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**Question Paper Code : 11592**

B.E./B.Tech. DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, APRIL/MAY 2026.

Second Semester

Civil Engineering

HS3251 — PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH — II

(Common to: All Branches (Except Marine Engineering))

(Regulations 2021)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer ALL questions.

PART A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

1. Fill in the blanks with suitable tense forms:
  - (a) She \_\_\_\_\_ (compare) different products before buying one.
  - (b) They \_\_\_\_\_ (send) the email yesterday.
  - (c) He \_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) the report when the manager called him.
  - (d) We \_\_\_\_\_ (complete) the project by next week.
2. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions:
  - (a) This product is superior \_\_\_\_\_ others.
  - (b) He is interested \_\_\_\_\_ marketing strategies.
  - (c) She is very good \_\_\_\_\_ playing chess.
  - (d) The employees are responsible \_\_\_\_\_ the new project.
3. Convert the following sentences into passive voice:
  - (a) The company launched a new product.
  - (b) They are solving the issue.
4. Fill in the blanks with the correct gerund or infinitive form:
  - (a) She enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ (read) technical manuals.
  - (b) He decided \_\_\_\_\_ (write) a complaint letter.
  - (c) I regret \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) school at 13-it was a big mistake.
  - (d) We regret \_\_\_\_\_ (say) that we are unable to help you.

5. Fill in the blanks with suitable conditionals:
  - (a) If you \_\_\_\_\_ (study), you will pass.
  - (b) If I had known, I \_\_\_\_\_ (help) you.
6. Expand the following compound words:
  - (a) Water supply
  - (b) Laptop bag
7. Change into reported speech:
  - (a) He said, "I will attend the interview".
  - (b) She said, "Submit the report now".
8. Fill in the blanks with suitable modals:
  - (a) You \_\_\_\_\_ follow email etiquette.
  - (b) It is raining heavily; you \_\_\_\_\_ take an umbrella.
  - (c) This medicine is restricted; you \_\_\_\_\_ buy it without a doctor's prescription.
  - (d) \_\_\_\_\_ you please pass the file?
9. Write numerical adjectives for the following:
  - (a) A bridge of ten meters = \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) A report of five pages = \_\_\_\_\_
10. Match the idioms in Column A with their meanings in Column B :
 

| A                            | B                         |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Break the ice            | (i) Feeling unwell        |
| (b) Cost an arm and a leg    | (ii) Exactly correct      |
| (c) Under the weather        | (iii) Very expensive      |
| (d) Hit the nail on the head | (iv) Start a conversation |

PART B — (5 × 16 = 80 marks)

Question No. 11 is a compulsory question.

11. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follows:

Mount Vesuvius, a volcano located between the ancient Italian cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, has received much attention because of its frequent and destructive eruptions. The most famous of these eruptions occurred in A.D. 79.

The volcano had been inactive for centuries. There was little warning of the coming eruption, although one account unearthed by archaeologists says that a hard rain and a strong wind had disturbed the celestial calm during the

preceding night. Early the next morning, the volcano poured a huge river of molten rock down upon Herculaneum, completely burying the city and filling the harbor with coagulated lava.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the mountain, cinders, stone and ash rained down on Pompeii. Sparks from the burning ash ignited the combustible rooftops quickly. Large portions of the city were destroyed in the conflagration. Fire, however, was not the only cause of destruction. Poisonous sulfuric gases saturated the air. These heavy gases were not buoyant in the atmosphere and therefore sank toward the earth and suffocated people.

Over the years, excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum have revealed a great deal about the behavior of the volcano. By analyzing data, much as a zoologist dissects an animal specimen, scientists have concluded that the eruption changed large portions of the area's geography. For instance, it turned the Sarno River from its course and raised the level of the beach along the Bay of Naples. Meteorologists studying these events have also concluded that Vesuvius caused a huge tidal wave that affected the world's climate.

In addition to making these investigations, archaeologists have been able to study the skeletons of victims by using distilled water to wash away the volcanic ash. By strengthening the brittle bones with acrylic paint, scientists have been able to examine the skeletons and draw conclusions about the diet and habits of the residents. Finally, the excavations at both Pompeii and Herculaneum have yielded many examples of classical art, such as jewelry made of bronze, which is an alloy of copper and tin. The eruption of Mount Vesuvius and its tragic consequences have provided everyone with a wealth of data about the effects that volcanoes can have on the surrounding area. Today, volcanologists can locate and predict eruptions, saving lives and preventing the destruction of other cities and cultures.

