READING (W-1)

INDIAN MARRIAGES

Marriage is one of the oldest human institutions and this is as true in Indian culture as anywhere else. In India marriage, called “Kanyadana" or “donating a virgin”, is thought of as the greatest sacrifice that a father can make and for the groom as an obligation to perpetuate his bloodline. Many people believe that a marriage is still binding after death.

In early times girls were thought to be ready for marriage after puberty and later even children could be married. Divorce and remarriage were not always possible. By Medieval times Marriage was compulsory for girls, who very often married between the ages of eight and nine. Among those able to afford it, polygamy was common and rulers would often have one wife from their own region and other minor wives from other areas. Now, divorce and remarriage is possible and non-Muslim Indian men can only have one wife.

Although are many regional variations, some features of the Indian wedding ceremony are similar throughout the country. In general weddings are very complicated events and involve long negotiations about dowry payments prior to the event. After this has been decided a day is chosen by asking an astrologer to find a lucky day. Preparations begin early because a marriage is not only one of the highlights a person’s life, but a large and complex social gathering to organize.

The night before, the bride, her friends and female relatives gather together for a party called a “mehendi”, where they paint each other’s hands and feet with Henna and dance and listen to music. Her guests often give the bride advice about married life and tease her about her future husband. Weddings are traditionally held at the bride’s home or in a temple, but parks, hotels and marriage halls are becoming increasingly popular. On the day a wedding altar or “mandapa” is built and covered in flowers. All of the wedding ceremony will be held in the altar.

The clothing a couple wears on their wedding day varies between regions and ethnic groups. Women most commonly wear a sari. The bride wears a lot of jewelry as this symbolizes the prosperity she will bring to her new family. In the South wearing flowers is common. The groom wears traditional costume or a suit. Turbans are also popular headgear.

The ceremony begins with a mixture of turmeric, sandalwood paste and oils being applied to the couples face and arms. In the past this was done to the whole body, but now it is only symbolic, with only a little being rubbed on. Then they are showered in flowers. After this they perform the rituals that will make them man and wife. First they garland each other and then take seven symbolic steps together representing seven gifts and seven promises.

Finally they say the vows and then they are legally married. The bride’s father or guardian takes her hands and puts them in her husband’s giving her to him. Now she is no longer a member of her father’s family, but a member of her husband’s. They then touch the feet of their elders for luck.

READING (W-1)

After the wedding ceremony, the couple goes to the groom's house. The bride should be careful to enter the house right foot first for luck. In the evening and late into the night the families and their guests celebrate with dancing, music and food.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWERS A – D.

1. In India weddings are …

A a duty for the man to continue his family.
B thought to end at death.
C a duty for the father.
D seen as a benefit for the father.

2. Divorce and remarriage …

A are only possible for non-Muslims.
B was sometimes not possible in the past.
C has always been possible.
D has only become possible in modern times.

3. Indian weddings …

A are straightforward and brief.
B is thought to be lucky
C is intricate and time consuming.
D involves only the immediate family.

Complete the statements below. Use **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS***.* The evening prior to the wedding, the wife-to-be is given recommendations about _____.

The wedding ceremony is conducted in a special _____.

The gold and jewels the bride wears represent _____.

These days, the materials applied to the face and arms at the start of the ceremony are just _____.

After the wedding, the bride has left _____ and belongs to her husband's.

It is important that the new bride goes into the new house with her _____.

READING (W-1)

THE CONTAINER TRADE

The shipping container is one of the mainstays of international trade. The globalized modern economy depends on the rapid and efficient movement of goods that containerization allows. In many ways it was the advent of the container that allowed this globalized economy to develop.

