

Tribhuvan University

2079

Bachelor Level **4 Yrs. Prog.** / Humanities / III Year

Reading and Writing across the Disciplines

Com. English - 403

Full Marks: 70

Time: 3 hrs.

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable. The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Group A: Long Questions

Answer any TWO :

2×15=30

1. In his essay "Politics and the English Language," George Orwell argues that "thought corrupts language," but he also argues that "language can also corrupt thought" (paragraph 17). What argument is he making? Discuss with enclussions.
2. What is summary? What are some of the prominent types of academic and workplace writings that involve summary? Can summary be objective? What features of summary emerge from the discussion of Alan S. Blinder's "Will your Job be Exported" by Laurence Behrens and Leonard J. Rosen?
3. To begin to be cured, Joey had to *reinterpret* his life as explained in Bruno Bettelheim's "Joey: A Mechanical Boy." Reinterpretation traditionally has been a large part of the experience of going to college. Write an explanation of yourself or of someone else you know well who is undergoing such a reinterpretation. Explain the following concerns: What terms prevailed before college? What happened to call those terms into question? What kind of change has occurred, and what is at stake in this matter?

Group B: Medium-Length Questions

Answer any FOUR

4×10=40

4. Read the following news-item published in *The Kathmandu Post*. Write its summary based on note-making.

(1)

Nepali migrant workers sent home more than Rs1 trillion in the past fiscal year, making remittance a lifeline for the country's ailing economy. Remittance now ranks above foreign development assistance, foreign direct investment and private investments, combined, as a source of income for the country. But exploitation of Nepali migrant workers is increasing as fast. Migrant workers are three times more likely to be in forced labour than non-migrant adult workers, even though it has been decades since the abolition of slavery, according to a recent report entitled Global Estimates of Modern Slavery.

Fifty million people—or one in every 150 worldwide—are in situations of slavery globally, said the report jointly published by the International Labour Organisation, Walk Free and the International Organisation for Migration. The report said that 28 million workers were in forced labour, and 22 million were trapped in forced marriages. More than 3.3 million of them are children. Labour experts say that thousands of Nepalis face exploitation and forced labour when working in countries around the world. Nepal's weak diplomacy has been a barrier to addressing labour exploitation issues.

Nepalis are travelling abroad en masse due to limited job opportunities at home due to prolonged political instability. Labour migration can be beneficial, with remittances covering household expenses, including education, healthcare or savings, but exploitation and abuse of Nepali workers have remained unaddressed, experts say. "Obviously, we need a strong diplomatic initiative to address labour exploitation issues," said Rameshwar Nepal, executive director of Equidem Research Nepal, a human rights and labour rights research organisation. "The poor working conditions of Nepali migrant workers became apparent during the Covid-19 pandemic," said Nepal. "Our diplomatic missions need a complete overhaul to address labour issues." Nepal said that labour exploitation is rampant right from the recruitment phase. "Our labour governance is weak to intercept labour rights violations."

Commonly reported complaints include contract breaches, limited freedom of movement, non-payment of wages and confiscation of identity documents. Last month, nearly five dozen Nepali workers were deported from Qatar for allegedly joining a protest demanding

their back pay. "Migrant workers who are not protected by law or are unable to exercise their rights, face a higher risk of forced labour than other workers," the report said. "The forced labour prevalence of adult migrant workers is more than three times higher than that of adult non-migrant workers." Modern slavery, as defined in the report, comprises two principles—forced labour and forced marriage.

Both refer to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or cannot leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception or abuse of power.

In the Covid era or in 2021, around 10 million more people were in modern slavery as compared to 2016 global estimates, the report said. Women and children remain disproportionately vulnerable. The report suggests modern slavery can be ended by improving and enforcing laws and labour inspections; ending state-imposed forced labour; stronger measures to combat forced labour and trafficking in business and supply chains; extending social protection, and strengthening legal protections. The report has suggested raising the legal age of marriage to 18 without exception. Other measures include addressing the increased risk of trafficking and forced labour for migrant workers, promoting fair and ethical recruitment, and greater support for women, girls and vulnerable individuals, according to the report.

In the last fiscal year, 637,113 Nepalis were issued labour permits, the second highest figure in history. The highest number of labour approvals was 642,859 in the fiscal year 2016-17, according to the Department of Foreign Employment statistics. The rise, according to experts, was due to an increase in poverty immediately after the 2015 earthquake. The government issued labour permits to 76,403 individuals last month—from mid-August to mid-September. The trend shows that by the end of this fiscal year, the number of Nepalis migrating abroad could touch the 1 million mark.

Migration is a push factor basically caused by climatic and political factors. "In Nepal's case, it is apparently a political factor," said Jeevan Baniya, assistant director at the Centre for Study of Labour and Mobility, Social Science Baha, a non-profit involved in research in the social sciences in Nepal.

For the country which struggled for stable governments, there were hopes that the Nepal Communist Party, which was elected to power with a resounding majority in 2017, would increase jobs and opportunities by utilising the country's resources.

The powerful government plunged into crisis, putting the country into a state of uncertainty. "The migrant workers who had returned to Nepal during the Covid pandemic are back in their job destinations," said Baniya. "This number may rise because of the low development activities here." Along with the numbers, the unstable government is not worried about workers' safety, say insiders. They said that the compensation provided for death and serious injuries was nominal. The Foreign Employment Board statistics show that since 2008-09, families of more than 11,200 workers have received compensation for their deaths. Over 2,200 workers have received compensation for injuries.

