

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER
JULY, 2018

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE MEANING AND USE

COURSE CODE: 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 4.**
- 4. Question 1 is worth thirty (30) marks, and Questions 2 to 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)

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

Craig was horrified when his children who are in Grade 6 and 7, came home one day and complained about the behavior of some teachers at Wilgehof Primary School in Bloemfontein. They told him the Social Science teacher, Leonard Mckay, displayed a large apartheid era flag at the front of the class and often referred to black people as k****rs in front of the black children in class. According to his children, the teacher had a poster in the classroom showing apes hanging on a rope under which was an image of former ANCYL president Julius Malema. The caption read, “ **Amazing natural phenomenon! Studies were conducted to determine why these primates made these expressions and findings showed they were as a result of their primitive brains wanting to speak but they could only make confusing noises.**” Craig was outraged and complained to the principal about what was happening but he says no action was taken. “I won’t allow a few people to poison the minds of my children,” says Craig. “ It’s despicable that racism is present in this day and age – and shockingly at a primary school. We should stand up and condemn such racism directed at our children!”

(Extract taken from Drum magazine of 20 June 2013)

- (a) Discuss the type of meaning expressed by the utterance written in bold. [5 marks]
- (b) Which face want of the black population has been threatened by the utterance written in bold? Explain how that utterance has been a threat to face. [5 marks]
- (c) What is the implicature of this utterance? [5 marks]
- (d) Discuss the thematic roles of the following phrases in the passage:
- | | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| (i) Craig (line 1) | [2 marks] |
| (ii) Home (line 1) | [2 marks] |
| (iii) Leonard Mckay (line 3) | [2 marks] |
| (iv) My children (line 12) | [2 marks] |
| (v) In class (line 5) | [2 marks] |
- (e) Write any five words from the passage that collocate with the word “school”. [5 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

(a) For each semantic class given below, give two members:

- | | | |
|-------|--------------|----------|
| (i) | Motion | [1 mark] |
| (ii) | Cause | [1 mark] |
| (iii) | Animate | [1 mark] |
| (iv) | Masculine | [1 mark] |
| (v) | Professional | [1 mark] |

(b) Arrange the following sets of words in a tree diagram to show which ones are hyponyms of which. The tree diagrams should not show linear order but hierarchical order.

- (i) Fruits, raspberries, citrus, blackberries, limes, berries, tropical fruits, papaya, oranges, mango. [5 marks]
- (ii) Bus, truck, car, vehicle, convertible, coach, tanker, double decker, breakdown, sedan. [5 marks]
- (c) Give 2 reasons idioms must be entered into the lexicon as single words/ items with their meanings specified. Use examples to illustrate your answer. [5 marks]

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

- He is a boy.

(a) Give the meaning of the sentence when said in the following contexts:

- (i) In hospital, in the maternity ward. [2 marks]
- (ii) In a gathering of men. [2 marks]
- (iii) In situations where a girl and a boy are fighting over toys. [2 marks]

(b) Explain how context can affect the interpretation of meaning. Use the contexts in (1) above to illustrate your answer. [4 marks]

(c) State the semantic relation that exists between each pair of the words below.

- | | | | | |
|-------|------|---|-------|-----------|
| (i) | Pill | : | peel | [2 marks] |
| (ii) | Love | : | adore | [2 marks] |
| (iii) | Buy | : | sell | [2 marks] |

(iv) Vehicle : car [2 marks]

(v) Bear (to tolerate) : bear (to carry) [2 marks]

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

(a) Give the referential meaning as well as the connotative meaning of each of the expressions given below. [Give at least 3 connotations of each word/ expression].

(i) A film star [5 marks]

(ii) Booze [5 marks]

(iii) University [5 marks]

(b) Make componential analyses of the words: spinster and woman. [2 marks]

(c) Use the semantic features you have given in (b) to describe the similarities and differences in the meanings of the two words. [3 marks]

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]