



***“Investing in Africa’s future”***  
**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES, THEOLOGY & EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES**  
**INTENSIVE ENGLISH UNIT**  
**HIE 102: INTENSIVE ENGLISH**  
**PAPER 1**  
**END OF SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATIONS**  
**MAY 2021 (ONLINE)**  
**LECTURERS: DR P.R SVONGORO & MRS J KIES**  
**DURATION: 7HRS**

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Answer ALL questions in this paper.
2. Marks for each question are indicated in brackets at the end.
3. Answer each question according to the instructions given.
4. Submit your answer on Moodle in **PDF** format within 7 hours.

**SECTION A:** Reading comprehension, Summarizing and Paraphrasing  
**[60 marks]**

**QUESTION**  
**[15 marks]**

**1**

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

**The Great Undertaking**

Walls and wall building have played a very important role in Chinese culture. These people, from the dim mists of prehistory have been wall-conscious; from the Neolithic period - when ramparts of pounded earth were used - to the Communist Revolution, walls were an essential part of any village. Not only towns and villages; the houses and the temples within them were somehow walled, and the houses also had no windows overlooking the street, thus giving the feeling of wandering around a huge maze. The name for "city" in Chinese (ch'eng) means wall, and over these walled cities, villages, houses and temples presides the god of walls and mounts, whose duties were, and still are, to protect and be responsible for the welfare of the inhabitants. Thus a great and extremely laborious task such as constructing a wall, which was supposed to run throughout the country, must not have seemed such an absurdity.

However, it is indeed a common mistake to perceive the Great Wall as a single architectural structure, and it would also be erroneous to assume that it was built during a single dynasty. For the building of the wall spanned the various dynasties, and each of these dynasties somehow contributed to the refurbishing and the construction of a wall, whose foundations had been laid many centuries ago. It was during the fourth and third century B.C. that each warring state started building walls to protect their kingdoms, both against one another and against the northern nomads. Especially three of these states: the Ch'in, the Chao and the Yen, corresponding respectively to the modern provinces of Shensi, Shanzi and Hopei, over and above building walls that surrounded their kingdoms, also laid the foundations on which Ch'in Shih Huang Di would build his first continuous Great Wall.

The role that the Great Wall played in the growth of Chinese economy was an important one. Throughout the centuries many settlements were established along the new border. The garrison troops were instructed to reclaim wasteland and to plant crops on it, roads and canals were built, to mention just a few of the works carried out. **All these undertakings** greatly helped to increase the country's trade and cultural exchanges with many remote areas and also with the southern, central and western parts of Asia - the formation of the Silk Route. Builders, garrisons, artisans, farmers and peasants left behind a trail of objects, including inscribed tablets, household

articles, and written work, which have become extremely valuable archaeological evidence to the study of defence institutions of the Great Wall and the everyday life of these people who lived and died along the wall.

**Adapted from:** <http://au-piranhatondeur.com/2006/great-wall-of-china-in.html>

**QUESTION 1(a):** Highlight the correct answer from the options given.

**Q1. The Great Wall of China**

- A. was built in a single dynasty.
- B. used foundations that were laid during the fourth and third century B.C.
- C. was completed during the Communist revolution.
- D. still attracts tourists from all over the world.

**Q2. Chinese cities resembled a maze**

- A. because they were surrounded by walls.
- B. because the name for cities means 'wall'
- C. because the Chinese people have always been wall-conscious.
- D. because the houses and temples were also walled.

**Q3. Constructing a wall that ran the length of the country**

- A. honoured the god of walls and mounts.
- B. may have made sense within the Chinese culture.
- C. made the country look like a huge maze.
- D. made Ch'in, the Chao and the Yen modern states.
- E. was an absurdly laborious task.

**Q4. The Great Wall**

- A. helped build trade only inside China.
- B. helped build trade only abroad.
- C. helped build trade in China and abroad.
- D. helped build trade only to remote areas.

**Q5. Crops were planted**

- A. on wasteland.
- B. on reclaimed wasteland.
- C. to reclaim wasteland.
- D. along the canals.

**QUESTION 1(b)**

Using evidence that you find in the text, complete the following sentences:

- Q6.** The original purpose of building walls in China was to .....
- Q7.** The **main** difference between the Great Wall and the other walls that were built in China is that .....
- Q8.** Ch'in, the Chao and the Yen ..... (are/were) ..... (modern/ancient) Chinese states.
- Q9.** Modern day archeologists can research the lives of the people who lived along the wall by .....
- Q10.** *All these undertakings* (paragraph 3) **refers to** .....