Invented during World War two as an efficient method of moving equipment to the front lines, there are now at any one time up to 15 million containers being used to transport goods on land and sea or waiting to be filled at factories and ports. They are vital in the supply chain and have allowed the added efficiency of "just in time" inventory management, where companies no longer keep large warehouses of stock or parts, but rely on the ability to quickly order what they want from their suppliers. It is estimated that since the 1980s the ratio of inventory to GDP in American businesses has fallen from 25% to 15%. Altogether total business inventory in the US is estimated at $1.5 trillion, without "just in time" management methods this might be as much as $2.5 trillion.

This means that companies rely more and more on the prompt delivery of parts from their suppliers to fulfill orders. This is particularly true of industries such as computer manufacture, which no longer make all the parts of the products that bear their names, but instead out source, often to suppliers half way around the world. American computer manufacturers are, for example, increasingly dependent on Asian microchip manufacturers in countries such as Taiwan and Thailand. An example of the kind of problems any disruption to the supply chain causes came after the September 11 attacks in the US when the Canadian border was shut for just two days causing chaos in the Detroit car industry, which relies on a regular flow of parts from Canada.

There are three main flows of sea borne cargo: Trans-Pacific, trans-Atlantic and Europe-Far East. The trans-Pacific route is by far the largest flow. At 11 million TEU ("twenty foot equivalent units") a year, it is almost twice the volume of Europe-Far East trade and three times the size of trans-Atlantic traffic. During the 1990s, during America's boom years, the trade of all the routes grew enormously and this led to more and larger ships being built. The container fleet grew by 12% in 2001. Until then, a container ship commonly carried 600 TEU; during the 1990s ships were being build that could carry up to 8000 TEU. However after the 1990s there was a dramatic fall off in trade. Trans-Pacific trade, for example, fell to 50% of its 1990s high.

This down turn is being handled by the shipping alliances which manage the global trade. These large organizations are responsible for maintaining the fleets and seeing that the flow of goods is uninterrupted. This is a job that governments feel that the regular and reliable flow of trade is so important that in many cases the shipping alliances are exempt from anti-trust and monopoly laws. Their response has been to cut services, rest some of the older ships and share the burden amongst themselves. At first, containers reduced theft as it was more difficult for casual thieves to get into the containers. However, criminal gangs soon saw the potential for taking whole containers. This became a profitable crime as the average value of a container

grew to $500,000 by the 1980s. Criminals also benefited from the convenience of containers when using them to transport drugs, illegal immigrants or other illegal goods. Measures to combat this, including stronger locks and preference schemes for shippers who have anti-theft programmers, have had some success, but crime is a constant menace to the container trade. Increasingly, the huge number of containers and their self-contained and enclosed nature has been raising worries about their possible use by terrorists. In fact, possible terrorists have already been found hiding in containers. This is particularly worrying considering that only 2% of containers are inspected. Containers are also extremely difficult to track and monitor. This is because they pass through so many countries and jurisdictions and because they can travel on both land and sea.

Each transaction involving a container can involve as many as 25 different parties and generate between 30 and 40 documents. For a ship carrying 600 TEU this would result in approximately 4000 documents. The sheer scale of the information involved makes tracking containers a daunting task. Screening them to determine the contents is another solution that would take a great deal of effort because of the large numbers of containers. Additionally, it might cause delays in delivery that would disrupt international trade and industry out of proportion to the good the searches do.For the foreseeable future, there would seem to be no alternative to containers and their use is bound to grow. They are one of the cornerstones of global trade, but many yet cause problems their inventors never envisaged.

Choose the best TWO alternatives to complete the sentences.

Questions 1 and 2.Circle TWO letters A – E.

The invention of containers…
A resulted from the efficient movement of goods.
B led to more global trade.
C was initially for military purposes.
D came just in time for many managers.
E relied on the ability to receive orders quickly.

Questions 3 and 4.Circle TWO letters A – E.

Containers are important because they…
A prevent the need for companies to hold large amounts of stock.
B increases the amount of business inventory.
C makes trade between countries on different sides of the world easier.
D regularly supply manufactures in Canada.
E reduces the amount of out sourcing needed by companies.

