

# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS

SECOND SEMESTER RE-SIT/SUPPLEMENTAY EXAMINATION, JULY 2017

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

**COURSE CODE :** ACS 112 /103

**TIME ALLOWED :** 2 (TWO) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Write the name of your Faculty and Programme on the cover of your answer booklet
2. Answer **TWO** questions.

**TOTAL MARKS: 100**

This paper consists of 7 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

Choose one essay question in this section

### Question 1

Most cultures and religions prescribe how women should dress. This practice seems contrary to the ideals of modernity and notions of gender equality. **With close reference to Excerpts (i) and (ii), write an essay of about 400 words (1 ½ pages), discussing whether or not these dress prescriptions can be justified.**

#### Excerpt (i)

*BBC News Magazine, 9 August 2016*

#### Volleyball in a hijab

The picture below shows two beach volleyball players, one from Egypt and the other from Germany at the Rio Olympics in August 2016. There was an internet backlash emanating from the difference in their sporting gear: one in a bikini, the other covered from head to toe complete with a hijab (*a veil traditionally worn by Muslim women in the presence of adult males outside of their immediate family, which usually covers the head and the chest*). Despite the sport being associated with standard beach attire, the game between the Egyptian and German volleyball teams showed the contrast of cultures between both teams, breaking perceived notions of what an athlete should wear. For the *Times* it was a “culture clash” and for the *Daily Mail* “a massive cultural divide between the cover-ups and the cover-nots, and for the *Sun*, the cultural divide was not massive but colossal.



Adapted from : <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-37009324>

**Excerpt (ii)**

**World of Work: Dress codes say a lot about workplace culture**

*By Pierre Battah, CBC News, 30 November 2014*

Does your employer tell you what to wear for work? High school dress codes and uniforms have been in the news lately but many employers have long wrestled with the dress code issue. In some workplaces what to wear and especially what not to wear and when can be a hotly debated issue that potentially raises questions of workplace culture, status and discrimination.

The guiding principles typically have to do with image to clients and stakeholders, professionalism within the work environment and safety. However dress codes also say a lot about workplace culture most notably how customer focused, professional, relaxed or traditional it is.

Dress codes, whether explicit or unwritten, are as varied as workplaces are and the nature of the workplace forms the starting point for an employer in determining a dress code. Law firms are different from IT firms, manufacturing is different from retail and back office work is different from client-facing work.

Adapted from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/dress-codes-say-a-lot-about-workplace-culture-1.2853616>

## **Question 2**

In a new development, insurance and estate policies now cover more than one spouse and an unlimited number of children. **With close reference to Excerpts (iii) and (iv), write an essay of about 400 words (1 ½ pages), write an essay in which you discuss the negative and positive effects of such policies.**

### **Excerpt (iii)**

#### **Old Mutual Family Cover**

Old Mutual Swaziland Group Assurance offers life cover, funeral cover, lump sum disability and a long-term disability solution.

Family cover is designed to provide for the funeral costs and other associated expenses when a member of the family dies. The cover provided is for the principal member, but can optionally extend to his/her spouse, children, parents and parents-in-law as well.

A lump sum benefit is payable on the death of the principal member or one of his/her immediate family.

#### **Features and Benefits**

- No medical underwriting of members is required.
- Provides for funeral and other related expenses on the death of the principal member, his/her spouse(s), parents, parents-in-law and children.
- The benefit is payable to the principal member or surviving family.
- Quick settlement of claims.
- The benefit is a fixed monetary amount, paid as a lump sum. Premiums are generally expressed as a Rand amount per member per month.

Adapted from: <http://www.oldmutual.co.sz/corporate/risk-solutions/group-funeral-cover>

**Excerpt (iv)**

**Estate Policy Case**

*Heard by: Chief Justice, M. C. B. Maphalala, June 2016, Supreme Court of Swaziland*

This was an application in terms of section 148 (2) of the Constitution to review the judgment of this Court delivered on the 12th November 2014. The Court in its appellate jurisdiction confirmed the judgment of the Full Bench of the High Court. It is common cause that a man died intestate on the 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2013. He was survived by three wives all married under Swazi Law and Custom, and twenty four children. The death of the deceased was reported at the Master's Regional Office, and, an estate file was registered. Accordingly, the three wives and twenty four children became beneficiaries of the deceased estate.

The widows were not happy with the sharing formula which gave them a child's share, and, they lodged an appeal to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. They refused to sign the Distribution Account. On the 14th July, 2014, the then Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs unveiled the Estate Policy at the Master's Regional Office pursuant to the complaint lodged by the widows. The Minister's contention was that the Estate Policy was formulated in accordance with section 34 (1) of the Constitution which states that the surviving spouse, whether married by civil or customary rites is entitled to a reasonable provision out of the estate of a deceased spouse.

*Adapted from: <http://www.swazilii.org/sz/judgment/supreme-court/2016/10/2016-szsc-10.pdf>*

## SECTION B: PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Choose one question in this section

### Question 3

The following letter was written by a student who was not satisfied with his first semester results. **Rewrite the letter taking into consideration the guidelines for writing a complete letter of complaint.**

Dear Registrar,

**Re: Please help me concerning remarking of my LIN301 course of Professor M. Smith**

I came to realise that there was something wrong or rather an error came up when marking my exam.

I really had no problems with other courses, to worsen the situation, I cannot afford to pay for four courses as it will cost me close to six thousand. An amount which I currently struggle with even now I have not Paid the registration fee for Semester VI.

I find it impossible for me to fail LIN301 as I knew all the theories and referenced well with scholars. In one test I got 80%. I believe an error was made and I can prove as I still have the Question Paper I was using, and I can explain and recall what I wrote.

I can be glad to make an appointment with the Head of Department. Nonetheless I can be grateful to present myself and explain, with the tests I wrote and the way I understood the exam I wrote.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Adams  
Psychology Student

**Question 4**

Some concerned members of the community have observed that teachers abandon their work stations (schools) during marking of external examinations and payday. These members of the community have also observed that during the teachers' absence, students get into all forms of mischief and, as a result, the quality of education in the country is compromised.

**As a concerned parent or guardian, write a letter to the Minister of Education expressing your concerns, and then suggest possible solutions to minimise teachers' absenteeism from school.**