

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION
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TITLE OF PAPER : PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH II

COURSE CODE : CAE 206

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTION : ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

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SECTION A**QUESTION 1**

Read the passage and answer the following questions.

Homage to Windmills

1 Last summer, to get away from suffocating smog, I drove my family west from Washington, D.C. to
2 Santa Fe, New Mexico. As we crossed the country, our car radio kept us informed about the ordeal
3 of the big cities and their faltering machines. Around us, however, the Great Plains told a far different
4 story. Above all, we marvelled at the sight of working windmills, creaky sentinels of a bygone age.
5 And the contrast left me with windmills on my mind.

6 Windmills are much, much more than relics. They are symbols of sanity for a world that is increasingly
7 hooked on machines with an inordinate hunger for fuel and a prodigious capacity to pollute.

8 Ecologically, the windmill is one of man's few perfect devices. It harnesses a completely free resource
9 to pump water under conditions that respect the laws and limits of nature. Consider this contrast: In
10 Arizona, western Texas and many other places of the arid South-West ranchers have long used electric
11 pumps to deplete ground water stored up over the centuries by geologic processes. The costs of such
12 exploitation are now tragically evident in shrinking farm lands and in the fast-growing thirst for
13 "replacement" water from Alaska and Canada. But ranchers who still use windmills to tap near-surface
14 water for their livestock - taking only as much as is replaced each year - face no such crisis. They are
15 working with nature. And therein lies the message of windmills.

16 Like water-wheels and sailing boats, windmills have Zero Environmental Impact (ZEI). They remind
17 us that science can save us over the long haul only if it designs a new generation of machines that come
18 much closer than their predecessors to achieving ZEI.

19 The automobile is the antithesis of the windmill. It symbolizes our hell-bent rush to increase production,
20 convenience and mobility, with little thought for the trade-offs in fouled air, congested cities and
21 highways, and hundreds of thousands of automobile accidents each year. Like so much of our present
22 industrial technology, the automobile works at cross purposes with life.

23 Today the evidence is clear that our high energy, high waste society is making exorbitant demands on
24 the resources of the planet. Largely because of U.S. consumption, most of the world's petroleum fuels
25 will be exhausted within a century.

26 I certainly do not propose a return to a windmill economy. In fact, there is no way for us to achieve
27 a low-pollution technology overnight - and Zero Environment Impact has been an impossibility for
28 human societies ever since they began hunting and burning on the savanna plains a million years ago.
29 Belatedly, however, we are beginning to realize that our technological skills must be bent towards an

30 accommodation with natural laws - laws such as the recycling of materials. We now see efforts to ban
 31 the use of long-lived pesticides, to remove phosphates from detergents, to take the lead out of petrol,
 32 to clean up or completely replace the internal-combustion engine. One hopes that these steps mark the
 33 beginning of a historic reversal of our "raid-and-waste" style of development.

34 As I contemplate my family's trip, I cannot help but wonder if I, like that dreamer Don Quixote, have
 35 merely been tilting at windmills. Is it only nostalgia that makes me and millions of other Americans hope
 36 for a more modest technology? I do not think so. The issue is nobler than survival. It is whether we
 37 can equip ourselves to live truly decent lives. If we are to meet this challenge, our investors and
 38 technicians will have to pay homage to windmills. They will have to build us machines that use, not
 39 abuse, the unearned gifts of nature.

A. Meaning in Context

1. Explain each expression as it is used in the passage.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a) suffocating smog (1.1) | f) hooked on (1.7) |
| b) ordeal (1.2) | g) geologic processes (1.11) |
| c) faltering machines (1.3) | h) message (1.15) |
| d) told a different story (1.4) | i) trade offs (1.20) |
| e) a bygone age (1.4) | j) at cross purposes (1.22) |

(10)

2. Give a synonym for each word as it is used in the passage.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| a) contrast (1.5) | g) propose (1.7) |
| b) harnesses (1.2) | h) bent (1.29) |
| c) arid (1.10) | i) accommodation (1.30) |
| d) evident (1.12) | j) nobler (1.36) |
| e) hell-bent (1.19) | k) equip (1.37) |
| f) congested (1.20) | l) decent (1.37) |

(12)

B. In each case, choose the best answer.

1. The description of the windmill as "creaky sentinels of a bygone age" tells us that the windmills are

- A. broken-down machines.
- B. old machines of a past era.
- C. machines that were once used for defence.
- D. old and useless machines.

