

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS

RESIT / SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2016

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

COURSE CODE : ACS 112/103

TIME ALLOWED : TWO HOURS (2hrs)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write the name of your Faculty and Programme on the cover of our answer booklet
2. Answer **ONE** question from each section.
3. This paper consists of **5** printed pages, including the cover page.

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

SECTION A – ESSAY WRITING**60 MARKS****QUESTION 1**

Food scarcity due to the drought has reached crisis levels, especially in developing countries. To alleviate this problem, is biotechnology the way to go? Using the following excerpts, write an essay of not more than one and half pages clearly expressing your views on the matter.

Excerpt 1**Food scarcity**

There are numerous discussions about the development and use of modern biotechnology, especially about the safety of genetically modified foods. Benefits for human health, as well as risks can be divided into four categories, namely; increased food safety, enhanced nutritional composition of foods, food with even more health benefits and the reduction of certain chronic diseases related to diet.

By the application of genetic engineering, organoleptic properties and expiration date of certain grains were able to improve. Delaying the rotting process of fruit and vegetables provides better quality, taste, colour and texture. With the help of genetic engineering it is possible to create foods with greater amounts of minerals, vitamins and antioxidants. Also, by increasing crop yields deforestation is prevented, and, the most

important for the developing countries, economic development is accelerated.

On the other hand, for many researchers and the public, production of so-called Frankenstein food is unacceptable tampering with nature. There are concerns that the use of genetic engineering in the food industry can increase sensitivity to certain allergens. In fact, genetic modification could transfer allergenic properties from a donor organism to a recipient organism. Foreign genes can disrupt the balance of nutrients. The question is how the changes will affect the interaction of nutrients, interaction between nutrients and genes, bioavailability of nutrients, metabolism and the "Strength" of nutrients.

So we are left to hope and to make an effort for the benefits of biotechnology to overcome the disadvantages, and to contribute to the development of the mankind.

Adapted from: <http://www.biotechnologyforums.com/thread-1926.html>

Excerpt 2**The 'plastic chicken' that's only 51% meat**by SEAN POULTER, **Daily Mail**

Shoppers are being ripped off with low-quality chicken pumped full of chemicals, water and even pig skin. In what amounts to a massive food fraud, about 40 per cent of the imported chicken sold by catering suppliers undergoes heavy processing. The meat that results is so rubbery and tasteless it is known in the trade as 'plastic chicken'. Most of the meat comes from processors in Holland and Belgium, who bring in cheap chickens from Thailand and pump the meat with a chemical mix. The treatment is now so sophisticated that what seems like a fresh, plump chicken breast might be only 51% meat.

BBC TV investigators found many supermarkets use chicken with added water in ready meals. The stores say adding small amounts of water to the flesh prevents the meat from drying out. However, the Food Standards Agency is concerned that Moslems, who for religious reasons do not eat pig meat,

might be consuming chicken that contains pork DNA.

Panorama found traces of pig DNA in own-label chicken nuggets sold by Sainsbury's, although this is being viewed as accidental contamination. The ingredients on what looks like a 'natural' chicken breast can include a bizarre cocktail of materials designed to hold in the water. They include salt, stabilisers (E450, E451), the milk protein lactose and the sweeteners dried glucose syrup and dextrose to counteract the salt. The use of pig material may be described - where there are labels - as hydrolysed protein. Flavour enhancers such as E649 and E621 are also often used to disguise the washed-out taste.

John Sanford of Hull Trading Standards, the authority leading investigations into the practice, said: 'We have had many complaints about the eating quality of this chicken when it turns up in a takeaway or restaurant.'

Adapted from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-181626/The-plastic-chicken-thats-51-meat.html#ixzz433YI3PWZ>

QUESTION 4

Photo Journalism



<http://www.fanpop.com/clubs/photography/articles/2845/title/kevin-carter-consequences-photojournalism>

The South African photojournalist Kevin Carter photographed a girl crawling to a feeding station in Sudan while a vulture lurked behind her. This photograph is known as one of the most famous images in the New York Times. Outraged readers demanded to know what Carter had done for the girl after photographing her.

The artist, Alfredo Jaar, said the following in reference to Carter's work, "People don't

really understand what these guys do. They leave their families and they go to these places... and they imprint the horrors of the world. They do it because they want to show their peers and the citizens of the world what the world is and the things we have to do to solve it."

"For me it's the most extraordinary picture about hunger in the world and we are the vultures - the Western World".

Adapted from: **Sunday Times**, February 28, 2016 page 16.

Question

Do you agree with Jaar's views? Using the given contexts as your spring board, write an essay expressing your views about the work of photojournalists. Your essay should be about 400 words (one and half pages).

SECTION B – PROFESSIONAL WRITING**40 MARKS****Choose One question from this section.****QUESTION 3**

A study by Jabulani Sikhakhane (**Sunday Times**, February 12, 2016, Business Times, page 11 Opinion) indicates that, “the expansion of higher education enrolment without paying much attention to raising the quality and relevance of the education” is of less benefit to the students. Write a letter to the Minister of Education expressing your views on this opinion.

QUESTION 4

Write a letter to the Minister of Works in your country complaining about the deplorable condition of the roads in your area, and the effects this has on the lives of the people.

Question 5

You recently attended a friend’s party that you thought was well planned, from the food right up to the entertainment, and you thought of using the same events management company in future. You have now been tasked to plan your End of Year class party. Write a letter to request the services of the company.