

UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERSITY

Department of Languages and Communication Studies

English for Advanced Composition: Editing and Publishing

BELL 3, Semester 2 examination

Date: 23rd May, 2023

Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

Instructions:

- Answer five questions in all.
- Section A is compulsory.
- Start each question on a new page.
- Write legibly

SECTION A: This section is compulsory (40 marks)

1. Analyse the value of editing and proofreading to a university student.
(20 marks)
2. Read the article below and answer the questions that follow.
(20 marks)

There is no excuse for not voting

A low voter turnout weakens the representative nature of our government. Though every Ugandan citizen of 18 years and above has the right to vote, a large percentage of Ugandans do not vote. In the most recent presidential elections of 2021, as few as 57 percent eligible voters cast their ballots. This low number compares poorly with a voter turnout of at least 80 percent in many other democratic countries, but compares closely with that of Kenya at 65 percent in 2022.

Since 2002 when the turnout was the highest recorded so far at 70 percent, the turnout has been falling progressively, averaging at 60 percent over a 20-year period. The 2005 referendum to open political space registered a low turnout of 46 percent yet the voices that were agitating for multiparty politics were too loud to be ignored, and one would have expected a percentage of 80 and above.

People who don't vote usually have excuses: their vote won't make a difference, they don't trust politicians, or they don't have time to vote. Those who argue that one vote doesn't count might be surprised to find how often a few votes have swayed an election.

In the parliamentary elections of 2021 in Ayiv Division East in Arua City, Munduru Kevin won by just 4 votes. In many local elections, many outcome hinges on a

few hundred votes and one percentage point. One vote may not seem like much, but if hundreds of people take this attitude, the number of nonvoters becomes significant.

Many people don't vote because they distrust politicians. This line of reasoning misses the point. There will be politicians whether we vote for them or not. When we take part in the process, we send a message to elected officials that we are watching them and that we expect them to act on our behalf. Our votes are a link between our wishes and the action of elected officials.

Some people claim they are too busy to vote, but this claim has little value. For the benefit of those who have a full work day, polling places remain open for long hours - in most constituencies from 6am to 6pm, but longer for those who are still in the queue. Polling stations are usually within easy distance of people's homes. Elderly or disabled voters can usually rely on local volunteers and relatives to be helped to vote. Voters who will be away during elections - prisoners and those abroad - can vote online or at their respective embassies and stations. In addition, the voting process itself takes only a few minutes. Finding the time to vote doesn't call for that great a sacrifice.

Voting is so crucial that we should all work to make this a country of voters. Our forebears risked their lives to gain this precious right for us. People should view voting as not just a privilege but an obligation. Voting is the part we play in maintaining a government that works for the people.

- (a) What is the purpose of this essay? (2 marks)
- (b) What is the writer's thesis statement? What evidence does the writer provide to support the central point? (4 marks)
- (c) What facts and emotional appeals does the writer use? (4 marks)
- (d) Explain the structure the writer uses to argue in favour of voting and whether or not it is effective. (5 marks)
- (e) How does the writer achieve unity in this article? Be specific. (5 marks)

SECTION B: Answer only two questions from this section (60 marks)

- 3. This number carries 30 marks
 - (a) Draw a writing focus chart. (10 marks)
 - (b) Use the chart above to write a report to the vice-chancellor of Uganda Martyrs University about drug abuse at the university. Your report should be between 400 and 500 words. (20 marks)
- 4. Using examples, explain the value of the course unit, English for Advanced Composition, to a university student. (30 marks)
- 5. There are four main writing styles: descriptive, argumentative, narrative and expository. Choose any three and explain the characteristics of each. (30 marks)