

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**PART-TIME CERTIFICATE IN ADULT EDUCATION YEAR I**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2011**

**TITLE OF PAPER : PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH**

**COURSE CODE : CAE216**

**TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A.**

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR HAS GRANTED PERMISSION.**

**SECTION A**

Answer all Questions in this Section.

**QUESTION 1**

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

On that particular morning, a Thursday in May, Mama Idowu woke up feeling well disposed to the world, jubilant and full of praises to God. And she had every reason to be so elated. Idowu, her only surviving son – she had four including a set of twins – was at last returning to Lagos after nearly twenty years in Britain. Yes, twenty unbroken years.

5 – “Unbroken” because during those years Idowu had not come home once to see her despite her pleas and fervent supplications. The reason, she found out, was that Idowu’s wife, a West Indian from Jamaica, was not at all keen on living in Nigeria.

Though she never once doubted that her son would return home, she was, at seventy-seven and ailing, beginning to fret that she would not see him again before she died.

10 – However, since she had got the letter that he was coming home for good, she felt better – in fact, it was as if she had been given a new lease of life. Even then she still harboured a feeling of uncertainty and suspicion which would only be dispelled when she set eyes on her Idowu. She could hardly wait for that moment of reunion. And when it came, she was so overwhelmed that as soon as she saw Idowu, she burst into tears, venting her  
15 – bottled-up emotions in a manner that shook her shrivelling frame. After the outburst subsided and she retained control over herself, she embraced Idowu as if she would never let him go. He had to disengage himself tactfully.

“Idowu.... Idowu..... Idowu.... My one and only son, I thought I’ll not see you before I rest from my labours. Now that you are here I can go with joy,” she said shaking with  
20 – emotion. “I’m glad .... Happy to be back, Ma,” replied Idowu composedly. “Look what I brought with me to gladden your heart.”

He then introduced his wife, Cynthia, and his twin children, Richard and Dorothy. Cynthia got a lukewarm reception. The twins were fussed over. Not being used to such

an effusion of affection, Richard and Dorothy felt rather uneasy and tongue-tied. Mama  
25- was horrified when she was told they spoke only English.

“Why give them English names as well? Is Kehinde and Taiwo not good enough names?” She demanded indignantly.

“Cynthia found them difficult to pronounce and the English were even worse; so we decided not to call them by their Yoruba names,” Idowu explained.

30- Mama explained in no uncertain terms her total dissatisfaction with this explanation to the point of rebuking Idowu. She warned him not to let a woman, a mere woman rule him for the children were his and not his wife’s. Consequently, his authority over them must be complete. In his defence, Idowu said the children liked their English names, which were the names of his wife’s parents. This infuriated his mother so much that he  
35- had to pacify her.

“And another thing, “Mama said after a prolonged silence, broken only by occasional moans and sighs. “You did not send home for names of the children and news of their birth reached me long after the traditional day for the naming ceremony. What kind of nonsense is that? Because you’re in England is no reason to forget your customs and  
40- traditional ceremonies.”

“Ah!” exclaimed Idowu genuinely surprised “I wrote the day the twins were born and I too was surprised I didn’t hear from you.”

“What did you do about it, Idowu? What did you do?”

“We were very worried about not hearing from you,” chimed in Cynthia.

48- "You keep out of this," Mama snapped back at her. "and in future don't ever say a word when I'm talking to my son. Idowu, tell her, tell her. I won't take any insult from your wife and, what is more, a foreigner at that."

"She was only...."

"Idowu," cut in Mama angrily. "I don't want any apology. All I ask you to do is to  
50- speak to her. You must teach her how to behave. Here, in Lagos, we are taught to respect our elders."

"I'll speak to her, Mama," replied Idowu submissively.

"I don't suppose you did all the ceremony for the twins who will from now on be called by their proper names -- Kehinde and Taiwo."

55- "Yes, Mama," agreed Idowu tamely.

"Bring them here the day after tomorrow. I want only the children and not your wife. Don't bring her."

"All right, Mama,".

Not long after, Idowu and his family left. On the way home Cythia made it abundantly  
60- clear to Idowu that in no circumstances was she going to allow the children to go to grandmother without her. She was firmly supported by the twins.

"Cynthia, please don't make things move difficult than they are at present. You bear with mother."

"Bear with her, Idowu? What a wonderful welcome she gave me and the children? She  
65- doesn't like me and there's nothing I can do to make her change her mind."

“Look ... look .... Look, Cynthia. Mother’s not as hard as you think. She’s merely angry with you about something. I’ll find out and will soon settle it,” pleaded Idowu.

But Cynthia was in no mood to be conciliatory and Idowu, who was determined not to let her have her way, decided to drop the matter. That night Cynthia accused Idowu of humiliating her in front of the children by not standing up to his mother and defending her.

“You know mother is old and she meant no harm, Cynthia. I had to humour her and I must say you were wonderful.”

