

# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

## DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS

FINAL EXAMINATION, MAY 2016

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

**COURSE CODE: ACS 111  
TIME ALLOWED: 2 ( TWO HOURS)**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Write the name of your Faculty and Programme on the cover of your answer booklet.**
- 2. Answer ALL questions.**

**TOTAL MARKS: 100**

**This paper consists of 6 pages, the cover page included**

**QUESTION 1 : COMPREHENSION****50 Marks**

Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

### The new slavery

High-profit exploitation of poor people is increasing rapidly with globalisation of markets. Kevin Bales reports on the millions being ignored by governments. (*Guardian Unlimited* Wednesday May 12, 1999)

1. Did slavery disappear in the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Many people think so. But the case of Seba, who spent the last 14 years of her life as a household slave in Paris. When I met this 21-year-old woman last summer, she told her story:
  
2. “I was raised by my grandmother in Mali, and when I was little girl a woman my family knew came and asked her if she could take me to Paris to care for her children. She told my grandmother that she would put me in the school and that I would learn French. But when I came to Paris I was not sent to school; I had to work every day. I did all the work- I cleaned the house, cooked the meals, cared for the children, and washed and fed the baby. Every day I started work before 7am and finished about 11pm. My mistress did nothing.”
  
3. Seba had become a slave - beaten, locked up and tortured. She received no education and had no experiences outside the home, except walking the children back and forth to school. Illnesses, problems with her teeth, even puberty came and went without any medical care or understanding. Her world was her work. Seba was freed when a neighbour managed to talk to her. Seeing the wounds and scars, the neighbour called the French Committee against Modern Slavery, who raided the house with the police and took Seba into care. Medical examination confirmed her torture. She now lives with a **foster family**.
  
4. Seba’s story would be shocking enough if it were unique, but she was one of perhaps 2,000 household slaves in Paris today. And those slaves are a tiny part of the estimated 27 million slaves worldwide. Slavery is growing because slaves are cheaper than they have ever been. How has this come about?
  
5. The population explosion and economic changes after the second world war meant large numbers of people in the developing world were pushed into economic **vulnerability**. Migrating from the countryside to shanty towns, they are a pool of potential slaves. Of course, overpopulation and poverty alone don’t lead to slavery, but if police and government are corrupt, if laws against kidnapping and slavery are not enforced, then slaves can be harvested. Across south-east Asia, India, Pakistan, north and west Africa and Brazil, large-scale slavery rests on the corruption and complicity of government and police. When police sell the right to use violence, they are effectively selling a license of hunting slaves. In the lean, mean global economy, slaves equal profits and violence ensures that the profits keep coming. And slavery has never been so **lucrative**. Take steel, one of Brazil’s biggest exports to Europe and North America. Steel is made from Iron ore and slave-produced charcoal. All across western Brazil, forests are being cleared and burned to make charcoal.

Trapped in the charcoal camps are thousands of slaves recruited from shanty towns in the east.

6. Miguel, a worker in one of the camps, told me that one day a man turned up offering well-paid jobs in western Brazil. "He was able to fill up his truck with workers very easily," Miguel says, "On the trip, when we would stop for fuel, he would say, "On the trip, when we would stop for fuel, he would say, "Go into the café and eat as much as you like, I'll pay for it." We had been hungry for a long time, so you can imagine how we ate!
7. "when we got to Mato Grosso, we drove more than 50 miles into the forest. The camp is completely isolated, and there is just one road. When we reached the camp we could see that it was terrible: the conditions were not good enough for animals. Standing around the camp were men with guns. And then the man said, "You each owe me a lot of money-there is the cost of the trip, and all that food you ate – so don't even think about leaving."
8. By using slave labour, the boss running the camp makes more than 100 percent profit. The land owners make even more, and in Brazil many of these are US or European multinationals. The steel companies, in turn, get low-cost raw materials. And we profit from the low price we pay for steel goods and excellent returns made by our investments.
9. The average slave in Mississippi in 1850 cost about \$60,000 in today's money and profits fluctuated around the 5% mark. The slave was an asset to be looked after and bred, an investment that could generate years of labour. This meant long-term relationship and certain level of care. Today, a slave is not worth keeping longer than is absolutely necessary.
10. With these changes, our ideas about slavery have been outmoded. Today, race has little to do with slavery. Slaves are chosen by **vulnerability** not colour, with devastating consequences for women and children. Slavery is not about legal ownership of a person, it is the complete control of a person-through violence-for economic exploitation, like other parts of the global economy, slavery has become a "just in time" component of the production process.
11. This low-cost, high profit slavery is **evolving** rapidly with globalisation, and governments are not keeping up. UN weapons inspectors search Iraq and are backed up by force when they are excluded. But where are the UN teams searching out slavery? The US Drug Enforcement Agency spends billions combating the drug trade, but the traffic in humans receives little attention. Under World Trade Organisation rules, Britain can be punished for preferring one sort of banana to another, but no country can be **sanctioned** for exporting goods made with slave labour.
12. The new slave is a stark reminder that, as the free market penetrates the global economy, it doesn't necessarily bring democracy, human rights or improved living conditions. Are we willing to accept living in a world with slaves, and to profit from their slavery?

Kevin Bales is the author of *Disposable People* (California Press). Guardian Unlimited © Guardian Newspapers Limited, 1999.

## Questions

*Answer all questions*

### Section A (2 marks for each answer)

Read the following statements, and decide whether, according to the passage, they are TRUE(T), FALSE(F), PROBABLY TRUE(PT) or PROBABLY FALSE(PF). In Some cases, the truth of the statement cannot be determined from the passage. In those cases, write UN(=unascertainable).

