

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION
PART-TIME CERTIFICATE IN ADULT EDUCATION YEAR II
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER MAY, 2012

TITLE OF PAPER : **PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH**

COURSE CODE : **CAE 217**

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

INSTRUCTION : **1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A.**
2. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN SECTION B.
3. ANSWER ONE QUESTION IN SECTION C.

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

SECTION A**QUESTION 1**

This section is compulsory.

Read the following passage carefully before you attempt any questions.

Answer all the questions. You are recommended to answer them in the order set.

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the paper.

- 1 An English poet writes that if he had to live in Malaysia, and could choose where this was to be,
2 he would choose the East Coast of the mainland. One of the pleasures he remembers there is the
3 spectator sport of watching men fly the great kites that fight to cut each other's strings.
- 4 Kite-fighting has been popular throughout Asia for hundreds of years. The aim is to bring down
5 an opponent's kite by severing his line with your own. Gum and powdered glass are applied to
6 the upper section of the string that guides the kite, and this, when it rubs against the string of an
7 enemy kite, cuts it. The kite's framework is constructed of bamboo, and the length and width are
8 both about two metres. Many of these kites have an attachment made from bamboo and leaves
9 which vibrates to make a pleasant humming sound when the kite is in the air. It then seems to
10 become alive, a brilliantly painted bird, and to be singing its pleasure at being released among
11 other birds high up in the heavens. Even when men are engaged in the keen competition of kite-
12 fighting, some become strangely spell-bound by the sound of their own kites. They fall into deep
13 trances and can only be roused by the cutting or snapping of the string they are holding.
- 14 Beautiful and elaborate kites have been developed for this fighting. Making a good fighting kite
15 is a very skilful art, and may take weeks of patient labour. The variety in design is remarkable:
16 the Moon, the Peacock, the Fish, the Man, the Frog, the Cat, the Swallow and the Parakeet are
17 all cleverly created. Some of these models can be manoeuvred with an accuracy and a speed that
18 astonish Westerners. Indeed kites, though they properly belong to Asia, have long fascinated
19 Western eyes. Even the diamond shape that has become so popular in England is said to have
20 come from Thailand. A hill-top in north London is well-known for the crowds of children and
21 adults who can be seen there on most days of the year, gazing intently upwards as though in a
22 dream. Above them, the sky is filled with fluttering kites at peace with one another. These people
23 are pursuing a pastime probably older than recorded history. They all share in the delights that
24 kite-flying brings the world over.
- 25 The technique to fly a kite was described very accurately by Marco Polo, the European explorer
26 who went to China more than seven hundred years ago. The men Polo saw flying a kite were not
27 engaged in a game, or pastime. They were a ship's crew, superstitious as all sailors are, and they
28 believed the kite would show them whether or not their voyage would be prosperous. If the kite
29 went straight up it was a good sign, and they would immediately set sail.
- 30 Kites have also been used to carry men up into the air: this could only be done when a strong and
31 constant wind was blowing. Marco Polo tells how madmen or drunkards were tied to kites and

32 sent up as unwilling victims of a cruel joke. Nobody in his right mind or with his wits about him
 33 would have willingly exposed himself to such peril. Yet a well-known story tells us that a
 34 Japanese thief did indeed risk his life and used a man-carrying kite in a daring attempt to steal the
 35 gold from statues on top of the towers of Nagoya Castle. Although he appears to have landed
 36 safely after successfully removing some of the gold, he was caught and viciously punished.

37 The innocent-looking kite, surprisingly, also had its place in warfare. An ancient book shows us
 38 kites made in the form of animals, wide-mouthed, with long flowing tails of finely spun cloth
 39 which twisted and turned like dragons above the soldiers. The text tells us that they were
 40 intended to inspire fear in the enemy, like so many other military devices of every age. The author
 41 adds, and this is something that is more convincing, that these 'pennon kites', as they were called,
 42 were also useful for archers. The kites helped the archers determine the strength and direction
 43 of the wind and so they could release their arrows with more deadly effect.