READING (W-1)

Questions 5 and 6. Circle **TWO** letters **A – E.**

The Trans-Pacific trade route…
A has nearly double the amount of trade as that of the Europe-Far East trade route.
B had its container fleet increase by 12%.
C sparked the boom years of the 1990s.
D usually carried around 600 TEU.
E has witnessed a substantial decrease in container trade.

READING EXAMPLE: QUESTIONS 7 – 10 complete the table below. Use **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the reading passage for each answer. Write your answers on your answer sheet.

CAUSE	**EFFECT**
a sharp fall in container trade	shipping alliances…**(7)** …old ships
originally difficult to get into containers	A drop in… **(8)** …
vast numbers of containers, which are relatively secure	Concerns over… **(9)** …
Containers must pass through many countries and involve a vast amount of paperwork.	Containers are… **(10)** …

READING EXAMPLE: QUESTIONS 11 – 12 complete the sentences below using words taken from the reading passage.

11. The benefits of searching containers would be outweighed by the negative impacts on worldwide trade and industry due to the ……

12. The inventors must never have imagined that containers would ……..

READING (W-1)

A NEUROSCIENTIST REVEALS HOW TO THINK DIFFERENTLY

In the last decade a revolution has occurred in the way that scientists think about the brain. We now know that the decisions humans make can be traced to the firing patterns of neurons in specific parts of the brain. These discoveries have led to the field known as neuroeconomics, which studies the brain's secrets to success in an economic environment that demands innovation and being able to do things differently from competitors. A brain that can do this is an iconoclastic one. Briefly, an iconoclast is a person who does something that others say can't be done.

This definition implies that iconoclasts are different from other people, but more precisely, it is their brains that are different in three distinct ways: perception, fear response, and social intelligence. Each of these three functions utilizes a different circuit in the brain. Naysayers might suggest that the brain is irrelevant, that thinking in an original, even revolutionary, way is more a matter of personality than brain function. But the field of neuroeconomics was born out of the realization that the physical workings of the brain place limitations on the way we make decisions. By understanding these constraints, we begin to understand why some people march to a different drumbeat.

The first thing to realize is that the brain suffers from limited resources. It has a fixed energy budget, about the same as a 40 watt light bulb, so it has evolved to work as efficiently as possible. This is where most people are impeded from being an iconoclast. For example, when confronted with information streaming from the eyes, the brain will interpret this information in the quickest way possible. Thus it will draw on both past experience and any other source of information, such as what other people say, to make sense of what it is seeing. This happens all the time. The brain takes shortcuts that work so well we are hardly ever aware of them. We think our perceptions of the world are real, but they are only biological and electrical rumblings. Perception is not simply a product of what your eyes or ears transmit to your brain. More than the physical reality of photons or sound waves, perception is a product of the brain.

Perception is central to iconoclasm. Iconoclasts see things differently to other people. Their brains do not fall into efficiency pitfalls as much as the average person's brain. Iconoclasts, either because they were born that way or through learning, have found ways to work around the perceptual shortcuts that plague most people. Perception is not something that is hardwired into the brain. It is a learned process, which is both a curse and an opportunity for change. The brain faces the fundamental problem of interpreting physical stimuli from the senses. Everything the brain sees, hears, or touches has multiple interpretations.

The one that is ultimately chosen is simply the brain's best theory. In technical terms, these conjectures have their basis in the statistical likelihood of one interpretation over another and are heavily influenced by past experience and, importantly for potential iconoclasts, what other people say.
The best way to see things differently to other people is to bombard the brain with things it has never encountered before. Novelty releases the perceptual process from the chains of past

experience and forces the brain to make new judgments. Successful iconoclasts have an extraordinary willingness to be exposed to what is fresh and different. Observation of iconoclasts shows that they embrace novelty while most people avoid things that are different.