1. Seba was about eight years old when she went to Paris.
2. Seba's mistress in Paris was from Mali.
3. Seba's grandmother is no longer alive.
4. Seba lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
5. Seba speaks English.
6. Seba is from Africa originally.
7. The main cause of slavery are poverty and corruption.
8. Slavery is found almost everywhere in the world.
9. Miguel has found a well-paid job.
10. Miguel's employer is a kind man.
11. Miguel is a slave.
12. Modern slaves suffer more than those in earlier times.
13. Most modern slaves are Africans.
14. Governments are ignoring the problem of slavery.
15. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, slaves were expensive.
16. It is better to be a slave than to live in a shanty town.
17. The United Nations is active in fighting against slavery.
18. Slavery is good for the economy.
19. The drug trade is under control.
20. Charcoal is used in metal production.

### Section B (2 marks for each)

*What is the meaning of the following words as used in the passage on slavery? Answer in your own words.*

1. foster family (para 4)
2. vulnerability (para 5 & 10)
3. lucrative (para 5)
4. sanctioned (para 11)
5. evolving (para. 11)

**Question 2: Summary****50 marks**

*Read the following passage carefully and in not more than 200 words write a summary, stating the main points raised in this passage in support of Affirmative Action. The summary must be in your own words. Lifting sentences from the passage is not permissible and it will result in a loss of marks.*

**WHEN WILL RACE LOSE THE RACE?****Charity Miller**

People across the globe recognize and then refuse to accept the injustices of life. Our government, our schools, and even our families implement laws and procedures to resolve life's inequalities. For example, a mother with two sons may give her ill son two tasty Flintstone vitamins but give her well son only one. She "unfairly" gives the sickly son two vitamins to maintain a healthy level of nutrition in both of her children. In the same manner, some tactics that appear biased are intended to make up for the biases of life. The paradoxical statement is the foundation of justice, as we know it in the United States. Many laws, policies, and commissions, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, are established to promote justice of education, employment, gender, and religion (Sykes 1). For instance, destitute families receive welfare to help pay the cost of living until their income is stable. Technically, it is not *fair* that only poor families receive government money, but it is *just* because poor families need it and more affluent families do not. Therefore, justice does not equal fairness. Rather justice creates fairness.

Likewise, Affirmative Action is not fair, but it is just. It meets the needs of minorities and also accommodates for disadvantages such as language differences, substandard schooling, financial deficiency, handicaps, and other setbacks for all victims of inequality. Affirmative Action is an idealistic endeavour, but it is not intended to achieve perfection, while total equality will never exist because "life isn't fair," it is imperative for us to strive to lessen injustices. Therefore, Affirmative Action is necessary in colleges and universities to create diversity, limit discrimination, and eventually create a state of fairness in which this policy can become obsolete.

Many schools use Affirmative Action to admit a diverse student body. Originally, when segregation was more prominent, Affirmative Action introduced policies that integrated races and genders and remedied the unsuccessful "separate but separate equal" court rule. Today, Affirmative Action continues to graciously level the playing field of college admission by providing opportunities to disadvantaged students. Minorities competing for college admission are outnumbered like ten red gumballs in a machine of fifty blue ones. Therefore, some schools use race as an admissions factor to ensure that a ration of minority students is selected. Admitting students of wide geographic representation and variety of cultures, languages, religions, and talents yields a more knowledgeable and culturally balanced body. Race does not substitute for merit; it is simply another factor in the admissions process to create diversity.

Furthermore, Affirmative Action solidifies the playing field, replacing the quicksand of discrimination. In concurrence with the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, the government mandated Affirmative Action in the mid-twentieth century to ensure equal protection for people of socioeconomic, ethnic, or gender differences. Hence, prejudiced school officials were pressed to end illegal and blatant discrimination against minority students. My father is a product of mandatory Affirmative Action. Despite his excellent grades in school, he could not afford college, and as a minority he was not eligible for admission into the college of his choice because it was a “white school.” However, in 1970, Affirmative Action stepped in like Superman to save the day, the government threatened to suspend funding for the school if it did not admit and support minority students. My dad accepted this measure of grace and worked hard in school to become a successful lawyer and pastor. Not only did Affirmative Action allow my dad to achieve his dreams, but it also gave him a chance to disprove negative ethnic stereotypes. Many people accept stereotypes that classify minorities as poor and uneducated because minorities have been excluded from education and wealth throughout this country’s history. Affirmative Action eliminates discrimination and enables minorities to kick down stereotypical barriers and reach their greatest potential through higher education.

Today, racist discrimination in colleges is less conspicuous than it was years ago. Apparently, Affirmative Action is fulfilling its purpose. However, just as fashion styles come and go seasonally, Affirmative Action will eventually become outdated. If it outlives its purpose, it will generate a counterproductive effect. If the government continues to aid minorities when schools have become more diverse, equal opportunities more available, and discrimination less tolerated, then Affirmative Action will unjustly discriminate against whites. Affirmative Action should serve only temporarily to resolve inequalities. For example, there was a time when Black women could not enter beauty contests because of their ethnicity. Hence, Blacks created their own beauty contest as a kind of Affirmative Action to publicly say, “Black is beautiful too.” Presently, race is no longer an obstacle in national beauty contests. In fact, Miss America of 2004 is an African American from Florida. Although ethnic contests still exist today, the black beauty contest served its purpose and is no longer needed.

**Words: 812**

Adapted from: Crusius, T. W. and Channel, C.E. (2006). **The aims of Argument: A test and Reader**. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. New York, USA: Mac Graw Hill. pp. 263 – 265.