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B.M.S. College of Engineering, Bengaluru – 560019

Autonomous Institute Affiliated to VTU

February / March 2025 Semester End Main Examinations D

Programme: B.E.

Branch: Common to all Branches

Course Code: 22MA1AECEN

Course: Communicative English

Semester: I

Duration: 1 hr.

Max Marks: 50

Instruction: Answer All Questions

50x1=50

Q.1 to Q.5 are based on the following passage:

The increasing prevalence of "fake news" and misinformation online poses a significant threat to informed public discourse. The rapid spread of fabricated or misleading information through social media platforms can have profound consequences, influencing public opinion, electoral outcomes, and even social stability. While the internet has democratized access to information, it has also created an environment where false narratives can proliferate unchecked. One contributing factor is the algorithmic nature of many social media platforms, which often prioritise engagement and virality over accuracy and factual verification. This can create "echo chambers" where users are primarily exposed to information that confirms their existing biases, reinforcing misinformation and hindering critical thinking.

Addressing this challenge requires a multi-pronged approach. Media literacy education plays a crucial role in equipping individuals with the skills to critically evaluate information and identify potential sources of bias. Furthermore, social media companies have a responsibility to implement measures to curb the spread of misinformation on their platforms, while respecting freedom of expression. Fact-checking organizations and independent journalism play a vital role in debunking false claims and providing accurate information. Ultimately, combating the spread of fake news requires a collective effort from individuals, educational institutions, media organizations, and technology companies.

1. What is the main concern discussed in the passage?

- (A) The impact of social media on political campaigns.
- (B) The spread of "fake news" and misinformation online.
- (C) The role of technology companies in regulating online content.
- (D) The decline of traditional journalism in the digital age.

2. According to the passage, what is one factor contributing to the spread of misinformation?

- (A) The lack of access to the internet in certain communities.
- (B) The algorithmic nature of social media platforms.
- (C) The increasing cost of traditional news subscriptions.
- (D) The limited availability of fact-checking resources.

3. The passage suggests that combating fake news requires:

- (A) Stricter government regulation of online content.
- (B) A multi-pronged approach involving various stakeholders.
- (C) The complete elimination of anonymity on social media platforms.
- (D) The development of advanced AI-powered fact-checking tools.

4. The author implies that "echo chambers" on social media:

- (A) Promote diverse perspectives and encourage critical thinking.
- (B) Reinforce existing biases and hinder objective evaluation of information.
- (C) Have a minimal impact on public opinion and electoral outcomes.
- (D) Are primarily caused by malicious actors intentionally spreading misinformation.

5. The passage suggests that social media companies should:

- (A) Prioritise profit maximization over the accuracy of information shared on their platforms.
- (B) Implement measures to curb misinformation while respecting freedom of expression.
- (C) Remain completely neutral and avoid any involvement in content moderation.
- (D) Outsource all content moderation to third-party fact-checking organizations.

6. You are writing a business letter to a new supplier to introduce yourself and your company. You know the name of the person you're writing to. How should you start your letter?

- a) "To whom it may concern," b) "Hey, how's it going?"
- c) "Dear Mr. Johnson," d) "Hi there!"

7. When writing a precis, what is the ideal way to handle specific examples or details from the original text?

- a) Include every detail to ensure accuracy.
- b) Omit unnecessary examples and focus on the main ideas.
- c) Expand on the examples for clarity.
- d) Change examples to make them more relevant.

8. What role does 'context' play in the communication process?

- a) It determines the language and tone used by the sender.
- b) It involves the physical and psychological environment in which communication takes place.
- c) It ensures the message is transmitted without any distortion
- d) It helps the receiver interpret the message accurately based on the situation.

9. Why is it important to adapt your communication style to different audiences?

- a) To avoid offending anyone
- b) To demonstrate your communication skills
- c) To ensure your message is understood and well-received
- d) To make the conversation more interesting and engaging.

10. In a university, the heads of the Mathematics and Computer Science departments collaborate to develop a new joint course on data analysis. They meet regularly to exchange ideas, discuss course structure, and align their teaching strategies. There is no involvement from higher management or staff members outside of these two departments in this communication process.

Which type of communication is being used in this situation?

- A) Vertical communication B) Horizontal communication
- C) Crosswise communication D) One-way communication

11. She isn't popular. She has _____ friends.

- a) little b) many c) few d) much

12. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate preposition.

There are plenty of shops and restaurants _____ the town center.

