



*English Language Exam for First Year Students,  
Faculty of Engineering*

Answer the following questions:

[Total: 40 marks]

Write a paragraph on ONE of the following:

[8 marks]

- The engineering profession
- How to make the best use of your leisure time
- Modern technology: its pros and cons

Read the following passage, and then answer the questions below:

[8 × 1½ = 12 marks]

It is the custom in America to give women special treatment. Although there was a time when they were denied the right to vote and their proper place was considered to be in the home, they were always looked upon as the "fair sex." A man's job was seen as that of the breadwinner; a woman's position was that of the homemaker. The man brings home the bacon and the woman takes care of the household. Along with this subservient role came certain privileges. A woman was given a priority in various social situations and treated with both reverence and respect. This respect she justly earned if she were a caring mother and a faithful wife.

In the past it has been the gentleman's responsibility to be her protector and escort. Even today a man with proper breeding and good manner will politely open the door for a lady, help her on with her coat when necessary and escort her to the door of her home after a date, making sure she is safely within the confines of her home. Likewise, when a man takes a woman out for dinner, it is considered polite to assist her with her chair when she gets up or sits down. On a crowded train or bus, it is altogether proper for a man to offer a woman his seat especially if she is elderly or pregnant. This respect for women dates perhaps to the time of chivalry when men fought duels for the hand of a fair maiden. The ritual of courtship involved the endurance of great hardships, the demonstration of valiant courage and the courtesy of good manners.

Even when it comes to shaking hands ladies come first. It is considered impolite for a man to extend his hand to a woman for a handshake upon first greeting. This remains the woman's option. If a man does not extend her hand to the man first, then the man should refrain from offering his. In this case the woman's choice comes first. Not only do ladies come first, but if she is the wife of the president, she is called the "First Lady" and women continue to break new "first" categories by entering into fields of social service once considered exclusively the realm of men. America now has had a first woman Secretary of State in the person of Madeline Albright and a "first" woman president may not be far off in the future.

There is no doubt that the Women's liberation movement has put women on an equal footing with men with respect to jobs and career opportunities. There can also be no denying that many women today expect to be treated the same as men in every way. Yet, in spite of their new freedom and social equality many of them seem to object to the rule of "ladies first."

Questions:

In the family what was considered to be the traditional position of women?

- (a) They were subservient and had no power.      (c) They were the breadwinners.
- (b) They were the homemakers.                      (d) They brought home the bacon

Which of the following would be considered a privilege of women?

- (a) To be the breadwinner.                              (c) To be treated with respect in certain situations
- (b) To be looked upon as the 'fair sex.'              (d) To become the one who brings home the bacon.

(To be cont.)



3. What would a man of proper breeding do for a woman on a crowded bus?
  - (a) Offer her his seat if she were standing.
  - (b) Pay her bus fare.
  - (c) Help her with her coat.
  - (d) Hold open the door of the vehicle.
4. What often happened in the time of chivalry?
  - (a) The ritual of courtship was complicated.
  - (b) Good manners created hardships for all.
  - (c) Men fought duels for the hand of a woman in marriage.
  - (d) A woman's hand was that of a fair maiden.
5. When shaking hands with a woman what is considered rude?
  - (a) To make eye contact.
  - (b) To offer one's hand first if one is a man.
  - (c) To wait for the woman to offer her hand.
  - (d) To smile while shaking hands.
6. The wife of the president of the U.S. is called -----
  - (a) the "First Wife of the Land"
  - (b) the "President's First Wife"
  - (c) the "Lady of the Land"
  - (d) the "First Lady"
7. What has been one of the accomplishments of the Women's Liberation Movement in the United States?
  - (a) Women now earn more than men.
  - (b) They have fought successfully for equality of women with respect to job opportunities.
  - (c) Ladies are now treated with respect first in everything.
  - (d) Women have greater political and financial power.
8. How do most American women feel about the concept of "Ladies First"?
  - (a) They like it.
  - (b) They hate it.
  - (c) They feel uncomfortable with it.
  - (d) It makes them feel subservient.

### III. Grammar:

[6 × 2 = 12 marks]

Choose the correct answer:

1. Usually, I (work – works – am working) as a secretary at ABT, but this summer I (study – studies – am studying) French at a language school in Paris.
2. I (hate – hates – am hating) living in Seattle because it always (rain – rains – is raining).
3. I (visit – visited – have visited) so many beautiful places since I (come – came – have come) Cairo.
4. I (don't watch – didn't watch – haven't watched) TV talk show programs (since – for – ago) two years.
5. Last night, while I (do – did – was doing) my homework, Angela (call – called – had called).
6. In the last hundred years, traveling (become – became – has become) much easier and very comfortable. In the nineteenth century, it (takes, took – has taken) two or three months to cross North America by covered wagon.

### IV. Translate the following passage into Arabic:

[8 marks]

It is said that television has destroyed the art of conversation and made people unhappy by forcing them to want things they don't need. On the other hand, it helps people to update their knowledge of the world affairs, as they can see current events in different parts of the world the moment they occur.

Best wishes!

Dr. Ashraf G. Abdel-Malak