44 Kites have also had a part to play in the long history of scientific discovery and technological
 45 advances. An American, Benjamin Franklin, used a kite to carry out experiments on weather.
 46 For example, he sent up a kite in a thunderstorm to prove that the electricity in lightning was of
 47 the same kind as that which generators produce. Much of the theory which enabled the first flying
 48 machines to be constructed and flown, and which influenced the design of gliders and powered
 49 aircraft, was derived from experiments with kites. Several early aeroplanes were little more than
 50 a simple box kite with an engine stuck on the front or the back. Only a few years before the first
 51 aeroplanes, Captain Baden Powell (brother of the founder of the Boy Scout movement) had been
 52 lifting volunteers on a dangerous construction made up of huge unsteady kites. His idea was to
 53 provide the British Army with a means of observation from the air. Kites also played a part in the
 54 beginnings of radio communication. It was on one of the Baden Powell's kites that Marconi, in
 55 1901, raised an aerial that was vital to the first successful reception in England of radio signals
 56 from a transmitter on the American shore of the Atlantic Ocean. But it was with the development
 57 of the aeroplane that the simple kite had made its greatest contribution to modern civilisation.
 58 Man was at last realising an ambition that had possessed him since the beginning of time.

59 All this seems far from the idle pleasures of watching kites from a London or Malaysian hill-top.
 60 But some watchers know the Kite's history and potential, and smile as the air disturbance created
 61 by a passing jet-plane rattles the fabric of some high-flying kite, sending a tremor down the lines.
 62 For up there the kite gently floats, simple and unassuming, a piece of low technology, waiting
 63 until the next time it can serve and surprise us.

64 Answer all the questions. You are recommended to answer them in the order set.

1. (a) (i) 'had to live in Malaysia (line 1)
 What does the poet mean when he says 'had to'? (1 mark)
- (ii) Write down one word from this paragraph that shows he had already
 visited the East Coast of Malaysia. (2 marks)
- (b) What is a 'spectator sport'. (line 3)? (1 mark)
- (c) What is it that cuts the line of an opponent's kite (line 7) (1 mark)

- (d) (i) Why is the word 'bird' (line 10) suitable to describe any kite?
(1 mark)
- (ii) Give two reasons to show why 'bird' is particularly suitable to describe the kite which has 'become alive' (line 12). In this section (ii), number your answers 1 and 2. (2 marks)
- (e) (i) Explain in your own words why the author finds it surprising that the kite-fighters should be so spell-bound that they fall into trances (line 13).
- (ii) Which one of their senses 'roused' them (line 13) from their trances?
(4 marks)
2. (a) 'elaborate kites' (line 14) have been developed for fighting.
- (i) What **two** qualities does the maker need to construct them?
- (ii) What are the **two** essential qualities of a good fighting kite?
(4 marks)
- (b) (i) State an important difference from most Asian kite-flying that is suggested by the London scene in paragraph 3.
- (ii) State two similarities that are also suggested. In this section (ii), number your answers 1 and 2. (3 marks)
- (c) With reference to both phrases, explain the difference between:
- (i) a man who is not 'in his right mind' and
- (ii) a man who does not have 'his wits about him' (line 32).
(2 marks)
3. (a) Choose **FIVE** of the following words or phrases. For each of them give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning as the word used in the passage.
1. released (line 10)
 2. the world over (line 24)
 3. constant (line 31)
 4. peril (line 33)
 5. daring (line 34)
 6. intended (line 40)
 7. determine (line 42)
 8. volunteers (line 52)
- (10 marks)
- (b) If arrows were released 'with more deadly effect' (line 43), what would be the **two** results achieved?
(4 marks)

- (c) The 'ambition' (line 58) is not named. What was that ambition? (2 marks)
- (d) With reference to both words, explain how 'potential' differs from 'history' (line 60). (1 mark)
- (e) What is the author indicating might happen in the future when he says that the kite can still 'surprise us' (line 63)? (2 marks)

[TOTAL: 40 MARKS]

SECTION B

Answer TWO questions only

QUESTION 2

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with the words in brackets.

