

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2005

TITLE OF PAPER : COMPOSITION, WRITING AND STYLISTICS

COURSE CODE : ENG 302

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTION : ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS.

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

QUESTION 1

Two contrasting reports about the events on one day of a miner's strike appeared in different newspapers. Carefully read the reports and answer questions on them.

Report A

Pit Police Face Petrol bombs in 7 - hour fury

The National Coal Board's intensive campaign to persuade more miners to return in the heartland Yorkshire coalfields was answered yesterday with an unprecedented eruption of violence and civil disorder.

At the beginning of a critical week in the eight-month dispute the anger, frustration and pent-up emotion fuelled by the deadlocked strike boiled over in clearly coordinated attacks in pit villages across the area.

Petrol bombs were used against a police station and police vehicles for the first time in South Yorkshire; barricades burned through the early hours in many villages and shops were looted against a backdrop of the now-familiar confrontations between police, clad in riot equipment, and pickets hurling a barrage of stones and bottles.

By the end of the morning which saw trouble at more than half of Yorkshire's 53 collieries, 45 men had been arrested and 33 policemen injured, 12 requiring hospital treatment. At least nine pickets were also hurt in the clashes, which signified a change in tactics by the strikers.

But their attempt to stem the increased drift back to work in Yorkshire failed to prevent 614 men crossing the picket lines to clock on at 32 of the area's pits, 342 more than at the end of last week.

In a radio interview yesterday, Mr. Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, again blamed the police as the cause of the violence. His comments drew a quick response from Mr. Peter Wright, the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, who had spent the morning collating reports of dozens of incidents in his office.

He later told a press conference at the Sheffield headquarters of South Yorkshire police: 'It is nonsense that we are to blame for everything that has gone on and it is repeated ad nauseam. I can only draw the conclusion that it is the policy of the NUM to blame the police.'

Report B

Police in brutal raid on strike centre

There were serious clashes at a number of pits in the Barnsley and South Yorkshire area yesterday.

At the Barrow pit, near Barnsley, 10 miners including the NUM branch secretary, Dave McDevitt, were arrested, while at the Dearne Valley colliery, where scabs were prevented from returning to work, six packets were arrested.

In Rossington police kicked their way into the strike centre at the local miners' welfare, damaging property and injuring several miners.

At Sharlston police carrying shields used their truncheons against a crowd of 150 pickets when the scab wagon arrived carrying seven strike breakers. There were two arrests and two miners suffered injuries.

Later after three union officials were able to talk to them, the miners at Sharlston all came back out, leaving the pit scab-free.

Rossington NUM branch treasurer Peter Donnelly gave an account to the Star of the violence that erupted when police forced their way into the building.

'The police came charging in with full riot gear, carrying shields and truncheons drawn, chasing half a dozen lads who had just been leaving to go down to picket duty at the pit. They ran about indiscriminately beating and truncheoning our lads to the ground, kicking them. I shouted in protest and told them to get out. I was given a lot of abuse and was told to "shut my mouth".

'A couple of officers had to restrain other policemen from the beating and kicking they were giving our NUM members.'

Questions

- (a) Compare how the headlines used above the two reports reflect a contrast in emphasis between them.
- (b) In both reports how is the reader given the impression that:
 - i. the violence stemmed from the miners; and
 - ii. the police were the aggressors?
- (c) How do the reports differ in the presentation of facts about strikers returning to work?
- (d) What particular words and phrases are used in both articles that might influence a reader's response to the reports? [30 marks]

QUESTION 2

The development of a theory of audience is a major issue for a framework of writing. Discuss the parameters of audience influence that play important roles in textual variation.

[30 marks]

QUESTION 3

- (a) What is a text?
- (b) A writer cannot march through the writing process in a neat sequential manner. Discuss planning, constructing and editing as stage in text construction. [30 marks]

QUESTION 4

Read the following extract and identify features which indicate the writer's voice. Discuss the voice.

Me And My Sickness

First I got a few mummy aches. Not very bad ones, but then in the evening I got a very bad tummy ache. I then started to roll about with my hands on my tummy. Then I did some sick. I kept waking up and doing sick. I did a dreadful thing while I was sleep: I did sick everywhere. Mummy and Daddy took all the bedclothes off and took me out of my bed. Then Mummy took me and put me in the bathroom, where I did sick all over the floor. In the morning I felt much better. Today I have not done any sick so far. I can now have drinks (not food) without getting sick.

[30 marks]