



Institute of Human Resource Advancement (IHRA)
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Bachelor of Labour Education - Part I (2015/ 2016)
01st Semester Examination - 2017
(Held in November 2017)

BLE 109 – English Language

Instructions to the Candidates

- 1) **Answer all questions**
- 2) Time allocated for the examination **three (03) hours**
- 3) Paper consists of **nine (09) pages with eight (08) questions**
- 4) Write down the index number in all pages
- 5) If a page or a part of this question paper is not printed, please inform the Supervisor immediately.

1) Read the following text and answer the questions given below.

A disproportionately large share of the total labour force in Sri Lanka is engaged in agriculture related activities, and the sector is plagued with stagnant productivity, lack of diversification, land fragmentation, inefficient water management, poor storage and marketing mechanisms and climate change related issues. Protectionist policies in relation to the agriculture sector have continued to be in place through the provision of fertiliser subsidies, free water, minimum farm-gate prices and high import duties. These policies have discouraged farmers from moving towards other productive sectors in the economy while preventing diversification into more productive cultivation. Agricultural subsidies, such as those for fertiliser, are fiscally ineffective, environmentally unsustainable and economically inefficient. Instead, attention is required on developing appropriate infrastructure and institutional facilities that increase productivity levels in the agriculture sector and develop effective marketing mechanisms, particularly for the paddy sector. Farmer organisations must be strengthened to improve their bargaining power, to set up processing facilities that are owned and operated by them and to efficiently market their final produce. Transforming research knowledge into farmers' knowledge is the key for improving the efficiency and productivity of the agriculture sector. Moreover, extension services should be improved in all research agencies, including those of tea, rubber and coconut. Through such services, organic farming techniques that use no pesticides and less fertiliser could be promoted while disseminating knowledge about alternative use of agricultural byproducts. Agricultural policies should strive to improve productivity not only at the farmer level but in the entire value chain, thereby increasing value addition in the agriculture sector. To this end, improving storage facilities, enhancing processing mechanisms for agricultural products and reducing post-harvest losses are essential aspects that need to be addressed through collaborative action of research institutes, extension services and farmers. Further, policies to increase access to credit by farmers through the formal financial sector at reasonable interest rates must be strengthened. Innovative value addition mechanisms and stronger marketing strategies are also crucial to boost agricultural exports. Moreover, priority should be given for sustainable environmental policies and practices in all sectors with the long term view of reducing the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture and food security.

Central Bank Annual Report, 2016.

i. What are the major problems that exist in the agriculture sector in Sri Lanka?

(02 Marks)

.....

.....

.....

- ii. What policies have discouraged farmers from moving towards other productive sectors of the economy? (02 Marks)

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.....

- iii. Why is it important to strengthen the farmer organizations? (02 Marks)

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- iv. Why should the extension services in all research agencies be improved? (02 Marks)

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- v. What steps should be taken to increase the value addition in the agriculture sector? (02 Marks)

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.....

- vi. What factors are crucial to enhance agricultural exports? (02 Marks)

.....

.....

.....

- vii. Why should priority be given for sustainable environmental policies and practices? (01 mark)

.....

viii. Find the words from the text which have the same meaning as the following.

(02 Marks)

great trouble

motionless

dissuaded

spreading widely.....

Total-15 Marks)

2) Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the word or phrases underlined in the sentences given below.

1. The leader of the party agreed not to incite its supporters to violence.
a. encourage b. warn c. support d. stir up.
2. There is a visible apathy among the voting public.
a. lack of interest b. enthusiasm c. keenness d. hurry.
3. Continuous failure has made him feel dejected.
a. determined b. encouraged c. enthusiastic d. depressed.
4. I didn't bother to ponder on the matter too long.
a. discuss b. think over c. explain d. analyze.
5. It was too cold, I clenched my fists to stop myself trembling.
a. squeeze together tightly, b. heated, c. covered, d. warmed.
6. The glut of some vegetables in the market led to a sharp drop in their prices.
a. over supply b. shortage c. decline d. destruction.
7. We really wanted to enjoy our outing, but it was really a dismal day.
a. eventful b. exciting c. miserable d. enjoyable.
8. Given any task, he has the ability to handle it with aplomb.
a. Self-confidence, b. care, c. speed, d. experience.
9. You have completely misconstrued what I stated at the meeting.
a. twisted, b. exaggerated, c. forgotten, d. misinterpreted.
10. Recently, there has been a noticeable resurgence of violence across the country.
a. decline, b. downturn, c. upturn, d. incidence.
11. I prefer succinct style of writing; you should be able to get to the point straight.
a. simple, b. concise, c. nice, d. attractive.
12. Don't disparage others just because they have little in common with you.
a. criticize, b. belittle, c. ignore, d. blame.

(12 Marks)

3) Convert the following sentences into Passive Voice.

1. A business person has donated them a generator.

.....

2. He did not collect the documents from me.

.....

3. They have given me a special discount.

.....