## **QUESTION 2**

**[15 marks]**

Complete the short passage below using the words which appear in brackets in front of each blank space. **Highlight** or underline the correct word for each blank space.

### **Understanding gender bias and poverty**

**1)** \_\_\_\_\_ (unequal, inequal, unequality, inequality) between men and women results in poorer health for children and greater **2)** \_\_\_\_\_ (poor, poorness, poverty, impoverished) for the family, **3)** \_\_\_\_\_ (resulting, according, regarding, with regard) to a new study. The UN agency Unicef found that in places where women are **4)** \_\_\_\_\_ (excluded, exclude, exclusion, excludes) from family decisions, children are more likely to suffer from **5)** \_\_\_\_\_. There would be 13 million **6)** \_\_\_\_\_ (ill-nourished, malnourish, malnutrition, ill-nutrition) malnourished children in South Asia if women had an equal say in the family, Unicef said. Unicef **7)** \_\_\_\_\_ family decision-making in 30 countries **8)** \_\_\_\_\_ (in, around, over, among) the world. Their chief finding is that equality between men and women is vital to **9)** \_\_\_\_\_ (increase, reduce, increasing, reducing) poverty and improving health, especially that of children, in developing countries. The conclusions are contained in the agency's latest report. This

report **10)** \_\_\_\_\_ (points, indicates, shows, suggests) to a greater **11)** \_\_\_\_\_ (lack, lacking, lacks, lucky) of opportunities for girls and women in education and work which contributes to disempowerment and poverty. Where men control the household, less money is spent on health care and food for the family, which **12)** \_\_\_\_\_ (leads, result, lead, results) in poorer health for the children.

An increase in **13)** \_\_\_\_\_ (employ, employment, employee, employed) and income-earning opportunities for women would increase their **14)** \_\_\_\_\_ (house, householder, household, home) power, the report said. For example, the agency found that **15)** \_\_\_\_\_ (whatever, whoever, whichever, however) has the greater share of household income and assets decides whether those resources will be used for family needs.

### QUESTION 3

[30 marks]

Below are summaries from four books. Read the summaries and answer the questions which follow.

*Factfulness* – Hans Rosling with Ola Rosling and Anna Rosling Rönnlund

In *Factfulness*, Professor Hans Rosling, along with two collaborators, asks simple questions about the world. Questions like ‘How many girls finish school?’ and ‘What percentage of the world’s population is poor?’ It turns out the majority of us get the answers to these questions completely wrong. Why does this happen? *Factfulness* sets out to explain why, showing that there are several instincts humans have that distort our perspective. For example, most people divide the world into US and THEM. In addition, we often believe that things are getting worse. And we are **consuming large amounts of media** that use a sales model based on making us afraid. But according to the authors, the world isn’t as bad as we think. Yes, there are real concerns. But we should adopt a mindset of factfulness – only carrying opinions that are supported by strong facts. This book is not concerned with the underlying reasons for poverty or progress, fouror what should be done about these issues. It focuses on our instinctive biases, **offering practical advice** to help us see the good as well as the bad in the world.

*Enlightenment Now* – Steven Pinker

Are things getting worse every day? Is progress an impossible goal? In *Enlightenment Now*, Steven Pinker looks at the big picture of human progress and finds good news. We are living longer, healthier, freer and

happier lives. Pinker asks us to stop paying so much attention to negative headlines and news that declares the end of the world. Instead, he shows us some carefully selected data. In 75 surprising graphs, we see that safety, peace, knowledge and health are getting better all over the world. When the evidence does not support his argument, however, he dismisses it. **Economic inequality**, he claims, is not really a problem, because it is not actually that important for human well-being. One cannot help wondering how many people actually living in poverty would agree. The real problem, Pinker argues, is that the Enlightenment values of reason and science are under attack. When commentators and demagogues appeal to people's tribalism, fatalism and distrust, then we are in danger of causing irreparable damage to important institutions like democracy and world co-operation.

*The Rational Optimist* – Matt Ridley

For more than two hundred years the pessimists have been winning the public debate. They tell us that things are getting worse. But in fact, life is getting better. Income, food availability and lifespan are rising; disease, violence and child mortality are falling. These trends are happening all around the world. Africa is **slowly coming out of poverty**, just as Asia did before. The internet, mobile phones and worldwide trade are making the lives of millions of people much better. Best-selling author Matt Ridley doesn't only explain how things are getting better; he gives us reasons why as well. He shows us how human culture evolves in a positive direction **thanks to** the exchange of ideas and specialisation. This bold book looks at the entirety of human history – from the Stone Age to the 21st century – and changes the notion **that it's all going downhill**. The glass really is half-full.

