13

WERABE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (2)
Communicative English Language Skills I (FLEn1011) Mid Exam for 1st Year Students

Maximum weight: 15%
Time Allowed: 40'

Name: [redacted] Dept/Sec: [redacted] ID No: [redacted]

PART I: READING COMPREHENSION
Direction: Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. (1pt each)

A rat is a rodent, the most common mammal in the world. **It** is one of the approximately four hundred different kinds of rodents, and it is known by many names, each of which describes a trait or a perceived trait or sometimes a habitat: the earth rat, the barn rat, the field rat, the migratory rat, the house rat, the sewer rat, the water rat, the gray rat, the brown rat, and the common rat. The average brown rat is large and stocky; it grows to be approximately sixteen inches long from its nose to its tail – the size of a large adult human male's foot – and weighs about a pound. The brown rat is sometimes confused with the black rat, which is smaller and once inhabited New York City and all of the cities of America but, since the brown rat pushed it out, is now relegated to a minor role.

Rats are **nocturnal**, and out in the night the brown rat's eyes are small and black and shiny; when a flashlight shines into them in the dark, the eyes of a rat light up like the eyes of a deer. Though it looks for food in darkness, the brown rat has poor eyesight. It makes up for this with, first of all, an excellent sense of smell. It also has an excellent sense of taste, detecting the most minute amounts of poison, down to one part per million. A brown rat has strong feet, the two front paws each equipped with four claw-like nails, the rear paws even longer and stronger. It can run and climb with squirrel-like agility. It is an excellent swimmer, surviving in rivers and bays, in sewer streams and toilet bowls.

The brown rat's teeth are yellow, the front two incisors being especially long and sharp, like buckteeth. When the brown rat bites, its front two teeth spread apart. When it gnaws, a flap of skin plugs the space behind its incisors. Hence, when the rat **gnaws** on indigestible materials – concrete or steel, for example – the shavings don't go down the rat's throat and kill it. Its incisors grow at a rate of five inches per year. Rats always gnaw, and no one is certain why – there are few modern rat studies. It is sometimes erroneously stated that the rat gnaws solely to limit the length of its incisors, which would otherwise grow out of its head, but this is not the case: the incisors wear down naturally. In terms of hardness, the brown rat's teeth are stronger than aluminum, copper, lead, and iron. **They** are comparable to steel. With the alligator-like structure of their jaws, rats can exert a biting pressure of up to seven thousand pounds per square inch. Rats, like mice, seem to be attracted to wires – to utility wires, computer wires, wires in vehicles, in addition to gas and water pipes. One rat expert theorizes that wires may be attractive to rats because of their **resemblance** to vines and the stalks of plants; ***cables are the vines of the city***. By one estimate, 26 percent of all electric-cable breaks and 18 percent of all phone-cable disruptions are caused by rats. According the study, as many as 25 percent of all fires of unknown origin are rat-caused.

© from *Rats*, by Robert Sullivan (2004)

A 1. In paragraph 1, what do the different rat names mainly show?
A. Rats can live in a variety of environments. C. There are many opinions about rats.
B. There is little reason to be afraid of rats. D. Rats are the largest type of rodent.

C 2. What does the end of paragraph 2 mainly emphasize about rats?
A. their similarity to other mammals C. their physical abilities
B. their preference for dry land D. their strange diet

B 3. The main purpose of the statistics in paragraph 3 is to show:
A. the amount of litter people in cities produce C. how poorly constructed most cities are
B. the damage rats do to city infrastructure D. how many rats live in city buildings

D 4. In paragraph 3, the author states, "*cables are the vines of the city*". This is to show:
A. why it is hard to find rats C. that vines are nutritious for rats
B. that rats like living in vehicles D. why rats enjoy chewing on cables

B 5. According to the passage, which of the following sentences is true?
A. A study revealed that fires of unknown origin are all caused bay rats.
B. The black rat is smaller than the brown rat.
C. Rats eat indigestible materials to limit the length of their teeth.
D. Rats are exposed to death because they eat indigestible materials.

A 6. The word "…**nocturnal**…" (para 2, line 1) is the same or nearly the same as:
A. active at night B. mammals C. shiny D. environmental

D 7. The word "…**gnaw**…" (para 3, line 3) is the same or nearly the same as:
A. kill B. know C. grow D. chew

A 8. The word "…**resemblance**…" (para 3, line 13) is the same or nearly the same as:
A. difference B. similarity C. equality D. disturbance

C 9. The pronoun "**It**…" (para 1, line 1) refers to:
A. mammal B. world C. Rat D. rodent

C 10. The pronoun "**They**…" (para 3, line 9) refers to:
A. rats C. brown rat's teeth
B. aluminum, copper, lead and iron D. A & B

PART II: GRAMMAR

Direction: Choose the best answer. (1pt each)

A 11. I _____ English since 2004.
A. have taught B. taught C. teach D. am teaching

C 12. The director _____ me a letter last week.
A. is writing B. is wrote C. wrote D. has written

A 13. In every culture, people_____ jewelry since prehistoric times.
A. have worn B. wear C. had worn D. wore

A 14. She _____ to Addis when she was a little girl.
A. has gone B. went C. goes D. have gone

D 15. He _____ that car since he was in high school.
A. has B. had C. have D. has had

13/15

Prepared by: Department of English Language and Literature