

**SOUTH EASTERN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**  
**FIRST YEAR EXAMINATIONS IN BACHELOR OF ARTS (EXTERNAL) – 2008 / 2009**  
**HELD IN APRIL - 2009**

**BEN 1.21– BASIC ENGLISH – II**

Index No: .....

Duration: 3 hours

**Answer all questions. Use separate sheets where necessary.**

**1. Select the most suitable form of the verbs in the brackets**

We use buttons to fasten shirts, blouses, jackets and other items of clothing by passing them through buttonholes (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (make) in those garments. Button holes (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (invent) only in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Before that people (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (use) buttons together with loops.

Within a century after their invention buttons (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (become) not just useful but also decorative items. Gold, silver, and ivory buttons (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (use) to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate) wealth and position. The more common types of buttons (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (make) of bone, pewter and wood. Some manufactures (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (use) fabric to (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (cover) the bone and wood.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Mathew Boulton, an English manufacturer, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (introduce) steel in the production of buttons.

(10 marks)

**2. Use for, since, in, by, until or during in the blanks below.**

1. I studied English \_\_\_\_\_ two years.
2. I went to Oregon \_\_\_\_\_ June.
3. The children played \_\_\_\_\_ an hour.
4. He has been there \_\_\_\_\_ the last six months.
5. It has not rained \_\_\_\_\_ April.
6. It has not rained \_\_\_\_\_ three months.
7. Will you be finished with your work \_\_\_\_\_ nine o'clock?
8. No, I always work \_\_\_\_\_ ten.
9. She always works from nine \_\_\_\_\_ twelve.
10. Sajith said he would be there \_\_\_\_\_ noon.

(5 marks)

3. Put in the most suitable interrogative pronouns into the gaps and form meaningful questions.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_ often do you play volleyball? How often do you play volleyball?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ do you like best?
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ does Bill get up in the morning?
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ don't you go by bus, Max?
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ hobbies does Andrew have?
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ do they go to every week?
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ old is Mike?
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ is Susan's birthday?
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ are my exercise books?
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_ are you doing at the moment, Sally?
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_ do the Robinsons live?

(10 marks)

4. Fill in the blanks with the most suitable pronouns.

1. My grandparents are over 80 years old. \_\_\_\_\_ are still active and keep busy all the time.
2. Bahey and \_\_\_\_\_ are playing tennis at the club today. I booked the court yesterday.
3. Our former teacher is annoyed with \_\_\_\_\_ for not passing up our homework.
4. Roomy sat down beside me and placed his bag next to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The eagle swoops suddenly from high up in the sky to snatch \_\_\_\_\_ prey.
6. Ameer left home early today. He takes half an hour to reach \_\_\_\_\_ office.
7. The boys spent all \_\_\_\_\_ pocket money at the fun fair.
8. I asked \_\_\_\_\_ to take the cake out of the oven but you forgot. Now the cake is burnt.
9. Come over here and look at your friends. \_\_\_\_\_ are waiting for you.
10. Paris is a beautiful city. \_\_\_\_\_ has several museums which contain some of the world's best paintings.

(10 marks)

5. **Your interviewer is talking to you. He or she is asking for information about you. Give the information. Remember to use appropriate language.**

a) Where do you live?

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Tell me a little more about the place you live in.

\_\_\_\_\_

c) Which school did you study in?

\_\_\_\_\_

d) What did you like about the school?

\_\_\_\_\_

e) What do you do in your leisure time?

\_\_\_\_\_

f) Do you have any hobbies?

\_\_\_\_\_

g) Tell me about a teacher whom you liked most at school or college.

\_\_\_\_\_

h) Tell me a little more about your family.

\_\_\_\_\_

i) What do you plan to do in life?

\_\_\_\_\_

(10 marks)

6. **Here are a few articles. They are incomplete.**

A. The worst damage occurred in the city centre. Several of the older buildings collapsed and many other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. One village was completely cut off by the rising water, and many people were trapped in their houses for several hours. Eventually they \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. The town came under heavy fire again last night as Government troops continued their advance. More than 100 civilians \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

D. Police were attacked by crowds of youths throwing stones and home-made bombs. One police vehicle \_\_\_\_\_

E. Passengers were thrown from their seats, and the driver who was slightly injured, \_\_\_\_\_

1. Complete the sentences in each article. Choose the verbs from the box.

destroy, damage, injure, trap, kill, take, rescue, overturn

(10 marks)

2. Which of the above article is about

- a train crash? \_\_\_\_\_
- a riot? \_\_\_\_\_
- war? \_\_\_\_\_
- an earth quake? \_\_\_\_\_
- a flood? \_\_\_\_\_

(3 marks)

3. Which verbs in the articles are in the passive?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2 marks)

4. Choose "B or C" and write **ten** more sentences to continue.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(10 marks)

7. Imagine that you have received the result of the first year examination in Arts and got through the examination successfully. Your father is now abroad and you have decided to send an e mail to your father. Write a suitable e mail that you could send. Include about 150 words

(10 marks)

4. How many countries did the drug syndicate have links with?

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5. How many people were arrested by the anti-Drug Unit?

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(5 marks)

**10. Read the passage and follow the instructions below.**

Have you ever wondered how it would be to travel by train, not an ordinary one, but in a train that travels at high speed? There are trains which travel at high speed like bullets; Bullet Trains! However they are called bullet trains not due to their speed, but for their bullet-like shape.

These trains, or shinkasens as they are called in Japan, were inaugurated in 1964 in Japan, in the year of the Tokyo Olympic Games. The world's first high speed line had a speed of about 200km/h. Now the speed has increased to 300km/h. This line is known as Tokaido Shinkasen and connects Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka. The extension of Tokaido Shinkasen, Sanyo Shinkasen to Hakata station in Fukuoka, was completed in 1975. The trains operating on the Tokaido /Sanyo Shinkasen are of three categories. The Nozomi train stops only at the most important stations. Hikari trains stop a little more frequently than Nozomi trains. On the Sanyo Shinkasen, Hikari trains are known as "Hikary Railstar". Kodama is the slowest category of train and stops at all stations. The Shinkasen was designed to provide high speed transportation to large numbers of people over long distances. They proved popular not only among business people and employees traveling to work, but also among tourists. For this reason, dining cars and cars with special compartments for families and groups have been introduced. In recent years, a growing number of people have begun using the Shinkasen to go to work. To meet the demand for more seats, "double decker" cars have also been introduced.

Bullet trains are operated with the most advanced technology available, to guarantee efficiency and safety. Most high-speed systems take advantage of lower-tech solution such as longer curves, trains that are optimized for length and weight, and eliminating automobiles crossing tracks. There are systems to automatically and centrally control the trains' speed and the distance between the trains. The trains can also be stopped or slowed in emergencies.

**A. Complete the sentences.**

- a. The bullet trains were inaugurated in .....
- b. The first country introduced .....
- c. The first speed line had a speed of.. ...
- d. The present speed is .....

- e. The name of the speed train .....
- f. Hakata station is in .....

**B. Answer the questions**

1. Why are these trains called “bullet trains”?

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2. How do Japanese people call these trains?

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3. What game was held in 1964?

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4. Who were benefited by Shinkasen?

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5. Why do they use the most advanced technology in bullet trains?

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6. Give three different types of trains and their characters

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(15 marks)