

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
PART – TIME CERTIFICATE IN ADULT EDUCATION YEAR 2
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER – JULY 2014

TITLE OF PAPER : **PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH**

COURSE CODE : **CAE 217**

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

INSTRUCTIONS :

1. **QUESTION ONE IS COMPULSORY.**
2. **ANSWER ONE QUESTION IN SECTION B.**
3. **SECTION C IS COMPULSORY.**

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SECTION A

Answer all questions in this Section

QUESTION 1

Read the passage and answer the following questions.

THE CAT

- 1 Cats are beautiful and graceful animals, soft and sleek to the touch, amiable in expression,
2 patient with children who carry them about with legs dangling, and amusing when they
3 pounce upon a ball of crinkled paper or chase spots of sunlight on a wall. Cats are small and
4 clean and endearing, as millions of lonely people can testify; the purr of a cat on a lap makes
5 solitude endurable.
- 6 Some of their most charming features, however, stem from the fact they are specialised
7 hunters; hunting is what they were evolved to do, and it is the key to their whole behaviour,
8 whether one is talking about wild cats, farm cats, or cats which spend their lives in city
9 apartments and hardly ever see a mouse. Those soft paws which slither harmlessly over even
10 the most delicate of objects also ensure its silent progress while some poor mouse is unaware
11 of its impending doom. The crinkling of paper alerts it to a game of toss and catch, but it is
12 the same sound that mice make in their burrows, and it triggers an age-old instinct to chase
13 and kill. The kitten which amuses us by probing with its paw into a box is in fact developing
14 the skills that enable it to search out prey underground. When it bats a ball of wool around
15 and tosses it in the air, it is rehearsing the gruesome way in which full-grown cats 'play' with
16 their victim before its death. The cat is then seen as a blood-thirsty beast that kills for the
17 love of killing. The subesquent frenzied, leaping dance over the corpse arouses some
18 people's superstitions; many used to think the cat was possessed by the Devil or some evil
19 spirit. In fact, it is simply working off the remnants of the energy built up when it embarked
20 upon the chase.
- 21 Indeed, the cat has long been the subject of superstition and strange beliefs. The ancient
22 Egyptians associated the cat with their gods, especially with Bastet, goddess of the moon, and
23 temple carvings represent her as cat-headed. Certainly, at night a cat's eyes reflecting
24 moonlight create an eerie effect. Many a motorist has experienced a sudden shiver when his
25 headlights picked up their moon-like glow; no wonder some people have believed the fire of
26 their eyes to be that of the Devil himself.
- 27 Even in death the cat could be given costly and special treatment by the Egyptians. Coffins
28 have been found with the cat's likeness painted on the top, and eyes fashioned from
29 expensive crystal and gold, and the body elaborately encased in strips of linen. Perhaps the
30 most amazing evidence of this special treatment was the discovery last century of thousands
31 of mummified cats just outside a small Egyptian village on the River Nile. Nineteen tons of
32 their remains were unearthed, packed in layers twenty deep. But more was to come. Only
33 ten years ago when the temple of an ancient Egyptian moon-goddess was being examined
34 another massive hoard of cats' remains was found inside its walls.

35 It is perhaps not surprising that the ancient Egyptians paid so much respect to the cat, for it is
36 highly likely that they were the first people to domesticate the creature. No doubt because of
37 their religious associations, cats were jealously guarded by the Egyptians. Their export was
38 forbidden for at least a thousand years after they first appeared, although eventually they
39 made their way East and West as the trade routes opened up and traders smuggled them out,
40 some to Europe, others far afield to China, and then on to Japan.

41 To begin with, its close association with Egyptian gods earned it respect among the religions
42 of the West: the cat found its way into their painting, possibly as a symbol of fertility. But it
43 would not be long before it lost this special respect. One of the religions which had
44 welcomed it now began to hunt it down. Tales were put about of women who worshipped the
45 Devil, and who practised even magic against fellow humans. To escape detection, it was
46 said, they turned themselves into cats in order to cast their spells unseen. Cats were then
47 considered partners in this practice of evil magic.

48 Of course, this was all mad nonsense, but the poor cat was caught up in the insane tormenting
49 of innocent women. All cats were now regarded as potentially evil and the cruelty inflicted
50 upon them makes sad reading. Some were stuffed into baskets and burnt alive in public
51 processions or consumed in bonfires, others were tossed from roofs of churches. In addition,
52 those features of the cat that had won it a place among the Egyptian gods hastened its
53 persecution. The eerie glow from its eyes at night which recalled the Egyptian moon-
54 goddess was now said to be a sign of familiarity with the Devil. Its reputation for fertility
55 that had once brought it popularity with fine Egyptian ladies was now a sign of its ungodly
56 nature. Its amazing ability to fall immense distances and land unharmed gave rise to a fearful
57 yearly ritual in one European town. Cats were tossed from the highest point in the city, no
58 doubt to test their ability to survive and thus to prove their supernatural powers. Even to this
59 day that same city conducts a yearly possession in which thousands of people dress up as cats
60 of all shapes and sizes, and the same fall is enacted, though mercifully with dummy cats.