2. In the second paragraph, the writer implies that he
- A. admires windmills because they are relics.
 - B. thinks highly of windmills because they need no fuel to operate.
 - C. considers windmills a solution to energy and pollution problems.
 - D. favours windmills above other contemporary machines which consume fuel and pollute the world.
3. The main virtue of the windmill in the south-west of the United States is that
- A. it uses a completely free source of energy.
 - B. it taps only near-surface water.
 - C. It is inexpensive and easy to operate.
 - D. It does not need electricity to operate it.
4. What has caused the decrease in the farming area in the south-west of the United States?
- A. it has been caused by the extensive use of windmills.
 - B. it has been caused by the depletion of underground water supplies.
 - C. it has been the result of keeping too much livestock.
 - D. it has been the result of geologic processes over the centuries.
5. The statement "windmills have Zero Environmental Impact" means that windmills
- A. do not damage or harm to the environment.
 - B. make no impression on the surroundings at all.
 - C. are inefficient when compared with other machines.
 - D. are useless.
6. The automobile works at cross purposes with life in that
- A. it brings convenience and mobility to man.
 - B. it is a product of our present industrial technology.
 - C. it has brought more harm than good to man.
 - D. it kills its drivers.
7. In the passage, the writer says that our present industrial technology
- A. should make way for a windmill technology.
 - B. should make way for a less wasteful technology.
 - C. must achieve Zero Environmental Impact.
 - D. should be completely abolished.

8. It is implied in the passage that ideally man's technology should
- A. work side by side with the laws of nature
 - B. concentrate on the process of recycling
 - C. make only limited use of petrol and other fuels
 - D. Produce no waste materials.
9. The "issue" mentioned in line 36 refers to
- A. man's survival in the future.
 - B. man's ability to live a truly decent life.
 - C. modern technology.
 - D. Windmills.
10. In the last paragraph the writer is
- A. contemplating man's past.
 - B. being nostalgic.
 - C. looking ahead hopefully towards a better future.
 - D. thinking of survival.

[10 marks]

C. Answer these questions in your own words.

1. What contrast in the environment struck the writer as he was driving? (1)
2. In what way is the windmill "one of man's few perfect devices"? (1)
3. Compare the environmental impact of windmills and electric pumps. (2)
4. "The automobile is the antithesis of the windmill". What does this mean? Illustrate the truth of this statement from the passage. (2)
5. How can man use his technology to achieve a more decent life for himself? (2)

TOTAL : 40 marks

SECTION B**QUESTION 2**

From the words or groups of words listed underneath each sentence, choose the one which is nearest in meaning to the word underlined in that sentence.

1. We hope to reach Kano by day break.
 - A. by dawn
 - B. by dusk
 - C. when it is dark
 - D. early
 - E. before the weather changes

2. When the cement had set, they began the next stage of the work.
 - A. curdled
 - B. secured
 - C. adjusted
 - D. hardened
 - E. matured

3. The grammar school won the cup three years running.
 - A. for athletics
 - B. quickly
 - C. with ease
 - D. successfully
 - E. in succession

4. Rosalind bought a cottage on the fringe of the forest.
 - A. middle
 - B. outskirts
 - C. outside
 - D. bushes
 - E. edging

5. Michael stood up to the bully.
 - A. looked at
 - B. met
 - C. got up for

- D. reached for
E. bravely faced
6. That girl is charming, anyone would love her.
- A. take in
B. take to
C. take off
D. take down
7. Mr. and Mrs Gonzales settled in the Latin quarter of the city.
- A. lodgings
B. district
C. fourth
D. division
E. suburb
8. Mr. Mensah put forward a preposterous suggestion.
- A. reasonable
B. wayward
C. wicked
D. obscure
E. absurd
9. The proud man spurned her offer of help.
- A. rejected
B. accepted
C. asked for
D. chose
E. negated
10. You have my heartfelt congratulations.
- A. crushing
B. grudging
C. strong
D. assumed
E. sincere

QUESTION 3

Read the following sentences and answer the questions on them.