- a) on b) at c) in d) under

13. Select the sentence with correct punctuation:

- a) My favourite books include: "To Kill a Mockingbird", "1984", and "Pride and Prejudice."
- b) My favourite books include "To Kill a Mockingbird, 1984, and Pride and Prejudice."
- c) My favourite books include: "To Kill a Mockingbird," "1984," and "Pride and Prejudice."
- d) My favourite books include "To Kill a Mockingbird", "1984", and "Pride and Prejudice".

14. What is wrong with the sentence "All females are invited to the symposium"?

- a) The word "females" is too formal for this context.
- b) The sentence is grammatically incorrect.
- c) The term "females" should be replaced with "women."
- d) No change required.

15. Consider the following excerpt from an argumentative essay: "Social media has had a detrimental impact on young people's mental health." To strengthen this argument, which of the following strategies would be most effective?

- a) Using emotional appeals without factual support
- b) Providing specific examples of studies or research that link social media use to mental health issues
- c) Making broad generalisations about the negative effects of social media on all young people
- d) Relying solely on personal anecdotes about negative experiences with social media

16. Why is emotional intelligence a key component of effective leadership communication?

- a) It enables leaders to build trust and rapport with their teams.
- b) It allows leaders to manipulate their followers' emotions for personal gain.
- c) It prevents leaders from expressing vulnerability or showing weakness.
- d) It ensures that leaders always maintain a stoic and unemotional demeanour.

17. Which of the following scenarios best exemplifies extra personal communication?

- a) A manager discussing project details with his team
- b) An employee giving a presentation to his department
- c) A customer interacting with an automated chatbot on a company's website
- d) A group of friends chatting casually in a café

18. Select the appropriate modal for this sentence:

"I _____ help you with your homework if you need."

- a) can
- b) must
- c) must have
- d) could have

19. Fill in the blank with the modal indicating moral obligation: She _____ at home instead of going to the party last night.

- a) could have stayed
- b) ought to have stayed
- c) must have stayed
- d) should've stayed

20. The following sentences show your ability to identify grammar and usage errors. Each sentence contains either a single error or none at all, and no sentence contains more than one error. The error, if present, is underlined and marked with a letter. If the sentence has an error, select the underlined part that needs to be changed to correct the sentence. If the sentence is correct, select option D. In choosing answers, follow the requirements of standard written English.

Because she dreams of playing (A) professional basketball, Kiara wishes (B) that she was (C) a few inches taller. No error (D)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D

21. A speaker with a high-pitched, fast-paced voice is likely conveying:

- a) anger
- b) excitement
- c) boredom
- d) disgust

22. Which environmental factor can influence proxemic behaviour?

- a) room size
- b) noise level
- c) lighting
- d) all of the above

23. How many syllables are in the word "butterfly"?

- a) 6 syllables
- b) 4 syllables
- c) 5 syllables
- d) 3 syllables

24. You are giving a presentation to a board of directors about a new product launch. Which intonation pattern would be most effective when delivering the following sentence to convey confidence and conviction?

"This product will revolutionise the market and significantly increase our market share."

- a) Rising intonation in the middle
- b) Rising intonation at the end
- c) A combination of rising and falling intonation throughout the sentence.
- d) Falling intonation at the end

25. You're nearing the end of your presentation but realise you won't have enough time to cover everything you planned. What's the MOST effective strategy?

- a) Focus on elaborating on the less important points you've already covered, ensuring all content receives some attention.
- b) Briefly apologise for the time crunch and skip over entire sections of planned content.
- c) Continue at your current pace, hoping you can squeeze everything in, even if it means rushing through the final points.
- d) Quickly summarise the remaining key points, then offer to provide more details in a follow-up email or document.

26. When aiming to project professionalism and meticulousness in a resume, which of the following strategies is generally considered MOST advisable, although exceptions may exist depending on specific circumstances and industry norms?

- a) Adapting the resume's language and structure to mirror the targeted job description, emphasising relevant competencies.
- b) Integrating personal references directly within the resume's content.
- c) Utilising diverse font styles and colours to enhance the resume's visual impact.
- d) Employing a standardised template with minimal adjustments to suit individual applications.

27. Kavya is working on a compare and contrast essay for her film studies course. She's comparing two iconic superhero films: Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight and Marvel's The Avengers.

Which of the following excerpts would be the MOST effective body paragraph for Kavya's compare and contrast essay?

