

mouths and face. Monkeys have a similar gene, but it did not undergo this mutation. It's too early to say how much influence genes have on language, but one day the answers might be found in our DNA.

8 To conclude, even though we do know some things about languages, experts are yet to decipher many aspects of how humans evolved language. The factors contributing to the complexity of human language are yet to be decoded fully. Human language is, of course, considered to be unique and complex in its own ways, and innate abilities and brains are often connected to this discourse. However, what we know about these issues reflects partial understanding only, and experts are always striving to have a better understanding of the whole process.

(Adapted from <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/reading/c1-reading/how-humans-evolved-language>)

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2022

ENGLISH COMMUNICATION

Paper : ENG-AE-1014

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

1. Answer as instructed :

10

(a) Read the text given in the ANNEXURE that deals the following topics. Against each topic, write the number of the paragraph that deals with the topic (any five) : 1×5=5

(i) Physical evidences indicating the evolution

(ii) What we know about language

(iii) Complexity of human language

(iv) Effect of genetics on brain and language development

- (v) Factors triggering the evolution of human brains the way they are
- (vi) Limited understanding of human's capacity to use language
- (vii) Constant effort to have better interpret the process
- (viii) Scarcity of early evidences

(b) Find words in the text (given in the ANNEXURE) that match the following meanings (any five) : $1 \times 5 = 5$

- (i) the study of language
- (ii) a species of great ape
- (iii) existing in an individual since birth
- (iv) an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest
- (v) so delicate or precise as to be difficult to analyse or describe
- (vi) developed gradually

- (vii) parts of something that continue to exist when other parts or things no longer do
- (viii) something that furnishes proof
- (ix) components or elements of something
- (x) succeed in understanding, interpreting or identifying (something)

2. Read the text, given in the ANNEXURE, carefully and answer the following questions in your own words (any five) : $2 \times 5 = 10$

- (a) Write down the main idea of the whole text by using one sentence.
- (b) Write an expanded definition of the term 'civilization'.
- (c) Find out antonyms of the terms 'simple' and 'similar' in the text and write them down.
- (d) Name the two fields of study mentioned by the article which have contributed to the understanding of language.
- (e) Which aspects of brain do we need to consider to explain language capabilities?

- (f) Mention any two physical clues that the article mentions to discuss physical evidences.
- (g) Which features make human language more complex than other clever relatives?
- (h) How has genetics influenced language development in humans in comparison to that in monkeys?
- (i) "The next change would have been to put those words into sentences, similar to the 'protolanguage' children use when they first learn to speak." What do children's language tell us about the evolution of human language, according to you? State briefly.
- (j) Write the antonym of (i) 'unique' and (ii) 'complex'.

3. Follow the instruction and answer any four from the options (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h) : $5 \times 4 = 20$

- (a) Rewrite the text after completing the dialogues with the correct forms of the verbs :

Last week, we (be) busy preparing for a cultural event in our college. My friend Trishita asked, "(can) we invite any celebrity for the event?" I told her

that before making such a decision, we (need) to think about our budget. After that, we (talk) to our authorities to find out how much we could spend on such arrangements. Then we approached a popular artiste in our area, and asked him, "(will) you like to come to our college for a performance?"

- (b) Use your own ideas to complete the following sentences :

- (i) It is high time ____.
- (ii) I'd like to suggest that ____.
- (iii) Would you mind ____?
- (iv) I wish I ____.
- (v) Could you tell me ____?

- (c) Change the following sentences into the passive form :

- (i) We all enjoy our college life.
- (ii) Many adventures have made our college life very interesting.

