



FINAL
Examination Paper

(COVER PAGE)

Session : January 2016

Programme : Foundation In Business Information Technology (CFPI)

Course : ENL 1212: English Language Skills 2

Date of Examination : 10 March 2016 (Thursday)

Time : 8:00am – 10:00am

Duration : 2 Hours Reading Time : Nil

Special Instructions :

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

IMPORTANT NOTE : THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN OUT OF THE EXAMINATION HALL

Materials Permitted : Nil

Materials Provided : Answer Booklet

Examiner(s) : Ms. Regina Sharon Raju

Moderator : Dr. Ting Su Hie-

This paper consists of 6 printed pages, including the cover page.

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FOUNDATION IN BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME (CFPI)

ENL 1212: ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS 2

FINAL EXAMINATION: JANUARY 2016 SESSION

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

QUESTION 1

(25 marks)

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 Many are well aware that Johann Gutenberg invented the printing machine. Do we, on the other hand, know who invented paper? Ts'ai Lun's name has never gained as much popularity as Gutenberg's. Researchers have discovered that the former invented paper almost two thousand years ago. However, many major encyclopaedias and standard history textbooks seldom mention him. Not a great deal is known about Ts'ai Lun's life.
- 2 According to certain Chinese records and the official history of the Han Dynasty, he was an employee of the imperial court about nineteen hundred years ago. Around the year 105 AD, he presented Emperor Ho Ti with samples of paper. The emperor was so pleased with his invention that he promoted and granted him an aristocratic title. Unfortunately, he became involved in a political problem which soon led to his downfall. Upon being disgraced, Ts'ai Lun committed suicide. Although other aspects of his biography are hardly known, his contribution to society is too important to ignore.
- 3 Today, paper is so common that we take it for granted, and it is hard to imagine what the world would be like without it. In China, before Ts'ai Lun's invention, most books were made of bamboo. Obviously, such books were extremely heavy and clumsy. Some books were written on silk, but that was too expensive for general use. In the West, before paper was introduced, most books were written on parchment or vellum which was made of specially-processed sheepskin or calfskin.
- 4 The use of paper became widespread in China during the second century, and within the next few centuries, the Chinese were exporting paper to other parts of Asia. For a long time, they kept the technique of paper-making a secret. However, they were unable to keep it so for too long. In 751 AD, some Chinese papermakers were captured by the Arabs, and not long afterwards, paper began to be manufactured in certain parts of the Arab world. The art of papermaking gradually spread to the rest of the area. It was only in the 12th century that the

Europeans learnt the art from the Arabs. The use of paper gradually spread, and after Gutenberg invented modern printing machines, paper replaced parchment as the main writing material in the West.

- 5 Due to the existence of paper, books and other written materials can be produced so cheaply today and in such considerable amounts. The Chinese civilization advanced rapidly because of paper. The invention of printing by Gutenberg served only to improve the use of paper. Gutenberg who was born about the year 1400 in the city of Mainz, Germany, improved the inefficient style of printing so that books could be produced in masses with speed and accuracy. This contribution to the art of printing was made in the middle of the century.
- 6 Gutenberg did not gain much fame or fortune through his invention during his time. His best known work is the Gutenberg Bible. It was printed at Mainz, around 1454. Although it was clearly printed with the equipment he had invented, his name did not appear on the Bible. This was the case for many of his books. In his lifetime, he did not appear to have been a good businessman either.
- 8 Both Ts'ai Lun and Gutenberg died leaving a tremendous impact on Man's progress. Their contributions during their lifetime helped cultivate a better civilization for the Chinese and the Europeans respectively.

1. Ts'ai Lun is not very well-known. Why is that? (2 marks)
2. Describe briefly how Ts'ai Lun rose in status. (2 marks)
3. What were books made of in China before paper was invented? (2 marks)
4. Although other parts of Asia were aware of the existence of paper, explain clearly why they did not make their own but imported from China? (2 marks)
5. Why are books made of paper considered better than those made from other materials? (2 marks)
6. Explain briefly how the knowledge of papermaking spread to Europe. (2 marks)
7. When did the West stop using specially-processed sheepskin or calfskin for writing? (2 marks)

8. State two ways the Gutenberg printing machine was different from the older form of printing. (2 marks)
9. According to the text, '*Gutenberg did not gain much fame*'. Explain what could have been the reason for this. (2 marks)
10. Why did Gutenberg not gain much fortune from his invention during his time? (2 marks)
11. Find a word from the passage that has the same meaning as provided below. (5 marks)
- a) something majestic and regal (paragraph 2)
 - b) creation (paragraph 3)
 - c) taken (paragraph 4)
 - d) something that is not productive (paragraph 5)
 - e) being widely known (paragraph 6)

QUESTION 2**(25 marks)**

Summarize in not more than 120 words, the various communicative methods practiced by animals in the wild.

Communication is part of our everyday life. We greet one another, we smile or frown – depending on our moods. Animals, much to our surprise, also communicate. Just like us, interaction among animals can be either verbal or non-verbal.

Singing is one way in which animals can interact with one another. Male blackbirds often use their melodious songs to catch the attention of the females. These songs are usually rich in notes variation, encoding various kinds of messages. Songs are also used to warn and keep off other blackbirds from their territory, usually a place where they dwell and reproduce. Large mammals in the oceans sing too, according to adventurous sailors. Enormous whales groan and grunt while smaller dolphins and porpoises produce pings, whistles and clicks. These sounds are surprisingly received by their mates who sometimes are as far as several hundred kilometres away.

Besides singing, body language also forms a large part of animals' communication tactics. Dominant hyenas exhibit their power by raising the fur hackles on their necks and shoulders, while the submissive ones normally "surrender" to the powerful parties by crouching their heads low and curling their lips a little, revealing their teeth in friendly smiles.

Colours, which are most noticeably found on animals are also important means of interaction among animals. Male birds of paradise, which have the gaudiest coloured feathers often hang themselves upside down from branches. They fluff their plumes and proudly display their feathers to attract the opposite sex.

The alternating black and white striped coats of zebras have their roles to play too. Each zebra is born with a unique set of stripes which enables its mates to recognize them. When grazing safely, their stripes are all lined up neatly so that none of them loses track of their friends. However, when danger such as a hungry lion approaches, the zebras would dart out in various directions, making it difficult for the lion to choose his target.

Insects such as the wasps which are armed with poisonous bites or stings normally have brightly coloured bodies to remind other predators of their power. Hoverflies and other harmless insects also make use of this fact and camouflage their bodies in bright colours in an effort to fool their predators into thinking that they are as dangerous and harmful as the wasp.

QUESTION 3**(25 marks)**

You had dinner with your family at a restaurant recently. It was an expensive restaurant that had been highly recommended by a famous food blogger. However, it turned out to be a terrible experience. The behaviour of the staff was unprofessional, in fact, the waiters were downright rude! Even the food was not up to expectations. Eventually, you and your family left the restaurant without finishing your food.

Write **a letter of complaint** to the manager of the restaurant describing in detail the incident that had taken place. You should also provide suggestions on how the restaurant can improve on their services and how you feel you should be compensated for your bad experience there.

QUESTION 4**(25 marks)**

Choose **ONE** of the topics below and write an essay of about 200 to 250 words.

1. It is now very common to find young children attending more than one tuition class in a day. Parents send their children to these classes so that they would do well in their studies. Does academic success guarantee success in life? Give your opinion and give reasons to support your view.
2. What is your all-time favorite movie and why? Write an essay persuading readers to watch this film.
3. Smoking has become a serious problem in our society. Write an essay on the cause and effect of smoking.

~ The End ~

enl1212(f)jan2016