

National Exams May 2011

07-Mec- B8 – Engineering Materials

3 Hours Duration

NOTES:

1. If doubts exist as to the interpretation of any question, the candidate is urged to submit with the answer paper, a clear statement of any assumptions made.
2. Any non-communicating calculator is permitted. This is an open book exam.
3. Any **six** of the **eight** problems given constitute a complete paper.
4. All problems are of equal value.

1- The lower skin panels of the wing of a 12 passenger business jet are made from aluminum 2024-T4. Those panels are subjected to fluctuating tensile loads while the airplane is in flight and fluctuating compressive loads when it is on the ground. An engineer recommended replacing this material with aluminum 7075-T6 on an extended version of that jet that weighs 25% more than the original design. Why in your opinion the engineer may have made this recommendation? Answer this question by comparing the main physical and mechanical properties of the two materials and the possible trade-offs resulting from the proposed replacement.

2- A ductile metal wire of uniform cross-section is loaded in tension until it just begins to neck. The curve of true stress σ vs. true strain ϵ for this wire approximates to:

$$\sigma = 400 \epsilon^{0.35} \text{ MPa}$$

- a- Assuming that the volume is conserved, derive a differential equation relating the true stress to the true strain at the point of necking.
 - b- Estimate the ultimate tensile strength of the metal and the work required to take 1 m³ of the wire to necking.
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3- A composite made of a plastic reinforced with E-glass fibers is being used as a structural material. The modulus of elasticity of E-glass is 73 GPa and for the plastic material is 3 GPa. If the plastic constitutes 70% per volume of the composite, calculate:

- a- the modulus of elasticity of the composite,
 - b- the percentage of stress carried by the glass fibers, and
 - c- assuming that the composite has a cross-sectional area of 300 mm² and is subjected to a longitudinal load of 45,900 N, calculate the corresponding strain.
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4- Discuss the following two applications where corrosion is an issue:

- a- A brass faucet is connected to an iron pipe. Discuss this coupling from a corrosion viewpoint and explain which metal is likely to corrode and why?
 - b- Steel screws used as fasteners on aluminum siding experienced severe corrosion. Would you have expected this, why or why not? Explain why this might have occurred.
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5- A barium-borate glass system (BaO.4B₂O₃) is converted into a glass-ceramic by remelting the glass and the addition of TiO₂ as a nucleating agent to the remelted batch. Referring to the periodic table of elements to obtain the molecular weights of each component element, calculate the composition of the new glass-ceramic in weight percent. if 12 mole% TiO₂ is used for this conversion.

6- Floor beams of a transport airplane have been designed using an aluminum alloy containing 5 wt% Cu and 1.8 wt% Mg and 1 wt% Mn for a total weight of 10000 kg. A customer has ordered the airplane but requested that its total weight be reduced by 1500 kg for fuel saving purposes. An engineer in the design and analysis department has suggested that about 50% of that weight saving objective can be accomplished by replacing the aluminum alloy of the floor beams with an aluminum-lithium one containing 5 wt% Li and 1 wt % Cu. Is this possible? Answer the question by estimating the weight savings that will take place using the Al-Li alloy. Assume weighted averages of density and use the following densities for the mentioned materials:

$$\text{Al} = 2.70 \text{ g/cm}^3 \quad \text{Cu} = 8.92 \text{ g/cm}^3 \quad \text{Mg} = 1.74 \text{ g/cm}^3 \quad \text{Mn} = 7.47 \text{ g/cm}^3 \quad \text{Li} = 0.53 \text{ g/cm}^3$$

7- A box is to be placed on a bracket attached to the engine in an automobile. Two polymeric materials have been short-listed as primary candidates for this application, namely ABS and hardened PVC.

- a- Compare the two materials in terms of strength, impact resistance, manufacturing methods, chemical resistance, heat resistance and cost.
 - b- What material would you select and why?
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8- Describe the heat treatment scheme that would provide the following property changes to 1080 steel: (refer your treatments to the appropriate time-temperature-transformation curve)

- a- Pearlite to bainite
 - b- Martensite to fine pearlite
 - c- Pearlite to martensite
 - d- 100% pearlite to a mixture of 50% pearlite and 50% martensite
 - e- Mixture of 75% pearlite and 25% martensite to 100% tempered martensite
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