

National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences
Islamabad Campus

Expository Writing (SS1014)

Course Instructor(s):

Ms Sanaa Ilyas, Mr Shahzad Mahmood, Ms Nimra Nazim

Section(s): CS, DS and AI Streams

Sessional-I Exam

Total Time (Hrs): 1

Total Marks: 38

Total Questions: 03

Date: Feb 22, 2025

Roll No

Course Section

Student Signature

Do not write below this line.

Attempt all the questions.

1. Read the question carefully, understand the question, and then attempt your answer.
2. Verify that you have **Nine (09)** printed pages of the question paper including this page. There are **three (03)** questions.
3. **Transfer answers to the Answer Sheet on page 09.**
4. Answers not transferred on the answer sheet on page 09 will NOT be marked.
5. Avoid cutting, over-writing and rewriting when transferring answers on the Answer Sheet. Marks will not be awarded for such answers.

/CLO 1 Analyze the main ideas in a text, differentiate between facts and opinions, deduce the meanings of unfamiliar words from context, and draw inferences based on text comprehension.]

Q1: Read the Case Study and answer the questions given. **Only write the answer [A, B, C or D] on the answer sheet on page 09. Vague answers will NOT be considered.** [11 marks]

Communication Challenges at TechGlobal Solutions

At TechGlobal Solutions, a multinational software development company, Project Manager Marcus Rodriguez faced a significant challenge with the company's newest virtual team initiative. The project involved developing an AI-powered translation platform—ironically exposing the very communication barriers it aimed to solve. The core team consisted of five members spread across three continents: Marcus (Mexican-American, based in Texas), Yuki Tanaka (Japanese, working from Tokyo), Priya Sharma (Indian, based in Bangalore), James Cooper (British, working from London), and Ana Schmidt (Brazilian-German, based in Berlin). Even though everyone was fluent in English, communication was not always smooth, leading to confusion and inefficiencies.

As the project progressed, Marcus began noticing frequent miscommunications that slowed productivity. During a critical virtual meeting, he posed what he believed to be a straightforward question: "Can we push up the delivery date by two weeks?" The responses underscored the complexity of cross-cultural communication. Yuki hesitantly replied, "It might be difficult..." while looking uncomfortable on screen. Priya suggested, "We should examine the timeline carefully," implying further discussion was needed. James, however, was direct, stating, "That's simply not feasible with our current resources." Ana remained silent, diligently taking notes. What seemed like a simple discussion left Marcus frustrated. He was unsure whether Yuki's response signaled reluctance or politeness, whether Priya was supportive or non-committal, and whether Ana's silence indicated agreement or disengagement.

The challenges extended beyond verbal discussions. Technical conversations were often disrupted by different communication styles. Priya's use of Indian English terminology confused James, while Yuki's indirect approach left Marcus uncertain about actual progress. Ana, attempting to mediate, frequently code-switched between English and German technical jargon, assuming her colleagues shared the same industry lexicon.

approach left Marcus uncertain about actual progress. Ana, attempting to mediate, frequently code-switched between English and German technical jargon, assuming her colleagues shared the same industry lexicon. Written communication revealed similar problems. When Marcus emphasized urgency in emails, Yuki interpreted them as optional suggestions. Priya's detailed explanations, influenced by Indian English conventions, were seen by James as unnecessarily formal or roundabout. Meanwhile, James' direct, no-nonsense style occasionally came across as abrupt or even dismissive to the rest of the team.

The team's chat platform became another source of misinterpretation. Abbreviations carried different meanings, and even emoji usage led to unintended misunderstandings. When Marcus used the thumbs-up emoji ("👍") to acknowledge a message, Yuki perceived it as final approval, while Priya wondered if it was too informal for professional communication. These seemingly minor details added up, creating confusion and slowing decision-making processes.

