

Course Code CAE 216 (M) 2013

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION**  
**PART-TIME CERTIFICATE IN ADULT EDUCATION YEAR 2**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2012**

**TITLE OF PAPER** : **PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH I**

**COURSE CODE** : **CAE 216**

**TIME ALLOWED** : **THREE (3) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTION** : **1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A.**  
**2. ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS IN ALL.**

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

**SECTION A****QUESTION 1**

Read the following passage carefully before you attempt any questions. Answer **all** the questions. You are recommended to answer them in the order set. Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the paper.

(Every day, travellers on land or sea run the risk of meeting robbers. At sea, such robbers are called pirates. In this story, the author tells us how he met some pirates when crossing a short stretch of the China Sea.)

1 The next stage of my journey lay across part of the China Sea and I visited the local police to  
2 get help with my crossing. The superintendent asked me what I knew about that stretch of  
3 water. I told him how I had read about the hijacking of ferry-boats and the raiding of cargo  
4 boats.

5 “Oh, the pirates are not as bad as those in some places,” he replied. “Our police have plenty of  
6 boats patrolling around here, although there is a limit to what they can do. But if you insist on  
7 going, I’ll take you to one of the captains who sail in this area”.

8 A little later we were at the harbour and I had my first glimpse of the sort of boats that regularly  
9 made the crossing. They were large enough to withstand any rough seas, it seemed, even if  
10 crudely built. The superintendent, meanwhile, had singled out one of the captains he knew and  
11 introduced me to him.

12 “How long does it take?” I inquired of the captain.

13 “About three days,” he replied. Three days! It seemed an age to be dodging pirates. Still,  
14 when I looked at the map again I saw that this was a reasonable length of time. I had misjudged  
15 the distance.

16 “How many times have you been stopped?”

17 “Twice,” came the reply.

18 “Was anyone killed?”

19 “No one. But they had guns, took everybody’s money and stole everything.”

20 “Will you take me?”

21 “We sail Saturday,” was all he said.

22 Saturday came and I made my way to the harbour and the waiting boat. A member of the crew  
23 beckoned me aboard and led me to a small cabin. The captain, I was glad to see, was not one

24 to waste time. We had soon left the protection of the harbour and were out on the open sea.  
25 The weather was perfect, the sun hot, the sea blue. But by evening there was bad news. It was  
26 obvious that the boat's engine was failing. Sometimes it puffed and panted, sometimes it  
27 stopped completely. Soon our progress was barely noticeable.

28 "Aren't there any islands nearby where we can go for repairs?" I asked the engineer. "Yes, but  
29 that's where the pirates lurk," he answered, adding some blood-thirsty details. We obviously  
30 needed all our faith in the captain's experience and in the protection of the police patrols.

31 But it wasn't the police that appeared first. Early next morning a narrow, nippy motor-boat  
32 suddenly arrived alongside, and seven wild, agile men clambered aboard. In a flash they had  
33 spread out over our boat. Then they spotted me; the last thing they had expected to see was  
34 a foreign passenger.

35 One of them noticed two fifty-dollar notes in my shirt pocket. "You give me one?" He asked  
36 with a polite smile. Somehow he had understood that I was a traveller and needed money. I  
37 handed it to him. "You and I are friends now," he said, and with a wide grin he threw his arm  
38 round my shoulder. "My name is Musa."

39 "Friends," I agreed. To my considerable relief, others then joined in these exchanges. Only one  
40 remained aloof. He had a bad-tempered expression and I hoped sincerely that my new-found  
41 friends could control him.

42 All the while our boat lay rolling in the stifling heat. The occasional sound of voices down  
43 below signified the negotiations between the captain and the pirates. Members of the crew  
44 popped up from time to time with anxious expressions on their faces, until one of them shouted,  
45 "The pirates say that the captain must take them to their island. It's eight or ten hours away."

