

THE UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS  
FINAL (MAIN) EXAMINATION 2005

TITLE OF PAPER	ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS
COURSE CODE ACS1 (M)	
TIME ALLOWED	THREE (3) HOURS
INSTRUCTIONS	<b>WRITE THE NAME OF YOUR FACULTY ON THE ANSWER SCRIPT</b>  ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS
TOTAL MARKS	100

This examination paper contains 10 pages including the cover sheet.

DO NOT OPEN UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

## QUESTION 1

## LETTER/MEMORANDUM WRITING

(30 marks)

Write **either** a letter **or** a memorandum in response to one of the following instructions:

**LETTER**

Recently the *Times of Swaziland* carried a report about a girl that was raped at the bus rank. Write a letter to the editor of this news paper and express your views on the subject.

**MEMORANDUM**

The director of the University Health Information and Counselling Centre has invited you to be a peer counsellor next year. Write a memorandum to the director explaining fully why you can not accept the invitation.

## QUESTION 2

(30 marks)

## COMPREHENSION

*Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.*

### What is happening to the African Renaissance?

This was supposed to be the dawn of a fresh era from the Sahara to Cape Town. Instead, cycles of unstoppable violence have condemned millions to death, with famine, Aids and economic catastrophe.

- 1 In the Liberian town of Redemption last week the bodies of the dead littered the main street. Aid workers described a smell of death hanging over the town. 'People have come from camps where the last food distribution was months ago,' said Alain Kassa. 'They have been fleeing for six days with nothing to eat. Here in the city they won't even find the bits and pieces of food that they can gather in the bush.'
- 2 Kassa's words could just have easily been applied to Congo, Burundi, Ivory Coast or Sudan. A few bloody weeks have seen a failed coup in Mauritania, fighting for Liberia's wrecked capital, Monrovia, appalling inter-ethnic violence around the eastern Congo town of Bunia, the God's Liberation Movement in Uganda.
- 3 It was not supposed to be like this. In the decade after the end of the Cold War, the proxy wars of the United States and Soviet Union were coming to an end, apartheid had breathed its last gasp and a new generation of African leaders had promised to transform their continent. That dream they called the African Renaissance.
- 4 Last week, however, amid the tales of horror, the impotence of UN peacekeepers sent to keep a meaningless peace, amid the hunger, mutilation and inevitable tragic columns of refugees, the question was being repeatedly asked: what has happened to that promised African Renaissance?
- 5 First mooted as a concept by President Nelson Mandela at the Organisation of African Unity's summit in Tunisia in 1994, the African Renaissance has been most associated with Mandela's successor, Thabo Mbeki.
- 6 Would the African Renaissance succeed or would it go the way of the other ideas of African transformation like Negritude, Pan-Africanism, African Unity and African Socialism that were supposed to change the African horizon but failed?
- 7 In a paper two years ago Owusu-Ampomah of Durban-Westville University listed a litany of familiar ills.
- 8 'At the turn of the twenty-first century,' he wrote, 'Africa continues to waddle in poverty, disease, and ignorance, having long lost the momentum of the socio-economic gains of the 1960s and the early 1970s. Worse still, the continent is being ravaged by internal and international conflicts, together with the scourge of Aids, with devastating effects on life and property.'
- 9 The continent is also saddled with debt. Then finally there is the scourge of HIV, running at infection rates of well over 30 per cent in some countries, whose damage is economic and social as Aids has killed many of Africa's skilled and educated classes.
- 10 'Every decade some new idea emerges that is supposed to change Africa for the better,' says Alex Vines, head of the Africa programme at the Royal United Services Institute. 'At the beginning of the Nineties everyone was talking about "good governance". Then we had a model for multi-party democracy; now we have African Renaissance.
- 11 'The reality is there are some good things going on, but there are also deepening problems. One of the really good developments has been in terms of freedom of expression. In recent elections in Kenya, Ghana and Senegal there has been a reduction of electoral fraud as people have been able to mobilise very quickly against it when they see something funny going on. It has encouraged whistle-blowing.

