



SIR ARTHUR LEWIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC YEAR (2024/2025) - SEMESTER ONE
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

Alternate

COURSE CODE : COM002
COURSE TITLE : Fundamentals of Reading & Writing
LECTURER(S) : L. Jacobs
DATE :
TIME :
DURATION : 2 Hours
STUDENT ID # : _____

GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

- Students must sign **IN** and **OUT** on the examination class list.
- Write your ID number on the question paper.
- This paper has **TWO Sections, A and B.**
- Answer **ALL** questions from Section A. This section is worth 20 marks.
- Answer **ONE** question from Section B. This section is worth 30 marks.
- **NB:** Bags, books, as well as writing paper not given by the invigilator should be deposited at the front of the examination room or as otherwise indicated.
- Circle the correct answer on the question paper. Students are reminded to read **ALL** questions and instructions in each section very carefully.
- **NB:** All cell phones are disallowed in the examination room.
- Please number your responses accurately.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

Section A: Reading Comprehension (20 Marks)

Read the passage below and answer ALL the questions that follow on the answer sheet provided.

Underground Dads

Wil Haygood

For years while growing up, I shamelessly told my playmates that I didn't have a father. My father never came to the park with me to toss a softball, never came to see me in any of my school plays. I'd explain to friends, with the simplicity of explaining to someone that there are, in some woods, no deer, that I just had no father. My friends looked at me and squinted. My mother and father had divorced shortly after my birth. As the years rolled by however, I did not have the chance to turn into the pitiful black boy who had been abandoned by his father. There was a reason: other men showed up. They were warm, honest (as far as my eyes could see) and big-hearted. They were good black men in the shadows, the men who taught me right from wrong, who taught me how to behave, who told me, by their very actions, that they expected me to do good things in life.

There are heartbreaking statistics tossed about regarding single-parent black households these days, about children growing up fatherless. Those statistics must be considered. But how do you count the other men, the ones who show up – with perfect timing, with a kind of soft-stepping loveliness – to give a hand, to take a boy to watch airplanes lift up, to show a young boy the beauty of planting tomatoes in the ground and to tell a child that all of life is not misery?

In my life, there was Jerry who hauled junk. He had a lean body and a sweet smile. He walked like a cowboy, all bowlegged, swinging his shoulders. It was almost a strut. The sound of his pickup truck rumbling down our alley in Columbus, Ohio, could raise me from sleep.

When he wasn't hauling junk, Jerry fixed things. More than once, he fixed my red bicycle. The gears were always slipping; the chain could turn into a tangled mess. Hearing the pain in my voice, Jerry would instruct me to leave my bike on our front porch. In our neighborhood, in the 60's, no one would steal your bike from your porch. Jerry promised me he'd pick it up, and he always did. He never lied to me, and he cautioned me not to tell lies. He was off and on, my mother's boyfriend. At raucous family gatherings, he'd pull me aside and explain to me the importance of honesty, of doing what one promised to do.

And there was Jimmy, my grandfather, who all his life paid his bills the day they arrived: that was a mighty lesson in itself – it taught me work ethic, he held two jobs, and there were times when he allowed me to accompany him on his night job, when he cleaned a Greek restaurant on the north side of Columbus. Often he'd mop the place twice, as if trying to win some award. He frightened me too. It was not because he was mean, it was because he had exacting standards, and there were times when I didn't measure up to those standards. He didn't like shortcuts. His instructions, on anything were to be carried out to the letter. He believed in independence, doing as much for yourself as you possibly could. It should not have surprised me, when, one morning while having stomach pains, he chose not to wait for a taxi and instead walked the mile to the local hospital, where he died a week later of stomach cancer.

My uncles provided plenty of good background music when I was coming of age. Uncle Harry took me fishing. He'd phone the night before. "Be ready. 7 o'clock." I'd trail him through the woods – as a son does a father – until we found our fishing hole. We'd sit for hours. He taught me patience and an appreciation of outdoors, of nature. He talked, incessantly, of family – his family, my family, the family of friends. The man had a reverence for family. I knew to listen.

I think these underground fathers simply appear, decade to decade, flowing through the generations. Hardly anywhere, and hardly, to be sure, in enough places, but there. As mystical, sometimes as fate when fate is sweet.

Sometimes I think that all these men who have swept in and out of my life still couldn't replace a good, warm father. But inasmuch as I've known a good, warm father, the men who entered my life, who taught me right from wrong, who did things they were not asked to do, have become unforgettable. I know of the cold statistics out there, and yet the mountain of father-son literature does not haunt me. I've known good black men.

