



**SLIATE**

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION

(Established in the Ministry of Higher Education, vide in Act No. 29 of 1995)

**Higher National Diploma in English**

**1<sup>st</sup> Year, Second Semester Examination – 2016**

**EN 1211 - Intermediate Reading and Vocabulary Development (FT/PT) (NEW)**

Instructions for Candidates:

No. of questions : 06

Answer five (5) questions selecting at least TWO from Part A and B.

No. of pages : 09

All questions carry equal marks.

Time : Three (3) hours

**Part A**

Q 1

**Sonja Henie**

i. .....

Sonja Henie was born in Kristiania, current Oslo. Her father had been a one-time World Cycling Champion and the Henie children were encouraged to take up a variety of sports at a young age. Henie initially showed talent at skiing, and then followed her older brother Leif to take up figure skating. As a girl, Henie was also a nationally ranked tennis player and a skilled swimmer and equestrienne. Once Henie began serious training as a figure skater, her formal schooling ended. She was educated by tutors, and her father hired the best experts in the world, including the famous Russian ballerina Tamara Karsavina, to transform his daughter into a sporting celebrity.

ii. .....

Henie won her first major competition, the senior Norwegian championships, at the age of 10. She then placed eighth in a field of eight at the 1924 Winter Olympics, at the age of eleven. During the 1924 program, she skated over to the side of the rink several times to ask her coach for directions. But by the next Olympiad, she needed no such assistance.

iii. .....

Henie won the first of an unprecedented ten consecutive World Figure Skating Championships in 1927 at the age of fourteen. The results of 1927 World Championships, where Henie won in a 3-2 decision (or 7 vs. 8 ordinal points) over the defending Olympic and World Champion Herma Szabo of Austria, were controversial, as all three of five judges that placed Henie first were Norwegian while Szabo received first-place ordinals from an Austrian and a German judge.

iv. ....

Henie went on to win the first of her three Olympic gold medals the following year. She defended her Olympic titles in 1932 and in 1936, and her World titles annually until 1936. She also won six consecutive European championships from 1931 to 1936. Henie's unprecedented three Olympic gold medals haven't been matched by any ladies single skater since; neither are her achievements as ten-time consecutive World Champion.

v. ....

Towards the end of her career, she began to be strongly challenged by younger skaters. However, she held off these competitors and went on to win her third Olympic title at the 1936 Winter Olympics, albeit in very controversial circumstances with Cecilia Colledge finishing a very close second. Indeed, after the school figures section at the 1936 Olympic competition, Colledge and Henie were virtually neck and neck with Colledge trailing by just a few points. The closeness of the competition infuriated Henie, who, when the result for that section was posted on a wall in the competitors' lounge, swiped the piece of paper and tore it into little pieces. The draw for the free skating then came under suspicion after Henie landed the plum position of skating last, while Colledge had to perform second of the 26 competitors, which was clearly in Henie's favor.

vi. ....

In addition to traveling to train and compete, she was much in demand as a performer at figure skating exhibitions in both Europe and North America. Henie became so popular with the public that police had to be called out for crowd control on her appearances in various disparate cities such as Prague and New York City. It was an open secret that, in spite of the strict amateurism requirements of the time, her father demanded "expense money" for his daughter's skating appearances. Both of Henie's parents had given up their own pursuits in Norway in order to accompany Sonja on her travels and act as her managers.

I. Read the passage and select a suitable subheading for each paragraph. (2x6=12 marks)

- A. Disputed achievement
- B. Questionable behavior
- C. Teething troubles
- D. Multiple sporting skills
- E. Questionable financial practices
- F. Unparalleled achievements

II. Decide the sentences based on the passage TRUE or FALSE. (1x8=8 marks)

- i. Only Sonja Henie was encouraged into sports by the parents but Sonja's brother took up figure skating following Sonja. (.....)
- ii. Sonja was unable to win an Olympic medal at the 1924 Winter Olympics. (.....)

- iii. She was fifteen when she won the first World Figure Skating Championship. (.....)
- iv. Sonja, since her first victory at the World Figure Skating Championship, won 10 times consecutively. (.....)
- v. As inferred in the text, the results of 1927 World Championships were controversial as the panel of judges was in Sonja's favour. (.....)
- vi. Sonja was able to win her first Olympic gold medal in 1928. (.....)
- vii. In the latter part of her career, she was known to be a benevolent person in the field. (.....)
- viii. Sonja's parents did not approve her performing at exhibitions in Europe or America. (.....)

