



Register Number:

Date: 13-8-18

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE- 27
I SEMESTER B.A.MID-SESSION TEST-- AUGUST 2018
COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH: CE-116

TIME: 1 HOUR

MAX MARKS: 30

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper contains printed sides.
2. You are allowed to use a dictionary, during the examination.

I. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 80-100 words each: (1x5=5)

1. Explain the difference between Synchronic and Diachronic.
Or
2. Differentiate between Langue and Parole.

II. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 150 words: (1x10=10)

3. What are the different theories about the origin of the language? Which theory according to you would seem most plausible?
Or
4. What are consonant sounds? Describe the various consonant sounds in terms of how and where they are articulated with examples?

III. Read an excerpt from an article by Laura Bennet on The First Person Industrial Complex.

First-person writing has long been the Internet's native voice. As long as there have been bloggers, there have been young people scraping their interior lives in order to convert the rawest bits into copy. But we are currently in the midst of an unprecedented moment in the online first-person boom. The rise of the unreported hot take, that much-maligned instant spin on the news of the day, has meant that editors are constantly searching for writers with any claim to expertise on a topic to elevate their pieces above the swarm. First-person essays have become the easiest way for editors to stake out some small corner of a news story and assert an on-the-ground primacy without paying for reporting. And first-person essays have also become the easiest way to jolt an increasingly jaded Internet to attention, as the bar for provocation has risen higher and higher. For writers looking to break in, offering up grim, personal dispatches may be the surest ways to get your pitches read.

It's been seven years since former *Gawker* editor Emily Gould sprawled on an unmade bed on the cover of the *New York Times Magazine* beside the words "Blog-Post Confidential," arguably the first moment of mainstream cultural grappling with the new age of digital self-disclosure. Since then, the Internet's confessional impulse has been fully codified. Every site seems to have a first person vertical and a first-person editor. Gone are all the old existential rumblings about the perils of "oversharing" and the ego-amplifying effects of the Web. Early adopters such as *Gawker* and *Jezebel* and *xoJane* and *Salon* jostle for attention alongside the likes of *BuzzFeed Ideas* and *PostEverything* and *Vox First Person*. *Rookie* has a rubric called "Live Through This." The *Guardian* has "Experience."

The essays reach for the universal even as they dig into the acutely personal.

Take a safari through these sections and the main impression—aside from despair at the exhibit of dire human experience on display—is that all the headlines tend to blur together. Sure, *Vox's* essays are chopped up into scannable sections with instructional headlines ("How Medicaid Forces Families Like Mine to Stay Poor"); *BuzzFeed's* are often more casual and chatty ("Fat Monica Wasn't Just Courteney Cox in a Fatsuit. She Was My Truth"), *Rookie's* are hormonal and whimsically illustrated ("Why Do I Keep Writing About the Time I Got My Heart Broken?"). But for all the different house styles these pieces accommodate, it's striking how many of them read like reverse-engineered headlines, buzzy premises fleshed out with the gritty details of firsthand experience.

III.A. Answer the following in 80 words. (2X5=10)

1. Do you feel that the first person narrative can slice into the popularity of mainstream journalism? Elaborate with examples from your experiences.
2. How has the internet increased the popularity of the personal essay? Elaborate with examples.

IV. What according to you are the good elements of a balanced news report? Elaborate your answer citing any reporting piece you have read recently. Answer in around 80 words. (5 marks)