

THE UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS  
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2004

TITLE OF PAPER	ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS
COURSE CODE	ACS1 (S)
TIME ALLOWED	THREE (3) HOURS
INSTRUCTIONS	<b>WRITE THE NAME OF YOUR FACULTY ON THE ANSWER SCRIPT</b>  ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS
TOTAL MARKS	100

This examination paper contains 10 pages including the cover sheet.

**DO NOT OPEN UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE  
INVIGILATOR**

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**QUESTION 1****LETTER/MEMORANDUM WRITING (30 marks)**

Write **either** a letter **or** a memorandum in response to one of the following instructions:

**LETTER**

Recently the university changed its practice of registering students before their fees are paid. Write a letter to your sponsor explaining how this new development has affected you.

**MEMORANDUM**

You are the director of Academic Affairs in the Student Representative Council (SRC). The students have asked you to write to the Librarian to request the placement of computers (and printing facilities at a subsidized cost) in the library for use by the students. Write a memorandum to the Librarian expressing this request.

**QUESTION 2** (30 marks)**COMPREHENSION**

*Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.*

**San fight to keep their hunting grounds**

Botswana's original dwellers challenge their removal to bleak settlements

Following the seasonal rains, the Kalahari Desert in central Botswana is alive with rolling waves of green grasses and stretches of wild flowers. Large herds of antelope canter across the plains. Jackals and hyenas lurk nearby to pick off the stragglers.

Morua Kgoma, 62, has picked a pouchful of tasty berries. He has also plucked fresh, pulpy leaves and pounded them in a mortar. With long fingers he expertly uncovers tubers that look like new potatoes and small onions. He will roast them over a fire for an evening meal. "There is lots of food here," he says. "We can always survive here. We know where to find our food. This is where we were born and where we belong."

But life has become increasingly difficult for Kgoma and the other San people of the Molapo community. The Botswana government, in an ongoing campaign to force them off the Kalahari, has cut off their water supplies, closed schools and health clinics and stopped paying monthly pensions to the elderly and disabled.

Government officials have trucked them away to bleak settlements. The government campaign now faces a legal challenge by a coalition of San and human rights groups. Molapo is the last stand of the San people, the hunter-gatherers who were the original inhabitants of southern Africa and have lived here for at least 40,000 years.

"My children have all scattered," Kgoma says. "Some got jobs, others moved out. But I want to stay. When I sleep here I know my ancestors are nearby. When I wake up in the morning and I sneeze, I know my ancestors are with me."

Molapo once had a community of more than 1,000 people, but only 58 remain. "We don't know what will happen in the future," Kgoma says. "We keep listening and hoping that the outside world will bring good news."

The Central Kalahari Game Reserve was made a national park in 1961 to protect the San's habitat and way of life. Now almost all of the country's San people live outside the park and cannot freely carry on their hunting and foraging traditions.

It is estimated there are 60,000 San among Botswana's 1.6 million people. They are distinctive, with light brown skin and high cheekbones, and speak a musical "click" language.

The Botswana government of President Festus Mogae claims that it is merely "persuading" the San people to leave their ancestral lands. "The former residents of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve have been encouraged to move out for two

fundamental reasons," says a government spokesman, Clifford Maribe. "First, their modern economic activities, be it hunting, arable and/or pastoral agriculture or some other commercial activity, are inconsistent with the status of the game reserve. Secondly, the people have been encouraged to move out to give themselves and their children the benefit of development." The most militant supporter of the San's rights to stay on the Kalahari is the London-based group Survival International.

"The government claims it wants to move the bushmen off the Kalahari park to protect the wildlife on the park and because it is too expensive to provide them with services in remote areas," Survival International's director, Stephen Corry, says. "These reasons are clearly spurious. There is plenty of game on the park. The government is spending more money relocating the people than it did to provide them with basic services.