(20 marks)

## **Q 2**

**Read the passage and write answers to the questions given below.**

You know that you're doing something big when your company name becomes a verb. Ask Xerox. In 1959 they created the first plain paper copy machine. It was one of the most successful products ever. The company name Xerox grew into a verb that means "to copy," as in "Bob, can you Xerox this for me?" Around 50 years later, the same thing happened to Google. Their company name grew into a verb that means "to do an internet search." Now everyone and their grandma knows what it means to Google it.

Unlike Xerox, Google wasn't the first company to invent their product, not by a long shot. Lycos released their search engine in 1993. Yahoo! came out in 1994. AltaVista began serving results in 1995. Google did not come out until years later, in 1998. Though a few years difference may not seem like much, this is a major head start in the fast moving world of tech. So how did Google do it? How did they overtake their competitors who had such huge leads in time and money? Maybe one good idea made all the difference.

There are millions and millions of sites on the internet. How does a search engine know which ones are relevant to your search? This is a question that great minds have been working on for decades. To understand how Google changed the game, you need to know how search engines worked in 1998. Back then most websites looked at the words in your query. They counted how many times those words appeared on each page. Then they might return pages where the words in your query appeared the most. This system did not work well and people often had to click through pages and pages of results to find what they wanted.

Google was the first search engine that began considering links. Links are those blue underlined words that take you to other pages when you click on them. Larry Page, cofounder of Google, believed that meaningful data could be drawn from how those links connect. Page figured that websites with many links pointing at them were more important than those that had few. He was right. Google's search results were much better than their rivals. They would soon become the world's most used search engine.

It wasn't just the great search results that led to Google becoming so well liked. It also had to do with the way that they presented their product. Most of the other search engines were cluttered. Their home pages were filled with everything from news stories to stock quotes. But Google's homepage was, and still is, clean. There's nothing on it but the logo, the search box, and a few links. It almost appears empty. In fact, when they were first testing it, users would wait at the home page and not do anything. When asked why, they said that they were, "waiting for the rest of the page to load." People couldn't imagine such a clean and open page as being complete. But the fresh design grew on people once they got used to it.

These days Google has its hands in everything from self-driving cars to helping humans live longer. Though they have many other popular products, they will always be best known for their search engine. The Google search engine has changed our lives and our language. Not only is it a fantastic product, it is a standing example that one good idea (and a lot of hard work) can change the world.

- I. What company's name is mentioned in the passage which has grown their name in to a verb other than Google? (1 mark)
- II. What are the other products mentioned in the passage that are similar to Google? (3 marks)
- III. Mention the co-founder of google. (2 marks)
- IV. Identify and write how the traditional search engines worked. (3 marks)
- V. How did Google outdo the other competitors? (2 marks)
- VI. Identify the two reasons mentioned in the passage which made Google so popular. (4 marks)
- VII. Why was the public surprised of the appearance of Google open page? (5 marks)  
(20 marks)

### Q 3

Read the passage and select the best answers to the questions given below.

- 1) Who would win in a fight, a lion or a tiger? Well, if size has anything to do with the matter, the tiger would win. That's because tigers are the largest of all cat species. They grow up to eleven feet long and weigh as much as 670 lbs. This makes tigers the third largest land carnivore. The only larger land carnivores are polar bears and brown bears. Tigers are not only large, they are also fast. They can sprint as fast as 40 miles per hour for short distances and leap as far as 30 feet horizontally. This makes for an extremely dangerous pounce. You might not think that such large, fast, and ferocious creatures need help to survive, but they do. The tiger is an endangered species.
- 2) Despite all of the tiger's strengths, the future of the species is uncertain. Tigers face a very high risk of extinction. It is estimated that at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were over 100,000 tigers living in the wild. By the turn of the century, the number of tigers outside of captivity dwindled to just over 3,000. Interestingly, the most serious threats that tigers face come from a

much smaller species, one with an average weight of around 140 lbs. That species is *Homo sapiens*, better known as humans. Humans threaten tigers in primarily two ways: hunting and destroying habitat.

