

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

PART – TIME CERTIFICATE IN ADULT EDUCATION YEAR 1

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER – NOVEMBER 2013

TITLE OF PAPER : PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH

COURSE CODE : CAE 117

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS :

- 1. QUESTION ONE IS COMPULSORY.**
- 2. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN SECTION B.**
- 3. ANSWER ONE QUESTION IN SECTION C.**

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

SECTION A

This section is compulsory

QUESTION 1

Read the following passage carefully before you attempt any questions.

Answer all the questions. You are “advised” OR “required” recommended to answer them in the order set.

Mistake in spelling, punctuations and grammar may be penalised in any part of the paper.

- 1 On that particular morning, a Thursday in May, Mama Idowu woke up feeling well disposed
2 to the world, jubilant and full of praises to God. And she had every reason to be so elated.
3 Idowu, her only surviving son – she had four, including a set of twins – was at least returning
4 to Lagos after nearly twenty years in Britain. Yes, twenty unbroken years. ‘Unbroken’
5 because during those years Idowu had not come home once to see her despite her pleas and
6 fervent supplications. The reason, she found out, was that Idowu’s wife, a West Indian from
7 Jamaica, was not all keen on living in Nigeria.
- 8 Though she never once doubted that her son would return home, she was, at seventy-seven
9 and ailing, beginning to fret that she would not see him again before she died. However,
10 since she had got the letter that he was coming home for good, she felt better – in fact, it was
11 as if she had been given a new lease of life. Even then she still harboured a feeling of
12 uncertainty and suspicion which would only be dispelled when she set eyes on her Idowu.
13 She could hardly wait for that moment of reunion.
- 14 And when it came, she was so overwhelmed that as soon as she saw Idowu she burst into
15 tears, venting her bottled-up emotions in a manner that shook her shrivelling frame. After the
16 outburst subsided and she regained control over herself, she embraced Idowu as if she would
17 never let him go. He had to disengage himself tactfully.
- 18 ‘Idowu ... Idowu ... Idowu... my one and only son, I thought I’ll not see you before I rest
19 from my labours. Now, that you are here I can go with joy,’ she said shaking with emotion.
20 ‘I’m glad ... happy to be back Ma,’ replied Idowu composedly. ‘Look at what I brought with
21 me to gladden your heart.’
- 22 He then introduced his wife, Cynthia, and his twin children, Richard and Dorothy. Cynthia
23 got a lukewarm reception, which the twins were fussed over. Not being used to such an
24 effusion of affection, Richard and Dorothy felt rather uneasy and tongue-tied. Mama was
25 horrified when she was told they spoke only English.
- 26 ‘Why give them English names as well? Is Kehinde and Taiwo not good enough names?’
27 She demanded indignantly.

28 'Cynthia found them difficult to pronounce and the English were even worse so we decided
29 not to call them by their Yoruba names,' Idowu explained.

30 Mama expressed in no uncertain terms her total dissatisfaction with this explanation to the
31 point of rebuking Idowu. She warned him not to let a woman, a mere woman rule him, for
32 the children were his and not his wife's. Consequently, his authority over them must be
33 complete, In this defence, Idowu said that the children liked their English names, which were
34 the names of his wife's parents. This infuriates his mother so much that he had to pacify her.

35 'And another thing', 'Mama said after a prolonged silence, broken only by occasional moans
36 and sighs. 'You did not send home for names of the children and news of their birth reached
37 me long after the traditional day for the naming ceremony had passed. What kind of
38 nonsense is that? Because you're in England I no reason to forget your customs and
39 traditional ceremonies.'

40 'Ah!' Explained Idowu, genuinely surprised. 'I wrote the day the twins were born and I too
41 was surprised I didn't hear from you.'

42 'What did you do about it, Idowu? What did you do?' 'We were very worried about not
43 hearing from you,' chimed on Cynthia. 'You keep out of this', Mama snapped back at her,
44 'and in future don't ever say a word when I'm talking to my son. Idowu, tell her, tell her. I
45 won't take any insult from your wife and, what is more, a foreigner at that.'

46 'She was only ...'

47 'Idowu', cut in Mama angrily. 'I don't want any apology. All I ask you to do is to speak to
48 her. You must teach her how to behave. Here, in Lagos, we are taught to respect our elders.'

49 'I'll speak to her, Mama', replied Idowu submissively.

50 'I don't suppose you did all the ceremony for the twins who will from now on be called by
51 their proper names – Kehinde and Taiwo.'

52 'Yes Mama,' agreed Idowu tamely.

53 'Bring them here the day after tomorrow. I want only the children and not your wife. Don't
54 bring her.'

55 'Alright, Mama.'

56 Not long after, Idowu and his family left.. On the way home Cynthia made it abundantly
57 clear to Idowu that in no circumstances was she going to allow the children to go to
58 grandmother without her. She was firmly supported by the twins.

59 'Cynthia, please don't make things more difficult than they are at present. You must bear
60 with mother'.

61 'Bear with her, Idowu? What a wonderful welcome she gave me and the children? She
62 doesn't like me and there's nothing I can do to make her change her mind.'

63 'Look ... look Look, Cynthia. Mother's not as hard as you think. She's merely angry
64 with you about something. I'll find out and will soon settle it,' pleaded Idowu.

65 But Cynthia was in no mood to be conciliatory and Idowu, who was determined not to let her
66 have her way, decided to drop the matter. That night Cynthia accused Idowu of humiliating
67 her in the children's presence by not standing up to his mother and defending her.

68 'You know Mother is old and she meant no harm, Cynthia. I had to humour her and I must
69 say you were wonderful.'

70 'I just didn't want to be rude to her. If I knew that was the sort of thing that would happen I'd
71 never come home with you. Why didn't you warn me Idowu? Why?' she demanded and
72 burst into tears.

