



**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

FACULTY OF COMMERCE, HUMAN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGES

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FIRST OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER	
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INSTRUCTIONS
1. Answer ALL the questions. 2. Write clearly and neatly. 3. Number the answers clearly.

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF _11_ PAGES (Including this front page)

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

[30 marks]

Read the following passage and answer the questions below, using information from the passage.

Sociology of online dating, by Neha Lalchandani

1 The whole culture of finding love has changed dramatically. Dating apps and sites are smart and mysterious, with complex algorithms. But are people just a few screens away from sending a message to their next date and pursuing them? The theories of three sociologists, Pierre Bourdieu, Charles Cooley, and Emile Durkheim; have been applied in an OkCupid experiment that reflects how the pursuit of dating should involve enjoying the process, instead of letting mere numbers validate your romantic compatibility with someone.

2 The Internet and contemporary lifestyles have made online dating increasingly popular. Traditional modes of socialisation have faded, replaced by virtual interactions. Online dating is convenient, cheap, and available anywhere, making it an appealing alternative to traditional dating. It also expands the pool of potential partners, helping individuals in smaller dating markets, such as middle-aged singles, to find people with whom they share **commonalities**.

3 Computer-mediated communication provides a sense of comfort and confidence before face-to-face meetings. Success stories further encourage people to try online dating, whether for casual encounters or serious relationships. OkCupid, a major online dating platform, uses a unique system of multiple-choice questions that allow users to create profiles, specifying their preferences and what they expect in a partner. The site's algorithm crunches the answers to generate match percentages.

4 According to Pierre Bourdieu's theory, the virtual reality of dating sites is a field of user networks that constitutes of a structural hierarchy occupied by symbolic positions based on the resources, or as Bourdieu would call, capital. Capital is a set of usable resources and powers that can refer to age, educational qualifications, cultural background and preference, good appearance, or any distinctive traits that make one desirable. Many users would show their best characteristics such as an attractive self-portrait or an impressive rundown of **their** intelligence and strengths. It is this symbolic capital that users often succumb to, and what determines what constitutes taste within society.

5 Every individual possesses taste, which in sociology refers to a person's personal and cultural pattern of choice and preferences. Bourdieu argues that taste is not **innate** and genuine, but rather something that is learnt and is therefore dependent on the individual's access to different systems of the society. There are social structures underlying and resulting from online dating. Thus, online dating is not a market free from social structure; traditional offline social conditions are reproduced in the virtual setting, but the process and outcome of online dating is socially different, nevertheless.

6 As per Charles Cooley's theory, online dating provides a platform for users to create their identities, so they can portray their best selves to gain attraction. To understand this motivation from a sociological **perspective**, the work of Charles Cooley is prominent. Cooley

developed the concept of 'looking glass self', **which** theorises that the self develops through the social interactive process and the perception of others. He thought that this happens through three steps. First, we imagine how we must appear to others. Then, we imagine how they must evaluate us, based on their observations of us, before we finally develop our self through the judgments of others.

7 Cooley's theory is also relevant to the distinction between the ideal and actual self, which are scopes within the social self. Interestingly, a lot of people want to stand out, but they end up standing out in the same way. They are trying to balance off by mentioning what makes them unique and different, while attempting to show they are regular and just average so people can connect with them more easily.

8 Online dating profiles display two-dimensional information, a characteristic that can often fail to capture the experiential richness of a social interaction — something that is essential to evaluate one's compatibility with a potential partner. Who you are attracted to and who you are compatible with can be two very different people; and this is something to be figured out outside the realm of online dating, in the real world.

9 Another theorist, Emile Durkheim, a structural functionalist, argued that societal changes are held together by shared values and behaviours. As society shifts toward individualism and technology becomes more prevalent, online dating has become a function of these changes. The internet and technology have transformed the way people seek romantic relationships. While online dating serves as a new way to connect, Durkheim's theories suggest that it may also reflect a broader societal dysfunction, where individual interests override collective values.

10 Psychology professor Barry Schwartz in his book 'The Paradox of Choice', explains two types of people: "satisficers" and "maximisers". Satisficers are people who are content with 'good enough', while maximisers, on the other hand, seek out the best by doing intense thorough research to make sure they get the best possible option. The abundance of choice online tends to turn people into maximisers, constantly searching for something better.

11 Despite initial stigma, online dating has become normalised, with many people considering it an effective way to meet new partners. This shift **mirrors** Durkheim's idea of social cohesion, as online dating fulfils the same social functions as traditional dating. Ultimately, the goal is to enjoy the process, rather than relying solely on algorithms to determine romantic success.