4. Kamal usually takes my son to school.

.....

5. We asked lot of questions from the new recruit.

.....

6. She will prepare all the handouts next week

.....

7. The doctor normally treats the patients only up to 8p.m.

.....

8. By last Monday he had already posted it.

.....

9. He was mending the roof at that time.

.....

10. The committee had already submitted the report at that time.

.....

11. You could bring the book tomorrow.

.....

4) Select a suitable preposition from below to fill in the blanks.

For, without, about, into, with, off, at, along, from, for, at, beyond, by, around, of, above, to, on, of, in.

1. We met after a long time, so both.....us talked.....wide range of things.
2. We were told to drive.....the main road and turn left.....the traffic lights.
3. Don't walk.....the green, keep.....the grass.
4. I don't think it is safer.....drink water.....this well.
5. We walked.....the town, looking.....his office.
6. If you cross the road.....looking, you may be knocked.....a vehicle.
7. You should score.....50 marks.....the admission test to get a placement.
8. He went.....hiding, the police has been looking.....him for months now.
9. Don't spend too much.....money to repair your vehicle, it is.....repair.
10. Take the umbrella.....you, don't get wet.....the rain, you might catch cold.

(10 Marks)

5) Fill in the blanks using; who, whom, whose, which, where.

1. They are the couple.....house was broken into last night.
2. Did you see the report.....was released two days ago?
3. What is the name of that boy.....we met at the station?
4. My brother.....has just passed the driving test is only eighteen years.
5. Those are the boys.....membership cards were cancelled.
6. I recently visited the village.....I was born.
7. The bus.....goes to the airport runs every half an hour.
8. I don't know the name of the women.....I spoke to on the phone.
9. Those are my friends.....I go to school with.
10. The teacher punished the boys.....skipped the classes yesterday.

(05 Marks)

6) Convert the following sentences into indirect speech.

1. She told her servant "Don't prepare the dinner before 8 o'clock"
.....
2. She told her "Don't switch on all the lights in the house."
.....
3. My father told me "Don't exceed the speed limit."
.....
4. He told us "Please, leave the shoes outside."
.....
5. She said to her son "Don't wear the shirt without ironing."
.....
6. Nihal said "I must study hard to get through the exam."
.....
7. Kamal told me "I must help my brother to do his homework."
.....
8. She told me "I will meet you at the bus stop."
.....
9. My manager told me "I will give you a pay increment soon"
.....
10. The teacher told her pupils "I won't be able to come to school next week."
.....

(15 Marks)

7) Fill in the blanks using the most appropriate word from the words given below.

Uncertainties, retained, attractive, instead,, Brain Drain, professionals, economically, qualified,, affluent, vicious,

The process of economically weaker, developing countries losing their highly educated, qualified, skillful workers to more..... countries, identified as, creates a tremendous adverse impact on growth prospects of these countries. Developing countries need the services of these highly....., skillful professionals to expedite their economic growth

and development, but these cannot be due to the fact that the economic standards these developing countries have achieved makes it impossible for them to offer remuneration as in developed countries and without achieving higher economic standards these countries cannot offer their qualified professionals higher salaries that would make them serve their own country of other more affluent countries. Therefore these weaker countries are ever caught up in this cycle. Economic, political and social instability and in developing countries aggravate this situation and make their human capital seek better returns in more stable affluent countries around the world.

(10 Marks)

8) (i)

Suppose you are the Managing Director of a soft drinks manufacturing firm and you will have to submit a report on island wide sales performance of different soft drinks items being manufactured by your firm at the next board meeting, in order to decide how to allocate funds for advertising in year 2018.

Write a memo requesting relevant information to be sent to all sales executives. **(15 Marks)**

OR

(ii)

A job vacancy for Senior Marketing Manager exists at Access Finance (Pvt.) Ltd. and you have decided to apply for the position.

Prepare your resume and complete the covering letter using the words given below to be sent to the HR Manager. **(15 Marks)**

qualifications, enclosing, convenient, candidate, assure, opportunity, advertisement, appreciate, position, consideration.

To- Human Resource Manager,
Access Finance (Pvt) Ltd.,
715, Marine Street,
Colombo - 5.
Dear Sir,

Application for the position of Senior Marketing Manager

This is in response to your recent..... published in Sunday observer,
dated 4th November 2017, calling applications for the.....of Senior
Marketing Manager. I am extremely interested in this.....available at
your esteemed organization and firmly believe that
my....., education and professional experience
would make me an ideal for the position.

I am..... my resume herewith for your
kind..... and this will enable you to have a better
understanding of my background and experience. Further this can be used to asses my
suitability for the position advertized.

Considering the above, I really.....if you could grant me an
appointment for an interview at an earliest.....time, enabling you
to further asses my suitability for the position. Given the opportunity, I
..... you that I will serve you to the best of my ability.

Prompt and positive response from you will be highly appreciated.

Kind Regards,

.....
Name.