

THE UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS
FINAL (MAIN) EXAMINATION December 2007

TITLE OF PAPER	ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS
COURSE CODE	ACS 102 (M)
TIME ALLOWED	TWO (2) HOURS
INSTRUCTIONS	WRITE THE NAME OF YOUR FACULTY ON THE ANSWER SCRIPT ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS
TOTAL MARKS	100

This examination paper contains 6 pages including the cover sheet.

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INVIGILATOR

Question 1**Comprehension**

50 Marks

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

ON ROUTE TO ZIMBABWE

1 Every time this clanking 14-car train slows to a crawl, which is often, the policeman in Car 6 barks an order and 50 men bend over in their seats, heads between knees, until the pace picks up again. Back in Car 10, the luggage racks are festooned with the occupants' belts, dangling above them like snakes. "Their trousers are too big," one officer said. "They won't try to escape without their belts."

2 The police say they have any number of ways to keep the 952 passengers on the train to Zimbabwe in their seats. But as the engine lumbers out of one station at 9:15 p.m., two shadows tumble from a window near the centre of the train, then sprint into the inky bush. A half-hour later, at another stop, 10 more plunge onto the rocky railbed, then another 5, then 4 or 5 more. A few cars away, a policeman cranes his neck out the window and guffaws. "They'd rather die than go home," he said. Indeed, one of the train's coughing passengers did just that, not an hour before.

3 This is the overnight train from Johannesburg to Messina, which twice a month hauls about 1,000 illegal migrants from South Africa's Lindela detention camp back to the Zimbabwe border - or tries to. What the policeman says is very nearly true: life in Zimbabwe these days is so hard, and sometimes so terrifying, that the passengers say death is almost preferable to returning to hunger, oppression, disease and hopelessness. "It's like to die," a despairing Xolani Masuko, 18, being deported for the second time in less than a year, said of his homeland. "I don't have money. I don't have food. I don't have everything. The whole family died of HIV."

4 South African officials say that the country deports at least 2,500 Zimbabweans each month, on the train and in trucks. But the true number of illegal immigrants is far higher. They work in menial jobs, as street vendors, in tenement-style sewing factories and elsewhere, sending their paychecks back to destitute relatives. Zimbabwe has been plummeting into economic and political purgatory for at least six years, since its president, Robert Mugabe, now 82, started a nationalistic, race-driven campaign to purge the country of white influence and black political opposition. Both targets have been gravely wounded. But in a night of conversations with Zimbabweans loaded onto the train back home, the recurring theme was that ordinary people have been hit hardest. Mr. Masuko said he vastly preferred sharing a plastic-and-mud shack in the Diepsloot squatter's camp north of Johannesburg to subsisting in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city and once a major economic centre. In Johannesburg, he earned about \$30 a week working as a security guard in a wealthy suburb. Life in Bulawayo consisted of cleaning car windscreens, collecting less than a dollar a day in the country's wildly inflated currency. Some days, he said, there was not enough even to buy mealie-meal. The first time he was deported, Mr. Masuko was back inside South Africa within a day, so determined to return that he missed his mother's funeral. This time, he said, he will return again. Everyone interviewed during the train's 15-hour trek to the border had the same intention. "Tomorrow, we are in Zimbabwe," Bitwe Sikhola, 24, a delivery boy until Johannesburg police caught him, said as he slouched late Wednesday on the train's bench seat. "Friday, we are back here."

5 Mr. Mugabe won global fame 20 years ago by freeing Zimbabwe from oppressive white-minority rule. Since 2000, his government has seized and redistributed to landless peasants — sometimes violently — most of the remaining white-owned farms.

6 But the fallout has been grievous. By United Nations estimates, production on large-scale commercial farms has collapsed to 10 percent of its 1990's level, and as many as 2,000,000 of the nation's 15 million people have lost their jobs or homes. Unemployment now exceeds 70 percent. Production of tobacco, the major cash crop, has collapsed. Foreign investment has dried up. Shortages of food and imported goods like medicine have fed hyperinflation, now 7000 percent a year. In the capital, Harare, a litre of gasoline costs 50,000 Zimbabwe dollars, and is so scarce that some people literally play dead to get the fuel allowance granted funeral processions. Human rights groups accuse Mr. Mugabe's government of condoning torture, killings and rape to drive out white farmers and subdue rivals, mostly in the rival Movement for Democratic Change. The groups say the army and a youth militia terrorize political opponents and that the government has withheld food aid from critics of the governing party, known as ZANU-PF. Predictably, Zimbabweans are fleeing, and South Africa, the continent's economic magnet, attracts many of them. On this week's journey, there were 885 men and 67 women, 14 train carriages of dishevelled and filthy refugees wracked by a respiratory virus that pervaded the overcrowded Lindela camp and its 4,000-plus prisoners. Most had spent at least two weeks there.

7 The trip to the border, five hours by car, takes three times as long by rail, with stops to give way to more important trains. This time, there was an extra delay: not far out of Johannesburg, the train stopped. Doctors were summoned to administer oxygen to three men who were having trouble breathing. A fourth, thought to be sleeping, was dead. Doctors are supposed to examine deportees before they board the train, but "he didn't show any signs of sickness," said the chief immigration officer.