- (a) The writer is very; he wrote an interesting story about life on an planet.
(imaginary, imaginative)
- (b) Have you been in going this manuscript? (thorough; through).
- (c) tribes inhabit this island of vegetation (varied; various)
- (d) He was very in the project; he offered many proposals at the meeting. (interested; interesting)
- (e) He was to the challenge of assuming a position in a commercial firm. (responsible; responsive)
- (f) To supplement his meagre he works as a petition writer in the evening, charging a small (fee; salary).
- (g) This drug has a market in the East. (potential; potent)
- (h) The girl was the only one to believe his story which was hardly (credible; credulous)
- (i) The men were given permission to the new country but they were warned not to its natural resources. (explore; exploit)
- (j) Themba wanted to my book but I refused to it to him because his is careless. (borrow; lend)

(20 MARKS)

QUESTION 3

For each pair of sentences, two homonyms are given. Fill in each blank with the appropriate homonym.

- (a) hoard; horde
- (i) The explorer came face to face with a of savages.
- (ii) The police uncovered a of gold in the hide-out.

- (b) law; love
- (i) I enjoy reading the folk and mythologies of primitive races.
 - (ii) Don't break the or you will be punished.
- (c) sauce; source
- (i) She asks for chilly to go with her fried rice and chicken.
 - (ii) This news comes from a reliable
- (d) pail; pale
- (i) Sitting on the hospital bed, she looks and thin.
 - (ii) This plastic can hold ten litres of water.
- (e) queue; cue
- (i) She joined the to get tickets for the show.
 - (ii) On getting the, the actor started to sing and dance.
- (f) tide; tied
- (i) The body of a young man was washed ashore by the
 - (ii) The robbers up her arms and legs and locked her in the bedroom.
- (g) razed; raised
- (i) The wooden shophouse was to the ground and the owners were killed in the fire.
 - (ii) Their hopes of seeing their fathers again were when they heard that there were no casualties in the battle.
- (h) place; plaice
- (i) She grilled the and served it with a slice of lemon.
 - (ii) He promised to take his wife to a special for dinner.
- (i) principal; principle
- (i) He refuses on to finance a cause he does not believe in.
 - (ii) The left the agent to negotiate the sale of his bungalow house.

- (j) allowed; aloud
- (i) No one is to enter the temple with shoes on.
- (ii) The candidate was given a passage and told to read it..... (20 MARKS)

QUESTION 4

Re-write each sentence, omitting the unnecessary words.

- (a) Many a time and often his parents advised him not to meddle in politics.
- (b) He was told to work jointly in collaboration with his senior officers.
- (c) The old man lived alone in isolation in an old hut.
- (d) I more prefer coffee to tea as I find it to be a more stimulating drink.
- (e) He declined to accept my invitation because he had another engagement.
- (f) The reason for his failure was due to his laziness.
- (g) When I referred back to the original manuscript, I could not find the error.
- (h) He decided to return back to his home town as life became more difficult.
- (i) He was offended because he misinterpreted you wrongly.
- (j) They re-counted the votes again before they announced the results.
- (20 MARKS)

SECTION C**Answer ONE question only****QUESTION 5**

A. Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow:

Even though I have never lived there, going to my grandmother's farm always seems like coming home. The feeling begins as soon as I cross the threshold of that quaint little house and tumble into arms of waiting aunts and cousins. The sense of welcome overwhelms me. Then there are the cozy rooms - the ceilings are no higher than six feet - with their crackling fire places that make me want to snuggle down into the feather - stuffed chairs. But the memory that always lasts the longest is the smell of grandmother's biscuits and pastries cooking in the coke-fed stove. Yes, only in my grandmother's farm do I feel like coming home.

- i) What is the topic sentence of this paragraph? (1)
- ii) How has the paragraph been developed? (2)
- iii) Does the paragraph have unity and coherence? (1)
Explain. (2)
- iv) Pick out some words and phrases that make the paragraph interesting. (4)

B. Write five supporting sentences to the topic sentence given below.

"My village is the best place to live in."

(10)

QUESTION 6

Write a composition on one of the following subjects.

- i) My last holiday
- ii) Disadvantages of being an only child.
- iii) Betrayed by my friend
- iv) My first day at the University. (20)