

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER 2011/ 2012

TITLE OF PAPER: ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS: ENGLISH FOR  
ACADEMIC PURPOSES (EAP)

COURSE NUMBER: ACS 102

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Please write the name of your Faculty and Programme on the cover of your answer book.**
- 2. Answer both questions**

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONSISTS OF EIGHT (8) PAGES INCLUDING THE  
COVER PAGE.

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION IS  
GIVEN BY THE INVIGILATOR.

**Reading Comprehension****Total Marks: 50****Instruction:** Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow**UN BOSS NOT DOING ENOUGH FOR WOMEN**

Adapted from My Own Resourced

<http://www.miguelmilop.com>

1. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Anan received a stern reminder that he was not doing enough to reduce the gender gaps that prevail world wide. A global coalition of women's groups wrote to the UN head castigating him for his lack of progress in moving towards equality. They voiced their disappointment and outrage, and accused Mr. Anan of paying little more than "lip service" to the promotion of women's rights. They aptly pointed out that despite the UN's lofty ideals and proclamations of parity and progress, "the position of women in high-level UN posts has stagnated". They added: "although we've had a lot of rhetorical commitment to women's rights, it still has not made it to the big agenda of the UN reform".
2. Minimal progress has been made in ten years since the 1995 Beijing conference on women's rights. Many groups expressed consternation that there was only "token representation" of women on critical committees and high-level expert panels within the UN. "What is being called the UN 'gender architecture' is more like a shack. Women need a bigger global house if equality is ever to become a reality", said Charlette Bunch of the Centre for Women's Global leadership. Another pertinent point in the letter highlighted the needs for change at the top: "we need new and innovative leadership and the way to get that is by ensuring we reach the fifty-fifty women and men in all decision-making positions", said June Zeitlin, executive director of the Women, Environment and Development Organization. A sign that things are not moving in this direction is that a man replaces Ms. Louise Frechette as the UN deputy secretary general.

3. Gender gaps still remain six years down the line. At the 66<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly women political leaders made a strong call for increasing women's political participation and decision-making across the world. Women make up less than 10 percent of the world leaders. Globally less than one in five members of parliament has been reached or exceeded in only 28 countries. At a high level event during the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly in New York, women political leaders made a strong call for increasing women's participation and decision-making across the world. They stressed the point that women's participation is fundamental to democracy and essential to the achievement of sustainable development and peace in all contexts – during peace, through conflict and post conflict, and during political transition. To endorse this position, the leaders signed a joint statement with concrete recommendations to advance women's political participation.
  
4. The situation is not that bad though in some parts of the world. Rwanda had emerged as the top Sub-Saharan African gender equity nation, ranking behind only Sweden and Finland in the world, Social Watch's Gender Equity Index reveals. The three top countries register the least inequity between women and men, a good performance achieved by the application of affirmative action policies, particularly for political quota legislation and labour market equity. "This demonstrates that it is not necessary to achieve high levels of economic growth or industrialization to implement effective policies to promote greater equity," said Karina Batthayany, the Social Watch Research Team Coordinator.
  
5. In South Africa thirty percent of all parliamentarians are women, which put South Africa at number eight in the world in terms of gender equality in government. The country leapt quickly from a position of 141 in the world before the 1994 elections to number eight, when the African National Congress adopted a 30% quota on its party list.

6. The country can also boast that nine of its 27 cabinet ministers and eight of its 14 deputy ministers are women. Both the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairman of the National Council of Provinces are women, Frene Ginwala and Naledi Pandor respectively.

### Questions

1. Why was the UN Secretary General being criticized? (3 marks)
2. Suggest another title for this passage. In one sentence give a reason for your choice. (3 marks)
3. What position does June Zeith hold? (2)
4. Are the following statements True or False? Identify parts of the text that support your answer. (3 marks each)
  - a) Charlotte Bunch supports the UN gender architecture.
  - b) Louise Frechette is one of the UN Deputy General.
  - c) Most countries have reached the quota of women representation in political decision-making.
  - d) Good progress has been made in closing the gender gap globally.
5. Choose a synonym for each word in the box from the list below. (12 marks)

- |   |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Castigation</li><li>b) Outrage</li><li>c) Pertinent</li><li>d) Consternation</li><li>e) Aptly</li><li>f) Lofty</li></ol> |
|---|

Absence	Anger and shock
Criticism	Appropriately
Surprise	Important
High	Unreasonable

6. Choose the answer that completes each of the following statements. (2 marks each)

a) Mr. Anan is

- i) very interested in women's rights.
- ii) little interested in women's rights.
- iii) not interested in women's rights.

b) Women in the UN get

- i) fewer important posts than men.
- ii) the same important posts as men.
- iii) more important posts than men.

c) Changes in women's rights have to be applied to

- i) all the positions.
- ii) the lowest positions.
- iii) the top positions.

