

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
PART TIME CERTIFICATE IN ADULT EDUCATION YEAR I
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2015

TITLE OF PAPER: PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH

COURSE CODE: CAE217

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A.**
 - 2. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN SECTION B.**
 - 3. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION C.**

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BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION A

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

Question 1

Read the following passage carefully before you attempt any questions.

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

Mistake in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalized in any part of the paper.

On that particular morning, a Thursday in May, Mama Idowu woke up feeling well disposed to the world, jubilant and full of praises to God. And she had every reason to be so elated. Idowu, her only surviving son – she had four, including a set of twins – was at last returning to Lagos after nearly twenty years in Britain. Yes, twenty unbroken years. ‘Unbroken’ because during those years Idowu had not come home once to see her despite her pleas and fervent supplications. The reason, she found out, was that Idowu’s wife, a West Indian from Jamaica, was not at all keen on living in Nigeria.

Though she never once doubted that her son would return home, she was, at seventy-seven and ailing, beginning to fret that she would not see him coming home for good, she felt better – in fact, it was as if she had been given a new lease of life. Even then she still harboured a feeling of uncertainty and suspicion which would only be dispelled when she set eyes on her Idowu. She could hardly wait for that moment of reunion.

And when it came she was so overwhelmed that as soon as she saw Idowu she burst into tears, venting her bottled-up emotions in a manner that shook her shriveling frame. After the outburst subsided and she regained control over herself, she embraced Idowu as if she would never let him go. He had to disengage himself tactfully.

‘Idowu ... Idowu ... Idowu ... my one and only son, I thought I’ll not see you before I rest from my labours. Now, that you are here I can go with joy,’ she said shaking with emotion. ‘I’m glad ... happy to be back Ma,’ replied Idowu composedly. ‘Look at what I brought with me to gladden your heart.’

He then introduced his wife, Cynthia, and his twin children, Richard and Dorothy. Cynthia got a lukewarm reception, which the twins were fussed over. Not being used to such an effusion of affection, Richard and Dorothy felt rather uneasy and tongue-tied. Mama was horrified when she was told they spoke only English.

‘Why give them English names as well? Is Kehinde and Taiwo not good enough names?’ She demanded indignantly.

‘Cnythia found them difficult to pronounce and the English were even worse so we decided not to call them by their Yoruba names,’ Idowu explained.

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

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

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

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

'She was only...'

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

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

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

'Yes Mama,' agreed Idowu tamely.

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

'Alright, Mama.'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'No No No Cynthia.'

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

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

'Send me back to England with the Children and

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

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

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

Questions marked with a (*) 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 Marks)
- b) Despite the Reassurance she felt after receiving his letter, why was she still not completely happy.
(2 Marks)
- c) In your own words say why she burst into tears when she saw Idowu again.
(5 Marks)
- d) In your own words explain what Mama Idowu meant when she said, "Now that you're here I can go with joy."
(3 Marks)
- e) In your own words explain what Mama Idowu meant when she said, 'the English were even worse.'
(3 Marks)
- *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 Marks)
- *g) Quote from the passage two words which indicate that Idowu was ready to obey his mother rather than his wife.
(2 Marks)

- h) How did Idowu finally avoid Cynthia's request to go with the children to his mother's
(2 Marks)
- *i) Explain in your own words the meaning of 'in no uncertain terms', and 'You're
making a mountain out of a molehill.'
(4 Marks)
- j) Explain in your own words the meaning of :
dispelled
infuriated.
(4 Marks)

TOTAL (40 Marks)

SECTION B

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS

Question 2

Fill in the blank in each sentence with a present or past participle tense formed from the verb in brackets.

- a) She called in a plumber to repair the _____ (leak) pipe.
- b) The _____ (wreck) aeroplane was discovered in thick jungle.
- c) _____ (arrive) an hour late, she felt very embarrassed.
- d) The _____ (bark) dog disturbed the whole neighbourhood.
- e) A _____ (type) ransom note was sent to the family of the kidnapped victim.
- f) _____ (Arrange) marriages are less common nowadays.
- g) The _____ (absorb) novel kept him occupied for hours.
- h) Her _____ (extend) visit caused her host much inconvenience.
- i) During the cholera epidemic, teachers advised their pupils to drink _____ (boil) water only.
- j) The steam from the _____ (boil) water makes the kettle whistle.
- k) He is to stand trial for _____ (cheat) his employer.
- l) _____ (eat) at home is cheaper than _____ (dine) out.
- m) _____ (go) to bed late is not good for health.
- n) He doesn't like _____ (be) away from home for too long.
- o) _____ (meet) him was a pleasure

(15 Marks)

Question 3

Rewrite each sentence replacing the underlined words with a single word.