Questions:

1. What is the writer's primary purpose in the passage "Underground Dads"?
 - A) To criticize the absence of fathers in single-parent households
 - B) To highlight the positive impact of other men who step in to support and mentor children
 - C) To describe the historical context of single-parent families
 - D) To provide statistical data on single-parent households
2. The main idea of the passage is that
 - A) More than a child's father, can play a fatherly role in a child's life.
 - B) Statistics of absentee fathers are heartbreaking.
 - C) Uncles can function as fathers for many children
 - D) Fathers are just as important as mothers in the lives of boys.
3. Which word below describes the writer's tone?
 - A) Frustration
 - B) Adoration
 - C) Appreciation
 - D) Regret
4. In paragraph one, why did the writer's childhood friends squint when he said he had no father?
 - A) They were confused by his statement.
 - B) They didn't believe him.
 - C) They were trying to remember his father.
 - D) They thought he was joking.
5. A major detail about Jerry was that he
 - A) Walked like a cowboy.
 - B) Had a rumbling pickup truck that would wake the writer when he was a kid.
 - C) Never lied, and taught the writer not to lie.
 - D) Hauled junk.
6. The writer felt he learned a work ethic from
 - A) His "underground dads," who were all responsible workers.
 - B) His grandfather
 - C) His Uncle Henry.
 - D) Jerry
7. All the following tell of the writer's grandfather's strength of character EXCEPT
 - A) He paid his bill the day they arrived, all his life.
 - B) He had exacting standards
 - C) He walked to the local hospital instead of waiting for a taxi.
 - D) He cleaned a Greek restaurant on the north side of Columbus.
8. Uncle Henry did which of the following:
 - A) Showed the writer the beauty of planting tomatoes in the ground.
 - B) Fixed the writer's bicycle.
 - C) Taught the writer a reverence for family.
 - D) Told the writer that not all of life is misery.

9. The writer thinks that for fatherless boys, underground father
 - A) Appear everywhere, in countless places.
 - B) Appear in small numbers but they do exist.
 - C) Can replace a real father.
 - D) Always try to do what a boy's real father would do.
10. One effect of the fact that the writer had underground dads is that he
 - A) Felt like a pitiful little boy who had been abandoned by his real father.
 - B) Didn't get grief from his friends about not having a father.
 - C) Did not get the pressure to excel that he would have from a real dad.
 - D) Does not feel haunted by the mountain of father-son literature.
11. We can infer from the fact that there are "heartbreaking statistics" regarding single-parent black households that children in these environments
 - A) They often have difficulty developing into well-adjusted and successful adults.
 - B) Often break their mother's hearts.
 - C) Do not want to become parents themselves.
 - D) Have lots of underground dads.
12. Which literary device is found in the final paragraph in the following:
 " I know of the cold statistics out there and yet the mountain of father-son literature does not haunt me. I've known good black men."
 - A) Simile
 - B) Metaphor
 - C) Alliteration
 - D) Hyperbole
13. What text structure is used by the writer in paragraph one?
 - A) Process
 - B) Sequencing
 - C) Cause and effect
 - D) Definition
14. Throughout the passage, what is the main type of expository device used by the writer as supporting evidence of underground dads in his life?
 - A) Statistical Data
 - B) Personal Anecdotes
 - C) Comparison and contrast
 - D) Definition
15. What type of text structure is used in paragraph three?
 - A) Sequence/Chronological Order
 - B) Cause and Effect
 - C) Description
 - D) Problem and Solution

Grammar

16. What type of sentence is "My mother and father had divorced shortly after my birth."?
 - A) Simple
 - B) Compound
 - C) Complex
 - D) Compound-Complex
17. What type of sentence is the following:
 "When he wasn't hauling junk, Jerry fixed things."
 - A) Simple
 - B) Compound
 - C) Complex
 - D) Compound-Complex

18. What type of sentence is the following:
"He never lied to me, and he cautioned me not to tell lies."
A) Simple
B) Compound
C) Complex
D) Compound-Complex

Vocabulary (2 marks)

19. Match the words on the left with their synonyms on the right.
- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Strut | a. Noise |
| 2. Raucous | b. Follow |
| 3. Exacting | c. Walk proudly |
| 4. Instructions | d. Demanding |
| 5. Trials | e. Directives |

SECTION B: Essay Writing (30 marks)

Write a five-paragraph essay on one of the topics below.

1. The Advantages or Disadvantages of Online Shopping
2. Why Should Saint Lucians Grow More Food?
3. The Importance of Learning a Trade
4. Explain How Participation in Sports Can Benefit Individuals and Their Countries
5. Plastic Pollution in Saint Lucia?

END OF EXAMINATION