“I just didn’t want to be rude to her. If I knew that was the sort of thing to happen, I’d never have come home with you. Why didn’t you warn me, Idowu? Why?” She demanded and burst into tears.

He offered her words of assurance and, eventually, she quietened down. After a while she said in a voice full of emotion, “I know your mother doesn’t like me. I could see hate in her eyes and her manner was very resentful. What have I done to her? Did I offend her in marrying you? Has she got someone else for you?”

“No.....no.....no Cynthia.”

“She must have. Otherwise she wouldn’t treat me the way she did. If that’s the case, Idowu, I’ll return to England.”

“Come ..... come .... you’re making a mountain out of a molehill.”

“Send me back to England with the children and ....’

“Enough of that nonsense,” snapped Idowu in a tone of finality. “If you want to go back to England, you can do so on your own.”

“How can I dear? You know I don’t mean it.”

“Then don’t say what you don’t mean,” replied Idowu good humouredly.

90 → “I’d like to come with you when you take the children to your mother. May I, please?” asked Cynthia some time later.

“I’m sleepy, dear. Besides, the day is still a long way away. When it comes, we’ll decide. But right now you won’t get any promise out of me. Good night.”

**Answer questions in the order set.**

- (a) In your own words explain why Mama Idowu was feeling particularly “jubilant”. (2)
- (b) Despite the reassurance she felt after receiving her son’s letter, why was she still not completely happy? (2)
- (c) In your own words say why she burst into tears when she saw Idowu again. (2)
- (d) In your own words explain what Mama Idowu meant when she said, ‘now that you’re here I can go with joy’. (l. 19) (4)
- (e) In your own words explain what Idowu meant when he said, “the English were even worse.” (l. 28) (4)
- (f) Mama Idowu told her son not to let a woman rule him. Briefly list five instances where Cynthia got or tried to get her own way or behaved in a manner which was unacceptable to her mother-in-law. (10)
- (g) Quote from the passage two words which indicate that Idowu was ready to obey his mother rather than his wife. (4)
- (h) How did Idowu finally avoid Cynthia’s request to go with the children to his mother’s? (5)

(h) Explain in your own words the meaning of:

1. "in no uncertain terms". (l. 30) (8)
2. "You're making a mountain out of a molehill". (l. 84)

- (i) Explain in your own words the meaning of:
1. dispelled (l. 12) (2)
  2. infuriated (l. 34) (2)

**TOTAL: 45 MARKS**

### SECTION B

Answer all questions

#### QUESTION 2

Choose the correct verb from the brackets for each sentence.

- (a) Neither John nor his brothers (wants, want) to run the family business.
- (b) Everyone in the club (have, has) registered for the big event.
- (c) Neither she nor I (is, am,) going to arrange the flowers.
- (d) A bed or two blankets (is, are) all he needs this winter.
- (e) Some of the prisoners (is, are) aggressive.
- (f) Mr. Hlophe as well as his brother (give, gives) a short speech at the party.
- (g) Each student in class (have, has) a new desk.
- (h) Neither the children nor their mother (need, needs) bus fare.
- (i) The manager or his assistant (has, have) to attend the meeting.
- (j) There (is, are) three performances every week.
- (k) Netball, as well as many other games, (is, are) played by two teams.
- (l) Both the draft and the final copy (has, have) been seen by the supervisor.
- (m) Two cheap shirts or one expensive once (is, are) all I can afford.
- (n) Some cake or two slices of bread (suffice, suffices) for me.
- (o) The inn's board and lodging (is, are) very affordable. (15 marks)

#### QUESTION 3

Pick out the adjective clause in each sentence.

- (a) The place where the meeting will be held has not been announced.
- (b) The years before one grows up are usually free of care.
- (c) The explorers arrived at a spring which has hot water.
- (d) We finally found the house where we were told to meet.
- (e) We look back with nostalgia to the time when we were students.
- (f) Everyone who has been invited is present.
- (g) The books that have been recommended are all out of stock.
- (h) A person who acknowledges his mistakes is admirable.

- (i) The question that they raised was too difficult to answer.
- (j) The experiments they conducted were unsuccessful.
- (k) He likes a job which poses great challenges.
- (l) He is a man who considers the interests of others.
- (m) Work done with care is what the teacher wants.
- (n) We require two people who are proficient at languages.
- (o) The ideas that are suggested by him are impractical.

(15 marks)

### SECTION C

#### QUESTION 4

Do either A or B

- A. You left home long time ago and you have not been visiting your parents. Now you feel you have to return home but a lot has changed in your life; so you feel you need to prepare your parents for your arrival.

Write a letter to your father/mother about your decision to return home and tell him/her about the changes that have taken place.

Remember, this is a private letter.

(30 marks)

- B. Write a composition ending with one of the following sentences:

- (i) He was the most reliable person I had ever known.
- (ii) If it was not for her quick action, a lot more damage would have happened.
- (iii) It was then that I discovered she was the mother I had been looking for all my life.
- (iv) It was the saddest/happiest day of my life. (30 marks)