

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE**  
**EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
**SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION 2013/14**

**COURSE NAME** : **COMPOSITION, WRITING AND STYLISTICS**  
**COURSE CODE** : **ENG 302**  
**DURATION** : **TWO HOURS**  
**INSTRUCTION** : **ANSWER QUESTION ONE**  
**(COMPULSORY) AND ONE ADDITIONAL**  
**QUESTION (CHOOSE ONE OF THE REMAINING**  
**QUESTIONS)**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR HAS**  
**GRANTED PERMISSION TO DO SO.**

## QUESTION ONE

1. Discuss process and product approaches to writing. How are these approaches important when learning to write? (20 marks)
2. "Use language clearly, vividly and appropriately" are guidelines given to all prospective writers. Explain why and how this is important to you as a writer. (20 marks)

## QUESTION TWO

Briefly explain the following concepts:

1. COEMA (5 marks)
2. Context clues (5 marks)
3. Topic sentence (5 marks)
4. Proofreading (5 marks)

## QUESTION THREE

1. Briefly outline the importance of an introduction (5 marks)
2. Briefly outline the importance of a conclusion (5 marks)
3. Write an appropriate introduction and conclusion to the following text (10 marks)

**Text:**

**The expository essay**

The function of the *expository essay* is to explain, or to acquaint your reader with a body of knowledge. By explaining a topic to the reader, you are demonstrating your own knowledge. For example, if you are asked to write an essay about witchcraft, you decide what you plan to concentrate on, create a paragraph structure, and describe the process step by step. An essay becomes more complicated when a position has to be defended, as in a persuasive essay.

**The evaluative essay**

The evaluative essay sets out to evaluate something according to predetermined criteria. For an evaluation to be recognized as valid, both the subject to be evaluated and the criteria to be used to make the evaluation must be stated clearly. The evaluative essay uses many of the techniques employed by the cause and effect essay and the comparison essay. However, the fact that an evaluative essay is working towards an emphatic judgment extends the importance of evidence.

In a literary essay, an evaluation might be working towards judgment of a novel or poem in terms of merit for the specified purpose; in this case, the evidence would be primarily textual. In a law essay, evidentiary support would be required to build a case and would primarily be drawn from witness statements, expert testimony etc. In a scientific essay, a thesis may be evaluated by related data and statistics etc. In all cases, the reliability of the evaluation is directly related to the quality of both the evidence and the writer's analysis of that evidence. Other areas connected to the writing of an evaluative essay include counter-argument which anticipates objections to the evaluation made and attempts to pre-empt these by suggesting how they might be addressed. The evaluative essay follows the same basic structure of other essays but the stress must be on the

strength of the evidence to be evaluated and the ability of the writer to use this evidence effectively.

**The narrative essay**

A narrative essay tells a story in a sequence of events. This type of essay is told from a defined point of view, often the author's. It offers specific and often sensory details to get the reader involved in the elements and sequence of the story. Verbs must be vivid and precise.

Writing a narrative essay is basically writing a story connected with personal experiences. The key element of a narrative essay is a defined point of view presented in the paper and delivered through sharing emotions and sensory details with the reader. As a narrative essay is always a reflection of a personal experience of the author and that is the reason it often has the form of a story and also often becomes a personal narrative essay. A narrative essay explains the point of view that the author claims in the opening statement and confirms in the conclusion of the paper.

**The descriptive essay**

Of all essay types, the descriptive essay is the one which requires most creative writing ability as it is based on the ability of the writer to facilitate the visualization of a scene, evoking sensory reactions and responses. Much of the writing will be adjectival but the use of other semantic fields, such as adverbial, will also be employed. Before beginning to write a descriptive essay, the writer should consider the audience for which it is intended as clearly this will influence choices made regarding language, syntax and level of sensory perception. For example, you would not describe a beach in the same way to an adult reader as you would to a child: the first would be likely to emphasize the beauty of the beach, its peacefulness or romantic qualities; the second would be likely to stress the fun of building sandcastles, playing in the sea etc. Of course, there would be a degree of overlap as, for example, with water sports which would appeal to all ages. The writer should also determine the purpose of the writing i.e. is it primarily to entertain or is the evocation of the scene almost like a 'painting in words'? In either case, the essay will be likely to employ linguistic devices such as similes and metaphors to aid the description.

**The argumentative essay**

The art of argumentation is not an easy skill to acquire. Many people might think that if one simply has an opinion, one can argue it effectively, and these folks are always surprised when others don't agree with them because their logic seems so correct. Additionally, writers of argumentation often forget that their primary purpose in an argument is to "win" it – to sway the reader to accept their point of view. It is easy to name call, easy to ignore the point of view or research of others, and extremely easy to accept one's own opinion as gospel, even if the writer has not checked his or her premise in a couple of years, or, as is the case for many young writers, never questioned the beliefs inherited from others. An argumentative essay puts forward a strong statement which may be new or potentially provocative and uses the standard essay format to expand on and support the thesis with evidence which attempts to persuade the reader that the opening statement is correct whilst acknowledging other arguments. The argumentative essay acknowledges contrary opinions but seeks to reject them by disproving them or undermining them.

#### QUESTION FOUR

Define the following concepts:

- a. Contrastive rhetoric (5 marks)
- b. Discourse community (5 marks)
- c. Writing as a secondary skill (5 marks)
- d. Appropriate language (5 marks)

#### QUESTION FIVE

In which situation would you prefer speaking to writing and why? In your essay make sure that you discuss the main differences between speaking and writing. (20 marks)