Text adapted from: <https://medium.com/@dropletsoflife/sociology-of-online-dating>

1.1 Give any three examples of how users project their 'capital' on dating platforms, based on Pierre Bourdieu's theory. (3)

1.2 List down three stages that are involved in Cooley's "looking glass self" social interactive process. (3)

1.3 Match the statements below with the theorist that is best associated with them: A, B, C or D. Write down only the number of the question and the correct letter of your choice, e.g. 1.3.1 D. (3)

Matching statement	Theorist
1.3.1 The role acceptable social norms play in online dating.	A. Pierre Bourdieu
1.3.2 The role outstanding attributes and possessions play in online dating apps to enhance desirability.	B. Charles Cooley
1.3.3 Online dating apps and sites facilitate opportunities for users to form their identities based on how they believe others perceive them.	C. Emile Durkheim
	D. Barry Schwartz

1.4 What criticism is implied in Durkheim's theory regarding online dating? (2)

1.5 What does the text suggest is a potential problem with online dating profiles? (2)

- A. They make it impossible for people to meet in real life
- B. They provide inaccurate information about users' intentions
- C. They often fail to capture the richness of real-world social interactions
- D. They limit people's options to a very narrow group of potential partners

1.6 Compare and contrast the dating behaviours of 'satisficers' and 'maximizers' as described by Barry Schwartz. (2)

1.7 What conclusion is implied in the last paragraph of the text regarding the normalisation of online dating? (2)

- A. Online dating has replaced traditional dating entirely.
- B. Online dating will eventually lose its popularity as people revert to traditional methods.
- C. Online dating is seen as fulfilling the same social functions as traditional dating.
- D. Online dating leads to faster romantic success because of algorithms.

1.8 Quote a phrase in paragraph 11 that illustrates how negative attitude towards online dating has stabilised. Do not copy the whole sentence. (3)

1.9 Decide whether the following statements are **true** or **false**. (3)

1.9.1 Emile Durkheim might argue that online dating, while serving as a new way to form relationships, it may also weaken traditional values, leading to a more fragmented society.

1.9.2 Charles Cooley is of the opinion that online dating users may craft their profiles in a way that reflects what they think others will find attractive.

1.9.3 It is implied in the text that algorithms on dating apps and sites are a key determining factor of romantic success.

1.10 What do the following pronouns written in bold in the passage refer to? (3)

1.10.1 their (paragraph 4)

1.10.2 which (paragraph 6)

1.10.3 it (paragraph 9)

1.11 Match each of the words in column A below with its correct definition in column B.

Write down only the number of the question and the correct letter of your choice, e.g.

1.11.1 C. (4)

Column A	Column B
1.11.1 commonalities (para. 2)	A. a glass that reflects a clear image
1.11.2 innate (paragraph 5)	B. the state of sharing features or attributes
1.11.3 perspective (para. 6)	C. a person confined to an institution such as prison
1.11.4 mirrors (para. 11)	D. corresponds with, or shows a reflection of something
	E. natural, or one that a person is born with
	F. a way of thinking about and understand something

SECTION B: GRAMMAR

[30 Marks]

Read the following passage and answer all the questions below.

Understanding the diversity of student types in educational settings

1. In any educational institution, **students** are not a **homogeneous** group but rather a diverse array of individuals with unique traits, behaviours, and learning styles. Recognising and understanding **these** differences is crucial for educators to tailor their teaching methods **effectively**. Broadly speaking, students can be categorized **into** several types based on their approaches to learning, social interactions, and overall behaviours.

2. Firstly, there are the "High Achievers" - students who consistently excel academically, often driven by intrinsic motivation to succeed. These students not only possess a strong work ethic but also demonstrate exceptional time management and organizational skills. They meticulously plan their study schedules, set ambitious goals, and actively seek out opportunities for intellectual growth and academic enrichment. High achievers are not deterred by setbacks but rather view them as opportunities for learning and growth. They

are avid participants in class discussions, eagerly contributing their insights and perspectives. Outside the classroom, high achievers may engage in extracurricular activities, volunteer work, or independent research projects to further expand their knowledge and skills. Their dedication to excellence serves as a source of inspiration for their peers and a testament to the power of hard work and perseverance in achieving success.

3. On the opposite end of the spectrum are the "Struggling Learners" - students who face various obstacles that hinder their academic progress. *7.1 This obstacle may include learning disabilities, language barriers, or socio-economic disadvantages. Struggling learners often require additional support and personalized instruction to overcome their challenges. 7.2 Educators must adopt a patient and empathetic approach, taking the time to understand each student's unique needs and circumstances.* Differentiated instruction, individualized learning plans, and assistive technologies are essential tools for accommodating struggling learners and fostering their academic growth. Furthermore, building a supportive network of peers, mentors, and community resources can provide struggling learners with the encouragement and resources they need to overcome obstacles and reach their full potential. By addressing the diverse needs of struggling learners, educators can create inclusive learning environments where every student feels valued and supported in their educational journey.

