

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF PAKISTAN

Foundation Examinations Spring 2009



March 5, 2009

FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH  
Module A

(MARKS 100)  
(3 hours)

Q.1 (a) Select the correct verb in each of the following sentences:

- (i) Neither the manager nor his subordinates \_\_\_\_\_ present at the meeting. (**was, would, were**)
- (ii) Either of the two suggested proposals \_\_\_\_\_workable to me. (**sounds, sounding, sound**)
- (iii) None of the tenants \_\_\_\_\_paid their rent. (**have, has, has been**)
- (iv) The audience \_\_\_\_\_returning to their seats after the interval. (**had been, is, are**)
- (v) The major obstacle for smooth flow of traffic \_\_\_\_\_frequent pedestrian crossings at places other than the marked intersection. (**is, are, would**).
- (vi) The senior judge said that my book "My Most Interesting Judgments" \_\_\_\_\_ recommended reading for all would-be judges. (**should, are, is**)
- (vii) Two windows and a door \_\_\_\_\_to be repaired. (**needs, needing , need**)
- (viii) Shamim is one of the employees who often \_\_\_\_\_at home. (**works, working, work**)

(08)

(b) What are the noun forms of the following words:

- |               |                 |                  |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| (i) foolish   | (ii) inform     | (iii) deductible |
| (iv) wealthy  | (v) file        | (vi) deepen      |
| (vii) enjoy   | (viii) swimming | (ix) create      |
| (x) dangerous |                 |                  |

(05)

Q.2 (a) Insert the correct preposition in each of the following sentences:

- (i) My employer has promised an increase in salary, but I haven't got it \_\_\_\_\_writing as yet.
- (ii) Sajid's mobile phone was stolen while he was away \_\_\_\_\_a business trip to Lahore.
- (iii) Is being a nuclear power a good idea\_\_\_\_\_your opinion?
- (iv) Can I pay this bill\_\_\_\_\_credit card?
- (v) Don't run too fast. I can't keep \_\_\_\_\_with you.
- (vi) All the participants left in a hurry \_\_\_\_\_the end of the seminar.
- (vii) Rashid worked \_\_\_\_\_an apprentice in the factory during the summer holidays.
- (viii) I did not do it \_\_\_\_\_purpose.
- (ix) I hope to see you on Thursday \_\_\_\_\_10.30 a.m.
- (x) The graduating doctors were advised \_\_\_\_\_abide by the code of ethics.

(05)

(b) Change the Direct and Indirect Speech of the following sentences:

- (i) He said, "I am very happy now."
- (ii) Zafar said to me, "I went to Islamabad last week."
- (iii) He said to me, "Will you always live in this house?"
- (iv) My father said, "I was given the wrong key."
- (v) He asked whether the people were not cheated by the scoundrel?

(05)

Q.3 Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate word given below:

**bunch, team, class, flight, pack, bundle, pile, swarm, truckload, crate**

- |                         |                               |      |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------|
| (a) a _____ of grapes   | (b) a _____ of books          |      |
| (c) a _____ of bees     | (d) a _____ of players        |      |
| (e) a _____ of wolves   | (f) a _____ of bags of cement |      |
| (g) a _____ of stairs   | (h) a _____ of sticks         |      |
| (i) a _____ of students | (j) a _____ of bottles        | (05) |

Q.4 Select the meaning which is most close to the idiom:

- (a) **A Bed of Roses** (01)  
 (i) a florist's delight  
 (ii) a garland of selected flowers  
 (iii) a beautiful countryside  
 (iv) a state of very comfortable life
- (b) **Bird's Eye-view** (01)  
 (i) a very close distance  
 (ii) a considerable distance  
 (iii) a general overview  
 (iv) a scenic landscape
- (c) **Pull up your socks** (01)  
 (i) order to disgrace an enemy defeated in war  
 (ii) advice given on being seriously injured in action on the battlefield  
 (iii) signify commencement of renewed and determined efforts  
 (iv) expression of appreciation for a well-dressed gentleman
- (d) **To play the trump card** (01)  
 (i) to show off one's knowledge of a subject  
 (ii) to make ostentatious display of one's wealth  
 (iii) to seek favours or obligations from friends  
 (iv) to make use of one's most valuable resource
- (e) **Lock, stock and barrel** (01)  
 (i) a closely guarded secret  
 (ii) a place where valuable items are kept  
 (iii) a cache of hidden weapons  
 (iv) an action/activity in its full or complete form
- (f) **To call a spade a spade** (01)  
 (i) to treat every one equally without any discrimination  
 (ii) to dispel any misgivings or feelings of despondency  
 (iii) to say a thing truthfully in straight and plain language  
 (iv) to forcefully defend the rights of farmers

Q.5 The following sentences contain grammatical, logical and presentation errors. Re-write the sentences in their correct versions.

