

Expository Writing (SS1014)

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Course Instructor(s)

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Final Exam

Total Time (Hrs.): 3:00

Total Marks: 60

Total Questions: 4

Roll No

Section

Student Signature

Do not write below this line

Attempt all the questions on the answer sheet in sequence.

CLO 4: Write well-structured informational and expository essays

Q1. Read the excerpts given below and write a five-paragraph argumentative essay on the prompt that follows. Use "Anecdote" as a reader's hook. [25 marks]

Note:

- Word count should be 350-400 words.
- Do NOT copy the text provided below. Write the essay in your own words using your own ideas.
- Underline/highlight the three-point thesis statement.

The aroma of freshly brewed coffee mingled with the quiet hum of focused students in the university library. Zainab, usually overwhelmed by the volume of research for her history paper on the Indus Valley Civilization, felt a sense of calm. On her laptop screen, "Athena," an AI-powered research assistant provided by the university, was diligently sifting through digitized archives, scholarly articles, and even translated cuneiform tablets.

"Athena, can you identify primary sources that discuss the societal structure and trade networks of Mohenjo-daro?" Zainab typed.

Within seconds, a curated list appeared, complete with concise summaries and links to the full texts. Athena even highlighted potential biases in some historical interpretations, prompting Zainab to consider multiple perspectives. Later, as she drafted her essay, Athena offered suggestions on clarity, grammar, and even the strength of her arguments, acting like a tireless, always-available writing tutor. While some of her classmates relied solely on conventional search engines and struggled to synthesize information, Zainab felt empowered, able to delve deeper and construct a more nuanced and well-supported analysis. The AI wasn't writing the paper for her, but it was undeniably amplifying her ability to learn and create.

Prompt: "Should students rely on AI to develop the skills needed for future success?"

CLO 3: Express ideas with logical and well supported arguments

Q2: Critically read the excerpts given below and answer the questions that follow. [10 marks]

Scroll, Tap and Share

Where did it all start? Maybe with a 10-second clip of a dog on a skateboard, the ice bucket challenge or the sacrifice-my-life-pilot-grape viral sensation. Whichever way, short-form video content crept into our lives slowly and sweetly. It's 2025, and social media platforms continue to dominate our screens while reshaping how we consume information, connect with brands, and – let's be real – how we waste time.

We live in an age of massive distractions, and short-form videos rule the internet. In Pakistan, for Gen Z, short-form content is not just entertainment; it's a way of life. And marketers? Well, they are doing their best to keep up, armed with quirky taglines, catchy jingles and hopefully a Gen Z-approved vibe check. But how did it all happen?

What is the impact of all this on attention spans and what does it mean for brands and creators? Short-form video content consumption began in 2012 with Snapchat offering brief glimpses into our lives that disappeared after 24 hours. Early Millennials loved it because it felt liberating. Instagram followed with 'Stories', YouTube created 'Shorts' and even LinkedIn joined in with quick, easy-to-consume content. What started as a novelty evolved into a cultural phenomenon.

It became a fun platform for creativity. Its algorithm prioritized engagement, not popularity. Suddenly, anyone with a smartphone could become famous with their dance routines, comedy skits and life stories.

Now let's do some digital math. When it comes to learning about products and services, 73% of consumers prefer short-form videos, and for Gen Z, this is not just a preference; it's an expectation. With attention spans shorter than a cricket highlight reel (down from 90,000 seconds in 2005 to just 60 seconds in 2025), they are wired for quick, engaging content. Over 75% of short-form video content is viewed on smartphone devices (which Gen Z practically inhabits).

By Zubair Mallick Published on 10 March, 2025, Aurora Magazine - Dawn

Answer the following questions:

Note: Answer each part of the question fully, providing both evidence from the text and your opinion within 50 - 60 words.

a. What specific statistic does the text provide about Gen Z's demand for short-form video? Provide evidence from the text. In your opinion, what does this reveal about how Gen Z prefers to consume media today? (2+3)

b. The text describes how marketers are trying to keep up with Gen Z's preferences. What evidence does the text provide about how marketers are adapting to short-form content? In your opinion, what challenges might marketers face in creating the content that appeals to Gen Z? (2+3)

CLO 3: Express ideas with logical and well supported arguments

Q3: Paraphrase the given paragraph following all conventions including the in-text citation.