4. Another prominent category of students is the "Social Butterflies" - individuals who prioritize social interactions and extracurricular activities over academic pursuits. *7.3 Social butterflies thrive in group settings, where they can engage in lively discussions, collaborate on projects, and form meaningful connections with their peers.* They possess strong interpersonal skills, adept at networking, negotiation, and conflict resolution. However, social butterflies may struggle with time management and maintaining focus on academic tasks, as they are easily distracted by social events and extracurricular commitments. *7.4 Educators can engage social butterflies by incorporating collaborative projects, group discussions, and interactive learning activities into their lessons.* By harnessing their social energy and enthusiasm, educators can create dynamic learning environments that promote collaboration, creativity, and peer-to-peer learning among students.

5. In conclusion, students come in a myriad of types, each with their own strengths, weaknesses, and individual needs. By recognizing and understanding these differences, educators can create inclusive learning environments that cater to the diverse needs of all students. Tailoring instruction, providing appropriate support, and fostering a culture of acceptance and respect are essential steps towards maximizing the potential of every student, regardless of their type.

Adapted from: <https://chat.openai.com/>

1. The following words were taken from paragraph 1. Scrutinize them and decide which part of speech they are. (5)

- 1.1 students
- 1.2 homogenous
- 1.3 these
- 1.4 effectively
- 1.5 into

2. Articles form part of the parts of speech in English. Write a sentence in which you use all the words that constitute the articles and underline them. Each article must only be used once. (3)

3. What tense is the sentence in bold and underlined in paragraph 2? (1)

Sentence: High achievers are not deterred by setbacks but rather view them as opportunities for learning and growth.

4. Write the sentence in question 3 above in the following tenses. (6)

4.1 Future tense simple

4.2 Past continuous simple

4.3 Present perfect tense simple

5. Write the sentence written in bold in paragraph 3 in the following forms:

Sentence: Struggling learners often require additional support and personalised instruction to overcome their challenges.

5.1 Question form (2)

5.2 Negative form (2)

6. Subject Verb Agreement

First, identify and write down the subject and the verb in the following sentence. Then indicate whether the subject and the verb in the following sentence agree or disagree.

6.1 This obstacle include learning disabilities, language barriers, or socio-economic disadvantages

Subject: _____ Verb: _____ (2)

Agree or Disagree _____ (1)

7. Sentence structure

You were taught 4 different types of sentence structure. Write down the types of sentence structure written in italics in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the passage above, e.g. compound, simple sentence, etc. (2x4=8)

7.1 This obstacle may include learning disabilities, language barriers, or socio-economic disadvantages.

7.2 Educators must adopt a patient and empathetic approach, taking the time to understand each student's unique needs and circumstances.

7.3 Social butterflies thrive in group settings, where they can engage in lively discussions, collaborate on projects, and form meaningful connections with their peers.

7.4. Educators can engage social butterflies by incorporating collaborative projects, group discussions, and interactive learning activities into their lessons.

SECTION C: PARAGRAPH AND ESSAY ANALYSIS

[30 marks]

Based on the structure of an academic essay that you were taught in this course, analyse the essay below and then answer the questions that follow.

Effective communication: The key to success in the workplace

1. **A.**Last year, our department faced a major crisis when a crucial project fell behind schedule due to a simple yet costly misunderstanding. **B.**The manager gave vague instructions about the project timeline, assuming everyone was on the same page. **C.**Unfortunately, this wasn't the case. **D.**As deadlines approached, team members realised they had conflicting ideas of what was expected. **E.**This lack of clear communication cost us not only time but also strained relationships within the team. **F.**This experience highlighted the vital importance of communication in the workplace, and how it can make or break the success of any organisation. **G.**Effective communication is essential because it improves collaboration, boosts productivity, facilitate better decision-making, and reduces workplace conflicts.

2. In the workplace, most tasks require collaboration, and without effective communication, teamwork will suffer. For example, when team members clearly share ideas, assign responsibilities, and set expectations, it leads to smoother coordination and innovation. As a result, this ensures everyone is aligned with the project goals and knows their specific role. Employees might enjoy lunch breaks together, too. However, if there's poor communication, tasks can overlap, or important aspects might be overlooked, leading to unnecessary delays and confusion.