- A. "Both The Dark Knight and The Avengers are superhero films that have achieved immense commercial success and critical acclaim. They both feature ensemble casts and explore themes of good versus evil, sacrifice, and the responsibility that comes with great power."
- B. "While The Dark Knight delves into the psychological complexities of its characters and explores moral dilemmas in a gritty urban setting, The Avengers focuses on building a vibrant cinematic universe with interconnected storylines and a lighter, more action-packed tone."
- C. "The Dark Knight is a dark and brooding film with a complex narrative. The Avengers, on the other hand, is more lighthearted."
- D. "Heath Ledger's portrayal of the Joker in The Dark Knight is considered one of the greatest superhero movie performances of all time. Similarly, Robert Downey Jr.'s portrayal of Iron Man in The Avengers has become iconic."

28. Which condensed version most accurately summarises the passage?

The Kolkata Metro, a rapid transit system in Kolkata, India, was inaugurated on October 25, 1984. It is the oldest underground railway in India. The system currently consists of a single line, the North-South Line, which connects Dakshineswar Temple to Kavi Subhash. The Metro has been a crucial part of Kolkata's transportation infrastructure, helping to alleviate traffic congestion and providing a reliable mode of public transport.

- a) The Kolkata Metro, a new way to travel in Kolkata, started in 1984.
- b) Kolkata Metro started in 1984 and has one line from Dakshineswar Temple to Kavi Subhash.
- c) Kolkata Metro Rail was launched in 1984 with not many lines.
- d) Kolkata Metro, a rapid transit system, was opened in 1984. It has many lines.

29. In recent years, the rise of social media has drastically transformed the way people communicate and share information. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter have given individuals the power to connect with others globally, share their thoughts instantly, and access a vast amount of information. While these platforms have democratised communication and increased global connectivity, they have also contributed to the spread of misinformation, cyberbullying, and addiction to social media. As a result, it is important for users to be mindful of how they engage with these platforms and take steps to use them responsibly.

Which of the following is NOT a good precis of the above paragraph?

- a) Social media has enabled instant global communication, but it has significant drawbacks such as misinformation and addiction, necessitating mindful use by individuals.
- b) Social media has revolutionised global communication, allowing people to share information quickly and connect with others across the world, but users must be cautious of its potential negative effects.
- c) Social media platforms have transformed communication, giving people more access to information, but also leading to issues like misinformation and addiction, requiring responsible usage.
- d) Social media platforms are extremely popular today and allow users to share their thoughts instantly. People should engage responsibly when using them.

30. Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- a) Despite of the rain, we went for a walk.
- b) Although it was raining, but we went for a walk.
- c) In spite of the rain, we went for a walk
- d) Even though it was raining, however we went for a walk.

31. Two colleagues, David and Sarah, are having a disagreement in the office. David, who is known for his expressive personality, tends to stand close to Sarah while speaking. Sarah, however, prefers to maintain a larger personal space and feels uncomfortable with David's proximity. This situation best exemplifies which challenge related to proxemics?

- a) The influence of gender on spatial behaviour
- b) Cultural differences in proxemic norms
- c) The effect of status differences on personal space
- d) The impact of personality on proxemic preferences

32. You have an important meeting at work and want to ensure your outfit exudes professionalism. You've picked out a sharp suit and tie, but you're unsure about the right socks to complete the look. Which of the following would be the best pick?

- a) Wearing white socks
- b) Wearing socks which contrast the colours of the shoes

- c) Wearing the same colour socks as the shoes
- d) Wearing socks that cover the calf

33. How many syllables are in the word "unpredictability"? Mark the syllable breaks.

- a) 6 (un-pre-dict-a-bil-i-ty)
- b) 5 (un-pre-dicta-bility)
- c) 4 (un-pre-dic-tabil-ity)
- d) 7 (un-pre-dic-ta-bi-li-ty)

34. Which of the following resources can be helpful for individuals struggling with glossophobia?

- a) Public speaking workshops or courses
- b) Therapy or counselling
- c) Support groups for people with public speaking anxiety
- d) All of the above

35. Imagine you're giving a presentation, and you want to keep the audience interested and involved. What's the MOST effective strategy to achieve this?

- a) Making it a two-way street where everyone learns more.
- b) Avoiding any tricky questions they might have.
- c) Picking the questions you like best to answer.
- d) Speeding through your slides like a champ.

36. In a well-structured academic essay, different components serve specific purposes. Match the following essay components to their correct roles in developing a cohesive argument:

a. Thesis Statement	i. This consists of facts, data, or expert opinions used to support the argument in the body paragraphs.
b. Topic Sentences	ii. This supports individual points in each paragraph, linking back to the main argument.
c. Evidence	iii. This reinforces the essay's argument by synthesising ideas and offering final reflections.
d. Conclusion	iv. This summarises the main argument of the essay and provides a roadmap for the reader.

