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**BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME**

**Term-End Examination**

**December, 2010**

**ELECTIVE COURSE : ENGLISH**  
**EEG-4 : ENGLISH FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES**

*Time : 3 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 100*

*Note : Attempt all questions. All questions carry equal marks.*

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below :

In the month of August 1999, the San Francisco company, Pyra Labs, made an internet-based service available to the public. The format was basically an online diary that was named after a contraction of the term 'weblog' first coined by the very hirsute anti-capitalist Jorn Barger in 1997. (The contracted name, 'blog' was coined in 1999 by Peter Merholz after he broke up the word 'weblog' to 'we blog' and gave birth to a full-blown verb.) Ten years later, there are only two types of computer-literate people in the world: people who blog and people who secretly blog.

Much ink has been spilled about the pros and cons of blogging. One of the earliest recognised bloggers (then called 'journalers'), Justin Hall, started the practice while a student of Swarthmore College just to make notes and comments about his daily personal going-on. A large bulk of modern bloggers are, therefore, 'Halllites'. But the blog became a powerful tool when it became a quick platform for information-sharing during disasters - the *first* official news blog appearing in August 1998 when Jonathan Dube of *The Charlotte Observer* 'chronicled' Hurricane Bonnie. Closer home, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami showed the power of the blog.

But then, we do have bloggers galore who have made navel-gazing a full-blown keyboard activity. Like the write-up you've just finished reading perhaps ?

- (a) (i) How was the term blog coined ? 10
- (ii) What do you understand by the term 'blogging' as it is used today ?
- (iii) Who was Justin Hall ?
- (iv) What is the significance of the year 2004, in India ?
- (v) How has blogging become a powerful tool ?

- (b) Explain the following expressions : 5
- (i) much ink has been spilled
  - (ii) pros and cons
  - (iii) Daily personal goings
  - (iv) Computer literacy
  - (v) Contraction of the term weblog.
- (c) Pick out from the passage, words which mean the opposite of the following words; 5
- latest, expansion, openly, ancient, slow

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

Even as societies grapple with challenges of economic progress the world is today confronted with yet another impending catastrophe. This relates to the phenomenon of global warming and climate change. Scientific evidence available today not only confirms this acceleration of global warming, but warns that an increase beyond 2 degrees would trigger an irreversible " tipping point", exposing the planet to unmitigated disaster. Global warming exacerbates the challenges of poverty and environmental degradation and together they pose a threat of far reaching consequences to societies around the world.

In less than six months from now, delegations from more than 180 countries will converge in Copenhagen for the 15th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The mandate is to discuss the long-term co-operation architecture post the Kyoto Protocol. More than 10,000 people comprising Government leaders, experts, non-governmental organisations and representatives of business will pool their minds to find solutions to combat this critical problem facing the global community. Indeed, for once, the world has been unified by a common global threat, bringing home the reality that we have one planet to live together or perish together.

The stakes are unfortunately very high for developing nations like India. Global warming transcends geographical and political borders and does not distinguish between the rich and poor. However, its impact can be particularly severe for poorer nations. The large numbers of people living below the poverty line are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters. Agriculture, the mainstay for developing economies, is far more susceptible to climate-induced disasters. The recent occurrence of extreme events in India is a forbearer of this warning. The frequent occurrence of heat waves, droughts and floods only signal that global warming is no longer an

issue of the future. It is impacting us here and now.

- (a) Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) : 5
- (i) The slowing down of economic growth is the only major problem facing the world.
  - (ii) Global warming and climate change go side by side.
  - (iii) Poverty and environmental problems are directly related to global warming.
  - (iv) Different countries are Independently trying to find solutions to global warming.
  - (v) Global warming does not affect all countries alike.
- (b) (i) What is one of the greatest dangers faced by our planet to-day ? 10
- (ii) What is likely to happen if the temperatures on the planet increase by 2 degrees more ?
  - (iii) Why and where are delegates from 180 countries going to meet ?
  - (iv) Which countries are most vulnerable to natural calamities ?
  - (v) Is global warming a problem of future only ? Give reasons for your answer.

- (c) Pick out words from the passage which are close in meaning to the following. 5
- (i) (something) that is going to happen soon
  - (ii) firmly hold and struggle with
  - (iii) disaster
  - (iv) the act of speeding up
  - (v) that cannot be changed back
3. Write an essay in about 250 words on *any one* of the following : 20
- (a) Generation gap.
  - (b) Sex education in schools.
  - (c) Save the earth !
4. Two friends are discussing whether the reservation policy in educational institutions and job market should continue for ever. Write a dialogue in about 200 words. 20
5. As a sales officer of an automobile company you have been asked to investigate the reasons why there has been a drastic fall in the sales of cars. Write a report in about 250 words. 20
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