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UNIVERSITY OF GHANA  
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BA/BSC FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS: 2022/2023  
UGRC 110: ACADEMIC WRITING I (3 CREDITS)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- WRITE YOUR INDEX NUMBER, GROUP NUMBER, AND/OR LECTURER'S NAME ON THE ANSWER BOOKLET PROVIDED.
- THIS PAPER IS MADE UP OF TWO SECTIONS: SECTION A (ESSAY STRUCTURING AND PRINCIPLES OF PARAGRAPHING), AND SECTION B (PRE-WRITING AND POST-WRITING).
- ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN ALL SECTIONS.
- WRITE YOUR ANSWERS IN THE ANSWER BOOKLET PROVIDED.

TIME ALLOWED: TWO AND A HALF HOURS (2½ HRS)

SECTION A: ESSAY STRUCTURING AND PRINCIPLES OF PARAGRAPHING

[30 Marks]

*Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions that follow it.*

It is not uncommon for one disaster or another to happen here or there from time to time in Ghana. One can readily cite the May 9 stadium disaster that took 127 lives; the June 3 flood and fire disaster which took far more — 159 lives, according to Joy news — and, more recently, the Kintampo Waterfall disaster. Several disasters have occurred in Ghana in recent times but it would seem that fire outbreak is the talk of town today. The country has seen raging fires that have devoured valuable lives and property worth millions of Ghana cedis. I reckon the question on your mind at this point might be: *but what at all accounts for these frequent fires?* Some people are of the view that raging infernos such as the ones cited above are orchestrated by evil spirits. Well, I beg to differ! We are the cause of our own woes. I would agree with such people if by evil spirits they mean carelessness, ignorance or nonconformity to fire safety precautions and natural phenomena. These factors, if you ask me and other researchers, are some of the major causes of these puzzling frequent fires, not witches and wizards or demons.

*This is Background*

Consider farmers who light fires right on their farm to cook, using twigs and when they have eaten to their fill, they leave the fire unextinguished and go home. After clearing their land, some may also burn bush without using firebreaks or making conscious effort to control the spread of the fire. Let us consider yet another scenario: what of smokers who do not douse their fag-ends or butts and just throw them anywhere? Such are in the same category as parents who would not warn their children against playing with match sticks and highly inflammable

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appeared very vast and divided with extremely remote places that were nearly impossible to reach. Some places were even not known to exist. But today, we speak of a global village where every corner of the world, even outer space, can be reached, and it can take even less than an hour to travel from one country to another. What has made this possible? What has brought about all these changes?

Global Village

Gone are the days when it could take ages, more effort, and even many people to get a relatively simple work done. In contemporary times, work has become easier to do. Work that could take days, weeks and even months to do can now be done with the speed of light. Tasks that could take a dozen people to perform can now be done by just one person. Gone are the days when without physical human presence, work could not be done. In modern times, people can work remotely; there are virtual offices. Even formal education can take place without sitting in the walls of the traditional classroom. There is now what we call distance education.

Machines

Gone are the days when to live solely depended on hunting and gathering, and then subsistence farming. Land could lie fallow for long before regaining some nutrients to sustain farming. Agriculture was a very laborious occupation because it relied on very simple equipment. Pests and diseases could wreak havoc on farms, and bring great losses to farmers, their families, and whole societies. Bumper harvest was not only scarce; it could also go waste because there were challenges with processing raw materials and storing farm produce. In recent times, largescale agriculture is common; there are answers to the problem of diseases and pest infestation; crops and animals can mature fast; and there are sophisticated pieces of equipment for easing agriculture and increasing yield.

Pest control

What has made all these possible? What has brought about all these changes? It is advances in science and technology. Science provides the knowledge and technology translates this knowledge into solutions to the many problems of the world, making the world a better place to live in. There is the growth of health, the emergence of great computers, ongoing impressive evolution in education, governance, the automobile, aviation and marine industries, entertainment, architecture – think of skyscrapers – and many more. The world indeed has science and technology to thank.

4. Generate an outline of the content of this essay. [10 marks]
5. Proofread the paragraph that follows and rewrite it in your answer booklet, correcting the errors. Underline the errors you have corrected. [10 marks]

Firstly, discouraging the purchase of unprescribed drugs. This is another way by which substance abuse can be prevented. Unprescribed drugs are drugs that have not being recommended for patients by doctors, yet they go to drug stores to get them. Since others use them or they themselves may have been put on such drugs for particular ailments in times past. When this happens chances are they would use the wrong treatment or misapply the right drug, this can be seriously detrimental to their health. Prescription drugs such as tramadol and others should not be sold to people unless they are authorised by registered or certified doctors to use them. When pharmacists or drug store attendants insist on seeing prescriptions before selling drugs to people, it can discourage them from using such drugs and help to reduce their abuse.

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substances, or those with leaking gas cylinders who do not fix them until the waiting accidents occur. In much the same way, some drivers may know that their vehicles have overheating problems but would usually not attend to them, <sup>no</sup> not until their cars burst into flame and the flame spreads. All these are acts of carelessness which can lead to fire outbreak. We are our own demons then, if evil spirits are the cause of such fire outbreaks.

<sup>T-S</sup>  
Ignorance or nonconformity to fire safety precautions is another problem that can cause the outbreak of fire. Both illiterate and literate people alike can be culprits of ignorance-<sup>M1</sup> engendered fires. Well, some may not be ignorant, but they just disregard fire outbreak <sup>M2</sup> precautions. In areas and around substances that are highly inflammable, aside from words that <sup>me</sup> send caution to people, there are also symbols that warn people not to do such things as smoking or using their cell phones. But people may be ignorant or negligent about such signs and flout <sup>mf</sup> the rules unknowingly or knowingly. How many people are aware that they are supposed to <sup>mf</sup> keep fire extinguishers in their homes and also at public places? Even those who are aware and <sup>me</sup> have such equipment, especially drivers, not many of them actually know how to use them so when they even get to see a fire start, they may not be able to use the extinguishers to nip it in the bud and prevent a spread. Thus, ignorance and failure to observe fire safety measures are major factors in the incidence of fires. <sup>C</sup>

Lastly, although I believe that the actions and inactions of human beings are chiefly to blame for fire outbreaks, there is yet another factor which is beyond the control of human beings. A good example is a natural phenomenon like lightning. Although it is not too common, there are times that lightning has caused fires, especially when it touched dry and flammable substances such as dry grass and petroleum products. This is likely to be one of the times when the people who believe that evil spirits are behind the causes of fire outbreaks would never be talked out of such a stance. That being said, let us eschew negligence, acquaint ourselves with fire safety precautions and practise all the safety measures. Mass education should be encouraged to combat especially the issue of ignorance. By so doing, frequent fire outbreak may become a thing of the past in our beloved country.

1. Describe the structure of the introductory paragraph, outlining its component parts. [6 marks]
2. Describe the structure of the second paragraph (beginning *ignorance or nonconformity ... can cause the outbreak of fire*). In addition to this, describe the strategies that have been used to develop the controlling idea in the paragraph, and how the discussion in the paragraph has been closed. [8 marks]
3. With examples from the passage above, discuss four ways that coherence has been achieved. [16 marks]

Transitional  
Markers  
Rhetorical  
Contrast

## SECTION B: THE WRITING PROCESS - OUTLINING AND EDITING [20 Marks]

*Closely read the essay that follows and answer the question below it.*

Centuries ago, the world as we have it now was a very different one. In the olden days, life was generally slower than we have it presently. Journeys took unusually long, and the world

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