

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION

PART-TIME CERTIFICATE IN ADULT EDUCATION YEAR II

SECOND SEMESTER FINAL EXAM PAPER- MAY, 2011

TITLE OF PAPER : PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH

COURSE CODE : CAE 217

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS :**
- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A AND SECTION B.**

 - 2. ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION C.**

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SECTION A

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

QUESTION 1

Read the passage and answer the following questions.

Meet the Mighty Mantis

When, a few years ago, my wife and I swore off gardening with kill-everything pesticides, we substituted a helper right out of science fiction, the praying mantis. By tying mantis egg-cases among our rose bushes, we found that we could preserve from aphids and other rose-loving pests at least as many roses as we used to raise by spraying with indiscriminatingly lethal insecticides.

Come spring, a single mantis egg-case, a mere inch (2.5mm) in diameter, produces from 100-300 hungry nymphs, which come boiling out of their winter quarters as a froth of tiny translucent beings and need only to hang upside down for a few minutes until exposure to the air hardens their legs and bodies. Then this ravenous horde gallops up and down the nearby plants and bushes, snatching and devouring destructive aphids or any other form of life small enough for them to kill.

The most voracious predators in the insect world, the praying mantis normally consumes its own weight in animal matter every day, and often a great deal more.

15- An entomologist of Washington's Smithsonian Institution told me that he once watched a mantis devour 13 grown cockroaches at a single sitting. Another naturalist found that individuals of one species ate more than 700 insects over their life-span of a few months.

"The only thing a praying mantis really prays for," says Dr. Ashley Gurney of the

- 20- U.S. Department of Agriculture, who has spent decades studying these weird, tooth-pick legged creatures, “is a square meal”.

The mantis’s appetite for pests makes it the darling of garden clubs and conservationists. Its fare includes grasshoppers, houseflies, wasps, caterpillars, moths, blister beetles and fruit flies. Unfortunately, mantises are also fond of some beneficial insects such as honey-bees and lady bugs; but, on balance, they do away with harmful insects in far greater numbers.

Generally, about 4 inches (10 cm) tall when full grown, the praying mantis on the hunt personifies implacable doom. Alerted by any moving insect, it turns its head quickly to focus attention on the target. As the prey comes closer, the mantis almost imperceptibly raises its terrible fore legs into striking position, like a boxer. If necessary it will remain completely motionless in this position for minutes at a time. When the quarry moves within range, the mantis’s long thread-like antennae wave slowly over it. Then the forelegs lash out too fast for the eye to follow quickly enough to snatch a butterfly or moth in flight. The unlucky victim struggles in vain as the mantis brings it up to its mandibles and devours it.

The meal over, the mantis washes its face like a cat, using first one foreleg, then the other. This toilette can take as long as fifteen minutes, after which the mantis settles down on a twig and waits for another course in its non-stop meal.

(from an article by Scott Seegers)

A. MEANING IN CONTEXT

1. Give the meaning of each word or phrase as it is used in the passage.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| a) pesticides | (1.1) | f) entomologist | (1.15) |
| b) indiscriminatingly | (1.5) | g) naturalist | (1.17) |
| c) lethal | (1.5) | h) personifies | (1.28) |
| d) Come spring | (1.6) | i) mandibles | (1.35) |
| e) ravenous | (1.10) | j) toilette | (1.37) |

2. Choose the best explanation for each expression.

- a) "swore off" (1.1) means
 A. curse at.
 B. took an oath to tell the truth about.
 C. resolved to give up.
- b) "a single sitting" (1.16) means
 A. when by itself.
 B. on only one occasion.
 C. during a period of its life.
- c) "a square meal" (1.21) means
 A. as much food as it can eat at one time.
 B. food that it likes to eat.
 C. food that it can catch easily.
- d) "on balance" (1.25) means
 A. taking everything into consideration.
 B. all things being equal (in importance)
 C. besides other things
- e) "on the hunt" (1.28) means
 A. when about to attack.
 B. when preparing to kill.
 C. when in search of food.

[10 marks]

B. IN EACH CASE CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER

1. We can infer that the main reason for the writer and his wife giving up the use of pesticides is that
- A. they could not afford pesticides any longer.
 B. they found pesticides ineffective in killing some harmful insects.
 C. they did not want harmless insects to be killed as well.
 D. they found praying mantises easily available in their garden.

- 2. Which of these statements about the praying mantis is false?
 - A It hatches from an egg.
 - B It looks like a worm when it hatches.
 - C It hatches at about the same time as all others in the egg-case.
 - D It can feed only a few minutes after it leaves the egg-case.
- 3. The praying mantis is much appreciated by conservationists because it
 - A is a harmless insect.
 - B destroys all agricultural pests.
 - C helps to prevent plant diseases.
 - D helps to maintain the ecological balance.
- 4. Which of these statements brings out the main idea in Paragraph 6?
 - A The praying mantis is an efficient hunter of insects.
 - B The praying mantis is a voracious predator of insects.
 - C The praying mantis attacks insects in flight.
 - D The praying mantis is a patient hunter.
- 5. We can gather from the passage that the praying mantis.
 - A is always hungry.
 - B eats one big meal a day.
 - C kills more than it can eat.
 - D is a voracious predator.

[10 marks]

Total Marks: 40

SECTION B

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION

QUESTION 2

The following sentences are vague or ambiguous because certain phrases or clauses are not properly placed. Rewrite each sentence bringing out its meaning clearly.

- a) Joan lived in an apartment with a friend she rented.
- b) The advertisement asks for men who know about machines and girls.

- c) There was a discussion on swimming in the principal's office.
- d) Modern apartment blocks will be built by the government which will be heated by the sun.
- e) Received Billy's invitation to a barbecue on Sunday, two weeks ago.
- f) The old man fell into a deep sleep at a prayer session which was mistaken for death.
- g) I am sure the orphan in his new home will be happier.
- h) The woman has been sent to a sanatorium suffering from tuberculosis.
- i) He ate a meal with great gusto of all sorts of seafood.
- j) He bought a coat for his wife with fur lining.
- k) The manager had to choose among Tom and Jerry for the job.
- l) I saw Mary bought me some apples at the stall.
- m) David is the most sociable of the two brothers.
- n) Although we were very tired, yet we stayed up to watch the midnight show.
- o) Three young men robbed my money when I came out of the bank.

[30 marks]

SECTION C

ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION

QUESTION 3

Write a composition of not less than 300 words on one of the following subjects.

1. Poverty is a handicap in life.
2. Discuss advantages and disadvantages of living in a city.
3. Learning history is a waste of time.
4. My neighbourhood/village.

[30 marks]

QUESTION 4

Write a story of about 300 words which could end with one of the following sentences.

1. I thought I would never live to see my parents again.
2. She realized only then that she had made the biggest mistake in her life.

3. If I had not seen it for myself, I would have never believed it.
4. That is what one gets for trusting too much. **[30 marks]**