

Course Code CAE 106 (S) 2008

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION

PART-TIME CERTIFICATE IN ADULT EDUCATION YEAR I

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER JULY, 2008

TITLE OF PAPER : PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH I

COURSE CODE : CAE 106

TIME ALLOWED : THREE(3) HOURS

INSTRUCTION : ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A

QUESTION 1

1 Hastily grabbing my safety helmet, I dashed over to the cage that took the miners down the shaft.
2 The metal door was still open and two men stood inside. They looked tense, anxious and
3 apprehensive.

4 “We saw you coming. We thought you’d know by now.”

5 This was John Redmond, the mine engineer.

6 “News came through a few minutes ago. Rock fall ... unknown
7 number trapped. Down on Level 12. Everyone else is out, and
8 everything is shut down as a precaution. It’s Level 12, so we
9 thought we’d better wait.”

10 I realized at once what he meant. A round trip down the mine as far as Level 12 and back took 20
11 minutes, and at this stage, there was no time to lose. An emergency deep underground sometimes
12 required quick thinking and immediate solutions, if only to avert another one. John, Simba and I had
13 the responsibility of making an initial survey and deciding what to do. But, as it turned out in this
14 case, freeing the trapped men was a long and arduous process.

15 Simba Sibanda, in charge of the mine rescue squad, pulled the heavy door across the face of the lift
16 and it locked into place. He pressed the button for our descent and there was a low-pitched whine
17 as the motor began to drive the heavy wire cables that lowered us into the mine.

18 “Ok. Tell me what’s happened. What do we know so far?”

19 “A rock fall on Level 12. About a hundred metres from the shaft.

20 There was blasting early on but the morning shift came out all right.
21 No hint of trouble then. No suggestion of a disaster.”

22 “Level 12,” I thought. The gold seam was a new discovery, economically rich and full of potential.
23 We’d only just started development and I wondered if we’d cut corners on safety procedures, or
24 whether it was just an accident, or human error during blasting that could not be avoided. A
25 thousand questions tumbled through my mind but they would have to wait till later, for the enquiry.
26 What was important now was that the seam and the passage were narrow and there probably would
27 not be much room for heavy machinery to remove the fallen rock and speed up the rescue attempt.
28 It would all have to be done by hand.

29 “The afternoon teams went down as usual just before two,” continued John. “The rock fall came
30 about an hour later. News came up about twenty minutes ago. A dozen men got through to the
31 shaft, all of them unhurt but shaken. We’re not sure how many are left down there. There were nine
32 of them at the face. We assume they’re the ones who are trapped. We’re checking names at the
33 moment.”

34 “OK,” I said and we fell silent, each to his own dark, sombre thoughts, as the cage slowly took us
35 down underground.

36 When miners are at work, deep under the earth’s surface, there is always noise and activity. Hammer
37 drills bite at the hard rock, breaking it into pieces that can be hauled to the surface. Occassionally
38 there is the dull, muffled thud of explosives as new seams are explored and passages created. At
39 such times the mine is cleared except for the blasters, and there is the continual shuffle of feet on the
40 slippery rock floors.

41 There are quieter background noises too, like the splash of water dripping from rocky ceilings, the
42 whine of lifts bringing men down and returning them to the surface, the noise of the pumps that
43 continually remove water from the mine and the fans that clear the hot, stale, dusty atmosphere and
44 replace it with a cool refreshing air. And always the quiet murmur of voices.

45 When we finally arrived, Level 12 was both silent and dark. We emerged from the cage into total
46 darkness and an eerie silence that was broken only by the steady drip, drip, drip of water. It was hot
47 and dry and in the narrow beams of light from the lamps on our helmets, we could see the dust from
48 the rock fall, slowly swirling round in the still air. There, hundreds of meters below ground, was the
49 mysterious smell of danger and death. We whispered reverently as we crept along the passage to
50 where the rock fall had occurred.

51 “There, look,” Simba picked it out first: huge boulders blocking our way and lots of smaller rocks that
52 had spread themselves untidily along the floor of the passage. Here the dust hung thick and
53 motionless. “It looks bad”, he observed, and I thought he was right. My own preliminary
54 assessment was much the same. But John had a different idea.

55 “Depends,” he said. “We’re near the cage and a long way from the rockface. If the whole passage
56 is full of rock, that certainly is bad news. But maybe it’s just a local fall, a few metres.”

57 “In any case, we need power down here,” I said. “That’s the first priority - a small generator at least,
58 back there by the cage, for light and to clear the air.”

59 “I’ll organise that,” said John. “That’s no problem.”

60 “Then we need men. Volunteers as well as your rescue squad, Simba. At least three teams standing
61 by and one at the face. We’ll work in shifts of two hours each. John, what does the rock look like?”
62 He knew what I meant. Did the rock look safe? Was there the possibility of another fall? Could
63 we blast our way to the trapped men?

64 “Hard to tell. Need more light really. Work by hand to start with and see how it goes. A small
 65 generator is OK. We’ll run an extractor and compressor from it. Nothing else for the moment.
 66 Vibrations from heavier machines might disturb the rock and bring everything down on top of us.
 67 That would not be a good idea.”