The problem with novelty, however, is that it tends to trigger the brain's fear system. Fear is a major impediment to thinking like an iconoclast and stops the average person in his tracks. There are many types of fear, but the two that inhibit iconoclastic thinking and people generally find difficult to deal with are fear of uncertainty and fear of public ridicule. These may seem like trivial phobias. But fear of public speaking, which everyone must do from time to time, afflicts one-third of the population. This makes it too common to be considered a mental disorder. It is simply a common variant of human nature, one which iconoclasts do not let inhibit their reactions.

Finally, to be successful iconoclasts, individuals must sell their ideas to other people. This is where social intelligence comes in. Social intelligence is the ability to understand and manage people in a business setting. In the last decade there has been an explosion of knowledge about the social brain and how the brain works when groups coordinate decision making. Neuroscience has revealed which brain circuits are responsible for functions like understanding what other people think, empathy, fairness, and social identity. These brain regions play key roles in whether people convince others of their ideas. Perception is important in social cognition too. The perception of someone's enthusiasm, or reputation, can make or break a deal. Understanding how perception becomes intertwined with social decision making shows why successful iconoclasts are so rare.

Iconoclasts create new opportunities in every area from artistic expression to technology to business. They supply creativity and innovation not easily accomplished by committees. Rules aren't important to them. Iconoclasts face alienation and failure, but can also be a major asset to any organization. It is crucial for success in any field to understand how the iconoclastic mind works.

QUESTIONS 1-5 choose the correct letter, **A, B, C or D**.

1) Neuroeconomics is a field of study which seeks to
- **A** cause a change in how scientists understand brain chemistry.
- **B** understands how good decisions are made in the brain.
- **C** understands how the brain is linked to achievement in compfields.
- **D** traces specific firing patterns of neurons in many areas of the brain.

2) According to the writer, iconoclasts are distinctive because
- **A** they create unusual brain circuits.
- **B** their brains function differently.
- **C** their personalities are distinctive.
- **D** they make decisions easily.

3) According to the writer, the brain works efficiently because
- **A** it uses the eyes quickly.
- **B** it interprets data logically.
- **C** it generates its own energy.
- **D** it relies on previous events.

4) The writer says that perception is
- **A** a combination of photons and sound waves.
- **B** a reliable product of what your senses transmit.
- **C** a result of brain processes.
- **D** a process we are usually conscious of.

5) According to the writer, an iconoclastic thinker
- **A** centralises perceptual thinking in one part of the brain.
- **B** avoids cognitive traps.
- **C** has a brain that is hardwired for learning.
- **D** has more opportunities than the average person.

Questions 6-11 Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading Passage? *In boxes **6-11** on your answer sheet, write*

YES *if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer*
NO *if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer*
NOT GIVEN *if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this*

6) Exposure to different events forces the brain to think differently.
7) Iconoclasts are unusually receptive to new experiences.
8) Most people are too shy to try different things.
9) If you think in an iconoclastic way, you can easily overcome fear.
10) When concern about embarrassment matters less, other fears become irrelevant.
11) Fear of public speaking is a psychological illness.

Questions 12-14 *Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A-E, below*

A requires both perceptual and social intelligence skills.
B focuses on how groups decide on an action.
C works in many fields, both artistic and scientific.
D leaves one open to criticism and rejection.
E involves understanding how organisations manage people.

12) Thinking like a successful iconoclast is demanding because it
13) The concept of the social brain is useful to iconoclasts because it
14) Iconoclasts are generally an asset because their way of thinking

READING (W-1)

MCQ - COAL

Greenhouse gases arise from a wide range of sources and their increasing concentration is largely related to the compound effects of increased population, improved living standards and changes in lifestyle. From a current base of 5 billion, the United Nations predicts that the global population may stabilize in the twenty-first century between 8 and 14 billion, with more than 90 per cent of the projected increase taking place in the world's developing nations. The associated activities to support that growth, particularly to produce the required energy and food, will cause further increases in greenhouse gas emissions. The challenge, therefore, is to attain a sustainable balance between population, economic growth and the environment.

