Department of Official Languages
Islandwide Language Training Programme
Final Examination 2008

Advanced English (new syllabus)
27.09.2008
Paper No. 1
Time: Three hours
60 marks

Answer all questions in this paper itself in the spaces provided.

Part I

1. Write an essay of about 250 words on one of the following topics.
   
   (i) Student indiscipline.
   (ii) Political rivalry
   (iii) Increase of road accidents
   (iv) Importance of reading books and newspapers.
   (v) Hazards of city life.

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2. Write an answer relevant to one of the following situations.

(i) Workmen from the Water Supply and Drainage Board who are sent to instal water supplies to houses in your neighbourhood dig up the access roads causing severe hardship to the residents. Write a letter to the Municipal Engineer requesting him to take relief measures.

(ii) Boys playing cricket on the by roads in your neighbourhood are a nuisance and a potential danger to other road users, particularly school children. Write to the OIC of your police area requesting that preventive action be taken early.

(iii) There is an inordinate delay in the delivery of letters at your address. Sometimes you find that some of the important letters have been tampered with. Write a letter to bring this matter to the notice of the postal authorities.

(iv) Petty thefts during the daytime have been a common occurrence in your neighbourhood in recent times. Request the OIC of your police area to arrange for police patrol to prevent a worsening of this situation.

(v) Road and rail road reservations and all vacant spaces in your area are being encroached by people who run various trades or erect unlawful residential constructions, which is a hindrance to other road users. Request the environmental authorities to take necessary action before this situation worsens.
Part II

3. Put the verbs into a suitable tense.

(i) I (not see) you for more than a week ……………………
(ii) Since when (you know) him ………………………….
(iii) He (not speak) to me for over three weeks …………………
(iv) We (finish) our lunch half an hour ago ………………………
(v) I (not see) you since we met a year ago ………………………

4. Complete the following, using the past continuous form.

(i) I (read) ………………………. a book when he came in.
(ii) The sun ( shine) ………………………….. when we went out.
(iii) When you came in I (write) ………………………
(iv) He (walk) ………………………….. across the bridge when his hat blew off.
(v) It (rain) …………………………….. this morning when I got up.

5. Supply the most suitable tense forms (present, past or present perfect) to fill in the blanks.

(i) When I (see) ……………. him he (sit) ……………. in a chair.
(ii) He (write) ………………… a letter now.
(iii) He already (write) …………………….. two letters this morning.
(iv) He (write) …………………… a lot of letters yesterday.
(v) He (study) ………………… chemistry for three years and then (gave) ………………….. it up.

6. Say the following sentences in a better way using ‘else’ for the words underlined.

(i) Have you any other thing to say?

(ii) You must see another person.

(iii) I have some other thing to show you.

(iv) What other place can I go to?
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(v) Haven’t I seen you in some other place?

7. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below.

When the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment has come which comes but rarely in history when an age ends and when the soul of a nation long suppressed finds utterance. It is fitting at this solemn moment that we take a pledge of dedication to the service of India and her peoples and the still larger cause of humanity. At the dawn of history India started on her unending quest. The centuries are filled with her striving and the grandeur of her successes and her failures. Through good and ill fortune alike she has never lost sight of that quest or forgotten the ideals which gave her strength. We end today a period of ill fortune, and India discovers herself again; The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of an opportunity to greater triumphs and achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp the opportunity and accept the challenge of the future? That future is not one of ease or resting, but an incessant striving so that we might fulfil the pledges we have made so often and the one we shall take today. The service of India means service to millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity.

(i) Explain the terms underlined in the above passage.

(ii) Use the following words in sentences so as to illustrate their meaning:

Dedication, incessant, triumph, inequality, ignorance
(iii) What is the occasion referred to in this passage? Write down the words that indicate what this occasion is.

8. Rewrite the following sentences, correcting whatever errors.

(i) These news have gladdened us.

(ii) Rice and curry form our principal diet.

(iii) The secretary and treasurer were absent.

(iv) The jury were unanimous in its decision.

(v) Politics are not meant for you.

(vi) We were rejoiced to hear the news.

(vii) I knew this long before.

(viii) When you enter a Buddhist temple you should take out your shoes.

(ix) I did not see you since Monday.

(x) He fell down on the ground.
9. Explain the meaning of the following idioms.

(i) To beat about the bush

(ii) To make both ends meet

(iii) To live from hand to mouth

(iv) To call in question

(v) To hope against hope

10. Give the opposite gender of the following nouns.

(i) Cowherd

(ii) Host

(iii) Instructor

(iv) Master

(v) Gentleman

(vi) Horse

(vii) Niece

(viii) Lord

(ix) Widower

(x) Fiancé