

**Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Pilani Campus**  
**English Skills for Academics (HSS F224)**  
**Semester II \_ 2021-22**  
**Comprehensive Examination (Open Book) - KEY**

**MM: 80**

**Duration: 8.00 AM – 11.00 AM**

**Date: 21 May 2022**

\*\*\*

*Answer all questions and write legibly.*

*You should complete answering a question before taking another one.*

- I. The following student notes provide you with the background knowledge required to develop a *cause-effect* text on ‘the major causes of underachievement in education’. Use the following notes and build a text in 600-700 words. **(30 Marks)**

**Opening statement:** the case of an underachieving student/ child from literature/ film

**Key terms:** ‘underachievement’ – define

**Background and context:** money, funding, expectations, poor teaching, poor families, other disruptive students, poor parenting, school curriculum

**Key factors:**

- Parental background (Triventi, 2013)
- Migration?
- Dedication/ ability to study independently
- Health and mental well-being
- ADHD (Loe & Feldman, 2007)
- Distractions, e.g., relationships

**Effects:** vicious circle of underachievement, poor job, low self-esteem and self-confidence

**Conclusion:** the most important are expectations and parents, although mental health is significant; poor facilities are not that important

**Food for thought:** these causes can become cyclical, resulting in the students’ own children repeating the same cycle.

**References**

Loe, I. M., & Feldman, H. M. (2007). Academic and educational outcomes of children with ADHD. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, 32(6), 643–654. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jpepsy/jsl054>

Triventi, M. (2013). Stratification in higher education and its relationship with social inequality: A comparative study of 11 european countries. *European Sociological Review*, 29(3), 489–502. <https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcr092>

Genre Structure in which the text should be written:

Step 1: Introduction: Background + Definition + Main Idea/Thesis statement

Step 2: Cause + Effect + Evaluation

Step 3: Cause + Effect + Evaluation

Step 3: Cause + Effect + Evaluation

Step 4: Conclusion

Where necessary rely on ‘self-referencing and authority’.

II. **Reconstruct defensible claims.**

1. **Derive a defensible claim based on the data/argument given, and discuss why you have proposed a stronger/weaker claim.** (2 Marks for the claim + 3 marks for the discussion= 5 × 2 = **10 Marks**)

a) In a 2017 article in the *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, researcher Jennifer Heisz and colleagues report that performance on a high-interference memory task improved when participants engaged in 20-minute daily sessions of interval training for six weeks. Heisz and colleagues compared three groups of students: one did interval training, another did both interval training and cognitive training, and a control group did no special training. Both exercise groups performed better on the high-interference memory task than the control group. Those who exercised also had higher levels of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), which promotes the growth of new synapses and is crucial for long-term memory.

Claim: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Driven by the desire to reduce commercial transport carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, CCE contracted Cenex to evaluate and compare the emissions, fuel consumption, and reliability of a 26 tonne Iveco Stralis biomethane fuelled gas vehicle with that of a diesel Stralis vehicle. The gas vehicle is estimated to have achieved a 50.3 per cent saving in 'well-to-wheel' greenhouse gas emissions, compared to the diesel Stralis vehicle. Additionally, operating the gas vehicle on biomethane reduced the fuel costs by 12.8 per cent.

Claim: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Fill in the blanks with appropriate **stance adverbials/ adverbs**. (**5 Marks**)

- a. Many Christians imagine that colonial New England was a godly society filled with committed Christians. However, \_\_\_\_\_, colonial New England was a society of wealth, covetousness, and large alcohol consumption.
- b. Irrigation implies not only an adequate and controlled water supply, but also efficient drainage of excess water when desirable. The supply and control of water, \_\_\_\_\_, is the most important aspect of irrigated paddy cultivation.
- c. Most respondents believed inaccurate, unreliable, \_\_\_\_\_ defined, and disorganized data were the leading problems to be corrected.
- d. Over the years lung cancer mortality has \_\_\_\_\_ increased among women.
- e. Hydrogen \_\_\_\_\_ releases no carbon dioxide emissions when burned.

III. Use the appropriate verb forms to complete the text. One form may be used more than once.

1. Task 1

(5 Marks)

be-form	believe	be-form	do-form
mislead	employ	be-form	have-form

The use of animals for research and testing is only one of many investigative techniques available. We \_\_\_\_\_ that although animal experiments \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes intellectually seductive, they \_\_\_\_\_ poorly suited to addressing the urgent health problems of our era,

such as . . . Even worse, animal experiments \_\_\_\_\_ researchers . . . by failing to predict the toxic effects of drugs. Fortunately, other, more reliable methods that represent a far better investment of research funds \_\_\_\_\_ (Barnard and Kaufman, 1997: 64).