- 12 'There have been other success stories. In Zambia, when President Chiluba attempted to change the constitution to stand again he was slapped down. Ghana is in the process of peaceful transition from the Rawlings era, and Angola, too, are at the beginning of a decade of transition following the end of long civil wars.
- 13 It is in terms of its economic challenges that the African Renaissance is having its greatest impact, not least in its argument that Africa has been shamefully treated by trade restrictions and tariffs that, as President Museveni of Uganda argued in Washington last week, meant that Africa was subsidising Western trade.
- 14 'There are two points that come out of this: firstly that Western agricultural subsidies are an international scandal, but that even with their removal African farmers need to be helped to take advantage of this.
- 15 'This is what Kwame Nkrumah (Prime Minister of Ghana) was arguing 50 years ago - that Africa needs to develop systems of manufacturing and marketing if it is not to stay at the bottom of the pile. But finally Africa seems to be winning the argument on this.'
- 16 The West's - and America's response in particular to this argument - has been at best an imperfect response, as Smith argues, pointing out that the much vaunted agreement by America to open its markets to finished African textiles to the tune of \$2 billion is highly conditional and represents a drop in the ocean for the US textile industry.
- 17 It is this kind of economic reform that is crucial for stabilising Africa economically, politically, and bringing an end to its wars. For its wars have been as much about economic activity in failed states as about tribal competitions.
- 18 War is business, and that is not just enough to pay fighters \$30 to hand over their guns if the fighter then does not have something economically useful to do.
- 19 It is the long wars like that in Congo which cast the deepest and the darkest shadows. These are wars that envelope all sectors of society, where all are potential victims; all potentially incorporated into an effort inimical to Africa's fragile civic societies. They are places where the violence has gone on so long it has become part of daily life.
- 20 And it is a failure of leadership not only of the African Renaissance but of the West and the United Nations, which have allowed problems like Congo and Liberia to fester and whose solutions have showed a lack of imagination. The failure in Liberia is exactly the same as in Iraq, There was an agenda to remove the president, but no plans as to how the country should proceed. The country's future is in the hands of armed groups.
- 21 What happens in Congo and Liberia may be the test of the African Renaissance and the test, too, of whether the world can usefully intervene in Africa for good.

Peter Beaumont The Observer Sunday June 15, 2003

### Questions

- 1) Give in one sentence what the answer seems to be to the question in the title. (4 marks)
- 2) Here is a list of countries mentioned in the passage. For each one, state whether the situation is hopeful or not hopeful. Write H or NH or U if the answer is not clear. (6 marks)
  - (a) Ivory Coast
  - (b) Uganda
  - (c) Kenya
  - (d) Mozambique
  - (e) Congo
  - (f) Burundi
- 3) What are the main causes of the problems that afflict Africa? Mention SIX. (6 marks)
- 4) Give the meanings of the following words and phrases as used in the passage: (10 marks)
  - (a) coup (paragraph 2)

- (b) proxy ¶ 3
- (c) impotence ¶ 4
- (d) horizon ¶ 6
- (e) waddle in ¶ 8
- (f) saddled ¶ 9
- (g) transition ¶ 12
- (h) take advantage of ¶ 14
- (i) envelope ¶ 19
- (j) inimical ¶ 19
- (k) fester ¶ 20

5) What, according to the passage, is the most important thing the Western world must do to help the African Renaissance? (4 marks)

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## QUESTION 3

(20 marks)

## SUMMARY

*Read the following passage and write about 200 words summarise what it has to say about the most important things that need to be done to combat HIV/AIDS in Africa*

### **Empowering women is the way forward in saving Africa from Aids devastation**

All interiors are dark in Africa. Small windows are curtained against the dazzling light. But nothing can dim the light in Nombulelo's eyes. After years of playing the traditional, obedient South African wife, she has cast off submissiveness and found her own voice.

"I am glad I told my partner I was HIV-positive because now I am free," she says.

Her partner walked out, leaving Nombulelo to care for four of her own children plus five of her brother's and four of her sister's. Both of her siblings died of Aids.

It is a costly kind of freedom, but now Nombulelo can speak her mind. The death sentence that is an HIV diagnosis has liberated her to act as witness against its cause. She is one of a growing band of women who are defying the stigma attached to the disease and speaking out against the main driver of the epidemic: men.

The world has put its faith in the arrival of cheap, anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs to save Africa from devastation. The World Health Organisation has just set out its "three by five" strategy - aimed at delivering the drugs to three million people by 2005 - in its annual World Health Report. A tour last week of three African countries - South Africa, Angola and Zambia - shows that the drugs are finally reaching the hospitals and clinics at the front line.

