

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
PART TIME CERTIFICATE IN ADULT EDUCATION YEAR I
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 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.**

**THIS PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED
BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION A

This section is compulsory

QUESTION 1

You are recommended to answer questions in the order set.

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

(A party of travellers is about to set out across the Sahara Desert, along a route used for hundreds of years by traders and their camels. They are going to a little town called Toudenni).

We are due to start the next morning. Ahead of us lay a bare plain of sand and rocks, where everything was dry and lifeless. But the sense of impatience that filled our little party of travellers drove out any anxiety and so we started, in the bitter cold of the early dawn.

For six hours we hauled ourselves over endless sand-hills, called 'dunes': From a distance they had a special beauty in appearance, but close up that beauty was deceptive. They had two sides: on one side the slopes were hard, while on the other the sand was loose on the surface and unstable underneath, and fell away as you put your feet in it, burying you up to your thighs and burning your legs.

The camels carrying our supplies knew by instinct the dangers of these sand dunes. As we began to cross them the camels became tense and difficult to manage and had to be coaxed along very slowly. Time-consuming precautions had to be taken to ensure that they would not fall down the soft slopes, for often we had to unload every single camel, carrying the baggage piece by piece across the burning sands so that the animals could cross unhindered by the weight.

Two more soul-destroying and back-breaking days followed. Whenever the line of dunes led in a suitable direction, we kept to their hard crests, but all the while we had to maintain a tight control over the camels to stop them plunging off the crests and down into the slopes. At other times, when the line of dunes turned away from our route, we were reduced to cutting a pathway through the treacherous surface, and then leading the camels down the side of a dune, one by one.

So we moved laboriously onwards, with the sun beating down on our heads like a silent hammer, the dunes stretching out in front of us as far as the horizon, and it seemed, beyond it. The final dune we crossed on the third day was the worst of all. First we dug a path about a hundred metres long, using our hands. Next came the unloading of the camels, and the separate hauling of each piece of luggage across the sand. The camels themselves, intensely suspicious, had to be led along the path. In the end they too, had to be dragged across the sand, one at a time, like the luggage. It took three hours to travel three hundred metres.

As evening fell, the plain ahead narrowed into a bottle-neck. Great mounds of rock rose up on either side, like skyscrapers, hemming it in until at last they formed a gorge. That night we camped in its shelter, our bones aching from the labours of the day. Next morning, leaving the gorge behind, we set off again across the plain, marching in front of the camels, who plodded on in a long line behind us. And now we encountered further suffering, from a violent wind. It began in gusts, coming off a great granite ridge that directly faced our line of march. Then it reached gale force, sweeping up the sand and gravel from the ground into our faces and soon all features of the plain were lost: the granite ridge had disappeared. The floor of the desert joined

in the restless fury of the wind and became vague and indefinable as it danced about our feet. Gradually we lunged and tottered towards a shape we saw up ahead, a rock perhaps or some clump of vegetation, anything to give us shelter. Just as suddenly as it had started, the wind died down, the ground looked firm again, and the sand settled back into thick layers.

The days that followed telescoped into one another, as we toiled across range after range of sand dunes. Each day began with a grey sky and the sand as cold as snow. The sand would heat up under the sun, scorching our feet and calves. The slow, depressing drag left us concentrating on little things to keep mentally alive: here a patch of soft sand to avoid, a stone to tread on there. It was a painful monotony, however hard we tried to give it variety. Luckily, there were practical duties to carry out, chief among them the careful protection of the water-bottles. These were made out of goatskin, and kept supple by rubbing butter into them. Though primitive in appearance, they had proved their worth against other types.

Five days were left, according to our original calculation, to complete our journey. Yet another dune confronted us as we started early next morning. A guide was up ahead, leading the camel train, when a load on one of the camels slipped. The animal panicked and plunged down the dune, pulling two other camels with it. We rushed to investigate. No injuries had been suffered. But there was something worse. One of the camels, which had been carrying our water-skins, had rolled over; the skins lay there, on top of two damp patches of sand. We had but three skins left.

So we began the last stages of our march, limiting ourselves to the absolute minimum of water. From now on, sand, not water, was to be used for washing our hands before and after we ate. The strict rationing left its mark on our spirits as well as our bodies. We felt helplessly and hopelessly crushed. The camels were in an even worse state than we were: they kept flopping down in a state of collapse, too weak to roar their grumbles when loads had to be shifted or adjusted. When barely a litre of water remained in the surviving skins, the barren landscape began to give way to a few patches of sparse vegetation. Now that the immediate threat of death had receded, the separate perils of the last few days seemed short-lived compared with the endless monotony and boredom of the whole journey we had endured. But as we reached the top of the last range of hills we wondered if, after all, it had been worthwhile.

We saw below us a plain drab and uninviting, and spotted with little lakes of encrusted salt. At its far edge lay the scattered buildings of Taoudenni, our destination. The gates to Hell could not have looked bleaker.

Adapted from "Forbidden Sands" by Richard Trench).

Answer ALL the questions.

You are recommended to answer them in the order set.