"The government also says it is relocating people for their own development. But the people are miserable in the new settlements. We can only conclude the Botswana government wants to move the bushmen in order to have full claim to diamond rights on park lands." The San have been moved to settlement camps where there is little sign of positive development. Beer halls appear to be the chief economic activity at the settlement of New Xade, where most of the people of Molapo have been resettled. Alcoholism is rampant, according to development workers. Visitors are quickly besieged by beggars, indicating the extent of demoralisation.

A new school and a hospital have been built for the several thousand San residents but the rubbish-strewn settlement consists mostly of thatched huts on dusty plots. Government-funded projects provide some employment, but overall the settlement is a depressing place. In early February five San men were arrested for illegally hunting antelope and could be jailed for up to two years if found guilty. Anger erupted in New Xade as people stoned police escorting the men to court.

The hope of the San people to regain their lives on the Kalahari rests on the legal challenge, which is expected to come to court in May. It alleges that it was illegal for the government to shut off water supplies and other essential services to the San communities on the Kalahari game reserve and to refuse to issue them with hunting licences.

The case, which is being brought by a coalition that includes the First People of the Kalahari, the Working Group for Indigenous People in Southern Africa, and *Ditshwanelo* - the Botswana Centre for Human Rights, argues that the government is obliged to restore the San to their traditional land.

Alice Mogwe, director of *Ditshwanelo*, says the plight of the San is "part of the biggest human rights challenge in Botswana". She says the government does not intend to destroy the San culture, but it does not know how to allow the San to be part of their development. A plan to allow the San to continue living in the Kalahari Park broke down in 2001.

"The tragedy is that we are replaying what was learned in colonialism," she says. "We don't want that to happen to the Basarwa [the Setswana name for the San]. We want them to remain who they are and yet be a part of Botswana national culture. They

need to have a sense of belonging. But how can you achieve that if their basic rights are not recognised?"

Back at Molapo, night has fallen and Morua Kgoma gathers with others around a fire. He draws in the sand. "We are like a circle within a circle," he says. "We are the small circle inside and the Botswana government is the large circle surrounding us. We need to find the way to stop being separated."

Andrew Meldrum in Molapo

- 1 Give four kinds of food which belong to the diet of the San people. (4 marks)
- 2 Where are the San people living now? Mention THREE places. (3 marks)
- 3 Give in your own words FOUR reasons why the government is trying to remove the San from the desert. (8 marks)
- 4 Why do the San not want to leave the desert? Give FOUR reasons. (8 marks)
- 5 "The tragedy is that we are replaying what was learned in colonialism," (penultimate paragraph). Explain in your own words what Alice Mogwe means by this. (7 marks)

**QUESTION 3**

20 marks

**SUMMARY****Africa's war on terror targets poverty**

*In about 200 words, explain what NEPAD is, why it exists, and what it is trying to do.*

By Adam Lusekelo, Dar-es-Salaam

Africa's ambitious new development plan, Nepad, (New Plan for African Development) is examining how poverty and instability can spawn conflict and terrorism.

Even before the 11 September attacks there was a recognition that poverty in one part of the globe creates scope for regional conflict and international crime. "It is futile, if not foolhardy to think there is no link between poverty and terrorism," says Tanzania's President Benjamin Mkapa.

Links to Al Qaeda have been found in several African countries - and Kenya and Tanzania experienced the direct effects of terrorism in 1998 when their citizens died in bombings of US embassies. Kenyans suffered again last year when a tourist hotel was blown up.

There has been a growing realisation that there can be no security for any of us unless globalisation is managed with greater justice. UK Prime Minister Tony Blair has acknowledged how terrorism can come from "pent up feelings of injustice and alienation from divisions between the world's richer and poorer nations".

African leaders have devised the Nepad partnership, pledging themselves to deliver transparent government in return for more support for Africa's development plans from the world's wealthy nations.

During the 1990s, aid to Africa fell by a third, from \$17bn at the start of the decade to \$12bn. As a result, "Africa is the poorest continent and its getting poorer", says UK International Development Minister Clare Short.

**Security commitment**

Since the end of the Cold War, the world's richer nations have preferred to ignore places such as Somalia and Sudan, where their attempts to quell conflict have failed.