- a) a – iv, b – ii, c – i, d – iii
- b) a – i, b – ii, c - iii, d -iv
- c) a – ii, b – iii, c – i, d – iii
- d) a – ii, b – i, c – iii, d - iv

37. In which situation would a CV be more appropriate than a resume?

- a) Seeking an entry-level job in retail.
- b) Submitting an application for a research grant.
- c) Responding to a job posting in the creative industry.
- d) Applying for a corporate marketing position.

38. Rajesh, a recent graduate, is preparing his resume to apply for roles in the tech industry. He wants to ensure his resume reflects professionalism, showcases his potential, and makes a strong impression on recruiters.

Which of the following qualities should Rajesh prioritize to make his resume stand out to recruiters in the tech industry?

- A. Consistency in formatting and style to maintain a professional appearance and ensure readability.
- B. Inclusion of every project and experience he has undertaken, regardless of relevance to the role.
- C. Highlighting measurable achievements and skills that directly align with the job description and industry standards.
- D. Using creative layouts and unconventional design elements to grab attention, even if they make the resume harder to read.

39. You're tasked with writing a concluding sentence for a paragraph discussing the benefits of recycling. Which of the following options would be inappropriate to use?

- a) As we've seen, recycling is a simple yet effective way to contribute to a sustainable future.
- b) Additionally, recycling can lead to job creation in the recycling industry.
- c) In conclusion, recycling not only helps the environment but also saves resources and energy.
- d) Therefore, it's crucial for everyone to participate in recycling efforts.

40. In a business setting, effective communication is crucial for fostering collaboration and achieving organisational goals. Which of the following scenarios best demonstrates the importance of communication?

- a) A manager regularly engages in one-on-one meetings with their direct reports, actively listening to their concerns and providing constructive feedback to support their professional development.
- b) A team leader sends out a detailed email, outlining project expectations and deadlines to the team members. However, she is reluctant to follow up with any face-to-face meetings or check-ins.
- c) The company schedules weekly virtual meetings for all employees to review ongoing projects and offer updates. However, the agenda frequently lacks specificity and fails to include clear action items.
- d) A senior executive sends out a company-wide memo announcing a significant policy change without any prior consultation with department heads or employees.

41. She studied all night, _____ she didn't feel confident about the exam.

- a) yet
- b) despite
- c) although
- d) therefore

42. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate prepositions from the options.

Paul was complaining _____ pain in his chest, so he went to the doctor.

- a) about
- b) for
- c) of
- d) from

43. Identify the statement with an Indianism:

- a) "I'll leave now. Sleep is coming"
- b) "I will leave now. Need to get some sleep"
- c) "I will take your leave now. I have an early morning."
- d) "I must take your leave now. I have an early start tomorrow."

44. Which of the following sentences is grammatically correct?

- a. She has a lot of works to do.
- b. The news is on at six o'clock.
- c. I need to buy some new furnitures.
- d. He gave me some good advices.

45. Scenario: You are attending a casual meeting with friends. Match the non-verbal cues with their correct interpretations in this social setting.

Non-verbal Cue	Interpretation
a. Crossing arms	i. Showing happiness or friendliness
b. Smiling while speaking	ii. Feeling defensive or closed-off
c. Avoiding eye contact	iii. Feeling shy or uncomfortable

- a) a – i, b – ii, c -iii
- b) a – ii, b – i, c – iii
- c) a – iii, b- i, c- ii
- d) a – i, b – iii, c – ii

46. The consonant sound represented by the IPA symbol /θ/ is commonly found in words like:

- a) "dog"
- b) "joker"
- c) "zebra"
- d) "think"

47. You are giving a simple presentation at a team meeting about a new office policy. There is an important client meeting coming up in fifteen minutes. What should you do if the projector stops working halfway through your presentation?

- a) Stop the presentation and try to fix the projector yourself.
- b) Continue talking without the slides.
- c) Apologise and promise to reschedule.
- d) Call for technical support and wait for them to arrive.

48. What is the first step in planning a professional presentation?

- a) Designing the slides
- b) Defining the objective
- c) Choosing visual aids
- d) Practicing the speech

49. You are asked to write an essay on two different educational systems and discussing which one is more effective. Which type of essay would best suit this task?

- a) Descriptive Essay
- b) Narrative Essay
- c) Compare and Contrast Essay
- d) Expository Essay

50. Which of the following words has the most syllables?

- a) Elephant
- b) Lion
- c) Train
- d) Cycle
