

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER 2012/ 2013

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

COURSE NUMBER: ACS 102

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: **1. Write the name of your Faculty and Programme at the top of the cover of the answer folder.**

2. Answer both questions.

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONSISTS OF SEVEN (7) PAGES INCLUDING THE  
COVER PAGE

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## QUESTION 1: READING COMPREHENSION

50 marks

## NEW COASTAL MINING THREAT

*The presidency has been drawn into the fight to halt the proposed mining of the Wild Coast dunes*

## Instructions

*Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.*

- 1 President Jacob Zuma's office was this week drawn into the heated debate over mining the Wild Coast, after Australian company Mineral Commodities launched a new application for prospecting rights in the mineral rich protected area.
- 2 John Clarke, a social worker representing local communities and environmental organizations, sent a detailed report on the ongoing mining debacle to Collins Chabane, the minister in the president's office responsible for performance monitoring and evaluation, asking him to intervene.
- 3 The report, documenting how several government officials had thwarted the Amadiba community in their fight against plans to mine heavy minerals in the dunes of the Wild Coast over the past decade, was also sent to six other Cabinet ministers.
- 4 "These ministers have collectively failed in their constitutional obligation of co-operative government by allowing a disgraceful situation to develop on the Wild Coast with respect to the Xolobeni mining versus ecotourism issue," Clarke said.
- 5 "The report is a **stinging indictment** of the ANC's ambivalence over mining policy due to **vested interests**, the erosion of the rule of law and the emasculation of the traditional leadership system because it has been the only governance system that has served local land rights."
- 6 It asked Chabane to investigate alleged corruption involving high level officials, the deaths of at least two local community members and the beating of schoolchildren by police. The report also alleged the intimidation of anti-mining residents and the deliberate sabotage of a closely knit community to further commercial goals.

- 7      Presidency chief of staff Kgomotso Maaroganye said Chabane had received the report, but spokesperson Harold Maloka was unable to comment on its contents. Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Richard Baloyi also confirmed receipt of the report.
  
- 8      Xolobeni residents have put up a united front against the new prospecting application in the wake of public consultations convened late last month by Mineral Commodities' South African subsidiary, Transworld Energy & Mineral Resources, and its empowerment partner, Xolco. According to the companies, Xolobeni contains the 10<sup>th</sup> largest heavy mineral deposit in the world.
  
- 9      "The whole community is against mining. Out of the 300 people at our meeting maybe would have supported it because of jobs, but they were silent," said Mzamo Dlamini, chairperson of the Amadiba crisis committee, a conflict resolution structure set up under the traditional leadership system.
  
- 10     The mining companies held public consultations as part of the process stipulated by the mineral affairs department for prospecting rights to be granted. The companies applied for new rights after Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabangu last July revoked a mining license granted to Mineral Commodities in 2008.
  
- 11     The amaMpondo royal house said mining was a short-term economic activity with long-term negative impacts, whereas ecotourism could have an unlimited lifespan.
  
- 12     "Mining the Wild Coast is simply absurd. It can be likened to the slaughter of rhino for their horns: the destruction of endangered species of life for the short term commercial profit of greedy foreigners," said amaMpondo King Justice Mpondombini Sigcau.
  
- 13     Once thriving ecotourism ventures had suffered badly with the prospect of mining hanging over their heads, said Val Payn, spokesperson for non-governmental organization sustaining the Wild Coast. "Mining totally undermines the lifestyles of development they want," she said.
  
- 14     "Reports that the communities are divided over this issue are a misrepresentation. The only people who support mining are those who live outside the areas that will be affected and who want jobs." Xolobeni is the second-most species-rich floristic region in Southern Africa. It is part of a protected area and commercial mining or prospecting can only take place with the written permission of both the ministers of environmental affairs and mineral resources.

- 15 The two ministers this week received copies of Clarke's report, titled "Co-option, subvention and offensive exploitation: The failure of co-operative governance for the Amadiba community of the Eastern Cape". It was also sent to the ministers of transport, police, tourism, rural development, and co-operative governance and traditional affairs.
- 16 It documented several alleged violations committed since mining became a serious option in the area, including the murder of a subhead-man, Mandoda Ndovela, in 2003 and the suspicious death of anti-mining resident Scorpion Dimane in January 2008.
- 17 Other allegations included collusion between the mining companies and high-level officials in the department of minerals and trade and industry; the suppression of crucial environmental formation by a corrupt official in the environmental department; and the submission of false and fraudulent information by the mining companies to the mineral resources department.
- 18 Pupils at a junior school in Xolobeni were beaten by police in September 2008 in apparent frustration over Shabangu's withdrawal of the mining rights, Clarke said. Three policemen allegedly lined them up and hit them with sjamboks. "Each and every child in the school was beaten. The majority of the learners were from homesteads in the affected area and knew that their parents were **overwhelmingly opposed to the award of the mining rights**, and felt obliged to obey their parents," he said.
- 19 Clarke said these incidents had been reported to the Human Rights Commission, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, the public protector and the Cape Law Society, with mixed results but scant progress. "The community and civil society can only do so much. Unless government co-operates with them to uphold the rule of law and restore a climate of peace, the underlying problems will continue to fester and undermine their efforts to promote sustainable livelihoods and revive the community-based ecotourism initiatives that once thrived," he said.
- 20 Transworld spokesperson Andrew Lashbrooke said, although he had not seen the report, Clarke's allegations had not gone anywhere because they had no substance. "He has made complaints and laid charges against us, but all the officials have come back to him and said there is no case to answer," he said.
- 21 Lashbrooke said most people who had attended the recent public consultations were in favor of mining, "but some people are more vocal than others. History has shown that the opponents are in the minority.

