

## OPEN BOOK EXAMINATION

### SET A

[This Question Paper contains 2 pages.]

S. No. of Question Paper:

Unique Paper Code : 12035901

Name of Paper : Academic Writing and Composition

Name of Course : **English Generic Elective**

Semester : I/III

Duration : **3 +1 Hours** (1 Hour reserved for downloading of question paper, scanning and uploading of answer sheets)

Maximum Marks : **75**

*The Question Paper has Six Questions and  
Three Questions are to be attempted.*

*Answer any three of the following questions in about 500-800 words each.  
All Questions carry EQUAL MARKS.*

1. Define Academic Writing and enumerate its protocols. 25
2. What is critical thinking and how far is it important in the academic world? 25
3. Why should we learn the skills of summarizing and paraphrasing and how are they important for our academic writing? 25
4. Write a summary of the given passage and give an appropriate title. 25

Charles F Hockett in his famous study on the difference between human language and animals talks about thirteen design features of human language which makes it distinct. The thirteen features are as following: The “vocal auditory channel” is the most obvious of the characteristic of human beings as it is through the vocal auditory channel that the sounds are created. The vocal auditory channel is distinct from the other channels like Gesture or the Dancing of the bees etc. “Rapid fading” and “broadcast transmission and directional reception” are the next two which stems from the physics of sound and are the unavoidable consequences of the first. The sounds that are uttered by humans can be heard for a short period of time – the sound is there in the air for a brief moment before it fades away, as does all sound. Therefore, one of the important characteristics of human language is rapid fading. The next feature, broadcast transmission and directional reception is self-explanatory as these two features signify that the speaker whenever he creates certain sounds to mean something makes it for a particular direction to be transmitted to. In other words, the sounds uttered are for a listener and therefore having a particular direction. “Interchangeability” and “Total Feedback” are the next two important features according to Hockett. As the terms themselves suggest, when we interact, we take turns to speak or share our thoughts, ideas and emotions, as communication is never a one-way process. It requires at least two individuals. Therefore, it is necessary that the two individuals while interacting take turns in communicating. Moreover, without feedback no communication is complete as one can only understand whether he has been understood or not when he receives the feedback. Therefore, interchangeability and feedback become such important features of human language. The significance of these two features of human language – “interchangeability” and “total feedback”

becomes clear upon comparison with other systems of communication. In general, a speaker of a language can reproduce any linguistic message he can understand, whereas the characteristic courtship motions of the male and female stickleback are different, and neither can act out those appropriate to the other. For that matter in the communication of a human mother and infant neither is apt to transmit the characteristic signals or to manifest the typical responses of the other. Again, the speaker of a language hears, by total feedback, everything of linguistic relevance in what he says. Feedback is important, since it makes possible the so-called internalization of communicative behavior that constitutes at least a major portion of thinking. The sixth design feature, "specialization" refers to the fact that the bodily effort and spreading sound waves of speech serve no function except as signals. A dog, panting with his tongue hanging out, is performing a biologically essential activity, since this is how dogs cool themselves off and maintain the proper body temperature. The next feature is "semanticity". When a dog is panting, it is not a signal meaning that the dog is hot; it is a part of being hot. In language, however, a message triggers the particular result it does because there are relatively fixed associations between elements in messages (example words) and recurrent features or situations of the world around us. For example, the English word "salt" means salt, not sugar or pepper. In the semantic communicative system, the ties between meaningful message elements and their meanings can be arbitrary and non-arbitrary. In language the ties are arbitrary. Why should we call "salt" the salt? We have no answer to that. Between the signifier and the signified the relationship is that of arbitrariness. This is the next feature of human language. The feature of "discreteness" in the elementary signaling units of a language contrasts with the use of sound effects by way of vocal gesture. There is an effectively continuous scale of degrees to which one may raise his voice as in anger or lower it to signal confidentially. Bee-dancing also is continuous rather than discrete. Man is apparently almost unique in being able to talk about things that are remote in space and time (or both) from where the talking goes on. This feature – "displacement" – seems to be definitely lacking in the vocal signaling of man's closest relatives, though it does occur in bee-dancing. Another of the most important feature of language is "productivity"; that is the capacity to say things that have never been said or heard before and yet to be understood by other speakers of the language. If a gibbon makes any vocal sound at all, it is one or another of a small finite repertory of familiar calls. The gibbon call system can be characterized as closed. Language is open, or productive in the sense that one can coin new utterances by putting together pieces familiar from old utterances, assembling them by patterns of arrangement also familiar in old utterances. Human genes carry the capacity to acquire a language, and probably also a strong capacity to acquire a new language, and probably also a strong drive toward such acquisition, but the detailed conventions of any one language are transmitted extragenetically by learning and teaching. To what extent such "traditional transmission" plays a part in gibbon calls or for other mammalian systems of vocal signals is not known, though in some instances the uniformity of the sounds made by a species, wherever the species is found over the world, is so great that genetics must be responsible. The meaningful elements in any language – "words" in everyday parlance, "morphemes" to the linguist – constitute an enormous stock. Yet they are represented by small arrangements of a relatively very small stock of distinguishable sounds which are in themselves wholly meaningless. This "duality of pattering" is illustrated by the English words. Thus, these above mentioned thirteen

features of the language of the human beings create a distinctive mark which makes us differentiate between the human sound system and the animal communication.

5. Write an essay on the following topic sentence. 25  
“Courage is in yielding to desire.”
6. Paraphrase the following passage. 25  
European Union (EU) is an assembly of the European nations which came into existence due to the growing economic and cultural globalization which has marked the world in the last few decades. The world coming together to form different conglomerations forgetting their national prejudices have been one of the hallmarks of the globalized world. Globalization primarily refers to economic globalization, that is, ‘integration of national economies into the international economy’ or the spread of free-market capitalism. But the term globalization is not limited only to the financial / economic aspect of our present lives, but also to other aspects, such as cultural, technological, literary, etc. Sheila L. Croucher says that “globalization can be described as a process by which the people of the world are unified into a single society and function together. This process is a combination of economic, technological, socio-cultural and political forces.” (Sheila L. Croucher, 10). It is the global tendency of going beyond the national sensibilities and forming a supra-national body that the European Union came into existence where most of the European nations decided to come together to form an international body to so as to facilitate trade, commerce as well as movements across the European nations and other such significant issues. But, in June, 2016, an remarkable (if not bizarre) thing happened when the United Kingdom (UK) held a referendum on its membership of the EU where nearly fifty two percent voters decided in favour of exiting from European Union which was then laid down in a process spanning from 2016 to 2019. This decision is vital both for the United Kingdom as well as the European Union as it means that United Kingdom will no longer be able to make use of the supra-national political institutions as well as the exchange of services and good with the other twenty seven member states of the EU.