3) Tigers are hunted for many reasons. People have long valued the famous striped skins. Though trading tiger skins is now illegal in most parts of the world, tiger pelts are worth around \$10,000 on the black-market. Though the fur would be incentive enough for most poachers, other parts of the tiger can also fetch a pretty penny. Some people in China and other Asian cultures believe that various tiger parts have healing properties. Traditional Chinese medicine calls for the use of tiger bones, amongst other parts, in some prescriptions.

4) Tigers have also been hunted as game. In other words people hunted tigers solely for the thrill and achievement of killing them. Such killings took place in large scale during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, when a single maharaja or English hunter might claim to kill over a hundred tigers in their hunting career. Though this practice is much less popular today than it was in the past, it has not ceased entirely.

5) Humans have done considerable damage to the world's tiger population through hunting, but perhaps more damage has been caused through the destruction of habitat. Tigers once ranged widely across Asia, all the way from Turkey to the eastern coast of Russia. But over the past 100 years, tigers have lost 93% of their historic range. Instead of spanning all the way across Asia, the tiger population is now isolated in small pockets in south and southeastern Asia. This is because humans have drastically changed the environments. Humans have built towns and cities. Road and transit systems were created to connect these towns and cities. To feed the people living in these areas, forests and fields have been cleared to create farmland. Large tracts of land have been strip-mined to yield metals and other materials used in manufacturing. All of these activities have consumed habitats that at one time supported tigers.

6) A major obstacle to preserving tigers is the enormous amount of territory that each tiger requires. Each wild tiger demands between 200 and 300 square miles. Tigers are also both territorial and solitary animals. This means that they are protective of the areas that they claim and they generally do not share with other tigers. Because tigers need so much territory, it is difficult for conservationists to acquire land enough to support a large population of tigers. Even when such these considerable spaces are allocated, it is even more difficult to patrol such large areas to prevent poaching. There is no easy way to preserve the wild tiger population without making large sacrifices.

7) Though tiger population faces many threats and obstacles to recovery, there have been some successes in conservation and preservation efforts. For example, Save China's Tigers, an organization working to restore the wild tiger population, successfully rewilded a small number of South China tigers. These tigers were born into concrete cages from parents who were also captive and unable to sustain in the wild.

8) This organization brought these tigers to South Africa and helped them learn the necessary skills for a predator to survive in the wild. Current evidence indicates that the project was been successful. While this is just a small step, it shows that restoring the world's tiger population is possible.

I. Which of the following is **not** a reason in the article explaining why tigers are hunted?

- a. Because tiger skins are worth a lot of money
- b. Because tiger parts are used as medicines in some cultures
- c. Because some tigers attack local villages
- d. Because tigers are hunted for enjoyment by some people

II. Which animal does **not** grow larger than the tiger?

- a. Brown bear
- b. Lion
- c. Polar bear
- d. All of these animals grow larger than a tiger

III. Which *best* explains why tigers have lost so much of their habitat according to the text?

- a. Because humans are afraid of tigers
- b. Because tiger skins are extremely valuable
- c. Because humans have changed the land
- d. Because tigers need so much space to survive

IV. Based on information in the text, which *best* explains why tigers are poached?

- a. Poachers hunt tigers to protect their families from dangerous animals.
- b. Poachers hunt tigers for medicine to cure sick family members.
- c. Poachers hunt tigers because they enjoy killing dangerous animals.
- d. Poachers hunt tigers to earn large amounts money.

V. Which *best* explains why it is so difficult to preserve the wild tiger population?

- a. Tigers do not get along with most other animals.
- b. Tigers must make their homes close to rivers and the world's rivers are evaporating.
- c. Tigers require a lot of space.
- d. Tigers hunt in large packs and there are too few tigers left to make these packs.

VI. Which of the following is an opinion?

- a. Tigers can grow up to eleven feet long.
- b. Saving the wild tiger population is important.
- c. South China tigers were brought to live in South Africa.
- d. Humans have endangered the world's wild tiger population.

