

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER
JULY 2015

TITLE OF PAPER: LANGUAGE MEANING AND USE

COURSE CODE: ENG 203/ IDE-ENG 203

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. This paper has four (4) questions.**
- 2. Question 1 is compulsory.**
- 3. Choose one other question from Questions 2 to Question 4.**
- 4. Question 1 is worth thirty (30) marks and Questions 2-4 are worth twenty (20) marks each.**
- 5. Presentation of answers should follow linguistic conventions where necessary, and good language use will attract credit.**

This paper should not be opened until permission has been granted by the invigilator.

QUESTION 1 (COMPULSORY)

- (a) Define the term “idiom”. [2 marks]
- (b) Give an example of an idiom and its explanation. [4 marks]
- (c) Give reasons why idioms must be entered into the lexicon as single words/ items with their meanings specified. Illustrate your answer using one example. [6 marks]
- (d) Define the term “ambiguity”. [2 marks]
- (e) Using relevant examples to illustrate your answer, discuss the following types of ambiguity:
- (i) Lexical ambiguity [4 marks]
- (ii) Structural ambiguity [6 marks]
- (f) A teacher enters a classroom and makes the following utterance: “There are papers on the floor.”

Give the following components of this utterance:

- (i) Locution [2 marks]
- (ii) Illocution [2 marks]
- (iii) Perlocution [2 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

(a) Consider the following “facts” and then answer the questions that will follow.

- Roses are red and bralkions are too.
- Booth shot Lincoln and Czolgosz, McKinley.
- Casca stabbed Caesar and so did Cinna.
- Freda was exhausted as was Sam.

- (i) What colour are bralkinos? [2 marks]
- (ii) What did Czolgosz do to McKinley? [2 marks]
- (iii) What did Cinna do to Caesar? [2 marks]
- (iv) What state is Sam in? [2 marks]
- (v) What did Booth do to McKinley? [2 marks]

(b) Now consider these facts and answer the questions that will follow by writing true or false.

- Mary is a widow.
- Black Beauty was a stallion.
- John remembered to send Mary a birthday card.
- John didn't remember to send Jane a birthday card.
- Flipper is walking.

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|-------|-------------------------|-----------|
| (i) | Black Beauty was male. | [2 marks] |
| (ii) | Mary was never married. | [2 marks] |
| (iii) | John sent Mary a card. | [2 marks] |
| (iv) | John sent Jane a card. | [2 marks] |
| (v) | Flipper has legs. | [2 marks] |

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

Explain the ambiguity of the following sentences by providing two sentences that paraphrase the multiple meanings.

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|-----|---|-----------|
| (a) | Mary can't bear children. | [2 marks] |
| (b) | Is he really that kind? | [2 marks] |
| (c) | You should see her shop. | [2 marks] |
| (d) | It takes a good ruler to make a straight line. | [2 marks] |
| (e) | The police were told to stop drinking by the fifth. | [2 marks] |
| (f) | I cannot recommend visiting professors too highly. | [2 marks] |
| (g) | We all laughed at the colourful ball. | [2 marks] |
| (h) | He was knocked over by the punch. | [2 marks] |
| (i) | Wealthy men and women spend a lot of money on buying shoes. | [2 marks] |
| (j) | The premier entertained the guests in the lounge. | [2 marks] |

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

Read the following conversation and answer the questions that will follow.

Speaker A: Have you washed the floor and done the dishes?

Speaker B: I've washed the floor.

Speaker A: Then tell me when you decide to do it.

Speaker B: I am not your maid.

Speaker A: Well, I thought I could help.

Speaker B: Oh, sorry about that! Thanks, thanks, thanks!

Questions

- (a) What is the implicature of each of these responses:
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| "I've washed the floor"? | [2 marks] |
| "I am not your maid". | [2 marks] |
- (b) In the conversation, pragmatic failure has occurred. Explain in detail what may have been the cause of this failure. [8 marks]
- (c) Due to the pragmatic failure, Speaker B felt there was damage on her face want. Which face want did Speaker B feel was damaged? Explain. [3 marks]
- (d) Speaker B has in turn damaged the face want of Speaker A. Explain how that has happened, and give the politeness strategy the speaker has used to mitigate the effect of the damage. [5 marks]

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]