But while drugs are a crucial part of the strategy to tackle Aids, they cannot solve the crisis. They may even fuel the epidemic if the numbers surviving with HIV grow. There is also the risk of drug resistance emerging if patients do not take them consistently - a major challenge in societies where chaos and insecurity are the norm.

If Africa is to be saved it will be by women like Nombulelo. A vivid red and blue bandana ties her hair, the only splash of colour in the room at the Chris Hani Baragwanath hospital in Soweto, South Africa, where she works. Standing with one hip thrust forward, chin raised, she said: "I disclosed to my partner and he left us. It was his girlfriend who gave it to us - she is dead now. We women have to bring our partners for testing - but it is not easy."

She tells her story with dignity and composure. Only once, as she sets out the school fees she has to find for her monstrously swollen family do her eyes brim. "We have coped, but in the last year it has been hard," she says, a single tear spilling down her cheek.

The burden of Aids falls disproportionately on women. In South Africa, one in four women are HIV positive by the age of 24, twice the infection rate in men. Teenage girls have sex with, and are infected by, older men - one symptom of the gender inequality that drives the Aids epidemic. Men become infected later. Overall, of the 25 million people living with HIV/Aids in sub-Saharan Africa, 58 per cent are women and 42 per cent men.

For men, Aids is a distant threat. A disease that takes 10 years to kill hardly ranks against all other perils. But for women it shapes their lives. They care for the sick, worry about passing on the virus and worry about who will care for them when they are gone. In South Africa, more than half a million children have been orphaned by Aids and the number is projected to triple by 2010.

Behaviour change is the mantra that is uttered repeatedly in the era of Aids. But the ABC message - Abstain, Be faithful or use a Condom - is misdirected. It is men who need to change and women the only people able to make them do so. Men initiate sex, men control it and men pay for it with their greater wealth. In Africa, once people become wealthy, they become more vulnerable to HIV.

Empowering women through legal, educational and economic measures is the way to change men.

Sibu, 20, who lost both her parents to Aids and now works for Lovelife, the HIV/Aids prevention campaign for young people in South Africa, said: "Girls are expected to be submissive, not independent. They want a girl who calls them up and pleads 'Can you give me 50 bucks for clothes?' Men don't want a girl who is independent, has money, can buy her own clothes. They run - whoosh."

Boys, and men, are the hardest to engage in Aids prevention. In Kwa Zulu Natal, the fertile coastal strip where fields of sugar cane stretch to the horizon, the Gamalake clinic supported by Lovelife offers condoms and treatment for sexually transmitted infections to young people. But 80 per cent of its clients are girls and only 20 per cent boys.

Sister Sedaki, who runs the clinic, says: "We need strategies for bringing in the boys. Boys are stubborn." I put this point to Colonel Joao de Deus, head of Aids prevention for the Angolan Armed Forces. Did he accept that without men there would be no Aids epidemic? He paused. "This is a sensitive social issue. We cannot change it overnight," he said. Sitting next to him, Colonel Francisco Ernesto, head of public health, delivered a smart riposte. "Polygamy is common in Muslim countries with low rates of HIV, so that cannot be the problem."

The best hope of changing attitudes is to encourage people to have HIV testing. Many have preferred not to know their HIV status because nothing could be done to help them but the arrival of ARV drugs has given testing a new purpose. All over Southern Africa you hear the same story: where the drugs are available, people are more ready to be tested. Rolling out the drugs is crucial to delivering the prevention message. But there are problems. At Cajueiros hospital in Luanda, a young doctor who helps run the HIV clinic shows us into a small, stuffy room where the equipment for carrying out CD4 cell counts is housed. The air conditioning is broken and the reagents used in the process congeal in the heat. So the equipment is useless until the air conditioning can be fixed. In Zambia, where 23 per cent of the urban population is HIV positive, the main teaching hospital in Lusaka has lost a third of its nursing staff. Many left for better-paid jobs in Botswana, South Africa and the UK.

There are also problems of compliance with drugs that may have unpleasant side effects, or no effect at all, and must be taken for life.

At Withbank, east of Johannesburg, where slag heaps loom over the squatter shacks, Anglo Coal has instituted an Aids treatment programme for its employees. By the end of March,

1,534 miners had started on ARV drugs. But a fifth dropped out and tests showed a fifth of those who said they took the drugs were not taking them as prescribed.