The biggest disruption occurred when a misunderstanding about the term "end of day" led to missed deadlines across time zones. For James in London, EOD meant midnight UK time; for Yuki, it was midnight Tokyo time for Marcus, it was the close of the Texas workday. This discrepancy, combined with varying social and cultural interpretations of deadline urgency, resulted in project delays and increased frustration. By the time Marcus realized the extent of the issue, tasks had already been delayed, causing bottlenecks in the workflow.

The situation reached a breaking point when a high-priority client request was misinterpreted. Marcus believed the request was urgent and required immediate action. However, Yuki's diplomatic phrasing in response—"We'll do our best to accommodate"—was understood by James as a firm commitment, while Priya interpreted it as a polite refusal. The result was incomplete work, client dissatisfaction, and an emergency meeting to resolve the fallout. The project's success, and possibly TechGlobal's future approach to global collaboration, now depended on how Marcus would address these communication challenges. The question remained: Could he bridge these linguistic and cultural divides while maintaining team cohesion and ensuring the project stayed on track?

1. What is the primary cause of miscommunication in the TechGlobal Solutions team?

- A) Lack of fluency in English among team members and lack of mindfulness
- B) Inadequate technical expertise among team members
- C) Not being attentive during virtual meetings and different areas of expertise
- D) Differences in communication styles, interpretations, and cultural expectations

2. What does Priya's response, "We should examine the timeline carefully," suggest about the communication style?

- A) It is highly direct and assertive not taking other team members perspective
- B) It reflects a preference for consensus-building and detailed analysis
- C) It indicates uncertainty about the project timeline as expectations were not clear
- D) It shows reluctance to challenge authority as she is a junior

3. Why did James' direct response, "That's simply not feasible with our current resources," create potential friction?

- A) It ignored the possibility of negotiation and conflicted with communication protocols
- B) It conflicted with other team members' indirect and diplomatic communication styles
- C) It was inaccurate, as the team had enough resources to work on the project
- D) It was too formal for the virtual setting and space for discussion should be present

4. Why did Ana's silence during the meeting lead to uncertainty?

- A) Silence can have different meanings in different cultural contexts
- B) She was disengaged and not paying attention

National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences

Islamabad Campus

[CLO 2: Construct well-organized and coherent paragraphs, essays, short stories, and summaries that effectively convey ideas with clarity and purpose]

Q2: This question assesses your understanding of paragraph development. It has two (02) parts with different subparts indicated. Only write the answer [A, B, C or D] on the answer sheet on page 09. [12 Marks]

Part A) For each paragraph, identify the sentence that serves as the topic sentence. The topic sentence expresses the main idea that unifies the paragraph.

Paragraph 1

(1) Historical records indicate frequent volcanic activity in the region dating back thousands of years. (2) Ancient civilizations often incorporated these natural phenomena into their mythologies and religious practices. (3) Volcanoes significantly shape both the physical landscape and human societies that develop near them. (4) The fertile soil resulting from volcanic ash has attracted agricultural settlements throughout history, despite the inherent dangers. (5) Modern monitoring systems now provide early warnings of impending eruptions, though prediction remains imperfect. (6) When major eruptions occur, they can alter global climate patterns by releasing particulate matter into the upper atmosphere. (7) Tourism to dormant and active volcanoes has become an economic driver for many communities, balancing risk with financial opportunity. (8) Scientists continue studying volcanic activity to better understand Earth's internal processes and geological history. (9) International cooperation has improved response strategies when eruptions threaten populated areas.

- A Sentence 1 B Sentence 2 C Sentence 3 D Sentence 4

Paragraph 2

(1) The manufacturing process begins with sourcing raw materials from various global suppliers. (2) Quality control measures are implemented at each production stage to minimize defects. (3) Automated assembly lines have replaced many manual operations, increasing efficiency while reducing labor costs. (4) Technical specifications must meet increasingly strict regulatory standards across different markets. (5) The modern supply chain represents a complex network vulnerable to disruptions from multiple sources. (6) Natural disasters, political instability, and public health crises can all interrupt critical component deliveries. (7) Companies now invest heavily in diversifying suppliers and creating contingency plans to maintain operations. (8) Digital tracking systems provide real-time visibility into product movement throughout the distribution network. (9) The resilience of supply chains has become a competitive advantage in today's interconnected global economy.