8 Wilfred Phiri, a muscular 22-year-old from outside Bulawayo, had been a youth organizer for the opposition party. "If you aren't ZANU, you don't have access to anything," he said. "There's no food." He quit the opposition in 2000, fearing for his life, after government supporters beat a fellow worker. Since fleeing to Johannesburg in 2001, he said, he had worked odd jobs, sending about \$45 back to his jobless family in a good month. "Obviously, I have to come back to South Africa again," he said. "There's nothing I can do in Zimbabwe. Nobody is working." Hilda, 21, another Bulawayo expatriate, left an infant daughter and her dreams of a real career with her parents 31 months ago to sneak into Johannesburg and work as a maid. Her husband, 27, drives a truck in Botswana. They see each other, and their daughter, perhaps once a year. She is bitter, speaking of her high school grades and hopes, now ended. "We were suffering" in Zimbabwe, she said. "I didn't come to South Africa from Zimbabwe to play. I work hard." The threadbare young woman, sitting on a hard bench, said that if Zimbabwe changed, "I would go back in a rush." As matters stand, she plans to see her husband and child, then head back to South Africa. "Better to go there than to sit here," said another woman sitting a few seats away with a clutch of women friends. "I will come back again." Her friends took up a chant: "Come back again, and again, and again and again!"

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QUESTIONS

50 marks (5 for each answer)

Answer the following questions with a short phrase or sentence.

- 1 Who are the 952 passengers (¶ 2)?
- 2 Why are they on the train?
- 3 Why have their belts been removed (¶ 1)?
- 4 “..... did just that.....” Did what?
- 5 “Both targets”. What are these targets?
- 6 “Here.” (¶ 4, last line). Where is “here”?
- 7 Why, according to the passage, has Zimbabwe’s commercial farming collapsed”?
- 8 “Play dead ...” (¶ 6). What does that mean?
- 9 Why did some passengers have trouble breathing? (¶ 7)
- 10 How does it seem the writer obtained this information?

QUESTION 2**Cloze Test****50 marks**

In the following passage, words have been omitted. Write the numbers 1-25 in a column in your answer sheet, and next to each write ONE word that will appropriately fill the corresponding gap in the passage.

Pastors in Nigeria are causing huge problems by claiming to cure HIV sufferers, writes Rachel Lewis

Some HIV-positive churchgoers are suffering at the hands of their pastors who, in order to attract more worshippers - and consequently make more money at the offertory - claim [1] can cure their congregations of HIV. These church leaders instruct worshippers to pray to receive their blessing. Believers [2] told they will be exhibiting a lack of faith if they continue with their antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) or if they take a HIV test to confirm the healing. This leads to disaster 3.....] many.

"People are desperate to believe they have been healed of HIV and they don't question [4] the religious leaders say, they simply trust them," says Reverend Noel Bewarang, a priest in the Anglican diocese of Jos, whose organisation, the Gospel Health and Development Services (GHADS), [5] been at the forefront of HIV prevention education.

The phenomenon is cutting across all social classes. Moses Garba Dashe, a senior civil servant, recently [6] he had been healed and stopped taking his ARVs. He soon became sick. While he was off his medication, which is supposed to be taken for life, the HIV strain that has infected him became resistant to his former drugs regime.

"A reverend from the Church of Christ came to my house. He prayed with me, [7.....] me I had been healed and said I would need to pay 60,000 Naira for a herbal remedy," says Mr Dashe. "They did the same for my daughter and [8] became paralysed, fell unconscious and died in February last year."

The government recognises [9] is a problem and has banned TV adverts which proclaim miracle cures, but some churches [10] advertise with leaflets and in the press.

There is little backlash from friends or family when a person gets sick or dies after quitting ARVs. Instead the person is blamed for having a lack of faith. The churches insist it has [11] to do with them or the pastor because, after all, others have been healed.

But Rev Bewarang is fighting back. "I head up a Bible-believing church and while I believe that miracles are [12], I believe God heals for his own purposes and they are not dependent on the individual. Even when he was on earth, Jesus healed some and left [13]. God gave us hospitals and doctors and I think we should use them."

GHADS - an organisation supported by UK charity Christian Aid - works directly with people who have [14] affected by these teachings. GHADS workers offer home care to people living with HIV, provide treatment in their mobile clinic and even [15] for ARVs.

According to healthcare experts, stigma is the greatest barrier to effective HIV prevention and care in Nigeria [16] across Africa - and many churches, they argue, are instrumental in fuelling discrimination.

"Clergymen are compounding the problem," says Mr Dashe. "Reverend Bewarang helped me, [17] many clergy condemn the people who are suffering. Because of the stigma surrounding HIV, some people living with HIV seek support from religious institutions, [18] than hospitals, hoping for a sympathetic and accepting reception."

Mr Dashe adds that it is too easy to condemn such people for [19] gullibility. "If you reach out to a drowning man with a knife, he will grab hold of it," he says.

Rachel Baggaley, head of Christian Aid's HIV unit, says churches have a huge responsibility to [20] tackle the culture of shame surrounding HIV.

"Religious leaders have an enormous potential to [21] a role in HIV prevention and care in Nigeria, but they can also do a great deal of harm, exacerbating the stigma and denial of HIV in their communities and creating an environment [22] HIV is more easily spread," she says. "But faith leaders [23] also do an awful lot of good. Groups such as the Nigerian Network of Religious Leaders Living with HIV [24] challenging harmful attitudes associated with HIV and promoting the inclusion of people living with HIV - and there are four million such people in Nigeria. Every day, 1,000 Nigerians contract HIV and 800 die of it.

"It's a tragedy unfolding on an enormous scale. In a country where religious leaders have huge influence, support for the faith-based organisations that are providing effective responses is critical. Others within the religious community [25] join their ranks."

· Rachel Lewis is a journalist with Christian Aid

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