

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER REGULAR EXAMINATION

**FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION (Arts)**

COURSE CODE: ENG 421 E

COURSE TITLE: LANGUAGE TESTING AND EVALUATION

DATE: 16TH JULY, 2021

TIME: 8:00AM – 11:00AM

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

- SEE INSIDE

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF FIVE PRINTED PAGES

PLEASE TURN OVER

ENG 421E: LANGUAGE TESTING AND EVALUATION

STREAM: BED (Arts)

DURATION: 3 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- i. Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** questions.
- ii. Do not write on the question paper.

Question One

Although evaluation and testing are sometimes considered to be a 'necessary evil' by some teachers and learners, they are certainly 'necessary' within properly functioning language teaching and learning contexts. In this regard:

- a) Explain FOUR purposes of language testing and evaluation. (8 marks)
- b) Distinguish between 'measurement' and 'evaluation' as used in the language teaching and learning process. (4 marks)
- c) Name FOUR units of measurement that are commonly used in evaluating learners' attainment in various language tests and tasks. (2 marks)
- d) Citing FOUR examples from the following composition, use the various composition grading symbols that teachers consider when correcting learners imaginative writing tasks to analyse elements you would consider in scoring and grading this learner. (16 marks)

VICTORY IN LOSS

Just yesterday we buried my daughter. My angel. You would think I would be distraught. Contrary to that, I am rather upbeat. It was less like a burial ceremony and more like a celebration of life. Pendo, the late Pendo, was the embodiment of kindness and benevolence.

As is the norm in Africa and especially Nyanza region where I come from, a funeral unites many people. Men, women and children come from far and wide to offer their condolences and help in the burial arrangements. So naturally my house is a buzz with activities.

I receive a call from Tumaini Hospital. My daughter had been admitted there for the past four or five months. I am not quite certain. The experience, at first, was harrowing. However, as days went by and as she approached her inevitable end, I started teaching myself to accept the ultimate, so-called truth.

Five months ago Pendo started showing signs of illness. The rather playful character became a pale shadow of her former buoyant self. She was sickly and rather weak most of the time. At first, I thought it was just some common illness that would eventually go away. When the doctor informed me that she had terminal cancer I was astonished. Pendo was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. This never shocked me.

She was admitted. The doctor gave her three months. I spent my days and nights by my daughter's hospital bed. She grew weaker and weaker as the days flew by inexorably. The chemotherapy sessions were the worst. She lost all her hair. She lost a lot of weight. What she did not lose though is her radiant, infectious smile. She smiled brightly and always told me, "Mum, don't worry. Everything

will be alright."

As her death drew near she became the darling of most people in the ward. She battled through the painful experience of cancer with resilience and determination. The days grew darker but her smile grew brighter. Whenever she could, she walked from bed to bed, in the ward, offering flowers to adults and balloons to the children and telling them to be strong, when she was dying herself.

On 28th January, Pendo succumbed. She had lost the battle but won the hearts of many people including the oncologist, the nurses, other medical practitioners and the hospital workers.

The voice on the other end of the line is cheerful. "Hi Mama Pendo. This is Dr. Tabibu from Tumaini Hospital. 'Pole' for your loss. Please take heart," he says calmly. "The management of the hospital would like to seek permission from you to name the cancer ward after your daughter Pendo."

Tears well up in my eyes. Tears of joy. My daughter's name would be immortalized forever because of her unparalleled acts of kindness. I accept the request. I can picture the entrance to the ward: "Pendo Cancer Ward." I smile. Nothing can be done to bring back my daughter but the joy brought by that gives me closure. I realize that it is the little things in life that contribute to greatness.

Question Two

An analysis of language testing and evaluation reveals that different testing approaches have been developed in accordance with various teaching methods that a teacher needs to know and apply when assembling information on learners' language learning progress. Using appropriate examples of test items, discuss the FIVE language assessment approaches. (20 marks)

Question Three

Through various forms of language assessment and programmes, the teacher is able to make certain conclusions about student learning. In reference to this statement:

- a) Provide a comprehensive definition of the term 'assessment' (4 marks)
- b) Explain the concept that language assessment is embedded assessment (2 Marks)
- c) Distinguish the following terms as used in determining and monitoring learning in the English language instructional process:
 - i. Initial Assessment
 - ii. Formative Assessment
 - iii. Summative Assessment (6 marks)
- d) Language assessment can be conducted both formally and informally. Using examples of specific language tasks, describe when and how each of the two forms of assessment is likely to happen. (8 marks)

Question Four

Brown (2004) came up with a set of principles for language testing and assessment that have since become very resourceful to language teachers and educators:

- a) State the value of a teacher applying the principles of language testing and assessment (2 marks)
- b) Using illustrations, discuss the following SIX principles of language testing and assessment:
 - i. Practicality
 - ii. Authenticity
 - iii. Washback effect
 - iv. Interpretability
 - v. Reliability
 - vi. Validity (18 marks)

Question Five

When teachers are aware of why they are testing students and what exactly they want to assess can help make the experience of examination extremely valuable. Hence, language teachers must think about demands of the entire examination process, including administration. Referring to this statement:

- a) Outline FOUR roles of teachers in 'assessment of learning' process (4 marks)
- b) Explain FIVE characteristics of public examinations (10 marks)
- c) State SIX factors to consider when administering an examination (6 marks)
