

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND****FINAL EXAMINATION 2009**

**TITLE OF PAPER**      COMPOSITION, WRITING AND STYLISTICS

**COURSE CODE**      ENG 302/ IDE-ENG 302

**TIME ALLOWED**      2 HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1) Answer Three Questions: Question One and any TWO other questions.
- 2) All the Questions Carry Equal Marks.
- 3) Number Your Questions Appropriately
- 4) Close Attention Should Be Paid To Content, Organisation, Expression And Mechanical Accuracy in the Essay Type Questions.
- 5) This paper is 4 pages long; cover page included.

**THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL INSTRUCTION  
HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

## SECTION A

### Question 1 (20 Marks) Compulsory

Choose ONE topic from the under-listed options and write an essay (of not more than two pages long).

- a) School going children should be allowed to attend school when they are pregnant.
- b) An exotic place you visited.
- c) Tell us about your first day at The University of Swaziland.
- d) How would you bake a cake?

## SECTION B

### QUESTION 2

When a writer is writing, he/she does not do a once-off thing but is involved in a recurrent exercise. Discuss the **pre-writing**, **actual writing** and **post writing** stages.

### QUESTION 3

With the aid of examples, discuss the guidelines a writer should follow to make **appropriate** choices of words in order for communication and meaning to be as **clear** and as **effective** as possible.

### QUESTION 4

Below are a magazine article (Text A) and a reader's response to it (Text B).

- (a) Discuss the magazine article writer's purpose.
- (b) Describe the purpose and attitude of the reader of the article.
- (c) Is the article written for a particular audience? Explain.

### Text A

Churning out freaks

*Mini-cows*

"What is two feet tall, gives a gallon of milk a day and moos?" The answer: the Mexican mini-cow, heralded by some as a pioneer in a potential agricultural revolution.

The tiny animal is the result of more than five generations of selective breeding-which began with the six-foot tall, 2,000 pound Indo-Brazillian zebu. The mini cow produces three to four litres of milk a day-compared with six litres produced by a full-sized zebu-and survives on the tenth the grassland. Some agricultural experts view the cattle primarily as a protein source for rural families who have little grazing land and cannot afford bought milk and meat.

But others are more sceptical. They question just how long a freak cow, which so disproportionably produces huge quantities of milk can be expected to live and how sickly it will be. The quality of milk is also questionable. How much more sensible to redistribute the land more fairly so that poor families can keep normal, healthy sized cows. But that, it appears, would be a far more monstrous solution that can be dreamed up in a laboratory.

### **Text B**

#### **Information from World Bank Development Forum**

#### **Cow Freaks**

I was appalled at the *Update* on 'mini-cows' (N1180). Have scientists nothing better to do than develop such freaks? Don't they know that the ideal 'mini-cow' already exists? Living on rubbish, producing more nutritious milk than a cow, and less susceptible to disease, this 'mini-cow' inhabits many third world countries. It's called the goat.

**Jacquelint Nebe**

**Brussels, Belgium**

### **QUESTION 5**

Read the following poem and discuss as directed below:

### **Text C**

#### **"Joy of an Immigrant, a Thanksgiving"-Emmanuel di Pasquale**

Like a bird grown weak in a land  
 where it always rains  
 and where all the trees have died,  
 I have flown long and long  
 to find sunlight pouring over branches  
 and leaves. I have journeyed, oh God,

to find a land where I can build my nest,  
a land where my song can echo.

- a) What kind of text is this? [2]
- b) In “Joy of an Immigrant, a Thanksgiving”, di Pasquale compares himself to a bird through an extended metaphor. What details does he use to develop this comparison? [5]
- c) Why does di Pasquale include “a Thanksgiving” in the title of this poem? [2]
- d) What do the metaphors “where I can build a dry nest” and “where my song can echo” show us about the poet’s feelings for his new “land”. Explain. [5]
- e) What is your emotional reaction to the words in the first three lines of “Joy of an Immigrant, a Thanksgiving”? What do they tell us about the place the poet has left? Briefly explain. [6]