

DAGRI Past Papers



SIR ARTHUR LEWIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EXAMINATION SESSION	DECEMBER 2005
COURSE TITLE	COMMUNICATION STUDIES
COURSE CODE	103
CLASS	YEAR ONE
DATE	5 th December, 2005
TIME	9-11:30 a.m.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Students are reminded to read ALL questions and instructions in each section very carefully.
2. This examination comprises two (2) sections: A and B.
3. This examination is worth 60% and coursework is worth 40%.
4. Students must sign in and out on the class list.
5. All cell phones must be turned off during exams.
6. All books, bags, as well as writing paper not given by the invigilator, should be left at the front of the examination room, or as otherwise indicated.
7. Be frugal in your use of paper. Use both sides of exam paper.

SECTION A	READING COMPREHENSION	30 MARKS
SECTION B	WRITING	30 MARKS

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SECTION A

Read the following passage and answer the subsequent questions.

At a hi-tech conference with bloggers constantly checking messages on Blackberries, smartphones, laptops and handheld computers, it is odd to hear a speaker suggest an email free day, but journalist Carl Honoré told attendees of the TED conference in Oxford they should unplug and slow down in a world that was stuck in fast-forward. For a wired world accustomed to having nearly unlimited information and the boundless choices of online shopping, it seems almost heretical to suggest that the infinite possibilities of the modern world leave us less satisfied instead of more. Author Barry Schwartz told the conference that it was better when we had only a few choices of salad dressing instead of the 175 at his local supermarket. These were just some of the suggestions to the audience at TED in their search for the good life. TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) brings together experts in design, technology and entertainment to share their ideas about our futures.

We live in a world where instant gratification is not fast enough, in a world of not only speed dating, but even of speed yoga, said Mr. Honoré. The author of *In Praise of Slowness* decided to decelerate after he found himself speed reading bedtime stories to his son. He even found himself excited when he read in the newspaper a story about one-minute bedtime stories.

But he caught himself: "Has it really come to this that I'm ready to fob off my son with a sound bite at the end of the day?" People point to urbanization, consumerism and globalization as the cause of this "roadrunner culture", he said, but it is more fundamental. "In our society, time is a scarce resource," he said. "We turn everything in race with the finish line but we never reach that finish line." But around the world, there is a backlash against this culture, such as the slow food and slow city movement in Italy. Across the world, people are slowing down, and they are finding that they "eat better, make love better, exercise better, work better". Mr. Honoré told a crowd flush with technology that they needed to rediscover the off button. Technology was supposed to make us more efficient, he explained but our lives are often so driven by interruptions that a recent report on "info-mania" found that the flood of emails was such a distraction that it cut workers IQ by 10 points. One department at software firm Veritas has declared Friday email free, and it found that the day has become its most productive.

Continuing the theme that less is more, author and scholar Barry Schwartz challenged the orthodoxy that to maximize freedom and welfare, we should maximize choice.

It is such a deeply embedded assumption that no one questions it, said Mr. Schwartz, who explored the idea in his book, *The Paradox of Choice*. He pointed to his local supermarket where he has a choice of 175 salad dressings, 40 toothpastes, 75 ice teas, 230 soups and 285 varieties of cookies. Choice is good, he said, but in modern, affluent societies most people are confronted with a bewildering array of choices that leads to paralysis. He said that his students sometimes become stuck in low-wage jobs because they fear making the wrong choice of career. Some professors at liberal arts

colleges now joke that they “take students who would have been stuck working at McDonalds and make them people who are stuck working at Starbucks”. With so many options confronting us about almost every decision, there is a greater chance that we will regret the decision we do make. The myriad choices raise our expectations and create the anticipation of perfection. Regret after making the wrong decision or what is perceived as the wrong decision leads to self-blame, depression and, in extreme cases, suicide, he said. We are bad at realizing the downside of choice. “Some choice is better than none, but more choices don’t make things better,” he argued.

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION (30 marks)

1. Give a suitable title for this passage. (3)
2. In one sentence, give the main idea of this passage. (3)
3. Create an outline on the topic of this passage. Your points should come from the passage but may also include other relevant points not included in this passage. (8)
4. Give the meaning of 5 of the following words: heretical, infinite, gratification, decelerate, orthodoxy, paradox, affluent, myriad (5)
5. Explain the following phrases in your own words:
 - a. “Has it really come to this?”... (2)
 - b. The orthodoxy that we should maximize choice (2)
 - c. Such a deeply embedded assumption that no one questions it (2)
6. Do you agree with the author? Why or why not? (5)
(Answer in approximately 150 words).

SECTION B: WRITING (30 marks) 400 - 500 words

1. How could your country be improved? Discuss.
2. Discuss ways in which your experience of growing up has influenced your views on bringing up children.
3. Boys have easier lives than girls. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. Write a short story in which the main character has to deal with unpleasant news.
5. Write a talk given to a school assembly or a youth group outlining the importance of sports in the lives of the youth.

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