22 “Mining the Wild Coast is simply absurd. It can be likened to the slaughter of rhino for their horns”.

*Reference: Mail and Guardian June 15 to 21, 2012*

## QUESTIONS

1. In one sentence, explain the nature of the threat mentioned in the title of this passage.  
(5 marks)

2. Explain briefly who each of the following people mentioned in the text is and the role he/she plays in the matter discussed in the passage:

a. John Clark   b. Richard Baloyi   c. Susan Shabangu   d. Andrew Lashbrooke

(2 marks each = 8)

3. Mention two of the issues discussed in the Report. In what way do you think the issues can be resolved? (6 marks)

4. In one sentence, summarise paragraph 11. (4 marks)

5. Explain in your own words, the meaning of each of the following words / expressions as used in the passage:

a. stinging indictment (Par 5 )

b. vested interests (Par 5)

c. in the wake of ( Par 8 )

d. ecotourism (par 11 )

e. overwhelmingly opposed to ( Par 18)

(4 marks each = 20)

6. Do you agree that mining of the area should be permitted? Justify your answer.

(7 marks)

**QUESTION 2: SUMMARY**

50 marks

**Environmental Pollution from Ancient to Modern Times****Instructions**

*Using your own words write a summary of not more than 120 words showing how environmental pollution has plagued earth from ancient to modern times.*

I run Green Way International, a conservation group that campaigns against and conducts research into environmental pollution. The data that we receive from all corners of the globe give us no cause for optimism -- the results of our studies and the minimal success of our crusades testify to the fact that we are fighting a losing battle.

Of course, environmental pollution is not a modern phenomenon. It began ever since people 'began to congregate in towns and cities. The ancient Athenians removed refuse to dumps outside the main parts of their cities. The Romans dug trenches outside their cities where they could deposit their garbage, waste and even corpses. These unhygienic practices undoubtedly led to the outbreak of viral diseases.

Unfortunately, Man refuses to acknowledge or correct his past mistakes. As cities grew in the Middle Ages, pollution became even more evident. Ordinances had to be passed in medieval cities against indiscriminate dumping of waste into the streets and canals. In sixteenth century England, efforts were made to curb the use of coal to reduce the amount of smoke in the air. These, however, had little effect on the people's consciences.

I think that the Industrial Revolution of the nineteenth century was the point of no return. It heralded the mushrooming of industries and power driven machines. True, the standard of living increased, but it was achieved at a great environmental cost.

In Cubatao of Brazil, for instance, industrial plants belch thousands of tons of pollutants daily and the air contains high levels of benzene, a cancer causing substance. In one recent year alone, I discovered 13,000 cases of respiratory diseases and that a tenth of the workers risked contracting leukaemia. Green Way International hoped to seek the assistance of Brazil's government officials but we were sorely disappointed. Unwilling to lose revenue from the factories, they blamed the high mortality rate on poor sanitation and malnutrition. We continue to provide medical assistance to the inhabitants of Brazil's "Valley of Death", but there is little else that we can do to alleviate the suffering.

Our planet has its own mechanisms to deal with natural pollutants. Decay, sea spray and volcanic eruptions release more sulphur than all the power plants, smelters and industries in the world do. Lightning bolts create nitrogen oxides and trees emit hydrocarbons called terpenes. These substances are cycled through the ecosystem and change form, passing through plant and animal tissues, sink to the sea and return to earth to begin the cycle all over again.

However, can the earth assimilate the additional millions of tons of chemicals like sulphur, chlorofluorocarbons, carbon dioxide and methane that our industries release each year? If the dying forests in Germany, Eastern Europe, Sweden and Norway give any indication, then the answer must be a resounding "No!" Oxides of sulphur and nitrogen from the power plants and factories and motor vehicles have acidified the soil. This has destroyed the organisms necessary to the nutrient cycle as well as injured the trees' fine root systems. The weakened trees become more vulnerable to drought, frost, fungi and insects.

Many a time, my staff have returned from their research tours around the world, lamenting the slow but sure destruction of our cultural treasures. The carvings on the Parthenon, a magnificent building in Athens, have been eroded by acid deposition. The Roman Colosseum, England's Westminster Abbey and India's Taj Mahal have also fallen victim to insidious chemicals that float in the air. The stained glass windows of cathedrals from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries have been corroded to barely recognizable images as well.

Years earlier, I had studied a secluded island in the Pacific and found its undisturbed ecosystem in complete balance and stability. In despair, I once contemplated living the rest of my days on the island in solitude. Pollution, however, is no respecter of boundaries - when I reached the island, the beaches were awash with trash and dead marine life while the once-lush foliage were sparse and limp. It was then that I realized this dying planet needs allies and not fatalism and resignation. I returned to resume my crusade and I hope others will join me.

*Adapted from: <http://www.englishdaily626.com>*