

University of Colombo - Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Diploma in Journalism - 2017

DJ 02 – Language and Communication

Answer only five (05) questions, including question one (01)

Time 03 Hours

1. Summarize the following passage in hundred (100) words. Give a fitting title.

Reading the news today, does not exactly leave you feeling optimistic. Hurricanes in the Americas. Horrific mass shootings. Global tensions over nuclear arms, crisis in Myanmar, bloody civil wars in Syria and Yemen. Your heart breaks for every person who is touched by these tragedies. Even for those of us, lucky enough not to be directly affected, it may feel like the world is falling apart, but these events - as awful as they are - have happened in the context of a bigger, positive trend. On the whole the world is getting better. This is not some naively optimistic view, it's backed by data. Look at the number of children who die before their fifth birthday. Since 1990, that figure has been cut in half. That means, 122 million children have been saved in a quarter century and countless families have been spared the heart break of losing a child. And that is just one measure. In 1990 more than a third of the global population lived in extreme poverty; today only about a tenth do.

2. How does the use of SMS, affect the practice of English, especially in the Sri Lankan context?
3. From your point of view, what are the factors that hinder the study of the English language by today's students? Illustrate your answer with apt examples.
4. According to modern research about 2000 languages practiced in the world today will become extinct in 25 years. What are the forces that can drive a language into extinction?
5. Indicate at least three factors that make an essay appeal to the target - receivers. Explain why some writings discourage sustained reading.
6. 'Demotic language usages (folk speech) can at times enrich, a main stream language tradition.' Comment, with instances from Sri Lankan experiences.

(Contd.)

7. 'A significant contribution can be made by English language journalism to enhance the quality of Sri Lankan English.' Comment.
8. 'All facts point to a bright future for the English language in Sri Lanka.' Comment, quoting examples to support your view.
9. Study the two columns given below, marked X and Y. In column X you have names of 10 well-known books. Column Y gives name of authors. Match each book to the author correctly. In your answer please write the names of books and opposite each give the letter assigned to the Author. (Example: Arabian Nights - B)

X	Y	
1. Village in the Jungle	Rabindranath Tagore	A
2. Gitanjali	William Shakespeare	B
3. A Tale of Two Cities	Leonard Woolf	C
4. Romeo and Juliet	Ernest Hemingway	D
5. The Old Man and the Sea	Charles Dickens	E
6. The Waste Land	T. S. Eliot	F
7. War and Peace	J. Vijaytunga	G
8. The Cherry Orchard	Leo Tolstoy	H
9. The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	Anton Chekov	I
10. Grass for My Feet	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	J

10. Compose eight lines of simple poetry on any of the following themes.

- a) Leisure
- b) Travel
- c) Brotherhood
- d) Memories of Childhood
- e) The Sea
- f) In praise of parents
- g) Meditation
- h) Laughter
- i) Pilgrimage
- j) The moon