

ACS112/M

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS
SECOND SEMESTER MAIN EXAMINATION, MAY 2019

TITLE OF PAPER:**ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS:****ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES (ESP)****COURSE CODE:****ACS112/103****TIME ALLOWED:****TWO (2) HOURS****INSTRUCTIONS:**

**WRITE THE NAME OF YOUR FACULTY AND
PROGRAMME ON THE COVER OF YOUR ANSWER
BOOKLET**

**THE QUESTION PAPER CONTAINS TWO SECTIONS (A and
B). ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION**

TOTAL MARKS: 100

This paper contains 8 pages, including the cover page

This paper is not to be opened until permission has been granted by the Chief Invigilator

SECTION A - ESSAY WRITING

60 Marks

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2

Question 1

Read the following excerpts and in about 300 - 400 words (1½ – 2 pages), discuss the contributing factors to mass shootings and then evaluate whether the proposed measures have helped reduce the occurrence of mass shootings.

Excerpt 1

Christchurch shooting: PM says gunman intended to continue attack

Written by Calla Wahlquist: Adapted from the Guardian (March 16, 2019)

An unknown assailant opened fire at two mosques in New Zealand in a terrifying assault that killed 50 and injured another 50 Muslim Worshipers in Christchurch mosques. The gunfire lasted a harrowing 36 minutes before the police apprehended the gunman. The suspect, Brenton Harrison Tarrant, a 28-year-old Australian national and white supremacist, appeared in court, charged with one count of murder.

New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, said the gunman intended to continue his attack if he had not been stopped. The offender had two loaded firearms in his vehicle and it absolutely was his intention to continue with his attack before police officers ran his car to the side of the road and brought the atrocity to an end.

As Ardern revealed details about the suspect's weapons and his background, she promised changes to the country's gun laws. She also said more charges would be laid against the offender. The shooter, who had a gun license, acquired in November 2017, carried out the killings with two semi-automatic weapons, two shotguns and a lever-action firearm.

Arden also promised that there will definitely be gun reform policies that New Zealand will put in place. While work is being done to understand the chain of events that lead to both the holding of this gun license and the possession of these weapons, the Prime Minister told reporters that New Zealand will do everything in their power to effect changes pertaining to gun laws.

Excerpt 2**2018 'worst year for US school shootings'**

Written by Sean Coughlan: Adapted from BBC News (December 12, 2018)

2018 saw an alarming 113 people killed or injured in school shootings in the United States.

At the beginning of 2018, Education Week, a journal covering education in the US, began to track school shootings - and has since recorded 23 incidents where there were deaths or injuries. Lesli Maxwell, Assistant Managing Editor of Education Week, said this year has "definitely been an outlier" with two large-scale school shootings, which have contributed to such a high annual loss of life. With many parts of the US having about 180 school days per year, it means, there is, on average, a shooting once every eight school days.

The data from five decades of school shootings shows the most typical age for a school killer is 16 or 17 and these perpetrators are highly likely to be male. The attacks are not often "indiscriminate", but are more usually an "escalation of a dispute" or a gang-related incident.

There have been campaigns for tighter gun control while the other side of the debate calls for more weapons in the hands of teachers or school staff. There is also no agreement at a national level about how to respond to school shootings.

There are calls for guns to be kept out of schools and others calling for more guns to be used to defend schools.

Excerpt 3**12 dead in California bar shooting**

Written by Lauren Said-Moorhouse, Rob Picheta, Veronica Rocha, Meg Wagner, and Jessie Yeung: Adapted from CNN (November 10, 2018)

A gunman opened fire at the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks, California, late Wednesday night killing twelve people including a Ventura County sheriff's deputy and a college student. At least a dozen others were injured. Eyewitnesses say the man fired at people in a packed bar during college night.

The shooter, identified as 28-year-old former Marine Ian David Long, died during an exchange of fire with the police. He was a Marine veteran who often visited the bar where the shooting occurred. The gunman had previous run-ins with the law: in April, officers responded to a disturbance at Long's home, and he was irate and acting irrationally, said Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean.

His friends describe him as "a very stable man." Mark Waid, one of Long's high school friends, told CNN that Ian would never do this. Three other friends, who declined to be identified, also expressed surprise.

In a news conference Thursday afternoon, law enforcement officials said the investigation was ongoing and that there were no indications the shooter was acting with others.

Question 2

UNAIDS (2012) argues that sex work is an important livelihood strategy that puts food on the table for the sex workers and their dependants (Basu & Dutta 2011; Dodsworth, 2012; Fick, 2005; Sloss & Harper, 2004). **Read the three excerpts below and in not more than 300 – 400 words (1 ½ - 2 pages), argue whether prostitution should be legalised in Eswatini.**

Excerpt 1**Why Legalizing Prostitution May Not Work**

Written by Simon Hedlin: Adapted from Forbes Magazine (October 6, 2016)

There appears to be some noteworthy similarities between the market dynamics of the ivory trade and prostitution. As a potential means to displace sex trafficking, legalizing prostitution has an obvious appeal. In addition to being a desirable policy among many of those who engage in prostitution on a consensual basis, legalisation is assumed to help the market crowd out violent clients, abusive pimps and evil traffickers. Advocates argue that making it legal to sell sex increases the supply of consensual prostitution whereas making it legal to buy sex attracts better-behaving consumers—both of which should make the market for commercial sex less exploitative. This line of reasoning makes sense and is also what basic economic theory would predict.

