

KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
End Semester Examination [C]
June/July 2024

Level : B.E./B.Sc./B.Tech.
Year : I
Time : 2 hrs. 30 mins.

07 JUL 2024

Course : ENGT 105
Semester : II
F.M. : 40

SECTION "B"
[8Q × 5 = 40 marks]

Attempt *ANY EIGHT* questions.

1. The following is an excerpt from "The Burden of Skepticism" by Carl Sagan. Analyze it through the lens of the objectives (clarity, conciseness, accuracy, organization) of technical communication **in about 100 words**.

Another writer again agreed with all my generalities, but said that as an inveterate skeptic I have closed my mind to the truth. Most notably I have ignored the evidence for an Earth that is six thousand years old. Well, I haven't ignored it; I considered the purported evidence and *then* rejected it. There is a difference, and this is a difference, we might say, between prejudice and postjudice. Prejudice is making a judgment before you have looked at the facts. Postjudice is making a judgment afterwards. Prejudice is terrible, in the sense that you commit injustices and you make serious mistakes. Postjudice is not terrible. You can't be perfect of course; you may make mistakes also. But it is permissible to make a judgment after you have examined the evidence. In some circles it is even encouraged.

I believe that part of what propels science is the thirst for wonder. It's a very powerful emotion. All children feel it. In a first grade classroom everybody feels it; in a twelfth grade classroom almost nobody feels it, or at least acknowledges it. Something happens between first and twelfth grade, and it's not just puberty. Not only do the schools and the media not teach much skepticism, there is also little encouragement of this stirring sense of wonder. Science and pseudoscience both arouse that feeling. Poor popularizations of science establish an ecological niche for pseudoscience.

2. What is the correlation of Vasili Svetlovidov's social status in his youth and the subsequent pain he undergoes in his old age? Explain.
3. Write a short essay on a particular past decision of yours that "has made all the difference" (Frost, 1915) now in your life. (max. word count **150**).
4. VS Ramachandran is admittedly interdisciplinary as well as disciplinary in his (scientific) pursuits, as reflected from most of his reflections and arguments in "The Making of a Scientist." Assume that you do not agree to one of his ideas (e.g., assembly line approach) and write your reasons why you refute this particular idea of his.
5. What makes process analysis different from process description? Explain with examples. You can also bring in references from one of the projects you did this/ last semester.
6. What are the four aspects of document design? What things are important in each of them?
7. Prepare a topic outline (major sections and subsections) for a project proposal, and write down the content (a short paragraph) for 'Introduction' section.
8. Write a memo addressed to Head of the Department of your school on "The need for embracing more of online classes in the post-pandemic times."
9. Recall one of the projects you did this semester and present it in the form of Gantt chart. Also, describe the chart in a short paragraph.

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Exam Roll No. : Time: 30 mins.

F. M. : 10

Registration No.:

Date 07 JUL 2024

SECTION "A"

[20Q. × 0.5 = 10 marks]

Choose and encircle the most appropriate option from each set of choices.

1. One of Vasili Svetlovidov's final observations in "Swan Song" is that
 - a. artistic talent does not actually help people in their suffering.
 - b. his artistic talent has helped him overcome his personal tragedies.
 - c. artistic talent makes people boastful.
 - d. his own artistic talent is his enemy.
2. VS Ramachandran loves Victorian style science because
 - a. he gets to enjoy a lot in the process of doing this kind of science.
 - b. he hates modern gadgetry.
 - c. he wants to develop new theories.
 - d. Victorian style science is unquestionably the best.
3. In his letter to Einstein, Sigmund Freud places utmost importance on
 - a. intervention through pressure.
 - b. intervention through spread of love and critical education.
 - c. intervention through political trickeries.
 - d. intervention through sugarcoated rhetoric.
4. "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz" by F. Scott Fitzgerald allegorically criticizes
 - a. American political leaders.
 - b. American colonialism/ expansionism.
 - c. American materialistic values and spiritual dearth.
 - d. American bureaucracy.
5. Plato in "The Allegory of the Cave" brings the idea that
 - a. the materialistic world is sinful.
 - b. the world is but a dream.
 - c. indoctrinated/ superstitious people may attack educators - because they do not want to listen to them, being blind to fallacies.
 - d. the body is a cave.
6. Which one of the following does Doren not mention in "The Twentieth Century Science and Technology"?
 - a. Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle
 - b. Walker et al.'s the EI Nino effect
 - c. Einstein's formula - $E = mc^2$
 - d. Watson and Crick's description of DNA structure
7. In Toulmin's model of argument, 'rebuttal' stands for
 - a. negation of irrelevant issues.
 - b. unfair arguments.
 - c. evaluation of a text.
 - d. the other side or sides of the topic being discussed.

8. Technical communication is different from creative communication because
 - a. it does not cherish ambiguity.
 - b. it does not cherish clarity.
 - c. it does not maintain coherence.
 - d. it involves better imagination.

9. Which of the following must be considered prior to writing a paper?
 - a. Purpose and audience
 - b. One's credentials
 - c. Potential publication venues
 - d. Revision

10. Which of the following should the subject line of a memo proposal include?
 - a. A topic
 - b. A main idea
 - c. A topic and a main idea
 - d. Complete sentence

11. The main purpose of including credentials in a proposal is to
 - a. establish the fact that the project is an important adventure.
 - b. provide a window to qualifications, expertise, and experiences of the project managers or directors.
 - c. include qualifications about all the team members.
 - d. explain that the project team involves too many good people.

12. 'Problem definition' is mainly done in a project proposal with an intention to
 - a. list out possible solutions.
 - b. criticize the lack of attention.
 - c. determine the amount of budget.
 - d. justify the urgency of the project.

13. In inductive reasoning, you draw a conclusion from
 - a. the data that you have analyzed.
 - b. the theories that you have consulted.
 - c. a combination of theories and the data you have analyzed.
 - d. what the data do not say.

14. Which ONE of the following is the best option to visually represent a task schedule?
 - a. Pie Chart
 - b. Bar Chart
 - c. Flow Chart
 - d. Gantt Chart

15. A 'Literature Review' section in a (research/ technical) article
 - a. provides a brief survey of pertinent literature on a particular topic and, at the end, reveals critical gaps that need to be addressed.
 - b. introduces the subject of study.
 - c. basically includes the writer's arguments.
 - d. includes the most important finding made by the researcher.

16. When compared to Resume, CV is
 - a. more technical in nature.
 - b. more comprehensive— with each and every academic and professional achievement, etc.
 - c. more targeted to specific job/ vacancy descriptions.
 - d. more organized.

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17. Which one of the following letter formats is similar to memo format?
 - a. Full block
 - b. Full block with subject line
 - c. Simplified
 - d. None of the above

18. Funding agencies usually ask to first submit a concept paper rather than a fully developed proposal because
 - a. they first want to see if the submission is worthy of a consideration at all. Doing so eventually helps both the parties save their invaluable time.
 - b. concept papers are better than proposals.
 - c. they do not want to read long proposals.
 - d. concept papers are better than proposals.

19. 'Implications and Suggestions' section in a research/ technical article is primarily developed/ drawn from
 - a. Literature Review.
 - b. Discussion.
 - c. Methodology/ Research Design.
 - d. Limitations.

20. A text has 3 % reflection, 7 % narration, 11 % description, and 79 % persuasion. What kind of writing it is? The options are:
 - a. Reflective
 - b. Persuasive
 - c. Narrative
 - d. Descriptive