The government says it is working to ensure the safety of migrant workers by allowing people to travel to countries with which Nepal has a bilateral labour agreement. "The safety of migrant workers has always been our priority," said Thaneshwar Bhusal, deputy spokesperson for the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. "We have a range of interventions, most of which are implemented, to ensure Nepalis workers are safe in their workplaces." According to Bhusal, pre-departure orientation programmes are the best tool to ensure workplace safety tutorials are provided to migrant workers in advance. "There is, however, a question of the effectiveness of such tools," he said.

The orientation programmes are poorly implemented, say experts. A new curriculum was introduced to provide country-specific information for outgoing labourers through an audio-visual medium, but it remains unimplemented. Organisations responsible for providing such training say they cannot implement the new curriculum by following the existing working procedure. Raja Ram Gautam, president of the Federation of Foreign Employment Orientation Associations Nepal, told the Post in a recent interview that they had been providing the same orientation training for the past one decade.

"Our embassies and diplomatic missions in labour destinations have limited themselves to carrying out administrative work," Ganesh Gurung, a senior labour migration expert, told the Post in a recent interview.

Under-secretary Bhusal argues that diplomatic missions are actively monitoring Nepali migrant workers' wellbeing. "But the diplomatic missions are severely strained in terms of human and capital resources."

5. Write a critique of an excerpt of an article published in *Los Angeles Times*:

Hydrogen the lightest and most abundant element of the universe is the next great energy revolution. Scientists call it the forever fuel because it never runs out. And when hydrogen is used to produce power, the only by products are pure water and heat.

The shift to fuel cells and hydrogen energy when it happens will be as significant and far-reaching in its effect on the American and global economy as the steam engine and coal in the 19th century and the internal combustion engine and oil in the 20th century.

Hydrogen has the potential to end the world's reliance on oil from the Persian Gulf. It will dramatically cut down on carbon dioxide emissions and mitigate the effects of global warming. And because hydrogen is so plentiful, people who have never before had access to electricity will be able to generate it.

The environmental community is up in arms over the Bush hydrogen agenda. Why? Hydrogen has a Janus face. Though it is found everywhere on Earth, it rarely exists free-floating in nature. Hydrogen has to be extracted from fossil fuels or water or biomass.

In other words, there is black hydrogen and green hydrogen. And it is this critical difference that separates Bush's vision of a hydrogen future from the vision many of us hold in the environmental movement.

Bush and Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham say hydrogen can free us from dependence on foreign oil. What they leave unsaid is that their plan calls for extracting hydrogen from all of the old energy sources oil, natural gas and coal and by harnessing nuclear power.

Bush would like to take us into a hydrogen future without ever leaving the fossil fuels and nuclear past.

Today, most commercial hydrogen is extracted from natural gas via a steam reforming process. Although natural gas emits less carbon dioxide than other fossil fuels in producing hydrogen, it is a finite resource and in relatively short supply. Hydrogen can also be extracted from coal, and enthusiasts point out that the U.S. enjoys ample coal reserves. The problem is that coal produces twice as much carbon dioxide as natural gas, which means a dramatic increase in global warming.

The coal industry counters that it might be possible to safely store the carbon dioxide emissions underground or in the ocean depths for thousands of years and has convinced the White House to subsidize further research into this. For many environmentalists, the issue of storing carbon dioxide seems eerily reminiscent of the arguments used by the nuclear industry about nuclear waste. The nuclear industry would like to produce hydrogen, but there are still unresolved issues surrounding the safe storage of nuclear waste, the skyrocketing costs of building new reactors and the vulnerability of nuclear power plants to terrorist attacks.

There is another way to produce hydrogen the green way that uses no fossil fuels or nuclear power. Renewable sources of energy wind, hydro- and geothermal power and photovoltaic cells are increasingly being used to produce electricity. That electricity, in turn, can be used, in a process called electrolysis, to split water into hydrogen and oxygen.

Hydrogen could also be extracted from sustainable energy crops and agricultural waste in a process called gasification. There would be no increase in carbon dioxide emissions because the carbon taken from the atmosphere by the plants is released back during hydrogen production.

The White House proposal calls for large subsidies to the coal and nuclear industries to extract hydrogen. The Secretary of Energy claims that the administration is equally committed to research and development of renewable sources of energy to extract hydrogen. However, the White House and the Republican Party have

systematically blocked efforts in Congress to establish target dates for the phasing in of renewable sources of energy in the generation of electricity and for transport.

If the U.S. is successful in steering the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy toward a black hydrogen future, it could lock the global economy into the old energy regime for much of the 21st century, with dire environmental and economic consequences.

The real benefits of a hydrogen future can be realized only if renewable sources of energy are phased in and eventually become the primary source for extracting hydrogen. In the interim, the U.S. government should be supporting much tougher automobile fuel standards, hybrid cars, the overhaul of the nation's power grid with emphasis on smart technology, the Kyoto Protocol on global warming and benchmarks for renewable energy adoption.

All of these other initiatives should be carried on concurrently with an ambitious national effort to subsidize and underwrite the research and development of renewable energy technology, hydrogen and fuel cells.

The goal should be a fully integrated green hydrogen economy by the end of the first half of the 21st century.

6. Critically analyze the theme of Thomas Jefferson's "The Declaration of Independence."
7. Examine arguing mode in Emily Martin's essay "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles."

§ Discuss how Martin Luther King, Jr., in his "Pilgrimage to Non-Violence," critiques both the extremes of liberalism and neo-orthodoxy

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(7)