

TILAK MAHARASHTRA VIDYAPEETH, PUNE
BACHELOR OF COMMERCE (B.COM)
EXAMINATION: DECEMBER- 2025
FIRST SEMESTER
Subject: Functional English
(BCOM23-105/BCOM24-105)

Date: 22/12/2025

Total marks: 60

Time: 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Instructions: 1) All questions are compulsory.
2) Figures to the right indicate full marks.

Q. 1. Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions

(10)

It was late in the evening. Major Lal, his wife and their guests were sitting around the table and having dinner. It was raining heavily outside but the people inside the room were comfortable. They were discussing the way women behave in an emergency. Men and women are born equal, but some men have a fixed notion that women are cowardly and men are courageous. Captain Kaul, one such man, kept saying that women get nervous easily. A mouse makes them jump on to a chair and scream. The women insisted that they were as brave as men and stayed calm in an emergency. But the men stuck to their theory.

“If a man and woman are in a jungle at night and hear a lion roaring, the woman will scream”, said Mr. Roy. “The man will also feel like screaming but he won’t. He has that extra ounce of control which is called courage. A woman lacks it.”

Colonel Khan was listening to this conversation but he did not join in. Suddenly he noticed that Mrs. Lal the hostess, had become deathly pale and rigid. There was a strange expression on her face. She gestured to a servant and whispered something to him. The servant’s eyes widened in fear. He quickly left the room and came back with an earthen bowl full of milk which he placed on the floor of the verandah. No one noticed this except Colonel Khan. He knew that the bowl of milk meant only one thing – bait for a snake. From the hiss he heard he came to know there was a cobra in the room. Where was it ? Three corners of the room were empty and the fourth, a servant was standing with a jug of water. The only place left where the cobra could be was under the table.

His first impulse was to jump back and warn the others but he knew that noise and movement would frighten the snake. This was dangerous as a frightened cobra always strikes.

“Friends”, said he, in the tone of a commanding officer, “I want to test your self-control. I will count one hundred and not one of you should move a muscle. Those who move will pay a fine of Rs 100/-. Ready ?” He started counting and everyone round the table became still like stone images. “One, two, three..... ninety, ninety-one,” and out of the corner of his eye, he saw the cobra moving towards the bowl of milk. As the cobra reached it, the Colonel quietly opened the verandah doors. After sometime everyone saw the snake leaving.

The Colonel turned to his hostess and said, “ Mrs. Lal how did you know that there was a cobra under the table ?” A faint smile lit up the woman’s face as she replied, “It was crawling

across my foot.”

“You have proved”, said the Colonel with a sigh of relief, “that a woman has that important extra ounce of control.”

Q1. Who was the host of the dinner party ?

Q2. Who agreed with the views of Captain Kaul ?

Q3. Why did Mrs. Lal become pale and rigid ?

Q4. What did Mrs. Lal whisper to the servant ?

Q5. What was Captain Kaul’s view about women ?

Q6. How do you know that Mr. Roy agreed with Captain Kaul ?

Q7. According to the passage, what is the meaning of courage ?

Q8. How did Colonel Khan know that the snake was under the table ?

Q9. What was the actual reason for Colonel Khan to tell everyone to sit still ?

Q10. What is the meaning of “nervous” ?

Q. 2. Give short -responses to the following (Any 5)

(10)

1. You are at an office party and meet a very old friend. What expression will you use to introduce him to your colleagues ?
2. If you want to ask for any address which expression would you use ?
3. Excuse me. Do you mind if I join you ? Which is this expression ?
4. You are attending a seminar. What expression will you use to introduce yourself ?
5. Your teacher has asked the class to suggest places for your college picnic. Respond.
6. You are not able to attend wedding of your friend, apologize to him.
7. “Medical treatments should be given to all”. Agree with this statement.

Q. 3. Write a brief dialogue on the situations given below.

(10)

1. You want to take a permission from your warden to come late at night as you are going for a movie. Write a brief dialogue.
2. Your neighbour invites you and your family to lunch on Diwali day. But you have booked your tour tickets and are leaving the same day. Write a brief conversation.

Q. 4. Write a letter (Any One)

(10)

1. You see an advertisement in the newspaper for vacancy for a Marketing Executive in M/s Touche Laminates Limited.

OR

Write an application letter to the Human Resource Manager for the post of a Marketing Executive

2. You have purchased some goods from Amazon India via online shopping. However, when the goods were delivered to you, it was in broken condition. Write a complaint letter to Amazon India.

Q. 5. Write an Essay in about 300 words on (any one) of the topics given below: (10)

1. Your idea of spending a day without having to worry about anything
2. A stitch in time saves nine.

Q. 6. Rewrite the sentences referring to the brackets (10)

1. Fill in the blank with a suitable conjunction
_____ I ran fast _____ missed the train (Neither-nor/ Whether-or/ Although-yet / Not only-but also)
2. Complete the sentence choosing the appropriate preposition
_____ the door was locked the thief broke the lock and went in. (Until / Since) –
3. Choose the correct form of verb to write the sentence in Perfect Past tense
They _____ missed the target by mere inches.(will miss/have missed/missed/was missed)
4. Choose the correct preposition to complete the sentence
It cannot be done _____ offence. (for, without)
5. Identify the part of speech of the underlined word
Her speech ended abruptly during the conference. (Pronoun /adjective / adverb/preposition)
6. Change to passive voice and rewrite the sentence
My aunt opened the door. (Door opened my aunt/ The door is opening by my aunt/ The door was opened by my aunt/ Aunt was opened my door)
7. Select the appropriate form of Verb
Today she was _____ her birthday. (celebrate, celebrating, celebrated)
8. Rewrite the sentence using 'so-that' without changing the meaning.
The door was locked too tightly to open.
9. Fill in the blank with the right article
He is _____ honest man. (a/an/the)
10. Complete the sentence using the correct modal auxiliary
We _____ make sure we carry a first aid box. (should/Shouldn't/mustn't/could)