If agricultural products from developing countries were able to compete fairly, the foreign exchange would be six times the amount of aid they receive.

But there is now greater engagement in Africa's failures than would have been thinkable a decade ago. Britain's military intervention in Sierra Leone in support of

the elected government is one example, and contrasts with Europe's failure to prevent genocide in Rwanda.

But although prospects for peace are better now than for decades - with hope for Congo, Angola and Sudan - the challenges to development as a result of war are enormous.

### **Terrible toll**

Some 20% of Africa's people are affected by conflict, and most of the victims are innocent civilians. The World Bank estimates that conflict is knocking 2% a year off Africa's economic growth. Large numbers of refugees place a burden on neighbouring countries; Tanzania, for instance, has taken in 1.5 million refugees in the last decade. Regional instability also cripples efforts to control the spread of HIV.

The Nepad framework therefore envisages support for peacekeeping from developed countries in return for better governance from African leaders.

### **Fair trade hypocrites?**

But the benefits of political stability can only flow if macroeconomic policies are also right.

Much depends on whether the self-criticisms of the leaders of the richest countries prove sincere. In particular, trade policies are seen as a test of developed nations' good faith. Lectures on fair trade doled out by industrialised countries, whilst protecting their own local interests, have been widely resented, particularly on farm subsidies.

African states are being conditioned "not to subsidise agriculture on which the lives of our people depend", says Tanzania's President Mkapa. Muthoni Muriu, Oxfam's regional manager for West Africa, adds: "If agricultural products from developing countries were able to compete fairly, the foreign exchange would be six times the amount of aid they receive."

By stressing a partnership between African and G7 nations, Nepad's development blueprint aims to tackle Western high-handedness. Nepad's co-ordination should put a stop to the lack of equality that produced unsuitable liberalisation policies, argues Aluko Olokun, Nigeria's representative on Nepad's steering committee.

But critics of Nepad warn that Africa's rush to embrace globalisation is fraught with economic dangers. They see little respect or equality in the developed world's approach.

### **Teaming up**

Key players in Nepad would agree that trade pacts are skewed in favour of the developed world. "The answer... is not to walk away but to ensure that we work even harder to build stronger alliances between the developing countries," says South African trade negotiator Faizel Ismail.

Another Nepad priority is to grow trade within Africa as the continent accounts for less than 1% of global trade, says Silencer Mapuranga of the Commonwealth Business Council.

A unified stance and more internal trade could increase Africa's clout. "If the whole of Africa works together then it is much more realistic to consider a greater equality of power," says Alec Erwin, South Africa's trade minister, pointing to "immensely rich" energy, mineral and agricultural resources.

Perhaps the biggest challenge Africans now face is to recognise that there is potential for progress. At present, 47% of African savings are sent out of Africa by Africans themselves. If we don't believe in our own continent, who will?

BBC NEWS: Published: 2003/02/27 (807 words)

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## QUESTION 4

## CLOZE TEST

20 marks

Write the numbers 1-20 in your answer paper. Next to each give ONE word that will appropriately fill the corresponding gap in the text below.

### Tough love at Everest

When both the owner and caretaker gave up on Everest, an eleven-storey flat block in Johannesburg's notorious Hillbrow, the job of building manager did not look attractive. In 1999 the building, was well on its way to 1----- a slum. Thirteen or 14 people were crammed into some of the two-bedroomed flats, drains were blocked and tenants traded drugs on the doorstep. The immediate neighbourhood was even worse, accommodating pawn shops known to fence 2----- goods and a number of shebeens.

But for Maureen Singh, Everest was an opportunity.

The job allowed Singh, who had 3----- living in the building for ten years, to spend some time at home with her grandchildren. The new owner believed that if he hired her as a caretaker or building manager, she would turn the building around.

The owner was right. The building, 4----- 50 years old and in need of paint in some places, is now in good shape. The passages sparkle, both lifts work, there is 5----- litter and drying laundry is neatly tucked behind screen walls on the roof. The sign advertising Desert Eagles Armed Reaction at the entrance to the building is, however, a little daunting: "Trespassers will be shot. Survivors will be shot again."