1. I'd sooner go to a party than a public dance.
Which of the following is true?
 - A. I'm going to a party soon.
 - B. I would prefer to go to a party.
 - C. I would go to a party more quickly than a public dance.
 - D. I am ready to go to a party.

2. The teacher could not have noticed Mary cheating because he had his back to the class.
From the above we know that
 - A. the teacher saw Mary cheating.
 - B. the teacher was looking away when Mary was cheating.
 - C. the teacher turned away when he noticed Mary cheating.
 - D. Mary could not have cheated because the teacher had his back to the class.

3. I'd never have attended school in Accra if I hadn't won a scholarship.
Which of the following is true?
 - A. I have never attended school in Accra, but I won a scholarship.
 - B. If I hadn't won a scholarship, I would have attended school in Accra.
 - C. I won a scholarship and so I attended school in Accra.
 - D. If I had attended school in Accra, I would have won a scholarship.

4. He has a wife and two children to support, but doesn't even earn enough to keep himself.
Which of the following is true?
 - A. He stays at home with his wife and children instead of earning money.
 - B. He held up his wife and children in order to supplement his salary.
 - C. He gives money to his wife and children and doesn't have enough to pay for himself.
 - D. His salary is not large enough to pay for himself, and he can't afford to give any money to his family.

5. He was building castles in the air.
 - A. He was building flying fortresses.
 - B. He was imagining a terrible future.
 - C. He was imagining a possible future as a famous architect.
 - D. He was imagining a wonderful and rather impossible future.

6. They raced against the clock.
- A. They tried to break a gramophone record.
 - B. They tried to finish before it was too late.
 - C. They worked fast for an hour.
 - D. They competed against each other.
7. You seem to have everything but the kitchen sink
- A. You have forgotten the kitchen sink.
 - B. You appear to have brought practically all your belongings.
 - C. You seem to have most of your kitchen with you.
 - D. You are carrying a heavy load.
8. The landlord has lined his pockets at the expense of his tenants
- A. He has made a lot of money by disregarding his tenants' interests.
 - B. He has become wealthy by renting his beautiful house.
 - C. His tenants have made new linings for his pockets.
 - D. Both the landlord and his tenants have saved money.
9. The speaker tried to amuse his audience but all his jokes fell flat.
- A. The speaker fell flat on his face to amuse his audience.
 - B. The audience was amused by the speaker.
 - C. The audience laughed at the speaker's jokes.
 - D. The speaker's jokes did not make the audience laugh.
10. We cannot run to the expense of a new car.
- A. A new car would be expensive to run.
 - B. We can walk instead of going by car.
 - C. We cannot afford to buy a new car.
 - D. The new car does not run very well.

(10)

QUESTION 4

Separate each of the following sentences into Main Clause and Subordinate Clause

1. He will not be at work today because he is ill.
2. The man whom we saw yesterday joined our staff today.
3. He will report to you when he has finished that job.
4. He wants to be better qualified so that he may be promoted.
5. He announced that he was leaving at the end of the month.

6. The man who had to be escorted home was too drunk to walk on his own.
7. When the man called, his child answered.
8. This is the man who reported the accident.
9. We wondered what we should tell him.
10. We found out when the plane would arrive. (10)

SECTION C

The following paragraph can be divided into three paragraphs. Read it carefully and then re-write it making the necessary divisions.

Sam and Jill are good friends. They live in the same housing estate and go to the same school. As the school is not far away, they walk there together every morning. When school finishes at about one o'clock, they return home together, Sam to his flat and Jill to hers in another block. One day the children were walking happily to school together, talking and laughing. Suddenly Sam stopped. He bent down to pick up something which lay at his foot. It was a woman's purse. Without opening it to see if there was any money inside, they both hastened to their school. When they reached the school, they rushed to their teacher. As they came up to her, she wondered what they were so excited about. When Sam showed her the purse, she exclaimed, "That's mine! You have found my purse. Thank you, children."

(10)

QUESTION 5B

Pick a topic from the following subjects and write a composition of not more than one-and-a-half (1 ½) pages.

- i) How I spend my Sundays
- ii) People in a bus
- iii) My best holidays
- iv) What I like about my job
- v) My village.

(20)