



**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(MMUST)**

MAIN CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

MAIN EXAMINATION

2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

UNIVERSITY COMMON COURSE

COURSE CODE: COS 100

COURSE TITLE: COMMUNICATION SKILLS 1

DATE: 16TH DECEMBER, 2022. TIME: 8.00 A.M-10.00 A.M

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer ALL QUESTIONS

TIME: 3 Hours

MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

We have seen them, on our TV screens and on the front pages of newspapers: the girls with pretty, plastic smiles on their faces and tinsel tiaras on their 'African Beauty Conquers World', 'She is The Queen. The story will tell of how so and so, a budding fashion model, a school leaver or a university student, has won a beauty contest and is now miss Nairobi, Miss Makerere University, Miss Lake Victoria, Miss Tourism Kenya, Miss, India –Kenya, Miss Plastic Surgery China, Miss You –Name It.

It is all very exciting, especially when TV stations run several hours of live coverage of the contests. We are glued to the spectacle of glamorous female youth, striding and strutting the catwalks like peacocks (or is it peahens? But peahens do not strut) in various states of dress and undress. Then come the judges' questions. You see, these days they say that a beauty queen should not only exhibit dazzling looks and plenty of naked flesh, but also wide-ranging knowledge, a focused mind and a sharp intelligence, hence the questions.

The trouble is that contestants' answers hardly ever exhibit anything other than the dumbest and most insipid minds beneath those glittering and tantalizing heads of hair. Indeed, it is incredible to believe that anyone could be as ignorant and as shallow as some of those 'beautiful' people's utterances suggest, but I would like to give the girls the benefit of the doubt and blame the emptiness of their answers on the judges. I mean one could say that the girls give dumb answers because they are asked dumb questions.

If I were to judge a beauty contest, here are some of the sharp and intelligent questions which I would ask: Firstly, how and why did you come to believe that you are beautiful?' Secondly, 'Is beauty something you are, something you have, or something you do?' Thirdly, 'If beauty is something you have, should you, as a beautiful woman in the village, the world or the universe, expect people to treat you with admiration with reverence or with envy?'

Fortunately for all of us, no person like me will ever be appointed to judge a beauty contest. You see judges at beauty contests must be really nice people, who will not cause trouble for either the contestants or the organizers. Those likely to ask tough and unpleasant questions should be strictly avoided, so should those who may want to take bribes- in cash or in kind – to judge in favour of one contestant or another. A beauty contest judge who takes bribes can cause a lot of trouble, as it happened the other day, about four thousand years ago.

There was this heavenly contest. The four finalists were the goddesses Juno, Pallas Athena, Diana and Aphrodite. Proud Juno is the companion of Zeus, the chief god, while Athena is believed to be the smartest and cleverest of all the goddesses. Athletic Diana is huntress and she despises most men as cowards and weaklings but Aphrodite, a.k.a Venus, is the patroness of sex and passion. The judge, somehow, happened to be a man, a young prince from a city called Troy. Incidentally, have you noticed how frequently the judges of women's beauty contest are men? One wonders why.

Anyway, just before the final judgment, Aphrodite took Paris, the young prince, aside and said quietly to him, "Of course you understand there's no contest here. How can any of those old hags compete with me?"

Still, you must announce a fair and clear judgment, and if you do the needful, I will reward you with one of the most desirable presents on earth.

'And what's that?' Asked Paris curiously.

'You can have Helen, the loveliest woman on earth today, as your lover,' answered Aphrodite matter- of factly.

The judgment was quick and brief. Aphrodite won outright and she was crowned Miss Heaven. Athena and Diana were first runner-up and second runner-up respectively, Juno was not even classed. The three non-winners were, as usual, furious and cried foul, but the judge's decision was, as usual, final. Quietly and secretly, Juno, Athena and Diana vowed revenge on Paris for his blatant unfairness. Aphrodite, on the other hand, rewarded Paris immediately. She ordered her little boy Cupid to strike Helen's heart with his love arrow and Helen, instantly and desperately in love with Paris, agreed to elope with him to Troy.

The rest, as they say, is History, but very sad History. Helen was wife to the great King; General Menelaus of Sparta, and he was not going to take her elopement lying down. He and his allies put together a huge army, invaded Troy and eventually razed it to the ground. It was a long and bitter war, but Menelaus received supernatural assistance from some sources which I will not mention. Listen and learn, you corrupt make- beauty -contest judges.

The bottom line, however, is, do we need beauty contests? If we want to recognize and honour our women, do we have to parade their 36'-26'-36' busts, waists and hips before **prurient crowds**? Why can't Miss Kenya be the woman to take care of the largest number of HIV/AIDS patients at the Kenyatta National Hospital? Miss University should obviously be the student who excelled at her studies and co-curricular activities. The woman who, in any one year, makes the greatest contribution to the emancipation and empowerment of women including liberating them from having to parade themselves at beauty contests should be voted Miss World for that year.

In any case, as the old saying has it, 'Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder.'

- a) What is the author's argument in the third paragraph of this passage? (2 marks)
- b) For what purpose does the writer tell the story of the goddesses? (2 marks)
- c) Why does the writer believe that he cannot be appointed to judge a beauty contest? (2 marks)
- d) What is the attitude of the writer towards beauty contests? Illustrate your answer. (2 marks)
- e) Outline what the author thinks should be the concern of beauty contests. (4 marks)
- f) Explain how the writer's concluding saying: "beauty lies in the eye of the beholder" is relevant to the main message of the passage. (2 marks)
- g) Explain the meaning of the following expressions as used in the passage. (6 marks)
 - i) Budding
 - ii) Insipid minds
 - iii) Prurient crowds

SECTION B: STUDY AND EXAMINATION SKILLS (20 marks)

1. Explain any five ways on how you can overcome barriers to effective listening during lectures (5 marks)
2. Outline the considerations that you would make in drawing a study timetable. (5 marks)
3. Explain why university students sit the following types of examinations:
 - i. Supplementary exams (1 mark)
 - ii. Special exams (1 mark)
 - iii. Retake (1 mark)
4. Describe any three examination malpractices that students must avoid. (3 marks)
5. Explain any four reasons why Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology lecturers may decide to use tutorial. (4 marks)

SECTION C: LIBRARY SKILLS (15 marks)

1. Describe any two sections of an academic library and clearly show how you can make good use of the sections. (4 marks)
2. A library can be referred to as special in variety of ways. Identify any three ways that can make a library to be special. (3 marks)
3. What is a catalogue? (2 marks)
4. Why is it necessary for academic resource centres or library facilities to develop online cataloguing system? (6 marks)

SECTION D: WRITING SKILLS (15 marks)

Ouko was required to write a research paper on the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine to the global economy.

- (a) Write the thesis statement of the above topic. (2 marks)
- (b) Make an outline that Ouko can use to write the paper. (6 marks)
- (c) State any four reasons why Ouko must cite information sources used in the paper to make his work meet the conventions of academic writing. (4 marks)
- (d) Write an introductory paragraph to Ouko's essay. (3 marks)