Doctors have warned that if the ARVs are not taken as prescribed, there is a real risk of resistant strains of HIV developing which could worsen the epidemic.

If drugs cannot solve the problem, women may. Across the continent, women are driving the campaign against Aids. But their low status and economic powerlessness makes them most vulnerable to it. A more concerted drive is needed to help Africa's women. If the help were focused on women, it would be more likely to be taken up and, through them, have the greatest chance of impacting on men. Women have the incentive to change that men lack.

Gloria Kingu, a director of the Zambian Network of Persons Living with HIV/Aids, said: "The woman is the backbone of the African household. In marriage, a man becomes a child to a woman and she has to carry him to the end."

Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor in Soweto 17 May 2004 © 2003 Independent Digital (UK) Ltd

(1320 words)



## QUESTION 4

## CLOZE TEST 20 marks

Write the numbers 1-20 in your answer paper. Next to each give ONE word that will appropriately fill the corresponding gap in the text below.

**Degrees for sale: corruption scandal engulfs Russia's leading university**

The rector of one of Moscow's most prestigious universities has been accused of handing out degrees in exchange for bribes in a scandal that (1)----- offered a rare insight into Russia's corruption-riddled education system.

Tatyana Kiseleva, 63, rector of the Moscow State University of Culture and the Arts, (2)----- alleged to have handed out 130 "false" law degrees between 2001 and 2004 in exchange for bribes worth £300,000. The authorities, (3)----- have opened a criminal case against Ms Kiseleva. They claim the university does not even have the right to hand out jurisprudence degrees and say the awards in question could be annulled.

Ms Kiseleva protests her innocence while her colleagues maintain that the authorities have a vendetta (4)----- her because of an unrelated land dispute. But the scandal has highlighted an all too common practice in Russia; the purchase of qualifications, grades and university places. Experts say that many academics have no other choice.

Once the toast of the Soviet elite with an enviable array of perks and privileges, Russia's impoverished academics now find themselves at the bottom of the pile and struggle to get by on salaries which can be as low (5)----- £80 a month. "How can I survive on such a salary?" asked Leonid, a physics professor who says he does not take bribes. "My earnings are enough to pay the monthly charges for my privatised flat such as electricity and heating, but (6)----- is nothing left over."

Corruption surveys show that education employees are some of the biggest bribe-takers, outstripping even the notoriously corrupt traffic police. Estimates of how (7)----- students pay teachers and academics in bribes every year range from £250m to £300m.

Moscow's metro is full of people holding scribbled cardboard signs offering "certificates and degrees" (8)----- cash, while many Western companies operating in Russia say they have long since stopped taking applicants' CVs at face value and need to painstakingly check each and every claim.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one university official who called (9)----- Sergei Sergeyevich recently told the influential Gazeta.ru website how the system works. He said students routinely bribe academics to get (10)----- specific university faculties, with law departments being the most sought after and therefore the most costly. "Everyone is at it. Heads of universities and colleges, deans, their deputies - they (11)----- take bribes," he said.

A student might (12)----- to pay as much as £19,000 to bribe their way on to a prestigious law course, £11,000 for an economics course (the next most popular) and between £5,000 and £11,000 for a humanities course, he added. "Usually each department has its key figure. That might be a dean or a deputy. A list of "favoured" applicants is compiled, and (13)----- money flows upwards."

Another approach is to pay a private tutor specialised in preparing would-be students for entrance exams. The tutors usually have close links with the exam commission and in many cases (14)----- sit on it.

"The prices [for bribes] vary greatly depending not only on the university and the subject, but also on the scheme through (15)----- the bribe is paid. The (16)----- --- prestigious the institute the higher the amount that needs to be paid." But, says Sergei, there is no guarantee the bribe (17)----- work. "Of course, those involved try to honour their obligations. However unforeseen circumstances are also possible. For instance at the 11th hour a tutor who has been bribed (18)----- find that he is not included in the exam commission.

"He will (19)----- seek out his acquaintances on the commission or switch off all his phones and tell the parents of his student something like: 'I've been summoned to Oxford for the (20)----- few months. But I have managed to prepare your son/daughter and am certain of his/her success.' With that he disappears."

By Andrew Osborn in Moscow 17 October 2004 © 2004 Independent Digital (UK) Ltd

[660 words]