- (iii) We are planning a trip next week.
- (iv) Chandubi has been frequented by local students nowadays.
- (v) Our college authorities have encouraged us to write a report after the trip.
- (d) Fill in the blanks with the correct form of each adjective given in brackets :
- (i) Krishan's bicycle is ____ than mine. (heavy)
- (ii) Among the current models, his bicycle is among the ____ ones. (expensive)
- (iii) To me, my bicycle is the ____ one. (good)
- (iv) I will need to be ____ than I am now to ride a bicycle like Krishan's one. (skillful)
- (v) We have cycled to many places together. The ____ among such places is Barpeta. (far)

- (e) Choose the appropriate linking expressions from the following list to complete the paragraph. (Use capitalization wherever necessary) :

gradually, however, suddenly,
as a whole, because

A bright student in school, Shweta Rishi was ready to take on the world. (i) ____, when she moved from her hometown, Meerut, to the dynamic environment of Delhi for graduation, things changed. Her confidence was shaken (ii) ____ her fellow students seemed so much smarter and knew so much more. One day, while browsing Facebook, Shweta (iii) ____ came across an advertisement of an online internship platform. Grabbing the opportunity, she got familiar to the corporate world. (iv) ____, she gained some exposure which her classmates seemed to have in plenty. (v) ____, it took her three years, some webinars and a couple of internships to transition from a scared small-town girl to a confident and popular one.

- (f) Complete the text given below with 'a', 'an', 'the' or 'no article'. (Use capitalization wherever needed) :

(i) _____ internship gives students some exposure to a new environment. There has been a silent internship revolution in India over (ii) _____ last few years. (iii) _____ technology has created (iv) _____ level playing field and removed geographical barriers for students from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Internships are picking up fast among these students, (v) _____ biggest catalyst being virtual internships.

- (g) Read the dialogues. Fill in the blanks with the following determiners in the most appropriate places :

that, those, a few, some, any

Could I borrow (i) _____ novels from your library? There are only (ii) _____ novels in my library. (iii) _____ are historical novels. (iv) _____ story from a sentimental novel you told me was very moving. Do you have (v) _____ sentimental novel in your library?

- (h) Complete the following conditional sentences :

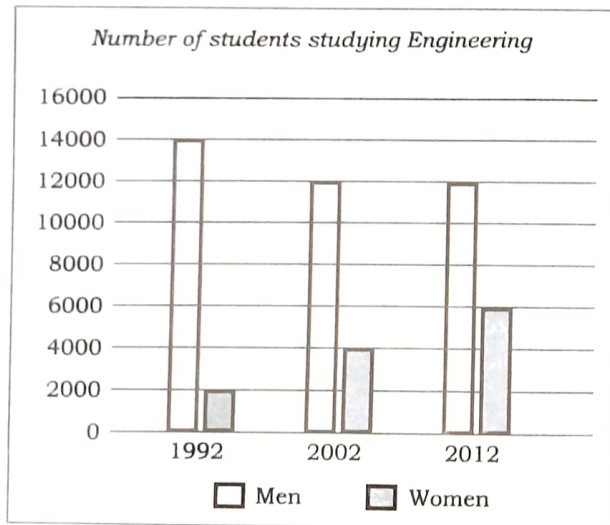
- (i) If I were the king, _____.
- (ii) If I had his phone number, _____.
- (iii) If you do not wear warm clothes, _____.
- (iv) If you heat ice, _____.
- (v) If you had studied earlier, _____.

4. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

10×4=40

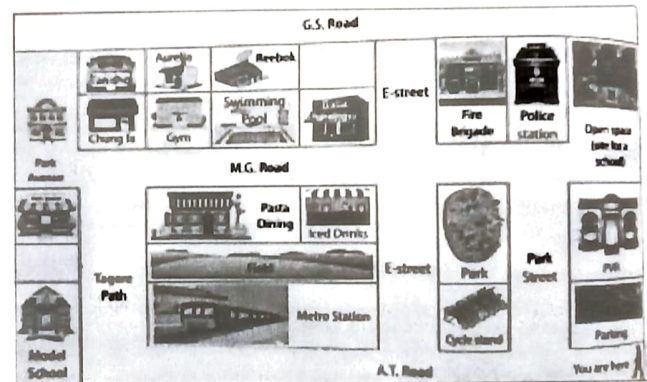
- (a) Write a one-paragraph summary of the text given in the ANNEXURE.
- (b) The article in the ANNEXURE tells us that we can see how spoken and written forms of languages have changed over time. Do you think your home language has undergone some changes over the time? Why and how? Discuss from your understanding and experience.
- (c) Write a listing paragraph on the ways in which our understanding of the evolution of human language is limited. Use ideas from the article in the ANNEXURE, if needed.