73 He offered her words of assurance and, eventually, she quietened down. After a while she
74 said in a voice full of emotion: 'I know your mother doesn't like me. I could see hate in her
75 eyes and her manner was very resentful. What have I done to her? Did I offend her in
76 marrying you? Has she got someone else for you?'

77 'No ... no ... no Cynthia.'

78 'She must have, otherwise she wouldn't treat me the way she did. If that's the case, Idowu,
79 I'll return to England.'

80 'Come ... come ... you're making a mountain out of a molehill.'

81 'Send me back to England with the children and ...'

82 'Enough of that nonsense,' snapped Idowu in a tone of finality. 'If you want to go back to
83 England you can do so on your own.' 'How can I, dear? You know I don't mean it.' 'Then
84 don't say what you don't mean,' replied Idowu good-humouredly. 'I'd like to come with you
85 when you take the children to your mother. May I – please?' asked Cynthia some time later.

86 'I'm sleepy, dear. Besides, the day is still a long way away. When it comes we'll decide.
87 But right now you won't get any promise out of me ... Good night.'

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

Questions marked with an (*) should be answered very briefly and in these answers complete sentences are not necessary. Other questions should be answered in complete and correct sentences, using your own words when you are asked for this.

- a) In your own words explain why Mama Idowu was feeling particularly 'jubilant'. (5)
- b) Despite the reassurance she felt after receiving his letter, why was she still not completely happy. (2)
- c) In your own words say why she burst into tears when she saw Idowu again. (5)
- d) In your own words explain what Mama Idowu meant when she said, 'Now that you're here I can go with joy.' (3)

- e) In your own words explain what Idowu meant by saying ‘the English were even worse.’ (3)
- f) Mama Idowu told her son not to let a woman rule him. Briefly list five instances where Cynthia got or tried to get her own way or behaved in a manner which was unacceptable to her mother-in-law. (10)
- g) Quote from the passage two words which indicate that Idowu was ready to obey his mother rather than his wife. (2)
- h) How did Idowu finally avoid Cynthia’s request to go with the children to his mother’s? (2)
- i) Explain in your own words the meaning of ‘in no uncertain terms’, and ‘You’re making a mountain out of a molehill’. (4)
- j) Explain in your own words the meaning of:
Dispelled
Infuriated (4)

TOTAL: 40

SECTION B

Answer two questions from this section.

QUESTION 2

Complete the following sentences with the correct preposition from the bracket.

1. After losing her job, she had to cut down _____ the money she spent each week. (from, on, to through)
2. I wanted to see him growing _____ to be a responsible citizen (over, in, up, on)
3. He arrived _____ the meeting long after the president had made his speech. (in, at, for, to)
4. In general the supply of food does not keep up _____ the number of hungry people (at, on with, for)
5. Attend all classes so that you may keep up _____ the teacher. (at, for, on, with)
6. I am looking forward _____ the weekend so that I can visit my friend. (in, at, to, for)
7. If I had known, I would not have taken _____ employment so far away from home. (in, up, over, on)
8. She was asked to look _____ the number in the telephone directory. (into, over, up, at)
9. Do not let the idea that success is automatic run away _____ you. (to, with, for, at)
10. She walked out _____ him after he lost his job. (for, with, on, at)

(20)

QUESTION 3

Fill in each blank space with the correct word or group of words from A, B, C or D.

1. Although he has made many mistakes, he has not been cured of _____ hastily.
A. being acted B. to act C. acting D. act
2. If you were to go yourself you _____ what I mean.
A. would have understood B. understand C. would understand
D. had understood
3. Usually Thembi _____ shopping everyday but last week she did not go at all.
A. is going B. did go C. went D. goes
4. Please get _____ from the office so that I can write a letter.
A. Some papers B. some paper C. a paper D. newspapers
5. _____ speaking French and German, he can understand Spanish.

- A. Altogether B. Besides C. Ever D. Anyway
6. He cannot afford a radio, but he intends to buy one _____ .
A. although B. anyway C. besides D. already
7. When the teacher comes in everybody _____ talking.
A. Stopped B. is stopping C. stops D. stop
8. The better educated we are _____ we realize we have to learn.
A. More B. the more C. as much D. the most
9. 'I would go if I could, but I can't. Can you?' "Yes _____ "
A. I go B. I can C. I do D. I am
10. The trial _____ held at this moment.
A. Has been B. had been C. being D. is being
- (20)

QUESTION 4

In this passage there are gaps numbered 1 – 10. From the list of alternatives A to E choose the one which best fills each gap. Each word may be used more than once.

A. near B. in C. by D. along E. through

The car raced 1 the night, 2 a narrow road, bordered 3 low hedges behind which rolled well cared for fields. The lights of a town shone 4 the distance. The car slowed down and went 5 the quiet town slowly until it reached the centre. In the square stood a policeman holding a torch 6 his hand. When the car was 7 him, it stopped and the driver peered 8 the window, seeming, 9 his attitude, to be wondering what to do. The policeman drew 10 the car. (20)

SECTION C

Answer all questions in this Section.

QUESTION 5

Answer True or False

1. A memo is a good channel for dismissing an employee.
2. Written communication should not be used in organizations because it wastes time.
3. The subject head must be written in a clear and precise sentence.
4. The introduction and conclusion of a letter are unimportant since they do not add anything to the actual message.
5. A signature is not important as long as the writer has printed his/her name.
6. Since a memo is brief and precise, it is the best channel to use between organizations.
7. A good memo must have a friendly salutation.
8. When using the indented style, all paragraphs must be separated by a blank line.
9. Communication has no place in organizations because it slows down operations.
10. The complimentary close of a memo should be as polite as its salutation.

(20)