



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMERCE, HUMAN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGES

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

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF _10_ PAGES (Including this front page)

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

[30 marks]

Read the following passage and then answer the questions below, based on the passage.

Dating in the digital age: How online dating changes our partner selection, by Erik Rolfsen

1 The Internet has expanded the dating pool, potentially displacing “traditional” ways of meeting partners in school or through family connections. This is particularly impactful for people who might have “thin” dating markets where they live and in their community people, such as middle-aged heterosexual people. Online dating provides a way for people to seek connection, love, or **monogamy** with a broader social network, one that is connected to geography and place in both new and familiar ways.

2 According to a new University of British Columbia (UBC) sociology study, the growing use of online dating websites, apps and chatrooms has an influence on the types of romantic partners Canadians choose. The study, published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, examined the relationship between how heterosexual couples meet in Canada and their selection of partners, in terms of education, race, nativity and age.

3 Researchers found that online dating promotes relationships between people of different education levels and those of different immigrant status, such as Canadian-born individuals and immigrants to Canada. Online dating also decreases the likelihood that people partner with someone of a different age. “Online dating opens up a world of **diverse** partners for us, and this research shows how segregated our social networks can be,” said Yue Qian, the study’s lead author and associate professor of sociology at UBC.

4 The study, based on a 2018 national survey, compared data between Canadian couples who met online and **those** who met offline through various channels, such as work, school or church, or through introduction by friends or family. “The **prospective** partners we meet through family and friends, or work and school, tend to be more similar to us in terms of education, immigration and race,” Qian said. “There are more opportunities to encounter someone different online.”

5 Some interesting patterns emerged in the study. Compared with offline dating, online dating is associated with a higher probability of an immigrant to Canada pairing with a Canadian-born partner—in particular, an immigrant man and a Canadian-born woman. **This** highlights the potential of dating technologies to blur immigration-based social boundaries.

6 Online dating also promotes relationships between people of different educational levels, compared to offline dating—in particular, more-educated men with less-educated women. This echoes prior research showing women online daters are reluctant to contact men with lower education.

7 Although online dating does not promote interracial dating compared with offline dating in general, couples specifically introduced by family or friends were more likely to be of the same race than partners who met online. This suggests racial segregation in our existing social networks plays a strong role in **brokering** intimate relationships between individuals of the same race. “Everyone is curious about how couples meet, and unpartnered people are often interested in how **they** can find a partner,” Qian

said. "The overarching point is that, if you decide to use online dating options, keep an open mind and embrace the diverse pool."

8 The research was the first of its kind in Canada, and Qian said the results are broadly consistent with findings in other Western countries. In the future, she said, it would be interesting to research different online dating options, such as digital apps versus websites, or regional differences in dating patterns across Canada.

9 However, online dating is not flawless. The "online" in online dating introduces concerns about authenticity that are not necessarily present in face-to-face interactions. Users worry that their online dates are not who they say **they** are, and carefully analyse date's online profiles to try to determine "the truth." Individuals with stigmatised identities, such as disabled people, worry about how to "disclose" this identity in cyberspace, a concern that is not necessarily present in the **embodied** offline world.

10 Also, although it is tempting to view online dating as transformative, it can also entrench existing inequalities. "Assortative mating" in which people seek partners like them in terms of race, educational experience, and class happens online, too. Assortative mating, also referred to as positive assortative mating or homogamy, is a mating pattern in which individuals with similar phenotypes or genotypes mate with one another more frequently than would be expected under a random mating pattern. For instance, users set their preferences and search profiles in ways that reinforce racial segregation and hierarchy. The inequalities of the "real world" are also present online, with the added barrier that only those who can access computers and the internet can participate.

Text adapted from: <https://news.ubc.ca/2024/02/online-dating-partner-selection/>

1.1 What is one of the main benefits of online dating mentioned in paragraph 1? (2)

1.2 What did the study reveal about immigrant men in online dating? (2)

1.3 What did the University of British Columbia (UBC) study reveal when online dating was compared with offline dating in terms of interracial relationships? (2)

1.4 What did the UBC study NOT find regarding online dating? Choose the correct answer. (2)

A. It increases relationships between individuals of different educational levels.

B. It promotes assortative mating based on race and class.

C. It encourages a diverse selection of partners.

D. It eliminates the impact of inequalities in online dating.

1.5 What did the UBC sociology study reveal about the effect of online dating on partner selection in terms of education? (2)