IV. The following ‘introduction’ is an extract from Journal of African Economics. It estimates the benefits and costs of improving the road network in Africa.

Analyse the *genre moves* by specifying the line numbers. Your analysis should be comprehensive and include both the paragraph level and sentence level information. [You do not have to copy the entire text onto the answer sheet] **20 Marks**

5	<p>This paper presents evidence on the trade expansion potential of improvements in Sub-Saharan Africa’s road network. At present overland transport is so difficult and costly that Africa’s diverse regions remain largely isolated from one another. Overland trade between the large urban centres of West Africa and South Africa is almost non-existent...</p>
10	<p>Numerous empirical studies have examined the economic impact of poor road conditions (see, e.g., Henderson <i>et al.</i>, 2001, for a review). Amjadi and Yeats (1995) find that the relatively low level of Sub-Saharan African exports is essentially due to high transport costs. In a study of transport costs and trade, Limao and Venables (2001) find that poor infrastructure accounts for 60% of transport costs for landlocked countries, as opposed to 40% for coastal countries. Improving cross border infrastructure is therefore an important part of the development agenda in Africa: <i>‘The vision and ultimate objective for Africa should be to create a single market of 750 million people that is competitive within itself and within the global economy. A critical pre-requisite is this is regional infrastructure integration across Africa.’</i> (Simuyemba, 2000, P.3).</p>
15	<p>The World Bank and the African Development Bank (ADB) have both launched initiatives to encourage more integrated infrastructure development. The World Bank Sub-Saharan African Transport Policy Programme (SSATP) has focused on... The ADB has proposed... such programmes could give a significant boost to regional integration efforts on the continent (Deichmann and Gill, 2008; Naude, 2009).</p>
20	<p>How much difference would an integrated functional road network make for African Development? This paper extends the previously cited work by developing an analytical framework for quantifying the benefits and costs of continental road network upgrading. In contrast to the trade literature on the topic discussed in what follows, we estimate the costs as well as trade benefits of transport improvements, and we base our analysis on geographically explicit modelling of realistic trans African transport network.</p>
25	<p>In contrast to project cost benefit analysis or engineering studies, we estimate the continent wide economic benefits from transport improvements rather than focusing on local benefits alone which are often measured as traffic volume increases or imputed time savings.</p>
30	<p></p>

35	The remainder of the paper is organised as follows. Section 2 reviews this theoretical and empirical literature on gravity models, highlighting evidence on over land trade flows in developing countries. In Section 3, we identify a network of primary roads connecting all 42 mainland Sub-Sahara capitals... Section 4 estimates a gravity model for Sub-Saharan Africa... We use the results to estimate current trade flows in the inter-city network and to simulate the impact of a major improvement in road network quality. We then explore the implications of our results for trade expansion at the regional, country and city levels. In Section 5, we estimate the costs of network improvement using the World Bank database... Section 6 concludes the paper.
40	

V. Fill in the blanks with the *academic words* given below. (10 Marks) [Do not copy the entire text onto the answer sheet]

equipment	variation	project	corporate	levels
concluded	indication	crucial	consequently	aspects

In the modern office, hierarchy is the norm, and chairs play a \_\_\_\_\_ (1) part in expressing and creating status. Just consider what would happen if everyone got rid of their chairs and worked standing up. This would destroy the corporate image that many large companies try to \_\_\_\_\_ (2) because chairs are part of a network of symbols. Much like a hotel chain, \_\_\_\_\_ (3) culture allows for no \_\_\_\_\_ (4) in carpeting, chairs, lighting fixtures, telephones, or desks for employees working at similar \_\_\_\_\_ (5).

Ergonomists study office \_\_\_\_\_ (6) and how it affects people's ability to use it and do their work. Researchers in ergonomics have studied many \_\_\_\_\_ (7) of the workplace, including status, and have \_\_\_\_\_ (8) that the workstation *should* be an \_\_\_\_\_ (9) of the worker's status in the office hierarchy. In open-plan offices, with their clearly democratic intentions and appearance, distinguishing between managers and ordinary workers is difficult, causing dissatisfaction on both sides. Managers once assumed that workers would like a more equal-looking environment and might \_\_\_\_\_ (10) be more productive. But that did not turn out to be the case.

\*\*\*