46 A shadow fell over me.

47 "Give me your watch and your jacket." There above me was the bad-tempered pirate. I looked  
48 anxiously around for my friend Musa. He was nowhere in sight. Hoping to humour the pirate,  
49 I simply smiled back. He grew impatient and with a threatening frown demanded my shirt and  
50 my boots as well.

51 "Then I want your shirt and your boots." I replied, still smiling.

52 He was scowling by now and baffled, too, perhaps as much by my smile as by my counter-  
53 demands. Always smile: I had learned that lesson years ago, in a similar situation, where the

54 penalty for relaxing your grin, even for an instant, could be fatal. Then to my relief I saw Musa  
55 approaching. His eyes opened wide when he took in what was happening, and wider still when  
56 my tormentor muttered something to him.

57 “Ali here says your jacket is very good,” said Musa, anxiously playing for time.

58 “But I need the jacket, Musa. The boat is cold at night.”

59 Ali, however, was not going to be put off. He took a step towards me.

60 “Your jacket,” he bellowed, his hand working round to a bulge in his hip pocket.

61 “How about your boots?” I asked politely. Then Musa acted with an unexpected diplomacy.

62 Ignoring Ali’s repeated and terrifying requests, he threw his arms round another pirate nearby  
63 and began to chant an imitation of my words. “How about, how about, how about your boots?”

64 The two pirates rocked together to the rhythm of their apparently nonsensical chant and then  
65 both threw their arms about me: only the surly Ali was excluded. The three of us yelled louder  
66 and louder, and I became aware of what we were chanting: a frantic sort of spell. In a way we  
67 were making magic against murder at sea, my murder.

68 It worked. His mouth open, Ali gazed at us with a puzzled frown, biting his fingernails. Then  
69 the ingenious Musa invited him into our group. In a second he changed from having been a  
70 potential killer to someone who, if not a friend, could have been a polite acquaintance. I felt  
71 that the immediate danger had receded - at least any personal danger. The more general one  
72 remained: would the pirates try to force our captain to go on to the pirate lair? I did not like  
73 the idea of sailing to a remote island with pirates as passengers - and to an island infested with  
74 yet more pirates. Surely we wouldn’t have enough extra fuel and food; at least I hoped not.

75 It was the boat and its dilapidated engine that saved our skins. Our oil-spattered engineer could  
76 only coax the engine into a spluttering life, and the boat, like some old actor, played its part  
77 heroically. It gave a convincing imitation of a mortally wounded creature taking its last  
78 staggering steps before the final and inevitable collapse.

79 This decided the pirates. They gave up any hope of diverting us from our route, scrambled into  
80 their boat, and soon were speeding away. My new friend Musa and the trouble-maker Ali raised  
81 their hands in farewell. We waved back with the utmost relief and returned to the world of our  
82 crippled boat.

83 Adapted from *slow Boats to China* by Gavin Young.

**Answer all the questions. You are recommended to answer them in the order set.**

1. (a) Using the evidence from the first two paragraphs, state:
  - (i) what the author was afraid of in crossing the China Sea. [1]
  - (ii) the two reasons the police superintendent gave to reassure him. [2]
  - (iii) why the author's fears might not have been completely removed. [1]
  
- (b) The captain of the boat said that it took about three days to make the crossing (line 13).
 

The author thought 'it seemed an age to be dodging pirates' (line 13).  
Explain

  - (i) what this expression means, without using the words in italics (1)
  - (ii) why it then seemed 'a reasonable length of time' to him. (1)
  
- (c) 'We obviously needed all our faith in the captain's experience' (line 30). What had made this necessary? (1)
  
2. (a) From line 31 to 34 write out one word and then one phrase which both describe speed. Number your answers (1) for the word and (2) for the phrase. (2)
  
- (b) 'I was a traveller and needed money' (line 36).
  - (i) How did Musa show that he understood this? (1)
  - (ii) Why did the author feel that he was no longer in danger when the others 'joined in these exchanges' (line 39) (1)
  - (iii) Then the author immediately feared that the danger was not yet over. Give two reasons for this. (2)
  
- (c) Ali was 'baffled ... by my smile' (line 52).
  - (i) What does 'baffled' mean? (1)
  - (ii) What expression do you suppose Ali had expected to see on the author's face? (1)

3. (a) For each of the following give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning as it has in the passage.