[15 marks]

(There are numerous ways for us to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and prevent global warming from worsening) (In fact, there are so many ways that it can be overwhelming) (But we do not have to change our lifestyles entirely or implement every single solution) (Instead, we can be more aware of our actions and make small changes here and there until we are comfortable with our newly formed habits.) (Often, changing our behaviors can be the hardest thing for us to do, especially if we are content with our current way of life.) (By making conscious efforts to become more environmentally responsible, however, we can all be successful in our attempts to make the world a better place.) (One person acting alone cannot impact global warming, but individuals acting together can make a huge difference.) (The Earth has a fever, and we have the medicine of our actions to keep that fever at bay)

"Global Warming" by Kristen Sadowski (Published in Models for Writers, 2014, p. 151)

CLO 3: Express ideas with logical and well supported arguments

Q4: Read the excerpts given below and write the introductory paragraph of the Critical Response

[10 marks]

Essay.

Wasting food in a starving world

Food is a necessity for survival, yet in many parts of the world, it is treated as a disposable luxury. While millions suffer from hunger, struggling to find a single meal, lavish feasts and excessive waste have become the norm in privileged societies. The contrast is undeniable, and the consequences are devastating.

Recently, I witnessed a heartbreaking scene near my home. A tramp roamed the streets, scavenging for food from the garbage discarded by a nearby wedding hall. As I watched from my balcony, I saw him, accompanied by stray dogs, picking through leftovers, cleaning them off, and eating right there on the pavement. The sight shook me. It was a painful reminder of how carelessly we waste what others desperately need, the very means of survival and a blessing from the Creator.

Now, let us pause and review our own gatherings — weddings, parties and community events - where food is served in abundance, often far beyond what is needed. Do we truly appreciate what we have, or have we become blind to the privilege of a full plate?

At Pakistani weddings, food is usually prepared in excess, with a wide variety of dishes to impress guests and maintain social honour. Dishes such as qorma, karahi, biryani and barbecued meats are commonly served. However, the amount of food prepared far exceeds what guests can actually

consume. Leftovers are frequently discarded, as many hosts consider distributing surplus food to be undignified.

I once read news about a group of friends from Pakistan who were visiting Germany. They dined at a restaurant in Berlin and ordered more food than they could eat. Leaving large portions untouched, they called for the bill. A nearby diner, upset by the waste, alerted the police. Officers reminded them that food waste is taken seriously in Germany, and the restaurant charged them an extra fee as a penalty for wasting food. Ashamed of a practice common in their own country, they left, realising that respect for food is a universal value.

According to estimates, 30-40% of Pakistan's food supply is wasted annually, amounting to millions of tons of edible food being discarded. This occurs despite widespread poverty — 25.3% of Pakistanis lived below the poverty line as of 2024, a 7% increase from the previous year. The UN's Food Waste Index Report highlights this global crisis, revealing that over \$1 trillion worth of food is wasted annually while nearly 800 million people go hungry.

Hotels and restaurants in Pakistan waste a lot of food, especially at buffets, where people take more than they can eat. Many believe that more food means better hospitality. The culture of excess in Pakistani society is influenced by a mentality that equates quantity with generosity, so hosts prepare too much to avoid criticism. There is also little awareness of how food waste affects the environment and society.

The Quran warns against excess: "Eat and drink, but waste not by excess; Verily, He loves not the excessive" (Surah Al-A'raf 7:31). However, this religious obligation is often overshadowed by cultural practices.

Countries like Sweden and Germany teach food waste reduction in schools and reinforce it through public campaigns, educating citizens on its environmental impact. Sweden's 'Zero Waste' initiative focuses on repurposing leftovers, making Sweden one of the least wasteful nations. France mandates supermarkets to donate unsold food, while Italy provides tax incentives for food donations.

In Japan, wedding hosts serve measured portions and repurpose leftovers into takeaway boxes to show respect for food and sustainability. There is a need to implement similar practices in Pakistan through education and strict policies to reduce waste, address food insecurity and proper consumption.

Enforcing food waste policies in Pakistan, like tax incentives for donations and penalties for excess, can reduce waste and tackle food insecurity. Globally, one-third of food is wasted while millions starve. This is not just devastating but a moral crisis. We must value food and use it wisely.

Source: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2542446/wasting-food-in-a-starving-world>, Mujeeb Ali, April 27, 2025.

The End