*The Great Surge* – Steven Radelet

The majority of people believe that developing countries are in a terrible situation: suffering from incredible poverty, governed by dictators and with little hope for any meaningful change. But, surprisingly, this is far from the truth. The reality is that a great transformation is occurring. Over the past 20 years, more than 700 million people have increased their income and come out of poverty. Additionally, six million fewer children die every year from disease, millions more girls are in school and millions of people have **access to clean water**. This is happening across developing countries around the world. The end of the Cold War, the development of new technologies and brave new leadership have helped to improve the lives of hundreds of millions of people in poor countries. The Great Surge describes how all of this

is happening and, more importantly, it shows us how we can accelerate the process.

**Adapted from:** British Council (2009) [www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish)

- (a) In not more than 50 words, summarise what the books say about the world and what human beings should and should not do.
- (b) Chose **one** word from the list, and complete the sentence by giving a good reason for your choice.

In my opinion, the message in all these summaries is \_\_\_\_\_ **(hopeful/depressing/unbelievable)** because \_\_\_\_\_

- (c) Which book explains that we tend to mentally divide humans into two clear groups?  
**a.** Factfulness **b.** Enlightenment Now **c.** The Rational Optimist **d.** The Great Surge
- (d) Which book claims that trade has helped make life better around the world?  
**a.** Factfulness **b.** Enlightenment Now **c.** The Rational Optimist **d.** The Great Surge
- (e) Which book makes the claim that unfair distribution of wealth does not affect happiness as much as people think? **a.** Factfulness **b.** Enlightenment Now **c.** The Rational Optimist **d.** The Great Surge
- (f) Paraphrase the following sentences and phrases taken from the book summaries above:
  - (i) From *Factfulness*: But we should adopt a mindset of factfulness – only carrying opinions that are supported by strong facts.
  - (ii) From *Enlightenment Now*: ...then we are in danger of causing irreparable damage to important institutions like democracy and world co-operation.
  - (iii) From *The Rational Optimist*: The glass really is half-full.
  - (iv) From *The Great Surge*: ...terrible situation

**SECTION B:** Vocabulary development and figurative speech  
**[40 MARKS]**

**QUESTION 4**

**(a) In your own words,** explain the following expressions that are highlighted in the four book summaries in Question 3 above:

1. consuming large amounts of media
2. offering practical advice
3. economic inequality
4. slowly coming out of poverty
5. thanks to
6. that it's all going downhill
7. access to clean water

**(b.)** Select a word from the list below to complete the sentences that follow:

*potentially , universal, several, free, massive, dearth of, widespread.*

1. There was a \_\_\_\_\_ explosion in the downtown area of Harare yesterday. The damage is extensive, and many buildings have been destroyed.
2. February is disability month. Communities around the world try to educate the general public on awareness of people with disabilities. Our community, for example, focuses on the deaf. \_\_\_\_\_ classes in deaf awareness and the basics of sign language (or signing) are offered to the public throughout this month.
3. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ truth for all time and in every place that man has been, is now, and always will be imperfect!
4. After the announcement that a dangerous new virus had been detected in all the major cities in the United States, there was \_\_\_\_\_ panic. Millions of people are currently evacuating their homes to move to less populated areas.



5. Ethiopia is a \_\_\_\_\_ wealthy country with enormous resources
6. “Most of the citizens have leadership potential, but \_\_\_\_\_ factors inhibit their leadership development, such as bad governance, poverty, corruption and religious bias.”
7. Unfortunately there is a \_\_\_\_\_ institutions and curricula to help young people today realize their dreams.

### QUESTION 5

Using different words, explain the figurative expressions underlined in the sentences below:

- a. *Africa Rising* is a television documentary that shows how a large rural area in Ethiopia, Sodo, takes matters into its own hands to fight poverty.
- b. Have a classmate or friend read your essay. A second set of eyes can catch any mistakes you missed.
- c. The family next door suffered a terrible tragedy. Their house caught fire last night; everything went up in smoke. They lost all their belongings. They will have to start from scratch.
- d. Daily, litter is daily more visible in every area of our beautiful campus. We need to act together. Each of us needs to play his or her part in cleaning it up.
- e. During the devastating Haiti earthquake of January 2010, the British Red Cross immediately went into action.

**End of Examination**