1. regularly (line 8)
2. withstand (line 9)
3. singled out (line 10)
4. barely (line 27)
5. signified (line 44)
6. took in (line 55)
7. remote (line 73)
8. dilapidated (line 75) (8)

- (b) 'The two pirates rocked together to the rhythm of their apparently nonsensical chant' (lines 64).

- (i) What was it that gave the chant a 'rhythm'? (1)
- (ii) Why was the chant apparently 'nonsensical'? (1)
- (iii) Why was the spell 'frantic' (line 66)? (1)

- (c) The author became aware that they were making a sort of spell (line 66). They did four things which created this impression. What were they? (8)

- (d) The engineer 'could only coax the engine into a spluttering life'. (Line 76).

- (i) What does the word 'coax' suggest about the engineer's efforts to start the engine? (2)
- (ii) What does 'spluttering' tell you about his success? (2)
- (iii) Quote a phrase from an earlier section of this story that describes the engine in a similar fashion. (2)

TOTAL: 40 MARKS

**QUESTION 2**

From the list of alternatives numbered A - E choose the one which fills each gap. Each word may be used once, more than once or not at all.

Although 1 people would like to own cars, relatively 2 can afford to do so. 3 of us want to remain poor all our lives, but very 4 of us attain enormous wealth. Often, however, 5 a person tries, 6 things seem to stand in the way of his success. However, 7 ideas he tries, still he is termed a failure by society. And yet he may not be one. He may not earn 8, but it is better to have a little than 9 at all, especially if he turns 10 money he has to good account.

A none      B few      C many      D much      E any      (10)

**SECTION B****QUESTION 3**

Combine the sentences in each pair using a suitable conjunction. Use each conjunction once.

although, as if, as much as, if, unless, wherever, whether, so that, while, until.

- (a) You can pick out more details. You study the picture carefully.
- (b) They are holding the week-long conference some time next month. It will coincide with the school holidays.
- (c) Do not talk. You are eating.
- (d) He enjoyed himself. He had expected to.
- (e) Do not begin. I give the signal.
- (f) You go. You can make payments with traveller's cheques.
- (g) I had seen him only once before. I recognized him immediately.
- (h) No one is certain. Henry will get the job.
- (i) He speaks authoritatively. He thinks he is the leader.
- (j) We shall not be on time. We leave now. (20 marks)

**QUESTION 4**

Turn the verb in brackets at the end of the sentence into a noun and fill in the gap.

1. After the Middle Ages, there was a great \_\_\_\_\_ of learning in Europe. (revive)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Himalayas began at the turn of the century. (explore)
3. Please give me an \_\_\_\_\_ for your recent strange behaviour. (explain)
4. The inspector decided on a \_\_\_\_\_ of the current syllabus. (modify)
5. It is difficult to make a correct \_\_\_\_\_ of the damage. (assess)
6. Your library books are due for \_\_\_\_\_ (renew)
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ about the effects of air pollution is not clear. (argue)
8. You need a high \_\_\_\_\_ to enter University. (qualify)
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the train will be delayed. (arrive)
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the prisoner lasted two hours. (interrogate)
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the country has recently undergone drastic changes. (administer)
12. His \_\_\_\_\_ to co-operate was most disappointing (refuse)
13. Bits of \_\_\_\_\_ were seen floating on the surface of the water. (wreck)
14. He received considerable \_\_\_\_\_ to apply for the scholarship. (encourage)
15. We all helped with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the furniture. (remove)

(30)