The major greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are carbon dioxide (CO2), methane and nitrous oxide. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are the only major contributor to the greenhouse effect that does not occur naturally, coming from such sources as refrigeration, plastics and manufacture. Coal's total contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is thought to be about 18 per cent, with about half of this coming from electricity generation.

The worldwide coal industry allocates extensive resources to researching and developing new technologies and ways of capturing greenhouse gases. Efficiencies are likely to be improved dramatically, and hence CO2 emissions reduced, through combustion and gasification techniques which are now at pilot and demonstration stages.

Clean coal is another avenue for improving fuel conversion efficiency. Investigations are under way into *super-clean* coal (35 per cent ash) and *ultraclean* coal (less than 1 per cent ash). Super-clean coal has the potential toenhance the combustion efficiency of conventional pulverized fuel power plants. Ultraclean coal will enable coal to be used in advanced power systems such as coal-fired gas turbines which, when operated in combined cycle, have the potential to achieve much greater efficiencies.

Defendants of mining point out that, environmentally, coal mining has two important factors in its favour. It makes only temporary use of the land and produces no toxic chemical wastes. By carefully preplanning projects, implementing pollution control measures, monitoring the effects of mining and rehabilitating mined areas, the coal industry minimizes the impact on the neighboring community, the immediate environment and long-term land capability.

Dust levels are controlled by spraying roads and stockpiles, and water pollution is controlled by carefully separating clean water runoff from runoff which contains sediments or salt from mine workings. The latter is treated and reused for dust suppression. Noise is controlled by modifying equipment and by using insulation and sound enclosures around machinery.

Since mining activities represent only a temporary use of the land, extensive rehabilitation measures are adopted to ensure that land capability after mining meets agreed and

appropriate standards which, in some cases, are superior to the land's pre-mining condition. Where the mining is underground, the surface area can be simultaneously used for forests, cattle grazing and crop rising, or even reservoirs and urban development, with little or no disruption to the existing land use. In all cases, mining is subject to stringent controls and approvals processes.

Questions 1 – 5Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.Write your answers in boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet.

1 The global increase in greenhouse gases has been attributed to
- A Industrial pollution in developing countries.
- B Coal mining and electricity generation.
- C Reduced rainfall in many parts of the world.
- D Trends in population and lifestyle.

2 The proportion of all greenhouse gases created by coal is approximately
- A 14 per cent.
- B 18 per cent.
- C 27 per cent.
- D 90 per cent.

3 Current research aims to increase the energy-producing efficiency of coal by
- A Burning it at a lower temperature.
- B Developing new gasification techniques.
- C Extracting CO2 from it.
- D Recycling greenhouse gases.

4 Compared with ordinary coal, new, 'clean' coals may generate power
- A More cleanly and more efficiently.
- B More cleanly but less efficiently.
- C More cleanly but at higher cost.
- D More cleanly but much more slowly.

5 To control dust at mine sites, mining companies often use
- A Chemicals which may be toxic.
- B Topsoil taken from the site before mining.
- C Fresh water from nearby dams.
- D Runoff water containing sediments.

6 Choose the most suitable title for the text from the list below.Write the correct letter, A, B, C or D, in box 6 on your answer sheet.
- A Pollution control in coal mining
- B The greenhouse effect
- C The coal industry and the environment
- D Sustainable population growth

READING (W-1)

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES

All these activities may have damaging environmental impacts. For example, land clearing for agriculture is the largest single cause of deforestation; chemical fertilisers and pesticides may contaminate water supplies; more intensive farming and the abandonment of fallow periods tend to exacerbate soil erosion; and the spread of monoculture and use of high-yielding varieties of crops have been accompanied by the disappearance of old varieties of food plants which might have provided some insurance against pests or diseases in future. Soil erosion threatens the productivity of land in both rich and poor countries. The United States, where the most careful measurements have been done, discovered in 1982 that about one-fifth of its farmland was losing topsoil at a rate likely to diminish the soil's productivity. The country subsequently embarked upon a program to convert 11 per cent of its cropped land to meadow or forest. Topsoil in India and China is vanishing much faster than in America.

