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Daffodil International University

Faculty of Science & Information Technology
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Final Examination, Summer-2025
Course Code: ENG 102 Course Title: Writing and Comprehension
Level: 1 Term: 2 Batch: 68

Time: 2 Hours **Marks: 40**

Answer ALL Questions

[The figures in the right margin indicate the full marks and corresponding course outcomes. All portions of each question must be answered sequentially.]

1.		**Reading**	**1x 20= 20 Marks**	**CO's**
		Reading Passage 1: Read the following passage and answer the following questions		CO 1

Archaeologists discover evidence of prehistoric island settlers

In early April 2019, Dr Ceri Shipton and his colleagues from Australian National University became the first archaeologists to explore Obi, one of many tropical islands in Indonesia's Maluku Utara province. The research team's discoveries suggest that the prehistoric people who lived on Obi were adept on both land and sea, hunting in the dense rainforest, foraging on the seashore, and possibly even voyaging between islands.

The excavations were part of a project to learn more about how people first dispersed from mainland Asia, through the Indonesian archipelago and into the prehistoric continent that once connected Australia and New Guinea. The team's earlier research suggested that the northernmost islands in the group, known as the Wallacean islands, including Obi, would have offered the easiest migration route. It also seemed likely that these islands were crucial 'stepping stones' on humans' island-hopping voyages through this region millennia ago. But to support this idea, they needed archaeological evidence for humans living in this remote area in the ancient past. So, they travelled to Obi to look for sites that might reveal evidence of early occupation.

Just inland from the village of Keio on Obi's northern coast, Shipton and his colleagues found two caves containing prehistoric rock shelters that were suitable for excavation. With the permission and help of the local people of Keio, they dug a small test excavation in each shelter. There they found numerous artefacts, including fragments of axes, some dating to about 14,000 years ago. The earliest axes at Keio were made using clam shells. Axes made from clam shells from roughly the same time had also previously been found elsewhere in this region, including on the nearby island of Gebe to the northeast. As on Gebe, it is highly likely that Obi's axes were used in the construction of canoes, thus allowing these early peoples to maintain connections between communities on neighbouring islands.

The oldest cultural layers from the Keio site provided the team with the earliest record for human occupation on Obi, dating back around 18,000 years. At this time the climate was drier and colder than today, and the island's dense rainforests would likely have been much less impenetrable than they are now. Sea levels

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were about 120 metres lower, meaning Obi was a much larger island, encompassing what is today the separate island of Bisa, as well as several other small islands nearby.

Roughly 11,700 years ago, as the most recent ice age ended, the climate became significantly warmer and wetter, no doubt making Obi's jungle much thicker. According to the researchers, it is no coincidence that around this time the first axes crafted from stone rather than sea shells appear, likely in response to their heavy-duty use for clearing and modification of the increasingly dense rainforest. While stone takes about twice as long to grind into an axe compared to shell, the harder material keeps its sharp edge for longer.

Judging by the bones which the researchers unearthed in the Keio caves, people living there mainly hunted the Rothschild's cuscus, a possum-like creature that still lives on Obi today. As the forest grew more dense, people probably used axes to clear patches of forest and make hunting easier.

Shipton's team's excavation of the shelters at the Keio site unearthed a volcanic glass substance called obsidian, which must have been brought over from another island, as there is no known source on Obi. It also revealed particular types of beads, similar to those previously found on islands in southern Wallacea. These finds again support the idea that Obi islanders routinely travelled to other islands.

The excavations suggest people successfully lived in the two Keio shelters for about 10,000 years. But then, about 8,000 years ago, both were abandoned. Did the residents leave Obi completely, or move elsewhere on the island? Perhaps the jungle had grown so thick that axes were no longer a match for the dense undergrowth. Perhaps people simply moved to the coast and turned to fishing rather than hunting as a means of survival.

Whatever the reason for the departure, there is no evidence for use of the Keio shelters after this time, until about 1,000 years ago, when they were re-occupied by people who owned pottery as well as items made out of gold and silver. It seems likely, in view of Obi's location, that this final phase of occupation also saw the Keio shelters used by people involved in the historic trade in spices between the Maluku islands and the rest of the world.

a) **(Questions 1-7)** **7x 1 = 7 Marks**

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

For the questions 1 - 4 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE. **if the statement agrees with the information**

FALSE. **if the statement contradicts the information**

NOT GIVEN **If there is no information on this**

1. Archaeological research had taken place on the island of Obi before the arrival of Ceri Shipton and his colleagues.
2. At the Keio sites, the researchers found the first clam shell axes ever to be discovered in the region.
3. The size of Obi today is less than it was 18,000 years ago.
4. A change in the climate around 11, 700 years ago had a greater impact on Obi than on the surrounding islands.
5. The researchers believe there is a connection between warmer, wetter weather and a change in the material used to make axes.
6. Shipton's team were surprised to find evidence of the Obi islanders' hunting practices.
7. It is thought that the Keio shelters were occupied continuously until about 1,000 years ago.

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b) **(Questions 8-11)** **4x 1 = 4 Marks**

Complete the notes below. Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in boxes 7-11 on your answer sheet.

- Excavations of rock shelters inside (8) ---------- near the village of Keio revealed:
- axes from around 14,000 years ago, probably used to make canoes
- axes made out of (9) ----------, dating from around 11,700 years ago
- (10) ---------- of an animal: evidence of what ancient islanders ate.
- evidence of travel between islands:
  – obsidian: a material that is not found naturally on Obi
  – (11) ---------- which resembled ones found on other islands.