- A Sentence 3 B Sentence 5 C Sentence 6 D Sentence 7

Paragraph 3

(1) Early research into memory focused primarily on storage capacity and retention duration. (2) Subsequent studies revealed distinct systems for short-term and long-term memory processing. (3) Environmental factors like stress and sleep quality significantly impact memory formation and recall. (4) Human memory functions through complex neurological processes that encode, store, and retrieve information. (5) The hippocampus plays a crucial role in converting short-term memories into long-term storage through a process called consolidation. (6) Emotional experiences often create stronger memory imprints due to the involvement of the amygdala. (7) Age-related memory decline varies significantly between individuals based on genetics and lifestyle factors. (8) Certain techniques like spaced repetition and mnemonic devices can enhance memory performance. (9) Neuroscientists continue exploring the biological foundations of memory through advanced imaging technologies.

- A Sentence 4
B Sentence 5

- C Sentence 6
D Sentence 9

National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences

Islamabad Campus

Part B)

Ideas in a paragraph should be logically structured so the reader is able to follow the writer's thought pattern. For each of the following groups of four or five numbered sentences, choose the sentence(s) that would result in an effective paragraph. There is only ONE correct answer.

Passage 4

(1) The rising popularity of e-books has transformed the publishing industry in unexpected ways. (2) Traditional publishers initially feared that print books would become obsolete as digital reading devices proliferated. (3) Interestingly, studies show that many readers who own e-readers still purchase physical books for certain types of reading experiences. (4) Despite these encouraging trends for traditional formats, publishers have had to adapt their business models significantly. (5) Recent market research indicates that print book sales have actually stabilized over the past five years. (6) Publishers now commonly release titles simultaneously in both digital and print formats, with pricing strategies that acknowledge the lower production costs of e-books. (7) This dual-format approach has created new opportunities for independent authors who can release digital versions with minimal upfront investment. (8) The resilience of physical books appears to be connected to their perceived value as artifacts and gifts, unlike their digital counterparts.

A 1,4,2,5,3,7,6,8
B 1,5,2,3,8,4,6,7

C 1,2,4,6,7,5,3,8
D 1,2,5,8,3,4,6,7

Passage 5

(1) Space exploration has evolved dramatically since the first lunar landing in 1969. (2) Private companies have entered what was once exclusively government territory, bringing new approaches and efficiencies to rocket design and deployment. (3) The democratization of space technology has led to international concerns about orbital debris and potential militarization. (4) Government space agencies have shifted their focus to deeper space missions, including plans for human exploration of Mars. (5) This evolving landscape has created new career opportunities in aerospace engineering, space law, and related fields. (6) Meanwhile, satellite technology has become increasingly sophisticated, enabling everything from global internet coverage to detailed climate monitoring. (7) Some critics argue that resources devoted to space exploration could be better spent addressing pressing Earth-bound problems. (8) Regardless of the debates, international cooperation in space has become a model for peaceful collaboration among nations with otherwise tense relations. (9) As launch costs continue to decrease, more countries are developing their own space programs, further complicating the geopolitical dynamics of extraterrestrial activity.