(a) Choose the correct option:

- (i) According to the passage, what most directly caused many of the people in Pompeii to suffocate?
  - (1) The flowing molten lava from Mount Vesuvius
  - (2) The poisonous sulfuric gases in the air
  - (3) The huge tidal wave along the Bay of Naples
  - (4) The river of molten rock that buried Herculaneum
- (ii) The poisonous gases were not \_\_\_\_\_ in the air.
  - (1) Able to float
  - (2) Able to evaporate
  - (3) Invisible:
  - (4) Able to condense

(iii) Scientists analyzed data about Vesuvius in the same way that a zoologist \_\_\_\_\_ a specimen

- (1) Describes in detail
- (2) Studies by cutting apart
- (3) Photographs
- (4) Chart

(iv) \_\_\_\_\_ have concluded that the volcanic eruption caused a tidal wave.

- (1) Scientists who study oceans
- (2) Scientists who study atmospheric conditions
- (3) Scientists who study ash
- (4) Scientists who study animal behaviour

(v) Scientists have used \_\_\_\_\_ water to wash away volcanic ash from the skeletons of victims.

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| (1) bottled  | (2) volcanic |
| (3) purified | (4) sea      |

(vi) What natural event disturbed the calm before the eruption?

- (1) Earthquake
- (2) Heavy rain and strong wind
- (3) Flood
- (4) Lightning

(vii) How did scientists strengthen the brittle bones of the victims for study?

- (1) By washing them with sea water
- (2) By using distilled water
- (3) By applying acrylic paint
- (4) By using bronze and copper

(viii) According to the passage, what is bronze?

- (1) A type of volcanic ash
- (2) A mixture of copper and tin
- (3) A mineral found in the Sarno River
- (4) A liquid used to clean skeletons

(b) Choose the correct meaning of the underlined words as used in the passage:

(i) The word coagulated in the passage means

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| (1) melted     | (2) hardened    |
| (3) evaporated | (4) disappeared |

(ii) The word conflagration refers to

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| (1) flood      | (2) earthquake |
| (3) large fire | (4) storm      |

(iii) The word saturated means .

- |             |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| (1) dried   | (2) filled completely |
| (3) reduced | (4) removed           |

(iv) The word brittle means

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| (1) strong        | (2) flexible |
| (3) easily broken | (4) soft     |

(c) State whether the following statements are True or False:

- (i) The volcano had been active just before the eruption.
- (ii) Herculaneum was buried under molten lava.
- (iii) The eruption did not affect the geography of the area
- (iv) Archaeologists found examples of classical art during excavations

12. (a) As the purchase officer of a company, write a complaint letter to Uniflex Limited, New Delhi pointing out the damage which was discovered after checking the consignment containing compact disks sent to you by the supplier. Invent necessary details.

Or

(b) You are the Sales Manager of Bright Electronics, Chennai. You received a complaint from a regular customer, Mr. Rajesh, regarding a defective air conditioner delivered last week. The unit has a gas leak. Draft a formal Adjustment Letter apologizing for the inconvenience and informing him that a technician will replace the unit with a brand-new one within 48 hours free of cost.

13. (a) The rapid increase in plastic waste is a major threat to the ecosystem. Write an essay of about 250 words identifying the causes and suggesting sustainable solutions to manage plastic pollution.

Or

(b) Compose an essay in about 250 words on the following topic:

"Online Learning is More Effective than Traditional Classroom Learning - Do you agree?"

14. (a) Write a report to the Manager of your company on an accident that took place in your industry due to electricity default in which two employees were injured. Invent necessary details.

Or

- (b) A company is planning to setup a small shoe unit in a village 20km from Ranipet. Prepare a survey report about starting the small company. Invent necessary details.
15. (a) Vesuvius Monitoring Systems (VMS), a global leader in geological safety, has advertised for the position of Junior Field Engineer (Geotechnical/Electronics). Write a job application letter addressed to the HR Manager, VMS International, Naples, in response to the advertisement. Attach a detailed Resume highlighting your technical skills (data analysis, sensor maintenance, or structural engineering), educational qualifications, and a brief summary of a project related to disaster management or environmental monitoring.

Or

- (b) Wanted a Technical Assistant at our new factory in Ghaziabad, UP. Electronics Engineering Graduates can apply. Salary is negotiable. Apply with particulars to Box 650, The Hindu, Chennai-04 by 15 July, 2022. Draft a job application letter with a Resume in response to this advertisement.