1.6 What was the focus of the sociology study that was conducted by the University of British Columbia? Quote it as reported in the passage. (3)

1.7 What two key challenges do online dating users experience, challenges that are not present in an off-line environment or face-to-face interactions? (2)

1.8 What limitations of online dating are highlighted in the passage, particularly regarding access and inequality? Circle **two** letters that illustrate the correct answers. (2)

A. It encourages a diverse selection of partners.

B. Assortative mating tendencies online may further perpetuate social hierarchies and racial segregation.

C. It facilitates access to potential partners.

D. Only individuals with access to the Internet and digital technologies can participate in online dating.

1.9 How would you explain the concept of assortative mating to those who are not familiar with it? (2)

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

1.10.1 The University of British Columbia (UBC) sociology study's main author doubles as an academician at the same institution.

1.10.2 As reported in the passage, the study that UBC published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* was titled "Online dating opens up a world of diverse partners for us."

1.10.3 It is implied in the text that online dating helps individuals avoid relationships with people of different education levels.

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

1.11.1 those (paragraph 4)

1.11.2 this (paragraph 5)

1.11.3 they (paragraph 9)

1.12 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. 1.12.1- D. (5)

| Column A | Column B |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.12.1 monogamy (paragraph 1) | A. arranging or negotiating |
| 1.11.2 diverse (paragraph 3) | B. physical, real-world or actions that involve the physical presence |
| 1.11.3 prospective (paragraph 4) | C. the state of being married to one person at a time |
| 1.11.4 brokering (paragraph 7) | D. a particular point of view |
| 1.11.5 embodied (paragraph 9) | |

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| | <p>E. surrounded or circled</p> <p>F. expected to be the specified thing in the future</p> <p>G. showing a great deal of variety</p> |
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SECTION B: GRAMMAR

(30 marks)

Read the following passage and answer all the questions below.

How to do well in examinations

Success in examinations is a goal for most students, **yet** it often feels elusive due to stress, procrastination, and **poor** study habits. However, with a structured approach, anyone can excel in their exams. **By** focusing on effective time management, strategic study techniques, and maintaining a healthy mindset, students can optimize **their** chances of performing well. This essay will **explore** key strategies to help students succeed in examinations.

First and foremost, effective time management is crucial. Without a clear study schedule, students can easily fall behind, leading to last-minute cramming. **A well-organised plan ensures that all topics are covered systematically and that ample time is allocated for revision.** To create an efficient timetable, students should break down their syllabus into manageable sections and assign specific tasks to each day. By starting early and sticking to a plan, students avoid the pressure of having to learn too much information in a short period.

7.1 Equally important is adopting strategic study techniques. Simply reading textbooks is often not enough to retain information. Active learning methods, such as summarising key points, creating flashcards, or teaching concepts to someone else, can significantly enhance understanding and recall. Practice exams are another valuable tool. They simulate the pressure of the real test and allow students to identify weak areas that need further attention. **7.2 Incorporating breaks and reviewing notes frequently will help maintain focus, thus preventing burnout.**

Maintaining a healthy mindset is also essential for exam success. **7.3 Anxiety and stress are common, but they can hinder performance if not managed properly.** Engaging in mindfulness activities, such as meditation or deep breathing exercises, can help reduce exam-related stress. **7.4 Additionally, positive self-talk and visualizing success can boost confidence.** Regular physical activity, a balanced diet, and adequate sleep are crucial components that support cognitive function and mental well-being during the exam period.

In conclusion, doing well in examinations is not just about studying hard; it's about studying smart. By managing time effectively, using active learning strategies, and maintaining a positive mindset, students can perform at their best. With the right approach, exams can become less daunting and more of an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and skills.

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 yet

1.2 poor

1.3 by

1.4 their

1.5 explore

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: First and foremost, effective time management is crucial.

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

4.1 Future simple

4.2 Present perfect simple

4.3 Past perfect

5. Write the sentence written in bold in paragraph 2 in the following forms:

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 Sentence: Simply reading textbooks is often not enough to retain information.

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 bold in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the passage above, e.g. compound, simple sentence, etc. (8)

7.1 Equally important is adopting strategic study techniques.

7.2 Incorporating breaks and reviewing notes frequently will help maintain focus, thus preventing burnout.

7.3 Anxiety and stress are common, but they can hinder performance if not managed properly.

7.4 Additionally, positive self-talk and visualizing success can boost confidence.

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.