3. **Good communication increases productivity as it reduces misunderstandings and errors.** For instance, when managers convey instructions clearly and precisely, employees are less likely to waste time seeking clarification or making mistakes. Smooth communication workflows streamline task completion; thus, work gets done faster. For example, imagine an email sent with clear, detailed instructions. However, poor communication can cause miscommunication, bottlenecks, and delays, when employees misunderstand what's expected, work gets duplicated, and deadlines are missed. Clear communication fosters a more efficient workplace.

4. Additionally, effective communication helps facilitate better decision-making. For example, access to accurate, timely information is crucial for management to make informed decisions. Secondly, it ensures that everyone has the same understanding of strategic goals and priorities. Lastly, it empowers employees to provide input and feedback, which is essential for dynamic decision-making and problem-solving processes. By enhancing these areas, an organisation can avoid costly mistakes, and employees can stay aligned with overall

objectives. Leadership can have the confidence to move forward knowing they are supported by informed staff. *A clear decision-making process helps improve team efficiency.*

5. Moreover, effective communication also reduces conflicts in the workplace. How does clear communication prevent workplace conflicts? When communication is open and transparent, it prevents misunderstandings from escalating into bigger problems. Employees are more likely to address concerns early and directly, which reduces tension. Moreover, clear communication fosters a positive work environment. This is done by encouraging collaboration and minimising friction between team members.

6. A.In conclusion, effective communication in the workplace improves collaboration, boosts productivity, enhances decision-making, and reduces conflicts. **B.**Organisations that prioritise clear communication will benefit from enhanced teamwork, increased efficiency, and a more harmonious work environment. **C.**Thus, communication is the key to enhancing collaboration and teamwork in any work environment.

Adapted from: <https://chat.openai.com/>

1. Which of the sentences numbered A-G in paragraph 1 is the thesis statement of this essay? (2)

2. Fill in the following statement by choosing the correct answer from the options given below.

The strategy that is used to introduce the topic under discussion in this essay is ... (2)

- A. Moving from general to specific
- B. Using a famous quote
- C. Using an anecdote
- D. None of these strategies

3. Identify and write down an irrelevant sentence in Paragraph 2

4. Identify two transitional words within paragraph 2 that are used to connect ideas. (2)

5. Identify three transitional words or phrases that are used to link ideas between paragraphs. (3)

6. Choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below.

6.1 The first sentence that is written in bold in paragraph 3 is (2)

- A. the first supporting sentence.
- B. a topic sentence.
- C. development of the first supporting sentence.
- D. the second supporting sentence.

- 6.2 The 3rd sentence that is underlined in paragraph 3 is (2)
- A. the second supporting sentence.
 - B. the first supporting sentence.
 - C. a topic sentence.
 - D. development of the first supporting sentence.
7. What type of sentence error is hidden in Paragraph 3? (2)
- 7.1 Copy down the sentence error that you have identified in question 7 above. (2)
- 7.2 Rewrite and grammatically correct the sentence error that you wrote in 7.1. (2)
8. Analyse paragraph 4 carefully and illustrate how it is structured by listing its three main components. (3)
9. Choose any three supporting ideas presented in paragraph 4. (3)
- A. Access to accurate, timely information
 - B. Ensuring that everyone has the same understanding
 - C. An organisation can avoid costly mistakes
 - D. Empowering employees to provide input and feedback
 - E. Leadership moving forward
10. Identify and name the type of sentence error hidden in paragraph 4. (1)
11. What is the purpose of the sentence in italics in paragraph 4? (1)
12. The sentence below was taken from paragraph 5. Rewrite it to indicate clearly the topic and the controlling idea.
- Sentence:** Effective communication also reduces conflicts in the workplace.
- a. Topic: (1)
 - b. Controlling idea: (1)
13. Identify a sentence in Paragraph 5 that best summaries the ideas presented in the essay above. The sentences are numbered A-C; thus, write only the letter of the correct answer. (1)

SECTION D: Paragraph Writing

[10 marks]

Choose any one of the prompts hereunder and write a body paragraph of about 100 words. Pay attention to structure, coherence, punctuation, and language usage. Begin the paragraph with a clear and suitable topic sentence.

1. The importance of time management for academic success. Discuss how effective time management skills can positively impact students' academic performance and personal life.
2. The impact of technology on education. Explain how advancements in technology have transformed the learning environment for students.
3. The benefits of exercising regularly. Describe the physical and mental health benefits of maintaining a regular exercise routine.
4. The challenges of balancing work and study. Discuss the difficulties students face when juggling part-time jobs and their academic responsibilities.
5. The influence of peer pressure on decision-making. Explain how peer pressure can affect students' choices positively OR negatively, in their academic and personal lives.

END OF QUESTION PAPER