- (a) Amjad donated his old car to a charitable trust that no longer ran well.  
 (b) During the months of July and August last summer, I had a wonderful summer vacation.  
 (c) Leaves are dropped by trees in autumn.  
 (d) Someone robbed the bank again.  
 (e) The award was presented to the actor that was engraved with gold letters. (05)

- Q.6 Rapidly increasing environmental pollution has created a deep sense of awareness among the masses of the urgent need to safeguard our habitat. Among the different types of pollution affecting our cities, only air and water pollution have received adequate attention of the environmentalists. The concern for noise pollution, which has reached alarming proportions in a number of important cities of the world, including Karachi, has been minimal. It is because of this apathy that the average noise-level in Karachi far exceeds the safe level of 55-60 decibels. In certain areas of the city, the noise levels during the day-time, have been recorded in excess of 100 decibels.

Empirical studies reveal that excessive noise levels pose a grave threat to human health and cause a number of complications. In a well-researched study on the impact of high noise-levels on human beings, it has been established that consistently high level of noise not only damages the ear drums, but also causes nausea, severe body pains and hypertension which lead to nervous breakdown and ulcers.

The real cost of noise-induced loss to industry is considered to be far greater than that of most other occupational hazards. Declining productivity among workers in certain industries, such as stone crushing, heavy steel and metal stamping and aeronautical engineering is attributable to high noise levels which adversely affect the mental and physical health of the workers. Workers exposed to high intensities of noise for prolonged periods are often found to be irritable and tense and prone to react violently even to minor differences or disagreements. Extended periods of eight hours of daily exposure to high levels of noise can cause life-long deafness.

With growing environmental awareness, some countries in Europe are beginning to take the problems of noise most seriously. In the Netherlands, zoning regulations prohibit the construction of housing projects in areas which have high levels of noise pollution, like main highways or airports. In addition, construction of anti-noise surface-porous asphalt roads reduces traffic noise by up to 5 decibels.

In the major cities of Pakistan, three-wheeler rickshaws and buses plying with defective silencers are the worst offenders. Besides, mechanical workshops in the residential areas also contribute to the menace of noise pollution. The citizens must take serious note of the threats posed by noise pollution and adopt measures and regulations to curb all kinds of noise pollution.

- (a) Give a suitable title to the passage. (01)
- (b) What are the three types of pollution mentioned in the above paragraphs? (1.5)
- (c) Identify four types of dangers posed to human health by noise pollution. (02)
- (d) How are industrial workers affected by high levels of noise? (02)
- (e) What types of precautionary measures have been taken in the Netherlands to avoid noise pollution? (01)
- (f) According to the passage, which types of vehicles and industries create the most noise on the roads and residential areas of Pakistan? (1.5)
- (g) Write a précis of 80 words. (06)
- Q.7 Determine whether the following sentences are declarative, imperative, interrogative or exclamatory and place the appropriate punctuation mark at the end of the sentence.
- (a) What is the balance in my account
- (b) Congratulations, you fully deserve the promotion
- (c) Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country
- (d) The manager wanted to know who authorized the payment
- (e) Someone should have asked what they think about it (05)

- Q.8 The occurrence of serious accidents on the major highways in the country has reached alarming proportions in recent years.

The loss of 15-20 lives and even a greater number of serious injuries due to tragic road accidents are reported in the media on almost a daily basis. The extremely high rate of losses of valuable lives renders a large number of families completely shattered. The injured are often deprived of the opportunity of leading normal lives and earning their livelihood.

Assume that you are Manzoor Ahmed, a person who has been affected by such a loss. You are required to write a letter to the Director General, National Highway Authority Islamabad apprising him of the factors responsible for the increasing number of road accidents and offering suggestions for instituting measures to curb this menace.

You may apply your imagination to identify the causes of the accidents and offer suggestions to reduce the number of accidents on the highways. (11)

- Q.9 Ahmed and Basit are two participants representing their respective colleges in a debate contest. The topic of debate is:

While notable achievements have been made in Pakistan of which we can rightly be proud of, there are glaring issues of serious failures which have brought considerable disgrace and disappointment to the country and its citizens.

Assume that Ahmed is for the motion of achievements and Basit points out the failures and short comings.

You are required to construct a set of arguments advanced by Ahmed and Basit to present their respective viewpoints. The arguments should be based on **four** logical and distinct points put forth by each participant. (08)

- Q.10 Complete the following sentences with the appropriate words:

(a) Your child has made no \_\_\_\_\_ progress in his performance at school.  
**notice noticeable noticeably noticed**

(b) I am grateful to you for your \_\_\_\_\_ assistance.  
**value valuation valuable valueless**

(c) Do not consider that he is your friend; assess his performance \_\_\_\_\_.  
**object objective objection objectively**

(d) The \_\_\_\_\_ of the wanted dacoit has been published in all the important newspapers.  
**describe describing description descriptive**

(e) He does not have any \_\_\_\_\_ of finance.  
**know knowing knowledge known**

(f) Smoking is not \_\_\_\_\_ in the new office premises.  
**permit permitted permissive permission** (06)

- Q.11 Write an essay of approximately 350 words on any **one** of the following topics. Word count carries marks.

- Role of Media in creating political awareness.
- Economic impact of Shortages of Electric Power in Pakistan.
- Problems of Public Transport in major cities of Pakistan.
- Accountants play an effective role in financial markets.

(16)

(THE END)