



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE TATI

**FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTION BOOKLET**

COURSE CODE : FGE 1023

COURSE : COMMUNICATION SKILLS II

SEMESTER/SESSION : 3- 2023/2024

DURATION : 3 HOURS

**Instructions:**

1. This booklet contains **3 sections**. Answer **ALL** questions.
2. All answers should be written in the answer booklet.
3. Write legibly and draw sketches wherever required.
4. If in doubt, raise your hands and ask the invigilator.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO**

**THIS BOOKLET CONTAINS 9 PRINTED PAGES INCLUDING COVER PAGE**

**SECTION A : READING COMPREHENSION (30 MARKS)**

*Read the following passage and answer the questions in complete sentences. Your answers should be based on the passage.*

**6 Essential Skills for Reading Comprehension**

By Andrew M.I. Lee, JD

I Some people think of the act of reading as a straightforward task that's easy to master. In reality, reading is a complex process that draws on many different skills. Together, these skills lead to the ultimate goal of reading: reading comprehension, or understanding what's been read. Reading comprehension can be challenging for lots of reasons. Whatever the cause, knowing the skills involved, and which ones your child struggles with, can help you get the right support. Here are six essential skills needed for, and tips on what can help kids improve this skill. 5

II **1. Decoding**

**Decoding** is a vital step in the reading process. Kids use this skill to sound out words they've heard before but haven't seen written out. The ability to do that is the foundation for other reading skills. Decoding relies on an early language skill called phonemic awareness. (This skill is part of an even broader skill called phonological awareness.) Phonemic awareness lets kids hear individual sounds in words (known as phonemes). It also allows them to "play" with sounds at the word and syllable level. Decoding also relies on connecting individual sounds to letters. For instance, to read the word sun, kids must know that the letter 's' makes the /s/ sound. Grasping the connection between a letter (or group of letters) and the sounds they typically make is an important step toward "sounding out" words. 10 15

III **2. Fluency** 20

To read fluently, kids need to instantly recognize words, including words they can't sound out. **Fluency** speeds up the rate at which they can read and understand text. It's also important when kids encounter irregular words, like of and the, which can't be sounded out. Sounding out or decoding every word can take a lot of effort. Word recognition is the ability to recognize whole words 25

## COMMUNICATION SKILLS II (FGE1023)

instantly by sight, without sounding them out. When kids can read quickly and without making too many errors, they are “fluent” readers. Fluent readers read smoothly at a good pace. They group words together to help with meaning, and they use the proper tone in their voice when reading aloud. Reading fluency is essential for good reading comprehension.

30

**IV 3. Vocabulary**

To understand what you’re reading, you need to understand most of the words in the text. Having a strong vocabulary is a key component of reading comprehension. Students can learn vocabulary through instruction. But they typically learn the meaning of words through everyday experience and also by reading. Reading together every day also helps improve vocabulary. When reading aloud, stop at new words and define them. But also encourage your child to read alone. Even without hearing a definition of a new word, your child can use context to help figure it out. Teachers can help, too. They can carefully choose interesting words to teach and then give explicit instruction (instruction that is specialized and direct). They can engage students in conversation. And they can make learning vocabulary fun by playing word games in class.

35

40

**V 4. Sentence construction and cohesion**

Understanding how sentences are built might seem like a writing skill. So might connecting ideas within and between sentences, which is called **cohesion**. But these skills are important for reading comprehension as well. Knowing how ideas link up at the sentence level helps kids get meaning from passages and entire texts. It also leads to something called **coherence**, or the ability to connect ideas to other ideas in an overall piece of writing.

45

**VI 5. Reasoning and background knowledge**

50

Most readers relate what they’ve read to what they know. So, it’s important for kids to have background or prior knowledge about the world when they read. They also need to be able to “read between the lines” and pull out meaning even when it’s not literally spelled out. Take this example: A child is reading a story about a poor family in the 1930s. Having knowledge about the Great Depression can provide insight into what’s happening in the story. The child can use that background knowledge to make inferences and draw conclusions. Expose your

55

child to as much as possible, and talk about what you've learned from experiences you've had together and separately. Help your child make connections between new knowledge and existing knowledge. And ask open-ended questions that require thinking and explanations. 60

## VII 6. Working memory and attention

These two skills are both part of a group of abilities known as executive function. They're different but closely related. When kids read, attention allows them to take in information from the text. Working memory allows them to hold on to that information and use it to gain meaning and build knowledge from what they're reading. The ability to self-monitor while reading is also tied to that. Kids need to be able to recognize when they don't understand something. Then they need to stop, go back, and re-read to clear up any confusion they may have. 65

VIII When kids struggle with one or more of these skills, they can have trouble 70 fully understanding what they read. Learn about what can cause trouble with reading in kids. Keep in mind that having reading difficulties doesn't mean a child isn't smart. But some kids need extra support and encouragement to make progress.