68 In the murky light, we could see a grim smile on his face. “I’ll go back up and get things organized
 69 there.”

QUESTIONS:

Context Skills

- A.
1. The three men wanted to “avert” another disaster (line 12). What does this mean? [1]
 2. Explain what the phrase “an initial survey” refers to (line 13) [1]
 3. Do you think the word “arduous” (line 14) means
 a) easy, b) time - consuming, c) difficult? [1]
 4. What does the “potential” of the gold seam refer to (line 22)? [1]
 5. The men who got through to the shaft were “unhurt but shaken” (line 31). What does
 “shaken” mean in this context? [1]
 6. Do you think the word “muffled” (line 38) means (a) long way away, (b) difficult to
 hear clearly, (c) broken, (d) noisy? [1]
 7. Think about the word “reverently” (line 49). What does this word suggest? [1]
 8. What is meant by the phrase “a local fall” (line 56)? [1]
 9. A small generator was their first “priority” (line 57). What does the word priority
 mean? [1]
 10. What does the word “apprehensive” (line 3) mean? [1]

B. Find words or phrases with a similar meaning to replace these words in the passage:

- i) hint (line 21)
- ii) sombre (line 34)
- iii) eerie (line 46)
- iv) descent (line 16)
- v) assessment (line 54) [5]

C. Explain the meaning of the underlined phrases in these sentences:

- a) An emergency deep underground sometimes required quick thinking. [2]
- b) There was blasting early on but the morning shift came out all right. [2]
- c) I wondered if we'd cut corners on safety procedures. [2]
- d) Could we blast our way to the trapped men? "Hard to tell," was the reply. [2]
- e) We need at least three teams standing by. [2]

Comprehension Skills

- D.
- 1. What "news" did John Redmond refer to? Complete this sentence for your answer:
There had been [2]
 - 2. Where did the accident happen? [1]
 - 3. How many men escaped the falling rock? [1]
 - 4. What were conditions like on Level 12 as the three men arrived there? [3]
 - 5. Explain why the rescuers could not use heavy machinery to move the rock. [3]
 - 6. Why did the rescuers need a generator in the passage by the fallen rock? [2]
 - 7. Give four examples of what makes it noisy to work in a mine. [4]
 - 8. The three men who went down the mine first had the responsibility of doing something. What was it? [1]
 - 9. What do you think an enquiry into the disaster would do? [1]
 - 10. Why do you think the three men whispered "reverently" (line 66) when they were in the passage? [2]

SECTION B

QUESTION 2

Complete the sentence by choosing the correct word from the pair in brackets.

1. (Flower/flour) is an essential ingredient in making bread.
2. A new machine has been developed which can (sew/sow) seeds automatically.
3. The Zulu King, Shaka, made all his subjects (bough/bow) before him as they entered his courtyard.
4. The post office is responsible for the safe delivery of the (male/mail).
5. The police stamped out the illegal (practice/practise) of brewing home-made beer.
6. The ball shattered the (pain/pane) of glass.
7. Motorists should (break/brake) and slow down when approaching traffic lights.
8. Do not (breathe/breath) until your head is above the water.
9. Parliament has passed a law in order to punish citizens who fail to (converse/conserve) the environment.
10. He failed to (access/assess) the ball that had been kicked into the centre of the dam.

[10 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

Choose from the lettered words or groups of words below each sentence the one which best completes the sentence.

1. The young man _____ proudly in his new clothes.
A. swept
B. strode
C. strutted
D. stepped
E. paced
2. The burglar had made _____ with the stolen goods.
A. off
B. for
C. up to
D. to
E. out

3. The train was held _____ at the level crossing.
- A. out
 - B. up
 - C. on
 - D. under
 - E. to
4. He has never spoken an unkind word _____ anyone.
- A. up
 - B. from
 - C. out
 - D. for
 - E. against
5. All small boys should learn to _____ bullies.
- A. stand for
 - B. stand up to
 - C. stand by
 - D. stand up
6. "Where is the _____ for Macbeth?" asked the producer of the play.
- A. stand by
 - B. stand in
 - C. stand up
 - D. stand up to
7. I know him _____ a liar and a cheat.
- A. is
 - B. being
 - C. has been
 - D. to be
8. He would _____ to go but could not afford the fare, so had to stay at home.
- A. like
 - B. have been liking
 - C. have liked
 - D. be liking

9. Elizabeth would _____ time to make a cake if she had not had to clean the bedroom.
- A. have
 - B. had had
 - C. have had
 - D. be having
10. Segun is good at football, and so _____ Tom.
- A. is
 - B. has
 - C. does
 - D. can

[10]

SECTION C

QUESTION 4

A

- (i) Why is a special report also called a five-point report? [2]
- (ii) Why is the section on Findings said to be the main part of a special report? [2]
- (iii) Explain what kind of information is covered under Conclusions in a special report. [2]
- (iv) Why is it necessary to append the writer's signature to all official communication? [2]
- (v) Why does official communication such as a memo and a letter require a subject head? [2]

B

As a head of department, you have noticed that a number of subordinates in your department are constantly disobeying some of the organizational regulations.

Write a memo to members of your department reminding them of the need to observe these regulations; also warn them of the consequences if they continue flouting the regulations.

[25 MARKS]

(Remember to be specific on which regulations you are talking about).