- (d) Make notes from the article given in the ANNEXURE following note-taking conventions.
- (e) Study the following graph showing the number of men and women studying engineering at Australian universities. Write five sentences to describe the information.



- (f) Write a paragraph describing the difference between healthy lifestyle and unhealthy lifestyle.

- (g) Imagine that you are new in the place shown in the following map. You have met a stranger and asked her how to reach the Gym. Create a conversation with dialogues between you and the stranger where you will ask questions and the stranger will give directions.



- (h) Write a topic sentence for writing a paragraph on each of the following topics :

Uniforms in college, Ban on plastic, Internet addiction, Books as friends, Indian dresses.

- (i) Imagine that you are going for an educational trip from your college tomorrow. Write a paragraph of ten sentences outlining your activities starting from this morning till you reach your destination.
- (j) Imagine that your cousin moved to a different city recently. Write ten questions that you can ask to your cousin to find out about the new city.

(For ANNEXURE, next page)

ANNEXURE

How humans evolved language

1 Thanks to the field of linguistics we know much about the development of the 5000 plus languages in existence today. We can describe their grammar and pronunciation and see how their spoken and written forms have changed over time. For example, we understand the origins of the Indo-European group of languages, which includes Norwegian, Hindi and English, and can trace them back to tribes in eastern Europe in about 3000 BC.

2 So, we have mapped out a great deal of the history of language, but there are still areas we know little about. Experts are beginning to look to the field of evolutionary biology to find out how the human species developed to be able to use language. So far, there are far more questions and half-theories than answers.

3 We know that human language is far more complex than that of even our nearest and most intelligent relatives like chimpanzees. We can express complex thoughts, convey subtle emotions and communicate about abstract concepts such as past and future. And we do this following a set of structural rules, known as grammar. Do only humans

use an innate system of rules to govern the order of words? Perhaps not, as some research may suggest dolphins share this capability because they are able to recognise when these rules are broken.

4 If we want to know where our capability for complex language came from, we need to look at how our brains are different from other animals. This relates to more than just brain size; it is important what other things our brains can do and when and why they evolved that way. And for this there are very few physical clues; artefacts left by our ancestors don't tell us what speech they were capable of making. One thing we can see in the remains of early humans, however, is the development of the mouth, throat and tongue. By about 100,000 years ago, humans had evolved the ability to create complex sounds. Before that, evolutionary biologists can only guess whether or not early humans communicated using more basic sounds.

5 Between 100,000 and 50,000 years ago, though, we start to see the evidence of early human civilization, through cave paintings for example; no one knows the connection between this and language. Brains didn't suddenly get bigger, yet humans did become more complex and more intelligent. Was it

using language that caused their brains to develop? Or did their more complex brains start producing language?

6 Another question is, what is it about human brains that allowed language to evolve in a way that it did not in other primates? At some point, our brains became able to make our mouths produce vowel and consonant sounds, and we developed the capacity to invent words to name things around us. These were the basic ingredients for complex language. The next change would have been to put those words into sentences, similar to the 'protolanguage' children use when they first learn to speak. No one knows if the next step—adding grammar to signal past, present and future, for example, or plurals and relative clauses—required a further development in the human brain or was simply a response to our increasingly civilized way of living together.

7 More questions lie in looking at the influence of genetics on brain and language development. Are there genes that mutated and gave us language ability? Researchers have found a gene mutation that occurred between 200,000 and 100,000 years ago, which seems to have a connection with speaking and how our brains control our