Government policies have frequently compounded the environmental damage that farming can cause. In the rich countries, subsidies for growing crops and price supports for farm output drive up the price of land. The annual value of these subsidies is immense: about $250 billion, or more than all World Bank lending in the 1980s. To increase the output of crops per acre, a farmer's easiest option is to use more of the most readily available inputs: fertilisers and pesticides. Fertiliser use doubled in Denmark in the period 1960-1985 and increased in The Netherlands by 150 per cent. The quantity of pesticides applied has risen too: by 69 per cent in 1975-1984 in Denmark, for example, with a rise of 115 per cent in the frequency of application in the three years from 1981.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s some efforts were made to reduce farm subsidies. The most dramatic example was that of New Zealand, which scrapped most farm support in 1984. A study of the environmental effects, conducted in 1993, found that the end of fertiliser subsidies had been followed by a fall in fertiliser use (a fall compounded by the decline in world commodity prices, which cut farm incomes). The removal of subsidies also stopped land-clearing and over-stocking, which in the past had been the principal causes of erosion. Farms began to diversify. The one kind of subsidy whose removal appeared to have been bad for the environment was the subsidy to manage soil erosion.

In less enlightened countries, and in the European Union, the trend has been to reduce rather than eliminate subsidies, and to introduce new payments to encourage farmers to treat their land in environmentally friendlier ways, or to leave it fallow. It may sound strange but such payments need to be higher than the existing incentives for farmers to grow food crops. Farmers, however, dislike being paid to do nothing. In several countries they have become interested in the possibility of using fuel produced from crop residues either as a replacement for petrol (as ethanol) or as fuel for power stations (as biomass). Such fuels produce far less carbon dioxide than coal or oil, and absorb carbon dioxide as they grow. They are therefore less likely to contribute to the greenhouse effect. But they are rarely competitive with fossil fuels unless subsidised - and growing them does no less environmental harm than other crops.

Questions 10 – 12 - Choose the appropriate letters **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**. Write your answers in boxes 10-12 on your answer sheet.

10 Research completed in 1982 found that in the United States soil erosion

- **A** reduced the productivity of farmland by 20 per cent.
- **B** was almost as severe as in India and China.
- **C** was causing significant damage to 20 per cent of farmland.
- **D** could be reduced by converting cultivated land to meadow or forest.

11 By the mid-1980s, farmers in Denmark

- **A** used 50 per cent less fertiliser than Dutch farmers.
- **B** used twice as much fertiliser as they had in 1960.
- **C** applied fertiliser much more frequently than in 1960.
- **D** more than doubled the amount of pesticide they used in just 3 years.

12 Which one of the following increased in New Zealand after 1984?

- **A** farm incomes
- **B** use of fertiliser
- **C** over-stocking
- farm diversification

READING (W-1)

ANSWERS

INDIAN MARRIAGES

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. married life
5. (wedding) alter / mandapa
6. prosperity
7. symbolic
8. her father's family
9. right foot first

THE CONTAINER TRADE

1. B - led to more global trade.
2. C - was initially for military purposes.
3. A - prevent the need for companies to hold large amounts of stock.
4. C - make trade between countries on different sides of the world easier.
5. A - has nearly doubled the amount of trade as that of the Europe
6. E - has witnessed a substantial decrease in container trade.
7. rest some
8. theft
9. use by terrorists
10. difficult to track
11. delays in delivery
12. cause problems

MCQ – NEUROSCIENTISTS

1-C
2-B
3D
4C
5B
6 YES
7 YES
8 NOT GIVEN
9 NO
10 NOT GIVEN
11 NO
12A
13B
14C

COAL

1. D
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. D
6. C

GOVT. SUBSIDIES

10 C

11 B

12 D