61 Happily, the cat fared better in Asia than it did in the West. People there did not hunt women
62 down out of religious superstition and so the cat was never caught in the crossfires of the holy
63 and the unholy. On the contrary, Eastern religions were more aware of the closeness of man
64 with nature: if the cat had supernatural powers; then these were to be respected, not
65 condemned. In China, people born in the Year of the Cat are thought to be refined, clever
66 and virtuous, if a shade solitary and cunning, while, for some Japanese, having a cat about the
67 house is thought to guarantee good luck. All this is in fine contrast to the superstitions of evil
68 that have surrounded it in the West.

69 Today the cat leads a more human existence. True, many do not enjoy the privileges of
70 pampered pets in people's houses. Every city has its collection of tree-roaming cats that get
71 food where they can, sleep rough and fight for territory. Their prehistoric instinct serves
72 them well; if human beings will not provide them with their food, they will find it for
73 themselves. Other more fortunate cats earn their keep in farms or warehouses, getting rid of
74 vermin in return for a means of survival. Yet even in rendering these services cats preserve
75 their dignity, for the owners cannot control them as they would a dog. They catch rats and

76 mice, yes, but at their pleasure, not ours. As for the pet cat, it amuses our senses when it is
77 around but leaves us when it wants. In short, owners of cats have to settle for what they can
78 get..

79 Whether we like it or not, we have come to share our history and our houses with the cat. In
80 our myths and legends they appear as creatures of heaven or of hell. They wind in and out of
81 our superstitions as agents of good or bad luck, according to one's country or one's culture.
82 In painted form or as carvings they inhabit the world's museums, they scamper across our
83 cinema and TV screens in savage fury in pursuit of a mouse, they have been memorialised in
84 prose and verse: they have even made themselves corners in our language. We know
85 instinctively, it seems, what a 'cat-like tread' means, or what it is 'to let the cat out of the
86 bag;' And how many inquisitive children have been warned that "curiosity killed the cat"? If
87 some of us actually hate cats, there is not much we can do about it. They have proved
88 magnificent survivors.

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

From paragraph 1:

- 1 (a) What benefit do lonely people gain from cats? (1)

From paragraph 2:

- (b) What is it that determines a cat's 'whole behaviour' (line 7)? (1)
(c) How does the cat ensure that the mouse is 'unaware of its impending doom'? (1)
(d) What instinct is it that sets the kitten playing 'a game of toss and catch'? (1)
(e) What is it in the way cats treat creatures they are about to kill which arouses distaste? (1)
(f) Explain **in your own words** the real reason given in the text for the 'frenzied, leaping dance' over the dead prey. (3)

From paragraph 3:

2. What would the ancient Egyptians have noticed about the cat that made them associate it with the moon? (2)

From paragraph 5:

3. The Egyptians forbade the export of cats. How did they eventually make their way out of Egypt? (1)

From paragraph 6:

4. (a) Cats were thought to be involved with 'evil magic'. What were the tales that were put about concerning this involvement? (4)

From paragraph 7:

- (b) In former times, 'cats were tossed from the highest point in the city' (lines 57)

Which **single** word used later in the paragraph shows the writer's sympathy for cats? (1)

From paragraph 8

5. (a) The cat 'fared better in Asia'. What is the author saying here? (1)
(b) Explain in your **own words** why some Japanese like cats. (2)

From paragraph 9

6. (a) The 'free-roaming cats' of modern cities have to rely on their prehistoric instinct to survive. How does it enable these cats to do so? (1)
(b) Other cats survive in different ways. Explain in your own words how they do so. (4)

From paragraph 10

7. Explain what the author means when he says that cats have 'made themselves corners in our language'. (line 84) (3)

From the passage as a whole

8. (a) The author says that cats bring either good or bad luck (line 81). Explain in your own words what he means when he adds 'according to one's country or one's culture'. (3)
(b) 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 that the word or phrase has in the passage.

1 pounce (line 3)

2 stem (line 6)

3 impending (line 11)

4 forbidden (line 38)

5 association (line 41)

6 detection (line 45)

7 refined (line 65)

8 a shade (line 66)

[10]

TOTAL: 40

SECTION B

Answer ONE question

QUESTION 2

From the words or groups of words listed underneath each sentence, choose the one which is nearest in meaning to the word underlined in that sentence.