7. In paragraph 4 three countries are cited as ranking highest in gender equity. Give two reasons for their success. (4 marks)

8. How does South Africa rank in relation to gender equity in government? (2 marks)

9. Briefly explain why the author thinks women participation in political decision making is vital? (6 marks)

**Summary****Total Marks 50****Instruction:**

Read the following article and write a summary of about 200 words, explaining how noise can be a major source of conflict.

**PROTECTING THE COMMONS**

People often complain that loud noise drives them crazy. But in Britain, it is driving people to violence. A London man could no longer stand the reggae music from a party next door. He set fire to the hallway outside the party. A woman trying to escape jumped out of a window from the third floor and killed herself. The London man received a life sentence for murder. A man from Wesley went to complain about loud music from a neighbor's home. He was stabbed by the neighbor. A man in Winchester, because of a constantly barking dog, hit his neighbor with an iron bar. The dog's owner fell, hit his head on the road and died four days later. A Manchester man fired an air rifle into a nearby flat from which loud music was playing. The judge refused to send the man to jail for his action and fined him 5,000 pounds instead.

Many city apartment dwellers are at loggerheads with their neighbors over noise. An environmental health officer explains that much of the problem can be fixed with the installation of the proper type of flooring and insulation. An example is given of a renter named Anne who was bothered by noise from her neighbor upstairs. Her apartment lease stated that all apartment floors must be covered with carpet and underlay. Kitchen and bathroom floors must use sound insulation. In Anne's neighbor's apartment, however, wooden floors had been laid which acted as a superb noise conductor. Noise from his kitchen and other rooms was preventing her from sleeping. She asked the neighbor to be quieter, but to no avail. She then approached the managing agents of the apartment building and asked them to enforce the lease. The agents did nothing until Anne threatened to sue. Then they carpeted the upstairs neighbor's kitchen floor, which helped somewhat.

According to London's environmental health officer Keith Mahaffly, wooden flooring can act like a drum and even normal walking in an upstairs apartment can be very annoying to downstairs neighbors. He finds that many recently converted apartment buildings use wooden flooring

that has no sound insulation whatsoever. In addition, he believes that many flooring contractors refuse to or do not know how to install floors that reduce noise. He recommends that people who are thinking about installing hardwood flooring should take into account how the flooring will affect the noise that downstairs neighbors will hear, and design floors accordingly.

It is often the case that neighbors with different lifestyles often experience the most conflict because of noise. Our effort to control second-hand noise is part of a greater effort to protect that which is held in common by the public from exploitation, abuse, and degradation. Other efforts to protect the commons are concerned with protecting our public lands and parks; air, airways, water, and waterways; habitat, species, and bio-diversity. What these efforts share is the recognition that our well-being is enhanced when the commons is used to maximize opportunities for everyone, and degraded when the commons is used to maximize profits or opportunities for a few, or to maximize only a few opportunities.

Some individuals and businesses feel that they have a right or the freedom to use a common resource in any way they see fit. Perhaps these people are mistakenly extending their own private property rights to that which is publicly owned or cared for and not exclusively their own. Perhaps they do not realize what most of us learned on the school yard years ago: "that my right to swing my fist ends at your nose." Or, perhaps they do not recognize the soundness of our parallel claim "that my right to create noise ends at your ear." In any case, these people are acting as bullies, claiming rights and freedom that are not theirs while degrading resources that are ours. Polluting the commons is not a right. Our effort to reduce noise pollution is similar to other efforts to reduce pollution and reassert out collective stewardship over the commons. Whether the issue is second-hand smoke, elevated mercury levels, or ground level ozone, the strategy is to protect the environment and our health and well-being by creating an ethic of the commons.

In seeking to advance an ethic of the commons, we first need to recognize that competing uses that exclude other uses of the commons or damaging uses that detract from other uses are not wise uses of a public good. The commons should be used in as many non-competing, non-damaging ways as possible. Noise, like many other pollutants, precludes many enjoyable uses of the commons and is not a wise use of the commons: loud late night parties, early morning garbage pick-up, or aircraft take-offs trump sleeping, working, or listening to music.

We are seeking to improve human well-being by establishing an ethic for the commons that allows for as many non-consumptive and non-rival uses of the commons as possible. Human well-being is enhanced when individuals or groups such as the Noise Pollution Clearinghouse succeed in two ways: first, by minimizing damaging uses of the commons, and second, by maximizing the opportunities of non-competing uses. With respect to noise, help us by spreading the message that good neighbors keep their noise to themselves.

**Adapted from NPC Noise News accessed from:**

**<http://www.nonoise.org/news/noiseweb.htm>**