Singh says that when she started running the building, "there was a lot of overcrowding. I knew they were doing drugs. There was loud music. I said I 6----- get hold of the police."

But Singh decided to use tough love instead. She drew up house rules and went systematically 7----- door to door enforcing them: four people maximum in a one-bedroom flat, five people maximum in a two-bedroom flat. "I spoke to them nicely. Firstly, I explained that it's unhealthy to have so many people sharing, particularly if they are strangers. Would you want to share a bath with 8----- who has a disease you don't know about? Then I said that there's no pride living like this. After all, you've come to the city to uplift yourself. And they agreed." People were given a week to comply.

Singh estimates that it took 9----- six and nine months to bring the numbers down. "People started seeing the limelight and started filtering out a bit," she says. Whenever an illegal subtenant moved out, he or she 10----- not be replaced. "That way I got rid of all the people who weren't kosher. Now we are a happy family."

Singh ascribes her success to her own leadership qualities, the 11----- that the building owner has given her the authority to take action, and her hands-on approach. Singh says: "When you're a building manager you must get yourself involved 12----- everybody. I know each and every living soul. That's my job."

She is selective about her tenants. There are lots of policemen, nurses and "security people" living in the building, and when a vacancy does arise she takes pro-active steps to fill it with similar tenants, approaching the personnel departments in nearby clinics to advertise the vacancy. "I don't just take anyone from off the street," she says.

She says visitors are always impressed with 13----- condition of the building, which is indeed spotless. She points to the sinks next to each refuse collection area on the fire escape landings, so that tenants can wash their hands 14----- handling their rubbish.

Singh calls the flats “homes from home”, acknowledging that her tenants are often mobile and using inner-city accommodation only 15----- it’s close to work. On weekends or month-ends, many return to far-flung family homes. But she is adamant that the interim space does not have to be bleak or insecure.

There are stringent regulations. All visitors 16----- to hand their ID documents to the security guard at the entrance. Visiting hours are between 3pm and 10pm, “in order to protect my tenants who work night shift”, she says. On the other hand, if tenants want to bring their children home over Christmas or the school holidays, they can get her permission. She also seems lenient with tenants who cannot pay their rent on 17-----, so long as they tell her and make some arrangement.

What does it feel like to be at the receiving end of Singh’s tough love?

Patricia Mawasane first moved to Hillbrow five years ago to be near Parktown College where she studied human resource management. She sought out the building because it looked “nice”, first sharing with a friend until she and her fiancé decided that they wanted a flat of their own. They now 18----- a one-bedroom unit for R1 300 a month, which they share with Mawasane’s sister.

A shelving unit neatly divides the living room into a sleeping area for Mawasane’s sister, and a sitting area 19----- they all share. Mawasane says: “I don’t think anyone could stay in this building without the caretaker knowing. I know that if you don’t pay, they switch off the electricity. But if you have a problem, you can go and talk to her and she will understand.”

Singh takes particular pride in the 10 children staying in the building. She says they are no trouble at all because they are so disciplined. “It’s 20----- of the very good schools that they attend, King Edward Primary School and Holy Family Convent.” They play in the courtyard at first-floor level because Singh believes it is safer for children to play inside the building. She, together with Mrs Buthelezi, the caretaker from the building immediately west of Everest Maxwellton have forbidden children from playing soccer in the small park diagonally opposite the buildings. “If the kids play soccer then the grass won’t grow. The park must be a nice green place for families to go after work.”

Two large concrete planters overflowing with red and pink geraniums are placed on the pavement outside her block. These planters once sat on the opposite side of the road, just outside Mabena Motors, where they had been appropriated by the mechanics as convenient receptacles for old car oil. Singh persuaded the council’s parks department to bring a fork-lift truck to move the planters over the road. Then she started planting. Today the two concrete planters are a symbol of Singh’s commitment to improving her small corner of this notorious neighbourhood. “You have to take the initiative,” she says.

*Mail & Guardian* 19 Oct 2004

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