Reading Passage 2: Read the following passage and answer the following questions

The global importance of wetlands

A Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil, for all or part of the year. These are complex ecosystems, rich in unique plant and animal life. But according to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWFN), half of the world's wetlands have disappeared since 1990 – converted or destroyed for commercial development, drainage schemes and the extraction of minerals and peat*. Many of those that remain have been damaged by agricultural pesticides and fertilisers, industrial pollutants, and construction works.

B Throughout history, humans have gathered around wetlands, and their fertile ecosystems have played an important part in human development. Consequently, they are of considerable religious, historical and archaeological value to many communities around the world. 'Wetlands directly support the livelihoods and well-being of millions of people,' says Dr Matthew McCartney, principal researcher and hydrologist at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). 'In many developing countries, large numbers of people are dependent on wetland agriculture for their livelihoods.'

C They also serve a crucial environmental purpose. 'Wetlands are one of the key tools in mitigating climate change across the planet,' says Pieter van Eijk, head of Climate Adaptation at Wetlands International (WI), pointing to their use as buffers that protect coastal areas from sea-level rise and extreme weather events such as hurricanes and flooding. Wetland coastal forests provide food and water, as well as shelter from storms, and WI and other agencies are working to restore those forests which have been lost. 'It can be as simple as planting a few trees per hectare to create shade and substantially change a microclimate,' he says. 'Implementing climate change projects isn't so much about money.'

D The world's wetlands are, unfortunately, rich sources for in-demand commodities, such as palm oil and pulpwood. Peatlands – wetlands with a waterlogged organic soil layer – are particularly targeted. When peatlands are drained for cultivation, they become net carbon emitters instead of active carbon stores, and, according to Marcel Silvius, head of Climate- smart Land-use at WI, this practice causes six per cent of all global carbon emissions. The clearance of

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peat lands for planting also increases the risk of forest fires, which release huge amounts of CO2. 'We're seeing huge peat land forests with extremely high biodiversity value being lost for a few decades of oil palm revenues,' says Silvius.

E The damage starts when logging companies arrive to clear the trees. They dig ditches to enter the peat swamps by boat and then float the logs out the same way. These are then used to drain water out of the peatlands to allow for the planting of corn, oil palms or pulpwood trees. Once the water has drained away, bacteria and fungi then break down the carbon in the peat and turn it into CO2 and methane. Meanwhile, the remainder of the solid matter in the peat starts to move downwards, in a process known as subsidence**. Peat comprises 90 per cent water, so this is one of the most alarming consequences of peatland clearances. 'In the tropics, peat subsides at about four centimetres a year, so within half a century, very large landscapes on Sumatra and Borneo will become flooded as the peat drops below water level,' says Silvius. 'It's a huge catastrophe that's in preparation. Some provinces will lose 40 per cent of their landmass.'

F And while these industries affect wetlands in ways that can easily be documented, Dr Dave Tickner of the WWFN believes that more subtle impacts can be even more devastating. 'Sediment run-off and fertilisers can be pretty invisible,' says Tickner. 'Over-extraction of water is equally invisible. You do get shock stories about rivers running red, or even catching fire, but there's seldom one big impact that really hurts a wetland.' Tickner does not blame anyone for deliberate damage, however. 'I've worked on wetland issues for 20 years and have never met anybody who wanted to damage a wetland,' he says. 'It isn't something that people generally set out to do. Quite often, the effects simply come from people trying to make a living.'

G Silvius also acknowledges the importance of income generation. 'It's not that we just want to restore the biodiversity of wetlands – which we do – but we recognise there's a need to provide an income for local people.' This approach is supported by IWMI. 'The idea is that people in a developing country will only protect wetlands if they value and profit from them,' says McCartney. 'For sustainability, it's essential that local people are involved in wetland planning and decision making and have clear rights to use wetlands.'

H The fortunes of wetlands would be improved, Silvius suggests, if more governments recognised their long-term value. 'Different governments have different attitudes,' he says, and goes on to explain that some countries place a high priority on restoring wetlands, while others still deny the issue. McCartney is cautiously optimistic, however. 'Awareness of the importance of wetlands is growing,' he says. 'It's true that wetland degradation still continues at a rapid pace, but my impression is that things are slowly changing.'

c) **(Questions 12-15)** **4x 1 = 4 Marks**

Reading Passage 2 has eight paragraphs, A-H. Which paragraph contains the following information? Write the correct letter, A-H, for 12-15 on your answer sheet.

12. reference to the need to ensure that inhabitants of wetland regions continue to benefit from them
13. the proportion of wetlands which have already been lost

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		14. reference to the idea that people are beginning to appreciate the value of wetlands 15. mention of the cultural significance of wetlands	
	d)	**(Questions 16-20)** **5x 1 = 5 Marks** **Complete the sentences. Write ONE WORD ONLY from the passage in each gap.** • Peatlands which have been drained begin to release (16) ---------- instead of storing it. • Once peatland areas have been cleared, (17) ---------- are more likely to occur. • Clearing peatland forests to make way for oil palm plantations destroys the (18) ---------- of the local environment. • Water is drained out of peatlands through the (19) ---------- which are created by logging companies. • Draining peatlands leads to (20) ---------- : a serious problem which can eventually result in coastal flooding and land loss.	
2		**Grammar** **7x 1 = 7 Marks**	**CO2**
		Correct the following sentences. i. I have stopped to go to ~~the~~ cinema. ii. The boy has a donkey who is in our class. iii. ~~The~~ cholera is a dreadful disease. iv. Usually I go to school late. v. He is better than ~~me.~~ vi. He was deprived ~~from~~ freedom. vii. He asked me what ~~am I~~ doing.	
3.		**Writing** **1x 13 = 13 Marks**	**CO3**
		Write an essay about the following topic. Maintaining public libraries is a waste of time since digital technology is now replacing their function. To what extend do you agree or disagree? **Write at least 250 words.**	

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