Why we need excellent communication skills

1 **A.**Communication is the foundation of human interaction, crucial for maintaining relationships and ensuring social harmony. **B.**Without it, collaboration and coexistence would be nearly impossible. **C.**From exchanging information to expressing emotions, communication helps individuals bond and form communities. **D.**The importance of communication transcends simple conversations, as it influences many aspects of our personal and professional lives. **E.**Let us explore key reasons why excellent communication skills are vital: fostering success in leadership, enhancement of interpersonal relationships, and ensuring clear, effective interaction.

2 To begin with, excellent communication skills are essential is their role in leadership and professional success. **Leaders who master communication are often the most successful because they can motivate, direct, and inspire their teams.** Clear communication enables leaders to articulate their vision, build trust with their followers, and guide their organisations toward fulfilling goals. Whether in personal or professional contexts, being able to convey ideas effectively is key to success. For instance, in the workplace, effective communicators are more likely to build strong networks, they gain trust and spot new opportunities. The colour of the walls in a room where communication happens can also affect how people feel during the conversation.

3 In addition to leadership, communication plays a crucial role in building and maintaining relationships. Strong interpersonal relationships are built on understanding, and communication skills such as active listening, empathy, and clarity facilitate this process. Good communicators listen attentively, allowing others to feel heard and valued. Also, nonverbal cues such as eye contact and body language also contribute to effective communication by creating a sense of trust and approachability. Thus, in both

personal and professional settings, clear communication strengthens bonds and resolves conflicts before they escalate.

4 Another vital aspect of communication is its ability to ensure clarity in interactions. Effective communicators are not only clear and concise in their delivery but also adaptable to different audiences and situations. For example, adjusting the tone and word choice based on the audience's needs helps ensure that the message is received and understood as intended. Confidence, open-mindedness, and respect are additional skills that contribute to this clarity. Allowing communicators to engage their audience effectively and ensure the message is conveyed properly. The ability to provide and receive feedback during a conversation further enhances understanding.

5 **A.**In conclusion, excellent communication skills are indispensable for leading others, fostering strong relationships, and ensuring clarity in interactions. **B.**Effective leaders use communication to inspire and motivate, while strong communicators in general build better personal and professional relationships. **C.**Additionally, clarity in communication prevents misunderstandings and enhances overall interactions. **D.**By developing these skills, individuals unlock new opportunities and enhance their chances for success in all aspects of life.

Essay adapted from <https://www.5staressays.com/blog>

1. Which of the sentences numbered A-E 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 ... (1)
 - 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. (2)
4. Identify two transitional words within paragraph 3 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 2 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 4 is (2)
 - A. the second supporting sentence.
 - B. the first supporting sentence.

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

7. Identify and write down a comma splice error hidden in paragraph 2. (2)

7.1 Rewrite and grammatically correct the sentence error that you wrote in question 7. (2)

8. Analyse paragraph 3 carefully and illustrate how it is structured by listing its three main components. (3)

9. Choose any two supporting ideas presented in paragraph 3. (2)

- A. Communication that plays a crucial role in building relationships
- B. Strong interpersonal relationships are built on understanding
- C. Nonverbal cues that also contribute to effective communication
- D. Excellent communication skills are essential

10. Identify and name the type of sentence error hidden in paragraph 4. (2)

11. What is the purpose of the sentence underlined in paragraph 4? (1)

12. The sentence below was taken from paragraph 4. Rewrite it to indicate clearly the topic and the controlling idea.

Sentence: Another vital aspect of communication is its ability to ensure clarity in interactions.

- 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-D; thus, write only the letter of the correct answer. (1)

14. Among the three different types of essays that were taught in this course, what type is the essay being analysed? (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. Discuss the role of reading in enhancing critical thinking skills.
2. Evaluate the impact of artificial intelligence on human capital.
3. Discuss about one innovation in the engineering field and its benefits to society.
4. Examine the economic significance of sustainable tourism development and how it benefits the country.
5. Discuss the importance of efficient supply chain management in logistics.
6. Analyze how culinary arts influence cultural identity and heritage.
7. Evaluate the role of human resource management in promoting employee well-being.