A 1,4,2,6,3,9,5,7,8
B 1,7,4,2,6,9,3,8,5

C 1,2,6,3,9,4,8,5,7
D 1,2,4,7,5,6,3,8,9

Passage 6

(1) The concept of a universal basic income (UBI) has gained traction across the political spectrum in recent years. (2) Conservative proponents argue that UBI could replace existing welfare programs with a more efficient system that reduces bureaucracy. (3) Critics on both sides express concern about potential inflationary effects and decreased workforce participation. (4) Several countries and municipalities have conducted limited UBI experiments, with mixed but generally promising results regarding recipients' health outcomes and educational attainment. (5) Progressive advocates view UBI as a solution to growing inequality and job displacement from automation. (6) The financial feasibility of widespread UBI implementation remains a significant obstacle, with various funding mechanisms proposed including wealth taxes and reduced military spending. (7) Some economists suggest that UBI could stimulate economic growth by increasing consumer spending among lower-income households. (8) Cultural attitudes toward work and deservingness continue to influence public opinion on the policy. (9) As automation continues to transform labor markets, the UBI debate is likely to intensify further.

National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences

Islamabad Campus

A
B

1,5,2,7,3,8,4,6,9
1,3,2,5,8,7,4,6,9

C 1,5,3,2,4,7,6,8,9
D 1,3,5,2,7,6,8,4,9

[CLO 2: Construct well-organized and coherent paragraphs, essays, short stories, and summaries that effectively convey ideas with clarity and purpose]

Q3: The following questions test your knowledge of paragraph and sentence construction. The given passages are rough draft of an essay/paragraph. The rough draft contains several errors. Read the rough draft and then answer the questions that follow. Some questions will focus on specific sentences and ask if there are any problems with that sentence word choice, word usage, or overall structure. Other questions will refer to the paragraph organization and development. Transfer your answers to the answer sheet on page 9.

[15 Marks]

Passage 1 [Q1-3]

(1) Following an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response, the school administration has decided to expand the Community Mural Painting Program—now a part of two high school curriculums—to the middle school level. (2) The program was piloted in the school district last year and it was a successful initiative for students and for the community.

(3) Money to fund the program came from a national grant designed to promote community involvement as well as art appreciation among teenagers. (4) A committee that consists of art teachers, social studies teachers, and school social workers oversees the program.

(5) Studies have shown that young people who have been exposed to similar programs are much less prone to apathy. (6) The same studies state that these programs promote a sense of purpose that serves young people well both inside and outside the academic setting. (7) When the students were interviewed by the program committee. (8) In addition, the community attitude toward teenagers is improved also.

(9) It is projected that this year more than 150 students will be involved and that more than 20 murals will be painted.

1. Which sentence in the third paragraph is a nonstandard sentence?

- A Sentence 5
B Sentence 6

- C Sentence 7
D Sentence 8

2. Which of the following changes should be made to Sentence 8 of the passage?

- A Remove the word *also*.
B Change *community* to *communities*.
C Change *teenagers* to *teenagers'*
D Change *teenagers* to *teenagers'*

3. Which of the following sentences, if inserted after Sentence 2 of the passage, would best develop the ideas in the first paragraph?

- A. The program could benefit other districts as well.
B. One particularly beautiful mural was painted on a playground wall on the east side of town.
C. Fifty high school students were involved and they spent five weeks painting ten murals throughout the community in locations that were in great need of some attention.
D. The school district is interested in trying other pilot programs in addition the Mural Painting Program.

**National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences
Islamabad Campus**

Passage 2 [Q4-6]

(1) Although eating right is an important part of good health, most experts agree that being physically active is also a key element in living a longer and healthier life. (2) The benefits of physical activity include improved self-esteem, a lowered risk of heart disease and colon cancer, stronger bones, muscles, and joints, and enhanced flexibility. (3) Physical activity, in addition to its many other rewards will also help manage weight gain.

(4) One of the simplest and most effective ways to increase physical activity are walking; walking requires no special equipment, no particular location, and it can be easily incorporated into even the busiest lives. (5) Add ten minutes or ten blocks to your usual dog-walking routine. (6) Park several blocks away from your destination and walk briskly the rest of the way. (7) Walk up or down the soccer or softball field while watching your kids play. (8) Find a walking buddy who will take a long walk with you once or twice a week. (9) You'll be less likely to skip the walk, if someone is counting on you to be there.