*Adapted from United.Org*

1. What is the author's purpose in writing paragraph I? (2 marks)
2. According to the article, what is the ultimate goal of reading? (2 marks)
3. Based on your reading, list **SIX (6)** crucial skills in reading comprehension. (6 marks)
4. According to the article, define the words below:
  - a) Decoding (line 10) (1 mark)
  - b) Fluency (line 22) (1 mark)
  - c) Cohesion (line 45) (1 mark)

## COMMUNICATION SKILLS II (FGE1023)

- 
- d) Coherence (line 48) (1 mark)
  - 5. "read between the lines" (line 52) refers to? (2 marks)
  - 6. Based on your reading in paragraph III, give **THREE (3)** characteristics of fluent readers. (3 marks)
  - 7. Describe the skill of decoding in the reading process as stated in paragraph II. (3 marks)
  - 8. Identify ways teachers can support vocabulary development in students stated in paragraph IV. (4 marks)
  - 9. Based on paragraph VI, explain how parents can encourage their children to have more background knowledge to aid them in reading comprehension. (4 marks)

**SECTION B: SHORT ANSWERS (30 MARKS)**

1. Choose the correct answer for the words in the box. (10 marks)

meanwhile	additionally	however	overall	furthermore
for example	instead	instead of	likewise	for instance
although	moreover	despite	by	nevertheless

**The Importance of Exercise in Daily Life**

Exercise is crucial for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. (a) \_\_\_\_\_, it helps to improve cardiovascular health, strengthen muscles, and enhance flexibility. (b) \_\_\_\_\_, regular physical activity can boost mental health by reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression. (c)\_\_\_\_\_ people recognize the benefits of exercise, many still struggle to incorporate it into daily routines. (d) \_\_\_\_\_, the demands of work and family life can make it difficult to find time and energy for regular workouts. (e) \_\_\_\_\_, there are several strategies that can help individuals stay active despite a busy schedule. First, setting realistic goals is essential. (f)\_\_\_\_\_ aiming for an hour-long workout every day, try to start with short, manageable sessions. (g) \_\_\_\_\_, taking a 15-minute walk during lunch breaks can be a good way to begin. (h) \_\_\_\_\_, finding a workout buddy can provide motivation and accountability. (i)\_\_\_\_\_, making exercise a priority is key to reaping its benefits. (j) \_\_\_\_\_ adopting a positive mindset and being consistent, individuals can improve their overall health and well-being.

## COMMUNICATION SKILLS II (FGE1023)

---

2. Identify the type of essay based on the Introductory Paragraph below:

- a) Regular exercise is a crucial component of a healthy lifestyle. From boosting cardiovascular health to enhancing mental well-being, the advantages of physical activity are well-documented and far-reaching. This essay will explore the myriad benefits of regular exercise, including improved physical fitness, mental health enhancements, and the prevention of chronic diseases. By understanding these benefits, we can better appreciate the importance of incorporating exercise into our daily routines (1 mark)
- b) The sun was a brilliant orb in a cloudless sky, casting a golden glow over the endless stretch of sandy beach. The rhythmic sound of the waves crashing against the shore created a soothing melody that harmonized with the laughter of children and the distant calls of seagulls. The salty sea breeze filled the air, mingling with the scent of sunscreen and the occasional waft of grilled food from nearby stalls. This was a day at the beach, where every element combined to create a perfect scene of relaxation and joy. (1 mark)
- c) The debate over whether school uniforms should be mandatory has been ongoing for years, with strong arguments on both sides. Proponents argue that uniforms promote equality among students and reduce distractions, while opponents claim that they suppress individuality and creativity. This essay will argue that school uniforms should indeed be mandatory, as they contribute to a more focused educational environment, promote discipline, and reduce peer pressure and bullying. By examining the benefits of school uniforms, we can understand their positive impact on the overall school experience. (1 mark)

## COMMUNICATION SKILLS II (FGE1023)

---

d) In recent years, the rise of social media has profoundly impacted various aspects of our lives, particularly mental health. The constant exposure to curated images and the pressure to present a perfect life online have led to increased rates of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem among users. This essay will explore the causes behind the negative effects of social media on mental health, such as the phenomenon of social comparison and cyberbullying, and the subsequent consequences these issues have on individuals' overall well-being. Understanding these dynamics can help us develop strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of social media use. (1 mark)

e) The question of whether college education should be free for everyone has sparked considerable debate in recent years. Advocates for free college argue that it would promote equal opportunities, reduce student debt, and lead to a more educated and productive society. On the other hand, critics contend that the costs are unsustainable and that free college could devalue higher education. This essay will argue that college education should indeed be free, as it is a public good that benefits the entire society, reduces economic inequality, and fosters innovation and progress. By exploring these arguments, we can better understand the potential advantages of a tuition-free college system. (1 mark)

3. Construct a clear thesis statement for the topics below:

- a) The Benefits of Reading Books. (3 marks)
- b) The Role of Pets in a Person's Life. (3 marks)
- c) The Importance of Sleep for Teenagers. (3 marks)
- d) The Advantages of Playing Outdoor for Children. (3 marks)
- e) The Benefits of Family Dinner (3 marks)

**SECTION C: WRITING (40 MARKS)**

You attended a talk by a famous linguist, which was organized by a higher educational institution. In his talk, he made the following statement:

***"It is always beneficial to know another language."***

Write an essay expressing your opinion on the statement.

**Guidelines:**

1. Word Limit: 200 – 250 words
2. The basis of your essay is to inform.
3. Ensure your essay has a logical structure with an introduction, main idea paragraph and a conclusion.
4. Provide three main ideas for the essay
5. Include a thesis statement in your introduction.
6. Use transitional markers where necessary.
7. Use clear and concise language, with proper grammar, spelling and punctuation.

(40 marks)

-----End of Question Paper-----

