) endeavors ( Paragraph 4 )
- (d) insight ( Paragraph 6 )
- (e) devoid ( Paragraph 8 )

*5 marks*

Question 2

(30 marks)

A According to an article in *Management Today*, the British manager still stops work for tea. A French managing director of Novotel, a hotel group, tells what happened at his first management meeting when he took over its English operation in 1991. Below is an extract of what he has to say.

The meeting was in the afternoon. It was going well. Then it was about 3.30 pm. Everyone started looking at their watches. I didn't know what was going on. I turned to my secretary. She was English. She said that they probably wanted to break for tea. I couldn't understand it. In France, we just carry on working until we have finished. Now in U.K., we always break for tea!

I am not sure how many English managers still break for tea. Twenty years ago, it was commonplace. I will never forget a Canadian sales director. He was red with fury. He told me how he had been offered tea and biscuits at three o'clock in the afternoon in Northampton. He said, "I have come three thousand miles. I have taken three taxis. I have also taken a train to get there. And I want to do business. And the purchasing manager gave me a 'nice cup of Chinese tea' and a biscuit! What is HE? I came to do business. I did not come for tea!"

A German manager tells about his personal encounter with the English. He first took over a job in Britain. He discovered that the majority of his management team left the office for the pub. This was at lunchtime. It was especially so on Fridays. He said, "I stopped that right away. It is not good for efficiency and productivity. Now they are not allowed to leave the premises. It didn't make me very popular at that time. It doesn't matter. I am not here for a popularity contest. There is no way we would do that in Germany."

Edit the entire extract by using a combination of simple, compound and complex sentences for better reading. Be sure to retain the meaning of the extract.

15 marks

B Fill in the following blanks with the correct tense of the verb in brackets.

I was born a slave in Mauritania in 1956. My parents were slaves, and their parents before them. As a slave, I ( beat ) \_\_\_1\_\_\_ very often by my master with a wooden stick or leather belt. One day, he ( beat ) \_\_\_2\_\_\_ my mother, and I ( can ) \_\_\_3\_\_\_ not stand it. I ( try ) \_\_\_4\_\_\_ to stop him. This made him very angry and he tied my hands before branding me with a hot iron and ( hit ) \_\_\_5\_\_\_ me across the face. His ring ( cut ) \_\_\_6\_\_\_ my face and ( leave ) \_\_\_7\_\_\_ a scar.

Other slaves were afraid of liberty. They were afraid they would not know where to go or what to do. But I always believed that I had to be free. I ( try ) \_\_\_8\_\_\_ to escape about ten years ago. I did not know how close I was to Senegal, so I walked for two days in the wrong direction. When my master's servants ( find ) \_\_\_9\_\_\_ me and ( bring ) \_\_\_10\_\_\_ me back, I was severely punished. My master ( bind ) \_\_\_11\_\_\_ my wrists and ankles, then tied me to a tree in the middle of the compound for a week. He also cut my wrists with a razor so that I ( bleed ) \_\_\_12\_\_\_ terribly. I still bear the scars on my arms till this day.

My determination to escape ( give ) \_\_\_13\_\_\_ me the courage to try again. And try I did and ( be ) \_\_\_14\_\_\_ now in the U.S.. The first time I was paid for work I had done , I cried because I ( never, see ) \_\_\_15\_\_\_ a person paid for her work before in my life.

*15 marks*

[ Adapted from *I was Born a Slave*, National Geographic, September 2003 ]

**Question 3**

**(25 marks)**

Your company has just constructed 100 covered car parking lots, and would like to rent them out to the employees at RM50.00 per month for each lot. As the Human Resource Manager, write a memorandum to all staff members of your company, informing them of the proposal, and the terms and conditions for rental. The latter is as listed below.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

1. Only full-time employees are eligible to rent the car parking lots.
2. The car must be registered in the employee's own name.
3. Each applicant is entitled to only one parking lot.
4. Parking lots are rented out on a first-come, first-served basis
5. The sum of RM50.00 will be deducted from the successful applicant's salary at the end of each month for the following month's rental.
6. The Management is not responsible for any theft or damage to the cars.

**Question 4**

**(25 marks)**

Write an essay of about 250 words on ONE (1) of the following :

- (d) The Importance of History as a School Subject
- (e) Single-gender schools are better than co-ed schools.
- (f) The Falling Standard of English in Malaysia

..... *End of Paper* .....