VII. Based on context, which *best* defines the term "rewilded" as used in the last paragraph?

- a. To preserve animals by keeping them in zoos
- b. To teach animals to coexist with humans
- c. To teach humans to coexist with animals
- d. To bring animals born in zoos back to nature

VIII. What does this idiom mean: "other parts of the tiger can also fetch a pretty penny"?

- a. The fur is the only valuable part of the tiger.
- b. Other parts of the tiger are worth a lot of money.
- c. The tiger is a very beautiful animal.
- d. Tigers can be trained to do tricks like in the circus.

(2x8=16 marks)

IX. Find words from the passage for the meanings given below. The paragraph is mentioned.

- a. an animal that feeds on other animals. (para 1)
- b. diminish gradually in amount (para 2)
- c. a "great ruler", "great king" (para 4)
- d. to be or remain alone or apart from others (para 5)

(1x4=4 marks)  
(20 marks)

### Part B

Q 4

Complete the sentences choosing the appropriate compound adjectives from the word bank below.

( hot-tempered / seven-day / deep-sea / brightly-lit / old-fashioned / full-length / ever-lasting / good-looking / open-minded / mouth-watering / 10-page / self-centered / well-informed / sun-dried / time-saving / absent-minded / world-famous / left-handed / red-handed / kind-hearted )

- I. Chocolate cake is.....
- II. Kenneth wants to be a .....diver.
- III. Carmela is wearing a .....dress for her sister's wedding.
- IV. Eranga wants to be a .....football player like David Bekham.
- V. Raisins are.....grapes.
- VI. A dryer is a .....machine.
- VII. My boss asked me to go through the .....document for any mistakes.
- VIII. Grandpa still has his.....TV.
- IX. Martina Navratilova uses her left hand to play tennis. She is a.....player.
- X. Mother Teresa of Calcutta devoted her life to help others. She was a .....person.
- XI. Someone easily aroused to anger is.....

XII. Liam Hemsworth is a handsome Australian actor. He is a very ..... man.

XIII. People should be tolerant towards other cultures. They should be.....

XIV. ..... people don't bother to take the time to understand another person's points of view or feelings. They only care about themselves.

XV. The streets are..... during Christmas.

XVI. The store is offering a ..... money back guarantee.

XVII. The criminal was caught..... He was seen steeling the young lady's handbag.

XVIII. To be a translator you need to be ..... about linguistics.

XIX. Sarah couldn't answer the teacher's question because she was.....

XX. Nothing is..... It is an eternal truth. ( 20 marks)

Q 5

I. Define the terms 'homophone' and 'homograph' giving characteristics of each.(5 marks)

II. Select the correct homonym to complete the sentences given below.

- i. The \_\_\_ character in the play is a middle-aged widow.  
a. principal      b. principle
- ii. What \_\_\_ you like for breakfast?  
a. wood      b. would
- iii. This \_\_\_ is about traffic safety.  
a. lessen      b. lesson
- iv. He \_\_\_ constantly about the expense of those dinners.  
a. wind      b. wined      c. whined
- v. If someone offers to \_\_\_ the hatchet, it means they want to stop fighting.  
a. berry      b. bury
- vi. The doctor worked to save her life but the effort was in \_\_\_.  
a. vain      b. vane      c. vein
- vii. She may not be very pretty but she is not exactly \_\_\_ either.  
a. plain      b. plane
- viii. It is important to \_\_\_ your children when they do good work.  
a. praise      b. prays      c. preys
- ix. He squeezed out a \_\_\_ of power at the end of the race.  
a. serge      b. surge
- x. It is hard to \_\_\_ an honest living.  
a. earn      b. urn

(1.5x10=15 marks)  
(20 marks)

**Q 6**

Fill in the blanks in the table with appropriate words from British and American English.

British English	American English
I. ....	cookie, cracker
II. ....	apartment
III. boot	.....
IV. car park	.....
V. ....	(French) fries
VI. cinema	.....
VII. curriculum vitae, CV	.....
VIII. ....	movie
IX. ....	soccer
X. holiday	.....
XI. ....	elevator
XII. lorry	.....
XIII. ....	Cell phone (cellular phone)
XIV. pavement	.....
XV. ....	mailman
XVI. ....	elementary school
XVII. rubbish	.....
VIII. sweets	.....
XIX. ....	line
XX. ....	pedestrian crossing

(20 marks)