Example:

Mother bought spinach, cabbage, lettuce and tomatoes at the market.

Mother bought vegetables at the market.

- a) She gave the porter a tip for carrying her suitcase, bag and trunk.
- b) The two friends always talk about robins, kingfishers, tits and sky-larks when they are together.
- c) Lizzard, tortoises, crocodiles and snakes are cold-blooded animals and they lay eggs.

- d) She intended to visit her aunts, uncles, cousins and nephews in America during the Christmas vacation.
- e) He excels in sprinting, jumping and hurdling.
- f) Aunt Jane has bought a new set of table, chairs, cupboards and beds for her house.
- g) The students are encouraged to take part in badminton, squash, tennis, football and hockey.
- h) The old widow has an expensive collection of ruby rings, diamond bracelets, pearl necklaces and jade earrings.
- i) I keep my skirts, blouses and pants in the cupboard upstairs.
- j) Susan loves collies, dachshunds, terriers and bloodhounds and she cannot bear to see them ill-treated.
- k) Many doctors, lawyers, engineers and architects are leaving the country to settle in the West.
- l) His uncle sells exercise books, pencils, pens, writing pads, and paper files at my school.
- m) The city gates were shut down so that there were no cars, buses, trucks and vans coming in or going out.
- n) The country is small but rich in coal, iron, tin, gold and copper deposits.
- o) Salmon, herring, mackerel and cod are an excellent source of protein and a good brain food. (15 Marks)

Question 4

Fill in the blank in each sentence with the most appropriate word.

- a), There are many _____ organizations here which need voluntary workers.
A. sympathetic B. charitable C. secret D. generous E. sociable
- b) The building was completely _____ by fire.
A. scarred B. obliterated C. demolished D. annihilated E. destroyed
- c) If you _____ his friendship, he will never forgive you.
A. devalue B. distrust C. abuse D. deceive E. disapprove

- d) Undaunted by _____ he succeeded in his third attempt.
A. decay B. deterioration C. weakness D. failure E. deception
- e) Never discuss _____ subjects with your friends at a party.
A. furious B. controversial C. conflicting D. unreasonable E. contrary
- f) His most striking _____ was his nose, which was hooked like an eagle's beak.
A. characteristic B. point C. feature D. physique E. personality
- g) The window grilles were _____ by rain water and needed a fresh coat of paint.
A. polluted B. consumed C. corroded D. conditioned E. corrupted
- h) The hall is so _____ that it can accommodate five hundred people easily.
A. widespread B. extensive C. spacious D. expansive E. luxurious
- i) The authorities have _____ that the plane to America was hijacked.
A. assured B. ensured C. agreed D. confirmed E. approved
- j) A big tree was _____ in the storm last night.
A. shifted B. toppled C. uplifted D. uprooted E. collapsed
- k) During the _____ the land was parched and the wells were dry.
A. famine B. flood C. drought D. disaster E. war
- l) After interviewing the two men, I am _____ to pick the older one.
A. intended B. attracted C. preferred D. inclined E. convinced
- m) Parents should not _____ their children especially during their formative years.
A. correct B. protect C. forget D. neglect E. reject

- n) Some big corporations are willing to _____ our campaign.
A. publicise B. promote C. advance D. sponsor E. encourage
- o) She tried to _____ my question but I persisted in having an answer.
A. refrain B. refuse C. refute D. evade E. deny (15 Marks)

SECTION C

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

Question 5

- i) Explain why it is necessary for a paragraph to have a topic sentence. (5 Marks)
- ii) Why is it important for communicators to choose words carefully? (5 Marks)
- iii) Explain why it is essential for a writer to divide his/her writing into paragraphs. (5 Marks)
- iv) Why must any piece of writing have different types of sentences? (5 marks)
- v) Why is written communication important in organizations? (5 Marks)
- vi) Explain the difference between a routine report and a special report? (5 Marks)