1. We hope to reach Kano by day break.
A by dawn B by dusk C when it is dark D early
E before the weather changes
2. When the cement had set, the labourers began the next stage of the work.
A curdled B secured C adjusted D hardened E matured
3. The grammar school won the cup three years running.
A for athletics B quickly C with ease D successfully
E in succession
4. Rose bought a cottage on the fringe of the forest.
A middle B outskirts C outside D bushes E edging
5. Michael stood up to the bully.
A looked at B bravely faced C met D got up for
E reached for
6. That girl is charming; anyone would love her.
A take in B take to C take off D take down
E take up
7. Mr. and Mrs. White settled in the English quarter of the city.
A lodging B district C division D suburb
E fourth
8. Mr. Mensah put forward a preposterous suggestion.
A reasonable B wayward C wicked D obscure E absurd
9. The proud man spurned her offer of help.
A rejected B accepted C chose D asked for E negated
10. You have my heartfelt congratulations.
A crushing B grudging C strong D assumed E sincere

11. That argument is hardly relevant to our discussion.
A reliable B pertinent C allied D pertinacious E pointed
12. He gave colour to his story by describing amusing incidents
A painted B stained C sketched D drew E illustrated
13. He chanced to remark on the dangers of snakes just as an adder crossed his path.
A risked B happened C was fated D occurred E paused
14. I can hardly believe that John is guilty of theft.
A harshly B easily C severely D scarcely E only
15. He has distaste for murder stories.
A distrust of B dislike of C displeasure D horror of E unwillingness to
- (30)

QUESTION 3

Read the following sentences and answer the questions on them.

1. I'd sooner go to a party than a public dance.

Which of the following is true?

- A. I'm going to a party soon.
B. I would prefer to go to a party.
C. I would go to a party more quickly than a public dance.
D. I am ready to go to a party.
2. The teacher could not have noticed Mary cheating because he had his back to the class.

From the above we know that

- A. The teacher saw Mary cheating.
B. The teacher was looking away when Mary was cheating.
C. The teacher turned away when he notice Mary cheating.
D. Mary could not have cheated because the teacher had his back to the class.

3. I'd never have attended school in Accra if I hadn't won a scholarship.

Which of the following is true?

- A. I have never attended school in Accra, but I won a scholarship
- B. If I hadn't won a scholarship, I would have attended school in Accra.
- C. I won a scholarship and so I attended school in Accra.
- D. If I had attended school in Accra, I would have won a scholarship.

4. He has a wife and two children to support, but doesn't even earn enough to keep himself.

Which of the following is true?

- A. He stays at home with his wife and children instead of earning money.
- B. He held up his wife and children in order to supplement his salary.
- C. He gives money to his wife and children and doesn't have enough to pay for himself.
- D. His salary is not large enough to pay for himself, and he can't afford to give any money to his family.

5. He was building castles in the air.

- A. He was building flying fortresses.
- B. He was imagining a terrible future.
- C. He was imagining a possible future as a famous architect.
- D. He was imagining a wonderful and rather impossible future.

6. They raced against the clock.

- A. They tried to break a gramophone record.
- B. They tried to finish before it was too late.
- C. They worked fast for an hour.
- D. They competed against each other.

7. You seem to have everything but the kitchen sink.

- A. You have forgotten the kitchen sink.
- B. You appear to have brought practically all your belongings.
- C. You seem to have most of your kitchen with you.
- D. You are carrying a heavy load.

8. The landlord has lined his pockets at the expense of his tenants.

- A. He has made a lot of money by disregarding his tenants' interests.
 - B. He has become wealthy by renting his beautiful houses.
 - C. His tenants have made new linings for his pockets.
 - D. Both the landlord and his tenants have saved money.
9. The speaker tried to amuse his audience but all his jokes fell flat.
- A. The speaker fell flat on his face to amuse his audience.
 - B. The audience was amused by the speaker.
 - C. The audience laughed at the speaker's jokes.
 - D. The speaker's jokes did not make the audience laugh.
10. We cannot run to the expense of a new car.
- A. A new car would be expensive to run.
 - B. We can walk instead of going by car.
 - C. We cannot afford to buy a new car.
 - D. The new car does not run very well.

(20)

QUESTION 3B

Separate each of the following sentences into Main Clause and Subordinate Clause.

1. He will not be at work today because he is ill.
2. The man whom we saw yesterday joined our staff today.
3. He will report to you when he has finished that job.
4. He wants to be better qualified so that he may be promoted.
5. He announced that he was leaving at the end of the month.
6. The man who had to be escorted home was too drunk to walk on his own.
7. When the man called, his child answered.
8. This is the man who reported the accident.
9. We wondered what we should tell him.
10. We found out when the plane would arrive.

(10)

SECTION C

THIS SECTION IS COMPULSORY

QUESTION 4

The following paragraph can be divided into three paragraphs. Read it carefully, punctuate and rewrite it making the necessary divisions.

sam and jill are good friends they live in the same housing estate and go to the same school as the school is not far away they walk there together every morning when school finishes at about one o'clock they return home together sam to his flat and; jill to hers in another block one day the children were walking happily to school together talking and laughing suddenly sam stopped he bent down to pick up something which lay at his foot it was a womans purse without opening it to see if there was any money inside they both hastened to their school when they reached the school they rushed to their teacher as they came up to her she wondered what they were so excited about when sam showed her the purse she exclaimed thats mine you have found my purse thank you children

(30)