1. a) i) What evidence is there in the first paragraph that would make you expect the travellers to be anxious? (1 Mark)
ii) Explain in your own words why they were not anxious (1 Mark)
- b) The dunes were dangerous. From the evidence of the second paragraph list three dangers, numbering your answers 1,2 and 3. (3 Marks)

- c) i) Describe in your own words how the dunes affected the camels as they began to cross them. (3 Marks)
 ii) The precautions were 'Time-consuming' (line 13). What reasons made them so? (3 Marks)
- d) Why were the camels 'intensely suspicious' (line 31)? (1 Mark)
2. a) i) 'Great mounds of rock rose up ... hemming it in' (lines 34-35). What does 'hemming it in' mean?
 ii) What word does the author use to tell us of the great height of the gorge? (1 Mark)
- b) i) How did the violent wind (line 40) affect the appearance of the landscape? (1 Mark)
 ii) Explain what the author means when he says, 'The floor of the desert ... danced around our feet' (line 44) (3 Marks)
- c) 'We encountered further suffering' (lines 39-40).
 i) What suffering is mentioned by the author earlier in the same paragraph? (1 Mark)
 ii) How did the wind inflict further suffering? (1 Mark)
- d) The days that followed telescoped into one another (line 50). What did the days seem like to the travellers? (3 Marks)
- e) 'Though primitive in appearance, they had proved their worth against other types' (lines 59-60).
 Without using the words underlined in your answer, give the meaning of this sentence. (3 Marks)
3. a) Choose FIVE of the following words. For each of the five give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning as each has in the passage.
- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. original (line 61) | 5. adjusted (line 75) |
| 2. confronted (line 62) | 6. barely (line 75) |
| 3. strict (line 7) | 7. sparse (line 72) |
| 4. grumbles (line 74) | 8. endured (line 80) (5 Marks) |
- b) i) 'We had but three skins left' (line 68)
 Explain fully what had happened to the other skins (2 Marks)
 ii) 'We felt ... crushed' (lines 72-73)
 How has the water-rationing affected the travellers? (2 Marks)

- c) 'the immediate threat of death had receded' (lines 77-78).
- i) What does 'receded' mean here? (2 Marks)
- ii) Why did the sight of the vegetation make the travelers confident that they would now survive. (2 Marks)

[TOTAL 40 MARKS]

SECTION B

Answer two questions

QUESTION 2

- A. What is the importance of punctuation in:
- i) Written communication? (5 Marks)
- ii) Spoken (oral) communication? (5 Marks)
- B. Read the following passage and punctuate it correctly.

Although mary was responsible to her mother for the safe-keeping of the baby she often wished she could rid herself of the burden she was confined to the house when she would rather have gone out when she compared her life with that of her friends she thought hers was hard she looked at the other girls with envy and wasnt interested in the fact that her mother needed her when her mother reminded her of this she was all the more resentful towards her baby brother.

(20 Marks)

QUESTION 3

Instructions: In the following passages the numbered gaps show where words are missing. Against each number, in the lists below, four or five words are offered in columns lettered A to D (or (E), in each case, choose the word that best fills the gap.

When making a garden one must consider many things. What is the -1- of land to be used? Is the soil -2- or mainly clay? What is the annual rainfall, and is it -3- or uniform? Most people like the garden at the front of the house to be -4- rather than useful; flowers and -5- are planted there. The latter should be arranged so that they give shade but do not -6- the house or flower beds. To save having to replant the back of the beds every year -7- can be planted there. You can plant different -8- each year and these should be chosen for -9- and scent. The combination of colour, size and -10- should be pleasing to the eye. The garden should be kept clear of -11- ; -12- should be used when necessary to get rid of harmful insects such as greenfly. The -13- should be carefully -14- occasionally and the plants -15- when necessary.

	A	B	C	D
1.	sum	area	number	group
2.	humus	shady	crusty	sandy
3.	precipitated	wet	seasonal	convectinal

4.	decorative	bare	functional	overgrown
5.	leaves	weeds	wreaths	shrubs
6.	absolve	obscure	over-ride	observe
7.	perennials	algae	sticks	yam seeds
8.	vegetables	seeds	fruits	annuals
9.	strength	tone	colour	clarity
10.	Propitiation	property	proportion	propriety
11.	seedlings	plants	weeds	flowers
12.	insecticides	hormones	fertilizer	insectariums
13.	flowers	beds	frames	greenhouses
14.	broken	shovelled	cut	hoed
15.	watched	dried	watered	wet

(30 Marks)

QUESTION 4

1. What is the difference between a phrase and a sentence? (2 Marks)
 2. What is the difference between a subordinate clause and a main clause? (2 Marks)
 3. Explain subject-verb agreement and clarify with an example. (6 Marks)
 4. Pick out the subordinate clause in each sentence.
 - a) The report that they had been expecting was finally released.
 - b) The plan that was finally adopted promised to be effective.
 - c) They have not decided where they will spend their vacation.
 - d) He would not tell us why he left so suddenly.
 - e) The principal wants to see the students who played truant.
 - f) The news that the police superintendent was corrupt came as a shock to many.
 - g) This batik artist, whose work is admired all over the world, held an exhibition last week.
 - i) He promised his children that he would bring presents for them.
 - j) Because the festive season is approaching, the supermarkets are hiring more staff.
- (20 Marks)