



University of Kelaniya -- Sri Lanka

External Examinations Branch

Faculty of Commerce and Management

Bachelor of Commerce (Special) Degree First Examination – (External) 2009

October/ November 2010

External Examination BCOM E 13070/1080

Total Marks: 100

Time: 3 hours

Answer all the questions on this paper.

No of Questions: 6

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions.

(15 marks)

The unemployment rate in Sri Lanka is not exceptional when compared with other countries in the world. In fact, it might seem relatively low. On a list of countries ranked in order of their rate of unemployment in the *World Factbook* produced by the US Central Intelligence Agency, Sri Lanka ranks 62nd with a comparatively low unemployment rate of 5.2%, a figure that concurs with that in the Central Bank report of 2008.

However, for Kosala Perera (name changed) this is no comfort. After graduating from a university with a second upper in a Bachelor of Business Administration, Kosala enthusiastically embarked on finding a job that would pay back the loans he had taken from relatives in order to rent a room nearby to the university. "My village is in Anuradhapura but when I got the chance to come to a university I knew I had to take it," he said, "I knew that that would be my only chance to get a good job and help my family escape the poverty that they are living in." But now, five years after graduating, Kosala is still without a job and indebted to his relatives who he says need the money even more than he does.

Unemployment in Sri Lanka is not a new phenomenon. In 1971 the British Economist Dudley Seers produced a report for the International Labour Organisation (ILO) stating that the reason for the large unemployment numbers in the country was that the type of skills produced by the Sri Lankan education system was not conducive to the job market. Nearly 40 years on, this argument still stands. Mahesh De Silva (name changed) a visiting lecturer at a university and Engineering Consultant says that it is the delivery of the university curriculum that fails students. "The lectures are chalk and talk methodologies with little participative and self learning being promoted," said Mahesh, "There is no emphasis on presentation and other communication skills and no confidence building takes place due to the continued spoon feeding and closed book exams going on."

Kosala's story is not unusual. According to Chanaka Bandara, committee member of the Association for Unemployed Graduates, a staggering 30,000 graduates are unemployed in Sri Lanka today.

([www.groundviews.org/by Nishika Fonseka/](http://www.groundviews.org/by/Nishika_Fonseka/) February 10, 2010)

1. What two national and international establishments state that unemployment rate in Sri Lanka is relatively low?

2. What kind of opportunities did Kosala imagine the university education would give him?

3. What was the reason given in the 1971 report by the International Labour Organisation for unemployment?

4. According to Mahesh, what is the reason for the student employability failure?

5. Describe the meaning of the following words.

a) concurs - _____

b) embarked - _____

c) conducive - _____

2. Use suitable form of the verb to fill in the blanks. (20 marks)

1. Mahesha, along with Janaki and Roshini (goes, go) every day for swimming.
2. Fifty percent of the market (consists, consist) of international goods.
3. The majority of the staff in the office (has/have) very good IT skills.
4. Two percent of the students (comes, come) from Trincomalee.
5. Sheroli (is, are) as clever as Nirmaleeni.
6. Since we (do, does) not know how the weather will be this weekend, let's play it by ear.
7. Neither Fuzna nor Miranda (knows, know) what to do next.
8. The board of directors (takes, take) all the important decisions.
9. Every student in this class (has, have) a credit pass in English.
10. All the graduates in Sri Lanka (is, are) proficient in English.

3. Change these sentences from Direct Speech to Indirect Speech. (10 marks)

1. The Lecturer said, "I will now talk to you about the socio-economic aspects of post-war Sri Lanka."

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2. She said, "I have thousand rupees with me now."

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3. Surangi says, "He does not want to go home."

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4. Akain says, "I passed my exam with flying colours."

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5. The Minister asked, "What does demilitarization have to do with the economy?"

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4. Write a letter to the Head/Manager of your organization suggesting the need for a staff canteen in your office. (Word limit: 100) (15 marks)

5. Underline the correct preposition.

(20 marks)

1. Trade Unions offered (to, for, with) intervene in the dispute over GSP + trade concessions.
2. The EU told the government that it would extend the concessions (for, to, towards) another six months.
3. The tender board functions will be reviewed (at, on, of) the next meeting.
4. Cargills Ceylon company will set up a milling facility to produce oil (with, to, from) rice bran.
5. The Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka provides micro loans (with, for, from) small industries.
6. There are over 700 tea factories presently (on, from, in) operation in Sri Lanka.
7. (To, From, Towards) an employer's perspective, a degree is not an automatic qualification for a job.
8. The financial crisis that began in last September has morphed (to, into, for) a severe global recession and it would turn into the worst downturn since the World War 2.
9. Coca- Cola has been operating internationally (to, for, from) most part of its 100 year history.
10. Do I need a university degree (to, for, towards) succeed in business?

6. Write an essay on ONE of the topics below using not more than 250 words.

(20 marks)

- a) Education is the single most factor in developing a country.
- b) Importance of international relations in post-war Sri Lanka.
- c) Effects of establishing private universities in Sri Lanka.