

Time : 2 hrs.

communication skills - II Aug-2008

CODE - LISBON

Marks : 50

- Note: 1) All questions are compulsory.
2) Figures to the right indicate marks.

Q.1 A) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions below.

A careful analysis of the teacher-student relationship at any level of education reveals its fundamentally narrative character. This relationship involves a narrating Subject (the teacher) and patient, listening Objects (the students). The contents, whether values or empirical dimensions of reality, tend in the process of being narrated to become lifeless and petrified. Education is suffering from narration sickness.

The teacher talks about reality as if were motionless, static, compartmentalized and predictable. Or else he expounds on a topic completely alien to the essential experience of the students. His task is to 'fill' the students with the contents of his narration - contents which are detached from reality, disconnected from the totality that engendered them and could give them significance. Words are emptied of their concreteness and become a hollow, alienated and alienating verbosity.

Narration (with the teacher as narrator) leads the students to memorize mechanically, the narrated content. Worse still, it turns them into 'containers', into receptacles to be filled by the teacher. The more completely he fills the receptacles, the better a teacher he is. The more meekly the receptacles permit themselves to be filled, the better the students they are.

Education thus becomes an act of depositing, in which the students tire the depositories and the teacher is the depositor. Instead of communicating, the teacher issues communiques and makes 'deposits' which the students patiently receive, memorize and repeat. This is the 'banking' concept of education, in which the scope of action allowed to the students extends only as far as receiving, filling and storing the deposits. They do, it is true, have the opportunity to become collectors or cataloguers of the tilings they store. But in the last analysis, it is men and women themselves who are filed away through the lack of creativity, transformation, and knowledge in this (at best) misguided system. For apart from inquiry, men and women cannot be truly human. Knowledge emerges only through invention, re-invention, through the restless, impatient, continuing, hop-Ail inquiry men and women pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other.

In the banking concept of education, knowledge is a gift bestowed by those who consider themselves knowledgeable upon those whom they consider to know nothing. Projecting an absolute ignorance into others, a characteristic of the ideology of oppression, negates education and knowledge as processes of inquiry.

- i) What tone is the writer adopting ? 1
a) Critical b) appreciative c) neutral
- ii) Why does the writer feel that education is suffering from narration sickness ? 2
- iii) What appears to be the teacher's attitude to towards reality ? 2

- v) Explain the terms : a) narration b) receptacles 2
- vi) Narration turns students into receptacles of information. (Change the voice) 1
- vii) What would be the Writer's ideal education system ? 2
- Q. 2 A) Read the following passage carefully and edit it for an audience of undergraduate students by simplifying vocabulary and sentence structure. 8**

Most educated Indians do not read books . Books have become expensive and most literate Indians live and work in abysmal conditions, which sap their will and energy. The struggle for survival is too tough to permit them the luxury of reading books and reflecting on serious subjects . They need an escape from the harsh realities of their own lives and of the life around them. Therefore, when they can afford it, they either go and see films or read a work of low-brow fiction.

This search for titillation and escape into fantasy explains the steady increase in the number of gossip and film magazines and the popularity of comic strips and cheap fiction from the West. But it is not only the lower middle-class Indian - his life blighted by want, cares and awful living and working conditions - who goes in for vulgar movies and pulp literature. Members of the jet set, too, revel in these. This way at least we are moving towards the ideal of classless society.

There are intelligent men and women who are doing well in their business and professions -lawyers, doctors, engineers and teachers. But the approach of most of them to reading is functional. They read either to inform themselves on matters of immediate and direct interest to them or for entertainment and that too of a very frivolous nature. General education is not for a majority of them. But neither do journalists, for that matter many academicians , read classics or serious books any more. Ask any bookseller in Mumbai Madras, New Delhi or Calcutta, how many titles of scholarly work he sells. The answer will be 'revealing.'

- Q. 2 B) 1) Explain the terms 2**
- a) abysmal
- b) Frivolous
- c) pulp literature
- d) blighted
- ii) The answer will be revealing (Change into Present Perfect Progressive tense) 1
- iii) Most educated Indians do not read books (Change the Voice) 1
- Q. 3 A) Write an editorial on any one 6**
- 1) 'As we Turn 58' _____ Opportunities and challenges before the republic.
- 2) 'Bird Flu Backlash' _____ Poultry industry pays heavy price for tardy government action.

B) Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper complaining that school children are given too much homework, these days. (Use Full Block Form) 7

Q. 4 A) Write an analytical report in about 250 words to be published in the 'Indian Express' on vehicular pollution in Mumbai and the need for strict PUC (Pollution Under Control) check for vehicles. 12

OR

B) You are taking part in a debate in which the proposition is "Censorship of films is necessary in India". Draft a speech of about 250 words either for or against the proposition. 12