Why did the creation of a legal market for ivory not displace exploitative suppliers? The authors point to two possible factors. First, they write, if “illegal supplies can masquerade as legal” then their production costs will fall, giving them a competitive edge over lawful suppliers. Second, they continue, if “legalisation reduces stigma associated with consumption of the banned good,” the demand may increase by such a large magnitude that part of the void will be filled by an increase in illicit supply. Needless to say, ivory trade and prostitution are wildly different practices. But the relevant question to root out exploitative suppliers is only to what extent the market dynamics are comparable across the two industries. And there appears to be some noteworthy similarities.

On the authors’ first point, while sex trafficking implies force, fraud or coercion, it may not be easy for either consumers or law enforcement to distinguish individuals who are selling sex with their consent from those who do not. In a legalised environment, unlawful commercial sex acts can therefore masquerade as legal. In addition, with respect to the researchers’ second proposition, prostitution has long been a stigmatized practice. Legalisation could therefore substantially increase demand, not only by removing the deterrent effect of punishment, but also by reducing stigma, which would make sex trafficking even more profitable. The net effect of legalizing prostitution may thus be, at worst, an increase, rather than a decrease, in the prevalence of trafficking.

Excerpt 2

Legalising prostitution is the best way to stop trafficking and violence

Written by Richard Mason: Adapted from CAPX (August 3, 2018)

Let us be frank: the oldest profession in the world is not going anywhere anytime soon. Humans have been selling sex pretty much since we began grasping the concept of value, and examples of the trade have been found wherever there is evidence of civilisation. Indeed, the sex trade has managed to survive a long history of restriction. Much of the United States have criminalised the trade and imposed punishments of varying degrees on both the consumer and the sex worker. In Japan, prostitution has been illegal since the Fifties.

In spite of this, both of the countries (as well as many others) maintain a large market for sex. Havocscope, an organisation dedicated to providing information on global black markets, estimates the annual revenue of US prostitution at around \$14 billion. In Japan, the figure is \$24 billion. In the UK, the underground market for sex brings in around \$1 billion. Yet our current approach to this line of work does little to ensure this money goes to the right places, and even less to ensure the protection and well-being of consumers and workers alike.

It is time to get realistic about sex work; let us bring the market to the surface and protect the people involved. In decriminalising the market, many of the barriers sex workers face would be removed. Facing no legal comeuppance, there would be no reason for sex workers not to seek assistance from the police. There would be an incentive to provide better infrastructure, such as increased security measures, when the threat of a police raid on the brothel is removed.

An example of countries where the sex industry has been decriminalised is the Netherlands. There, sex workers operate in an environment of security cameras, police patrols, and other safety measures. What is more, sex workers have access to healthcare and STD checks. In bringing the market to the surface, the Netherlands has done a fantastic job of protecting the well-being of sex workers and their customers.

Decriminalisation has also helped the Dutch economy. The revenue of the Dutch sex trade stands at around \$800 million (€625 million) a year. As a visible, regulated market, this money goes to the workers and businesses themselves (as well as 33 per cent in tax revenue for the Dutch government), rather than into the pockets of criminals and human traffickers.

Source: <https://capx.co/legalising-prostitution-is-the-best-way-to-stop-people-trafficking-and-violence/>

Excerpt 3

This is what really happens when prostitution is decriminalised

Written by Julie Bindel: Adapted from Independent News (August 5, 2017)

The hardest battle I have ever fought as a feminist campaigner against male violence is against the expansion and normalisation of prostitution. During research for my book, in which I seek to expose the truth about the sex trade, I encountered a twisted version of reality – propagated by the so-called “sex worker’s rights” movement – that rebrands and sanitises the sex trade as a harmless service industry.

By closely analysing the reams of pro-prostitution academic research; looking at funders and supporters of the sex trade; asking questions about the so-called “benefits” of blanket decriminalisation; and listening closely to survivors of the sex trade, I uncovered the real story of what happens when the buying, selling and renting of female flesh is legally and culturally sanctioned.

New Zealand is regularly held up as the gold standard model of how to eradicate problems inherent to prostitution. In 2003, its government voted to decriminalise pimping, brothel owning and sex buying. The argument, led by the New Zealand Prostitutes Collective (NZPC), was as persuasive as it was misleading: removing all criminal laws from all aspects of the trade would lead to “worker’s rights” and safety for the women. Handily for sex trade entrepreneurs, this resulted in pimps and brothel owners being rebranded as “businessmen”. I heard a legal pimp in Nevada refer to his “business” as similar to that of McDonalds. Except in the case of prostitution, human beings, not dead flesh, are the product for sale.

Alongside other countries and states that have removed criminal penalties against sex trade exploiters, such as Holland, Germany, Australia, New Zealand helped to make selling sex as respectable and devoid of red tape. The application form for opening a brothel in New Zealand is just two pages long: three pages shorter than the form needed to adopt a dog or cat from Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. Sex workers have lamented how decriminalising their work benefitted pimps and brothel owners, not them as workers. There is also an increase in abuse guised as an ‘occupational hazard’, where women are still beaten and sometimes murdered by their pimps. Trafficking has not gone down either.

SECTION B – PROFESSIONAL WRITING

40 Marks

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2

Question 1

Your Faculty has a policy that requires all first-year students to be attached to a work institution, during the long vacation, to learn the skills related to their respective fields of study.

In anticipation of the approaching long vacation, write a cover letter requesting placement in a company of your choice. The letter must market you by focusing on your strengths and experiences. It should also highlight how these could potentially add value to the company where you want to serve your attachment.

Question 2

Cyclone Idai, which wreaked havoc in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi has been dubbed as the “Southern hemisphere’s worst such disaster” (Mail & Guardian, 2019).

Write a letter to prospective donors requesting aide for the victims affected by the cyclone. In your letter be specific how the contributions will be beneficial to the victims.