

THE UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS  
FINAL (MAIN) EXAMINATION 2009

TITLE OF PAPER ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS

COURSE CODE ACS 100 (M)

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) 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.

DO NOT OPEN UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

QUESTION 1 Essay [30 Marks]

Write at least a page on ONE of the following topics.

1. Each year the University of Swaziland admits only a fraction of the candidates who apply for admission. Some people have argued that one solution to this problem is for the University to stop providing accommodation for its students so that all halls of residence on campus could be converted to classrooms and laboratories. This will create the needed space. What is your view on this matter?
2. "The love of money is the root of all evil", St. Paul. How should this affect modern business activities?
3. "The activities of scientists should be stopped, because they are a threat to human values and existence." Comment on this.
4. In the recent past, local newspapers have shown pictures of school-going students in uniform doing drugs or drinking alcohol. In about a page, discuss what should be done to promote good conduct in young people and to help them lead productive lives.
5. Is Swaziland winning the fight against the spread of HIV? If so in what ways and if not, what are the reasons and what can be done to ensure success in controlling the spread of HIV.

QUESTION 2 COMPREHENSION [30 marks]

Read the following passage, and answer the questions that follow

**The famous things they never said:** Michela Wrong Published 04 September 2008

1 I recently received a message from a radio reporter researching a piece on Patrice Lumumba, the first elected prime minister of the Congo. Could I help her track down a famous quote? The occasion was Independence Day, 30 June 1960, when an irate Lumumba informed Belgium's visiting monarch (in French): "Nous ne sommes plus vos singes" - "We are no longer your monkeys." This public rebuke signalled the end of an era of colonial deference. It also probably helped sign the death warrant of the troublesome Lumumba, later assassinated by a breakaway Congolese regime that enjoyed Belgium's support.

2 The trouble was that my reporter friend could find no trace of the remark in the text of Lumumba's speech - a real Martin Luther King flight of passionate rhetoric - ("I have a dream") - now available on the internet. Not in the French version, nor in the English version. Was it possible Lumumba had never actually said it? I checked. She was right: there was no trace of the "monkeys" quotation.

3 It isn't the first time I've encountered this baffling phenomenon. Question marks hang over many of Africa's best-known, oft-cited quotations, although Kenyan writers tell me there is no doubt that the nation's founding father and first President, Jomo Kenyatta, told white settlers after the horrors of the Mau Mau emergency that his countrymen would "forgive, but not forget", demonstrating a pragmatism that has been Kenya's hallmark ever

since.

4 However, an Eritrean academic says he has never been able to track down the origins of an infamous remark, universally attributed to the US secretary of state John Foster Dulles, who supposedly admitted in 1952 that while the Eritrean people had every right to decide their own future, his country's "strategic interests" made it necessary for the former Italian colony to be amalgamated with Ethiopia. Such cynical real politik \* doomed both nations to decades of bitter separatist struggle.

5 Similarly, the South African president, Thabo Mbeki, labelled an Aids denier by activists, never actually said: "HIV doesn't cause Aids." He was making instead a more complicated argument - if not a particularly helpful one, given the rates of infection in his country - about the difference between a virus and a syndrome.

6 To the journalist or historian, this kind of uncertainty is as exasperating as it is unnerving. What can be said with any confidence about the past? Can any of it be trusted?

7 The truth is we are probably being over-literal. For what the most iconic quotations share is the extent to which they encapsulate feelings and ideas ingrained in the national psyche - mostly, in Africa's case, feelings of betrayal and disappointment at the continent's treatment by the outside world.

8 They have become part of foundation myths, integral to the way communities see themselves. And how people perceive their own history is far more important, when it comes to engaging with their governments, than the endlessly nuanced reality of what actually happened.

9 The Olympics provided an example of this. The fact that Chinese fans sitting in the stands saw the event as their chance to vindicate centuries of humiliation by the west came as a revelation to many viewers. What, China feels humiliated?

10 The superpower whose economic heft and unstoppable momentum reduce western governments to a state of terror? The explanation provided - that this national sensitivity could be traced all the way back to the Opium Wars in China - does not, to my mind, make this scenario any more comprehensible. But it doesn't matter. Western policymakers and chief executives will in future clearly have to engage with this superpower they so fear on the premise that it has the mother of all inferiority complexes. They will ignore the sentiment at their peril.

11 Maybe Lumumba never actually said to King Baudouin: "We are no longer your monkeys." (I'd be very happy, by the way, if a reader could settle this one.) Or perhaps he let fly after delivering his formal speech. Maybe the "monkey" formulation was actually coined by the Congolese delegates present that day, summarising what their fiery prime minister had in effect told a resented former colonial master. The quotation, whether embroidered, edited, or entirely invented, has now taken on a life of its own, more concrete and authentic than the event itself.

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Real politik - an expression from German meaning "the truth of power", namely that the weak must submit to the strong - that might is right.