(10) _____ . (11) Before long, it will become a normal part of your daily routine and you'll hardly notice the extra effort. (12) In addition, the increased energy and overall sense of well-being you'll experience will inspire you to walk even more.

4. Which of the following revisions is necessary in Sentence 4 of the above passage?

- A. One of the simplest and most effective ways to increase physical activity are walking; walking requires no special equipment, no particular location and it can be easily incorporated into even the busiest lives.
- B. One of the simplest and most effective ways to increase physical activity is walking; walking requires no special equipment, no particular location, and it can be easily incorporated into even the busiest lives.
- C. One of the simplest and most effective ways to enhance physical activity are walking; walking requires no special equipment, no particular location, and it can be easily incorporated into even the busiest lives.
- D. One of the simplest and most effective ways to increase physical activity are walking; only walking requires no special equipment, no particular location, and it can be easily incorporated into even the busiest lives.

5. Which of the following sentences, if inserted in the blank line numbered Sentence 10, would be most consistent with the development and grammar of the paragraph?

- A. People will benefit from putting on their walking shoes and pounding the pavement.
- B. So jog, bicycle, and walk as much as you can.
- C. While people will benefit from increased physical activity, it cannot replace the necessity of eating right.
- D. So put on your walking shoes and start pounding the pavement.

6. Which of the following changes is needed in the passage?

- A. Sentence 3: Insert comma after *rewards*.
- B. Sentence 1: Replace *most* with *more*.
- C. Sentence 5: Insert a comma after *minutes*.
- D. Sentence 2: Insert a colon after *activity*.

National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences
Islamabad Campus

Passage 3 [Q7-10]

(1) Curiosity drove Pierre and Marie Curie. (2) Their earlier experiments had found the three minerals that contained the most uranium. (3) However, through a very slow and detailed process, they also discovered something else. (4) There were two other mysterious elements within those minerals in very small quantities. (5) How could they identify them?

(6) It was not a fun or fast procedure. (7) Marie knew that a product called pitchblende was the best to use for their experiments. (8) One sack of it only made a thimbleful of these unknown elements. (9) To get even was a quite a chore.

(10) First the pitchblende was sifted. (11) Then it was ground. (12) Marie boiled it in a big iron pot, stirring for hours with an iron rod. (13) The liquid was thrown away. (14) Pierre would take what was left and treat it with different chemicals. (15) This helped him know which elements he wanted to throw away and which he wanted to study. (16) Between Marie and Pierre, they found them. (17) The first they named polonium in honor of Poland. (18) It is located in eastern Europe. (19) The second one they called radium.

7. Which of the following best describes the purpose of paragraph 3?

- A. to explain the process of separating different minerals
- B. to show how Pierre met and married Marie Curie
- C. to discuss what things can be made with radium
- D. to demonstrate how hard it was to find pitchblende

8. What is the most effective way to combine sentences 10, 11, and 12 (reproduced below)?

First the pitchblende was sifted. Then it was ground. Marie boiled it in a big iron pot, stirring for hours with an iron rod.

A. First, the pitchblende was sifted, then ground finally boiled in a big iron pot and stirred for hours with an iron rod by Marie.

B. The pitchblende was first sifted, then ground, and finally boiled in a big iron pot, while Marie stirred it for hours with an iron rod.

C. First, the pitchblende was sifted, ground by Marie and then it was boiled in a big iron pot, stirring for hours with an iron rod.

D. The big iron pot was stirred for hours with an iron rod by Marie and then the pitchblende was sifted and then ground.

9. Which of the following sentences from the passage should be deleted?

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| A Sentence 5 | C Sentence 17 |
| B Sentence 6 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> D Sentence 18 |

10. In sentence 16, the word *them* could best be replaced with which of the following?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| A radium | C polonium |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> B the two elements | D both experiments |