



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
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B.A. / B.SC. SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS: 2013/2014

UGRC 110: ACADEMIC WRITING (3 CREDITS)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- A. WRITE YOUR GROUP NUMBER (AND/OR LECTURE TIME) AND YOUR LECTURER'S NAME ON THE FRONT COVER OF YOUR ANSWER BOOKLET.*
- B. ANSWER QUESTIONS IN ALL SECTIONS OF THIS PAPER: A, B AND C*
- C. READ THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH SECTION CAREFULLY.*
- D. WRITE YOUR ANSWERS IN THE ANSWER BOOKLET.*
- E. BEGIN EACH SECTION ON A NEW PAGE.*

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

SECTION A: Issues in Academic Writing

1. What is plagiarism? Identify and explain at least **four** causes of plagiarism and strategies for avoiding it.

SECTION B: Summary

2. Read the following passage and summarize the processes that add minerals to the sea and the categories of processes returning minerals from the sea to the land.

- Your summary must not exceed **100 words**.
- Count and write down the number of words (at the end of your summary).

The Passage

It has been assumed that the first seas were only faintly saline and that their saltiness has been growing over the eons of time. For the primary source of the ocean's salt is the rocky mantle

of the continents. When those first rains came – the centuries – long rains that fell from the heavy clouds enveloping the young earth – they began the processes of wearing away the rocks and carrying their contained minerals to the sea. The annual flow of water seaward is believed to be about 6500 cubic miles, this inflow of river water adding to the ocean several billion tons of salts.

There are other agencies by which minerals are added to the sea – from obscure sources buried deep within the earth. From every volcano, chlorine and other gases escape into the atmosphere and are carried down in rain on to the surface of land and sea. Volcanic ash and rock bring up other materials. And all the submarine volcanoes, discharging through unseen craters directly into the sea, pour in boron, chlorine, sulphur, and iodine.

All this is a one-way flow of minerals to the sea. Only to a very limited extent is there any return of salts to the land. We attempt to recover some of them directly by chemical extraction and mining, and indirectly by harvesting the sea's plants and animals. There is another way, in the long, recurring cycles of the earth, by which the sea itself gives back to the land what it has received. This happens when the ocean waters rise over the lands, deposit their sediments, and at last withdraw, leaving over the continent another layer of sedimentary rocks. These contain some of the water and salts of the sea. But it is only a temporary loan of minerals to the land and the return payment begins at once by way of the old, familiar channels – rain, erosion, run-off to the rivers, transport to the sea.

There are other curious little exchanges of materials between sea and land. While the process of evaporation, which raises water vapour into the air, leaves most of the salts behind, a surprising amount of salt does intrude itself into the atmosphere and rides long distances on the wind. The so-called 'cyclic salt' is picked up by the winds from the spray of a rough, cresting sea or breaking surf and is blown inland, then brought down in rain and returned by rivers to the ocean. These tiny, invisible particles of sea salt drifting in the atmosphere are, in fact, one of the many forms of atmospheric nuclei around which raindrops form. Areas nearest the sea, in general, receive the most salt. Published figures have listed 24 to 36 pounds per acre per year for England and more than 100 pounds for British Guiana. But the most astounding example of long-distance, large-scale transport of cyclic salts is furnished by Sambhar Salt Lake in northern India. It receives 3000 tons of salt a year, carried to it on the hot dry monsoons of summer from the sea, 400 miles away.

(Source: RACHEL L. CARSON, *The Sea Around Us*, London)

SECTION C: The Synthesis Essay

3. Distinguish between an explanatory synthesis essay and an argumentative synthesis essay.

4. Using evidence drawn from Sources A and B provided below, write either an explanatory or argumentative synthesis essay on the following topic:

“Negative societal and cultural practices are not specific to race.”

Word Limit: 450-500 words

Source A:

VS Naipaul describes Africa as primitive and backward, a continent of people who still continue to eat animals and obsessed with magical powers to ruin lives. Travelling across Africa for six months in over four countries, Naipaul's finding is about witchcraft, sacrifice and pet eaters. In Ivory Coast, for example, he writes: "I found out what was the best way of killing a cat or kitten. You put them in a sack of some sort and then you dropped the sack in a pot of boiling water. The thought of this everyday kitchen cruelty made everything else in Ivory Coast seem unimportant."

The writer whose initial works have been criticized as racist and trouble-stirrer once wrote about the Caribbean culture of the seventies as "manufactured societies, labour camps", saying Tony Blair was like a pirate who impose on the British people, a "plebeian culture". He said of Islam in another book three decades ago, as potent global difficulty.

In his new book, South Africa, the Nobel Laureate writes, is a place he found very hard as a "place to have a point of view, and that is half the battle. I became very frightened in a way that I was never frightened before. I felt stymied in South Africa and saw here race was everything; that race ran as deep as religion everywhere. I thought that I may not be able to do this book there. To be frightened was a new experience. I do not know whether it was age or what but it went away." According to him, South Africa is a place where respectable middle-class citizens go to witch-doctors to make "battle-medicine".

In Gabon he further states, "There is a bad side, certainly in Gabon, they kill and the kinds of people they like to kill are children — it has to be a child or an older person, children because they are nearer to the beginning, an old person because they are near the end of life. All very sinister".

The Trinidad-born writer of Indian descent says that in Uganda there is an ancient tale of a man who wants to buy a kitten to eat and in north Ghana "they ate and loved dog; they called it red goat. In the south they ate cats and had almost eaten them out." (Source: M. Bakare,)

Source B:

'Modern' people sometimes need to be literally reminded that food really doesn't grow or originate in supermarkets. When you trace the origin of meat or fish there to their source, you also end up in mass butchering on the scale of Japanese whaling. The Japanese kill hundreds of whales on a seasonal basis.

Animal acts (for entertainment) are still very popular throughout much of Europe, the Americas and Asia. Efforts to ban circus animals in cities like Denver, Colorado have been rejected by voters. Bullfighting involves prolonged and profuse bleeding caused by horse-mounted lancers. This procedure is a normal part of bullfighting and that death is rarely instantaneous.

Then there are the serial killers in Europe and America. For example, Steve Wright's conviction for five murders sees him join Britain's most high profile serial killers.

Another example is Harold Shipman, who was convicted of 15 murders; an official report later concluded he had killed between 215 and 260 people between 1975 and 1998. The Manchester medical doctor abused his position to take the lives of mainly elderly women by giving them lethal doses of drugs.

Then there is the case of Dennis Nilsen, a former army cook. Nilsen picked up students and homeless men, strangling them or drowning them after sex. In many cases the authorities have never known exactly how many they actually killed.

Racism has two meanings: firstly, racism is, "The belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others." Secondly, racism is, "Discrimination or prejudice based on race."

Recently, a white man shot and killed a 17-year-old black teenager who was walking through a gated community where he was visiting his father in Orlando, Florida. The boy left his father's house to get candy and a soda, and was followed and ultimately gunned-down by Zimmerman as the boy was returning to his father's house. This is a senseless and seemingly race-motivated killing. (Source: Various internet sources)