

FINAL

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

(COVER PAGE)

Session : April 2020

Programme : Diploma In Mechanical Engineering (DMEN)

Course : ENL1102 : Technical English

Date of Examination : August 5, 2020 (Wednesday)

Time : 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm Reading Time : Nil

Duration : 2 hour 30 mins

Special Instructions :

Answer ALL questions.

Material permitted : Nil

Materials provided : Nil

Examiner(s) : Dolly Singh & Archanaa Maniappen

Chief Moderator : Ms Raihana Aminuddin

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

DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROGRAMME (DMEN)
ENL1102: TECHNICAL ENGLISH
FINAL ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT: APRIL 2020 SESSION

Instructions: This paper consists of **FOUR (4)** questions. You must answer all questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Question 1: READING COMPREHENSION (25 marks)

The cloning of the first mammal bring the prospects of humans cloning closer to reality. Now the public should ponder on the implications. Among these, the most important it the effect on our future evolution.

The Need For Diversity

Cloning will be attractive because of some medical uses. Genetic replicas of geniuses might also benefit society. On the other hand, ruthless and egocentric despots may replicate themselves millions of times over. Cloning on a large scale would also reduce biological diversity, and the entire human species could be wiped out by some new epidemic to which a genetically uniform population was susceptible.

Beyond these important but obvious results, cloning raises problems that go to the core of human existence and purpose. One important fact to recognize is that cloning is asexual reproduction. It therefore bypasses both the biological benefits of normal reproduction and the emotional, psychological, and social aspects that surround it; courtship, love, marriage, family structure. Even more importantly, if cloning became the main mode of reproduction, human evolution would stop in its tracks.

In sexual reproduction, some of the genetic material from each parent undergoes mutations that can lead to entirely new biological properties. Vast numbers of individual combinations become possible, and the requirements of survival – and choices of partners by the opposite sex – then gradually select which features will be passed on to the following generations.

Cloning will, in contrast, reproduce the same genetic makeup of an existing individual. There is no room for new traits to arise by mutation and no room for desirable features to compete and win by appeal to the judgement of the opposite sex. The result: Human evolution is halted.

Evolving In New Worlds

Is it necessary for the human species to evolve further? Absolutely! We are certainly far from achieving perfection. We are prone to diseases, and the capacity of our intelligence is limited. Most importantly, human survival will depend on our ability to adapt to environments beyond Earth – that is, in the rich new worlds of outer space.

Some people question whether we can save ourselves from manmade environmental disasters on Earth, whose resources are already pressured by human population growth. And limiting the population to one planet puts us at risk for extinction from all-out nuclear or biological warfare, climate change, and catastrophic meteorite impacts.

Humanity could vastly expand its chances for survival by moving into space, where we would encounter worlds with diverse environments. To live in space, we will have to increase our tolerance to radiation, to extremes of heat and cold, and to vacuum. We will also need more intelligence to construct habitats. Our social skills will need to advance so that billions of humans can work together in the grand projects that will be needed.

If we are to expand into space, we surely cannot freeze human evolution. The natural (and possibly designed) mechanism must therefore be allowed to continue.

Preserving Life

Socially, the relations between the sexes underlie most aspects of human behaviour. The rituals of dancing, mating, and marriage and the family structures that surround normal reproduction are the most basic emotional and social factors that make our lives human. Without the satisfactions of such relationships, will cloned generations even care to propagate further?

Cloning therefore raises fundamental questions about the human future: Have we arrived yet at perfection? Where should we aim future evolution? What is the ultimate human purpose? The prospect of human cloning means that these once-philosophical questions have become urgent practical issues.

As living being, our primary human purpose is to safeguard, propagate, and advance life. This objective must guide our ethical judgements, including those on cloning.

Our best guide to this purpose is the love of life common to most humans, which is therefore reflected in our communal judgement. All individuals who sustain the present and build the future should have the right to participate equally in these basic decisions. Our shared future may be best secured by the practice of debating and voting on such issues in an informed democracy.

Adapted from : Cloning Could Halt Human Evolution (Michael Mautner)

Part I

Choose the word / expression from the stated paragraph that conveys the closest meaning to the definition provided. (10 marks)

		<i>Paragraph</i>
1.	to think about or to consider	<i>1</i>
2.	a cruel or oppressive person	<i>2</i>
3.	a variety or a range of different elements	<i>2</i>
4.	central or important	<i>3</i>
5.	to show opposition	<i>5</i>
6.	total agreement with no limitations or restrictions	<i>6</i>
7.	extreme negative alteration	<i>7</i>
8.	an established process by which something takes place	<i>9</i>
9.	hold at a fixed level or unchanging state	<i>9</i>
10.	natural process by which something takes place	<i>12</i>

Part II

Answer the following questions based on the paragraph (15 marks)

1. What is the main reason the author feels the public should consider the implications of cloning humans? (2 marks)
2. How does cloning differ genetically from normal reproduction? (2 marks)
3. Cloning on a large scale would reduce biological diversity. Why, according to Mautner, is that good or bad? (4 marks)
4. *'Most importantly, human survival will depend on our ability to adapt to environments beyond Earth – that is, in the rich new worlds of outer space.'*
Why is there a need for humans to explore this option, and how does the author suggest humans adapt to such circumstances? (3 marks)
5. What are your thoughts on human cloning? Explain. (4 marks)

Question 2: LETTER WRITING (25 marks)

You are a senior intern in charge of a group of junior interns at Dell, Penang. You have 5 interns under your supervision – all young, new, eager engineering graduates.

* Interns usually start off with tasks such as customer service and online troubleshooting.

Lately, you've been receiving many complaints via email regarding the quality of Dell Penang's customer service. Many customers have mentioned that the customer service personnel are very rude, and are not helpful, or patient with queries.

Some customers have even mentioned that the customer service personnel said things like '*...try first before calling*', '*...that's your problem, not mine*', and '*...how many times do I have to tell you? Do you even know how to operate your laptop...*'.

All your customer service calls and chats are recorded in the support system logs. You have already verified that all the complaints received are true.

Send out an **email** to your interns, explaining the situation. You should include some advice or pointers on treating customers with respect. Your email should include the possible consequences and specific actions that will be taken regarding intern attitude towards work and clients / customers.

Question 3: Essay Writing (25 marks)

Choose one of the topics and write a complete essay of no more than 400 words.

1. Climate change is no longer some far-off problem; it is happening here, it is happening now." (Barack Obama)
Climate change is a raging issue that is yet to be tackled effectively.
In an essay of 400 words - discuss the effects of climate changes.
2. Online shopping is very convenient now. Discuss the reasons why people prefer online shopping,

Question 4: Report Writing (25 marks)

Britania. Bhd. is a factory that manufactures biscuits. Mr Faris, the General Manager of the factory has noticed that the number of employees resigning in the previous year has increased compared to the year before.

Department	2018	2019
Human Resources	4	6
Sales	5	10
Production	3	6
Security	4	10

As the Head of Human Resources Department, you have been asked to write a **REPORT** on the reasons for this high turnover. Include pertinent reasons for the outflow of staff.

-THE END-