#### QUESTIONS

1 Make a list of the different countries mentioned in this article. Mention EIGHT. [8 marks]

2 What is the writer telling us about "the famous sayings" of famous men? [2 marks]

3 Here is a list of words used in the text. Choose FIVE and explain what they mean in the context of the text above. [20 marks]

- a. "We .... [Paragraph 1]
  - b. Rebuke [1]
  - c. Deference [1]
  - d. This baffling phenomenon [3]
  - e. Pragmatism [3]
  - f. Hallmark [3]
  - g. Infamous [4]
  - h. Both nations [4]
  - i. Exasperating [6]
  - j. Unnerving [6]
  - k. Over-literal [7]
  - l. Nuanced [8]
  - m. Vindicate [9]
  - n. inferiority complex [10]
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#### QUESTION 3 Summary [20 Marks]

Read the following passage and then follow the instructions at the end

Organic farm blossoms in Kenya's largest slum

1 Victor Matioli's organic pumpkins are plump and his spinach "very sweet and tasty". His half-acre farm used to be a rubbish dump in the heart of east Africa's biggest slum.

2 The unlikely story of Kibera's first organic farm has its roots in the political chaos that gripped Kenya at the start of the year. For weeks the sprawling, densely packed slum, home to up to a million people, was riven by ethnic clashes.

3 Among those concerned about a looming hunger crisis was Su Kahumbu, managing director of Green Dreams, one of Kenya's pioneer organic produce companies.

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4 Initially, she hoped to organise a mass distribution of seeds to small-scale farmers in the Rift Valley. After a lack of funding halted the plan, a friend told her about a group of young, unemployed men in Kibera who wanted to learn how to farm - inside the slum.

5 Photographs of their would-be vegetable patch did not inspire confidence. "There was so much garbage there I thought, 'You must be joking'," said Kahumbu. A rectangle of land bordering the railway line that cuts through Kibera, the proposed farm was being used as a refuse dump by nearby residents. Piled high were plastic cartons, cans, broken bottles, chicken and goat bones, as well as innumerable "flying toilets" - polythene bags filled with human waste. But when Kahumbu saw the enthusiasm among Matioli's 36-member Youth Reform Group, she agreed to help them get started.

6 The rubbish was compacted and tied down under tarpaulins on one side of the plot and the newly revealed soil tested for contamination. The tests showed high, but not dangerous, levels of zinc, which could be drawn out by planting sunflowers among the vegetables.

7 Fertiliser would come from vegetable waste turned into compost, and from plant-nourishing "worm juice" produced by earthworms kept in a half-barrel of soil. Within two months of planting, the first vegetables were successfully harvested.

8 Netting 18c for a cabbage and \$1.85 for a pumpkin, Matioli's collective made a profit last month - a modest sum, but one that made him confident of the farm's sustainability. "People here are really interested in learning about our organic methods," said Matioli.

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In about 150 words, describe what is happening in Kibera, and what Matioli and Kahumbu are trying to do. Do not copy from the passage. Use your own words.

#### **QUESTION 4: Cloze Test [20 marks]**

Write the numbers 1-20 in a column on your answer sheet. Next to each, write ONE word that will correctly fill the gap in the passage below.

#### **Will Science ever be able to detect the truth about lying?**

Attempts at detecting someone telling lies are as old as humanity itself - one theory about the origins of human intelligence is that [1 ....] relatively large brain evolved out of the need to recognise deception in other individuals living within the same social group.

Finding out the truth from unwilling interviewees came centre stage this week [2 ....] two unrelated spheres, highlighting the difficulty of detecting deception in skilled, well-trained inveterate liars.

The sole surviving gunman of the Mumbai attacks is undergoing interrogation in India that will include the injection of a so-called "truth serum" in the [3 ....] of eliciting information about his past and his associates that he would otherwise not volunteer.

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Meanwhile, it emerged that the British Government is [ 4 ....] the introduction of lie-detector tests to expose untruthful benefit claimants.

Lie detectors, or polygraphs, do not in fact detect lies. They monitor the physiological changes to the body - such as heartbeat and skin conductivity, or sweating - that may, or may not, be associated with failing to tell the [ 5 ....].

The idea behind the device is that there are involuntary actions that occur when someone experiences the stress of telling a lie, [ 6 ....] can be detected by sophisticated machinery.

Polygraphs are widely used in the US but have been rejected in Britain [ 7 ....] of their unreliability. Apart from whether they actually pick up on hidden signals of lying, their accuracy is predicated on the skill of the person interpreting the machine's signals.

In extreme situations, torture and fear are some of the oldest ways of extracting the truth. But that has the disadvantage of leading people to say things under duress that they know the torturer wants to hear - as well as [ 8 ....] a breach of human rights.

Another method is to ply someone with alcohol,[ 9.....] technique immortalised in the Latin phrase in vino veritas - in wine there is truth. Josef Stalin is said to have feigned getting [ 10 ....] with comrades so to hear what they really thought. The earliest attempts at putting lie-detection on a scientific footing go [ 11 ....] to the start of the 20th Century. Robert House,[12.....] US obstetrician who had noticed the effects of an anaesthetic drug called scopolamine. [13.....] of his patients was in a state of "twilight sleep" after being given scopolamine. Dr House asked her husband to find a weighing scale for the newborn but he returned empty-handed, whereupon his wife told him exactly where it was while [ 14 ....] apparently asleep. Dr House wanted the drug to be used as a way of supporting people's claims to be telling the [15.....].

US police from the 1920s onwards [ 16 ....] to use drugs for interrogation. They experimented with the psychoactive barbiturates sodium pentothal and sodium amytal. [17...], it soon emerged that the drugs were being misused on suspects. It became [ 18 ....] the drugs had the same problem as torture - [19.....]made people say things that they [ 20 ....] the Winter said.

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----- Original Message -----