



THE AMERICAN COLLEGE, MADURAI

(An Autonomous Institution Affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University)
Re-accredited (2nd Cycle) by NAAC with Grade "A", CGPA – 3.46 on a 4-point scale

Backlog Arrear Examination, March 2021

ENG 1351

FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH I

Marks: 60

Duration: 2 Hrs

Answer the following (Any Four)

1. Read the dialogue and answer the following questions:

(4 X 15 =60)

BUYING A SHIRT

SHOP ASSISTANT: Good afternoon, madam. What can I do for you?

CUSTOMER: Good afternoon, I'd like to look at some shirts.

SHOP ASSISTANT: Cottons or synthetics, madam?

CUSTOMER: Terycots, if you have some.

SHOP ASSISTANT: Sure, madam. Over here, if you don't mind. We have an excellent range of shirts in terycot. These striped ones are new arrivals.

CUSTOMER: I rather fancy those blue ones with red stripes.

SHOP ASSISTANT: Well, they're men's shirts. But nowadays.

CUSTOMER: Could you take them out, please?

SHOP ASSISTANT: What's the collar-size, madam?

CUSTOMER: Fifteen.

SHOP ASSISTANT: Fifteen? Are you sure, madam?

CUSTOMER: Yes, I'm sure.

SHOP ASSISTANT: Here you are, madam.

CUSTOMER: How much is it?

SHOP ASSISTANT: That's two hundred and nineteen rupees ninety-five. Plus taxes. Would you like to try it on?

CUSTOMER: Try it on? No. Could you gift-wrap it? You see, it's a gift to my husband on his birthday!

SHOP ASSISTANT: I see! (Later) Here it is! I've stuck on it a little card saying 'Happy Birthday!'

CUSTOMER: That's very kind of you, young man. Bye!

SHOP ASSISTANT: Goodbye, madam. Call again.

Read the dialogue and answer the questions:

1. Who are the two people taking part in the dialogue?
2. Is the customer a man or a woman?
3. Where does the dialogue take place?
4. What time of the day is it?
5. What does the woman want to buy? Who is it for?

2. Comprehension Passage :

(5 X 3 =15)

Our first human ancestors were a rare species. They lived under precarious conditions, exposed to rigorous of the weather, to the hostility of the wild beasts, and to the dangerous of famine that could be caused by the drought. They possessed no weapon, they probably had not mastered the use of fire and if they had language of any sort, it must have consisted of no more than a few cries. Their one weapon in the struggle for existence was intelligence and intelligence at first was very far from being so powerful a weapon as it has become. The biological usefulness of intelligence consists largely in the possibility of transmitting experience. An animal may learn from another animal what it actually sees done, but it cannot learn through narrative, a man, when he has acquired language, can do so and therefore the

intelligence of each individual can become the property of the whole tribe and each generation can hand on to the next a multitude of skills which would be beyond the power of any animal species to transmit.

Questions:

- a) Under what conditions did our ancestors live?
 - b) How would they possibly have expressed themselves?
 - c) What weapon did they use in their struggle for existence?
 - d) How can experience be transmitted without speech?
 - e) Suggest the suitable title of the passage?
3. Write a reflective essay or a short story on the topic “Life is not that easy” (15 Marks)
 4. It was raining heavily, the street lights had gone off and I was returning ... Complete the story in about 150- 200 words, providing an appropriate title to it. (15 Marks)
 5. Write an article in about 500 words on the topic, ‘Poverty is the cause of all evils’, to be published in the Young World of ‘The Hindu’, Chennai. (15 Marks)
 6. Write a letter of request to the Controller of Examinations asking him to issue a duplicate statement of marks since you lost it. (15 Marks)
