

Technical Communication Final Exam Questions
Total Percent: 30

Engineering 100, Section 250 Winter 2014

Student Name

UMID

Honor Code Pledge

I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this examination,
nor have I concealed any violations of the Honor Code.

Signature and Date

Total: _____ %

Question 1: Writing a header and a foreword.

Read the scenario below and follow the instructions that follow.

You are a civil engineer working for Fullbrite Corporation, an independent engineering company that tests and assesses the condition of various federal, state and municipal constructions such as highways and bridges throughout the country. The West Virginia State Highway Department has retained your firm to investigate the unexpectedly quick deterioration of the surface of exit ramp 37 on State Highway 16 in West Virginia. Although the ramp is only six months old, cracks have appeared, and parts of the roadway itself have been kept useable only by patching them with tar. Mr. Jack Jones, head civil engineer of Fullbrite, asks you to undertake the investigation, propose a solution and write a short memo to him concerning these things. He gives you one week to accomplish this and sets aside \$2,500 for all of your costs.

You fly to West Virginia where you spend two days conducting an investigation of the ramp during which you subject the road surface to various stress tests and measurements including the taking of core samples from the road surface. During your investigation you find the road surface will continue to fail under the stresses of the traffic it carries, and that the reason for this is that the subcontractor who poured the concrete applied only 70% of the required material; the concrete surface is therefore significantly shallower than it should be. In your opinion, the only safe thing to do would be to remove and replace the concrete surface of the exit ramp. Your flight cost \$800, two days in a local hotel with meals cost \$250, rental of a car cost \$120, and the various costs associated with the actual analysis ran to \$820.

Assume that you did as Mr. Jones directed, and that you wrote the memo he asked of you. Now write the header and foreword of that memorandum. Write neatly, or print, your answer to Question 1 on the following page. (14%)

Question 2

Please analyze the following paragraph from a job letter written by an engineering student asking for an internship at Buckley Industries. State whether or not the paragraph sets out a complete Toulmin argument as taught in class, and support your answer. If you believe the argument is incomplete, then explain what element or elements are missing and then write a sentence that supplies the missing element or elements. (4%)

“I am well qualified for the engineering internship at Buckley Industries. During the fall term of 2012 I took Engineering 100, Statistics, and Introduction to Calculus. During winter term of 2013 I took and passed Calculus II and Introduction to C++ programming.”

Question 3

Please read the abstract below. Is it an informational abstract or a descriptive abstract? Support your answer. (4%)

Abstract

This is a proposal for the development of a computer game intended to teach algebra to middle-school children. This proposal explains the object of the game, its educational goals and game-play. There follow a schedule of work for its development, an explanation of how the game may be judged a success, and an explanation of the expertise of the team that would develop the game. Finally there is detailed budget for the game's development.

Question 4

What is meant by paragraph coherence, how can it be achieved? (6%)

Question 5

In the class lecture on visuals some deceptive visuals were shown. Please give an example of one and indicate why it was deceptive. (2%)