



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

COURSE CODE : COM112
COURSE TITLE : Reading and Writing Fundamental
LECTURER(S) : Laurima Jacobs
DATE : Thursday 12th December 2024
TIME : 1:00 pm
DURATION : 2 Hours
STUDENT ID # : _____

GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Students are reminded to read **ALL** questions and instructions in each section very carefully.
2. Answer **ALL** questions from Section A. This section is worth 20 marks.
3. Answer **ONE** question from Section B. This section is worth 30 marks.
6. **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.
7. **NB:** All cell phones are disallowed in the examination room.
9. Please number your responses accurately.
10. Write your ID Number on *each* answer sheet.

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

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION (20 MARKS)

Read the article below and answer the questions that follow. Select the best answer for each question.

Comprehension Passage

The Enigmatic Everest

Standing as the tallest peak on Earth, Mount Everest looms majestically over the Himalayas, a crown of white that pierces the sky. For centuries, this colossal mountain has been a symbol of challenge and adventure, beckoning climbers from around the globe. As sunlight dances off its icy slopes, Everest stands as both a beacon and a barrier, testing the limits of human endurance and ambition.

The history of Mount Everest is as complex as its rugged terrain. Its discovery and subsequent naming were rooted in the 19th-century British surveying projects. In 1856, the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India officially recognized the mountain's height, naming it after Sir George Everest, the Surveyor General of India. This marked the beginning of Everest's journey into the annals of exploration history, attracting adventurers, researchers, and curious souls eager to conquer its heights.

The mountain's ecosystem is a unique mosaic of life. From the base to the summit, the environment changes dramatically, providing habitats for diverse flora and fauna. Rhododendrons and junipers adorn the lower elevations, while hardy mosses and lichens cling to life higher up. Despite the harsh conditions, Everest is home to rare species such as the snow leopard and the Himalayan blue sheep, each adapted to the thin air and freezing temperatures.

Climbing Everest is not just a physical endeavor; it is a battle of wills. Climbers face a plethora of challenges, from the unpredictable weather to the treacherous terrain. The death zone, an altitude above 8,000 meters where the oxygen levels are insufficient to sustain human life, poses the greatest risk. Here, every step becomes a monumental effort, and every breath a precious commodity. Success on Everest requires not only strength and skill but also an unyielding spirit.

The legacy of Mount Everest extends beyond the realm of mountaineering. It serves as a testament to human determination and the unquenchable thirst for discovery. Everest has inspired countless stories, documentaries, and research, shaping our understanding of high-altitude environments. Its towering presence reminds us of the delicate balance between human ambition and the formidable forces of nature.

Multiple Choice Questions

Inferencing

1. What is the writer's tone in the passage about Mount Everest?

- A) Critical
- B) Humorous
- C) Admiring
- D) Indifferent

2. Why is Mount Everest considered a symbol of challenge and adventure?

- A) It is the easiest mountain to climb.
- B) It has been frequently visited by tourists.
- C) It tests the limits of human endurance and ambition.
- D) It is located in the Himalayas

3. Based on the passage, how did Mount Everest get its name?

- A) It was named after the first person to climb it during the Great Trigonometrical Survey.
- B) It was named by the local inhabitants after an 1856 expedition.
- C) It was named in the 19th century
- D) It was named in the 19th after Sir George Everest, the Surveyor General of India, by

4. Why do the Himalayan blue sheep and the snow leopard live on Mount Everest?

- A) They prefer warm and tropical climates.
- B) They are adapted to the thin air and freezing temperatures.
- C) They migrate there during the winter.
- D) They were brought there by humans.

5. What does the "death zone" refer to in the passage?

- A) The base of Everest
- B) An altitude above 8,000 meters with insufficient oxygen
- C) The summit of Everest
- D) The area with the most wildlife

Analysis

6. How does the author describe the challenges of climbing Everest?

- A) As a walk in the park
- B) As a series of minor obstacles
- C) As a battle of wills and monumental effort
- D) As an easy ascent

7. What role does Mount Everest play in scientific research according to the passage?

- A) It is a site for amusement parks.
- B) It serves as a testament to human strength.
- C) It shapes our understanding of high-altitude environments.
- D) It is primarily a tourist attraction.

Grammar

8. Identify the verb in the sentence: "Mount Everest looms majestically over the Himalayas."

- A) Mount Everest
- B) Majestically
- C) Looms
- D) Over

Vocabulary

9. What does the word "colossal" mean as used in the passage?

- A) Tiny
- B) Average
- C) Massive
- D) Weak

10. Which word could replace "treacherous" in the sentence "from the unpredictable weather to the treacherous terrain" without changing the meaning of the sentence?

- A) Safe
- B) Dangerous
- C) Smooth
- D) Predictable

Types of Sentences

11. Choose the sentence type.

"Here, every step becomes a monumental effort, and every breath a precious commodity."

- A) Simple
- B) Compound
- C) Complex
- D) Compound-Complex

12. Choose the sentence type.

"Standing as the tallest peak on Earth, Mount Everest looms majestically over the Himalayas."

- A) Simple
- B) Compound
- C) Complex
- D) Compound-Complex

13. Choose the sentence type.

"Climbers face a plethora of challenges, from the unpredictable weather to the treacherous terrain."

- A) Simple
- B) Compound
- C) Complex
- D) Compound-Complex

Text Structure

14. What is the primary text structure used in the first paragraph?

- A) Cause and effect
- B) Description
- C) Sequence
- D) Problem and solution

15. What is the primary text structure used in the second paragraph?

- A) Process
- B) cause and Effect
- C) Description
- D) Chronology

16. Which of the following best summarizes the passage's overall structure?

- A) The passage describes Mount Everest's physical appearance and challenges.
- B) The passage outlines Everest's historical significance and environmental impact.
- C) The passage details the importance of Everest in culture, history, and science.
- D) The passage lists the steps to successfully climb Mount Everest.

Figures of Speech

17. Which literary device is used in the sentence "The mountain's ecosystem is a unique mosaic of life"?

- A) metaphor
- B) Hyperbole
- C) Simile
- D) Personification

18. Which literary device is used in the sentence: "As sunlight dances off its icy slopes"?

- A) Simile
- B) Metaphor
- C) Personification
- D) Alliteration

19. Which of the following are examples of the legacy of Mount Everest according to the passage?

- A) Only its height and geographical location
- B) Inspiring stories, documentaries, and research about high-altitude environments
- C) Serving as a site for summer festivals
- D) Providing an easy climb for novice mountaineers

20. Match the words on the left with their antonyms on the right.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Summit | a. Homogeneous |
| 2. Subsequent | b. Depression |
| 3. Curious | c. Base |
| 4. Diverse | d. Scarcity |
| 5. Elevation | e. Indifferent |
| 6. Plethora | f. Prior |

Answer Key:

- 1. c. Base
- 2. f. Prior
- 3. e. Indifferent
- 4. a. Homogeneous
- 5. b. Depression
- 6. d. Scarcity

SECTION B: ESSAY WRITING (30 marks)

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

1. Online Shopping
2. Why Should Saint Lucians Grow More Food?
3. The Importance of Learning a Trade
4. What Can We Do to Reduce Plastic Pollution in Saint Lucia?
5. The Benefits of Sports