



THE MOMBASA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A CONSTITUENT COLLEGE OF JKUAT)

Faculty of Business & Social Studies

DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA & GRAPHIC DESIGN

DIPLOMA IN MASS COMMUNICATION

(DMP/R2)

BMC 2114: BASIC ENGLISH COMPETENCIES

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

SERIES: NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- This paper consists of **TWO** Sections **A & B**.
- Section **A** is **Compulsory**.
- Answer any other **THREE** questions in Section **B**.

This paper consists of Four printed pages.

SECTION A (Compulsory)

QUESTION 1

Read the below passage and summarize it in 200 words.

(30 marks)

Boxing should be banned

“I killed a man. Afterwards, they told me that it wasn’t my fault, and that anyway it was nothing new. It had happened before. And, believe me, it will happen again”.

This quote was uttered by boxer Donoghue after he fought fellow boxer Flores in 1951. During the fight, Donoghue punched Flores so mercilessly and with such force that shortly after the bout was over, Flores went into a comma. He never woke up again.

The horrifying scenario of one man literally beating another man’s brains out is what boxing is all about. *Time* magazine has reported that in the last decade, over seventy boxers have died from boxing-related causes. Recently, I watched Mike Tyson pummel Frank Bruno into submission in a heavyweight championship fight and I began to wonder what possessed one man to beat another with such force and without remorse.

Most people say that boxing is violent but the decision to fight should be left to the individual. However, I would like to convince you that the choice cannot be left to the individual, who probably has been swayed by the chance for fame and fortune. The evidence against boxing is shocking and overwhelming. Boxing damages both its participants and the society.

Even Mike Tyson says, “This is a hurt business. When people flock to a fight, they come to see someone get hurt, and my objective is to inflict as much punishment as possible”.

Boxing can cause irreparable physical damage to its participants. A punch thrown by a heavyweight can land with a force exceeding 500 kilograms, which causes the head to snap back or twist violently, forcing the soft brain to be rammed into the rigid skull like a yolk slammed into the side of an egg. The nerve cells and blood vessels in the brain are the twisted, ruptured and stretched, which causes swelling and results in the brain pressing against the inside of the skull. Boxers’ chances of suffering brain damage increase in proportion with the number of bouts fought. A neurologist who examined the brains of fifteen boxers who died of natural causes observed a pattern of abnormal cerebral changes not present in nonboxers.

Perhaps the most poignant example, because he was so admired for his once-strong body, is the case of Muhammad Ali. In his prime, Ali was glamourized, but now he suffers from a severe case of Parkinson’s disease. Ali’s side effects for boxing are impaired hand-eye coordination, slurred, unintelligible speech, reduced muscle strength, and chronic fatigue. Ironically, Ali became a victim of a sport he once saved. Ali, once the unbeatable heavyweight champion, the force who claimed that “boxing never scarred his

pretty face”, has been reduced to a mere shell of a man, a shaking, silent reminder of the brutality of boxing which does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed or religion.

Not only is boxing dangerous to its participants, but it can hurt society as well. Boxing influences how violent some spectators become. A study at the University of California has shown that homicides increase dramatically after every nationally televised broadcast fight.

Sadly, teens from poor backgrounds are the real victims because they learn that the way to success is to emulate the violence condoned by boxing. Young people even drop out of school to become professional fighters. What awaits them is a future filled with punishment and abuse, while only a handful of fighters go on to make the millions of shillings so glorified by our society.

Of all athletes to emulate, the last ones should be boxers, who get rich without an education and achieve heroic status through violence. Of all sports to emulated, why boxing, where the object is to move your opponent closer to death?

(625 words)

*(Adapted from **The Art of Public Speaking** by Stephen E. Lucas. McGraw Hill, Bonston)*

SECTION B (Attempt any **THREE** questions)

QUESTION 2

Complete the passage below using the correct preposition.

(10 marks)

Mary was running _____ time when she came _____ the room. She was looking for her book which she thought she had left _____ the table. She thought she had seen it _____ the cupboard _____ when she went to look _____ it there, she did not find it. _____ asking her mother about it, she did not get any indication as to where the book was. She panicked. Her teacher would punish her if she did not have it. She looked _____ the table because she thought her younger brother might have been playing with it. But it was not there. She ran _____ the bedroom. Inside the room, she saw the book _____ of her bed. She had left it there when she was packing her school bag!

QUESTION 3

In your own sentences, use the following words as interrogative pronouns. Make two sentences per word. **(10 marks)**

Whom whom whose what which

QUESTION 4

Combine the following pairs of sentences using the most appropriate conjunctions. **(10 marks)**

- i) John lost his book. Mary lost her book.
- ii) Margaret wants to become the Mayor. Margaret wants to become the Town clerk.
- iii) Sarah was devoted to her family. Sarah was kind to her neighbours.
- iv) He dressed up quickly. He took his breakfast quickly.
- v) It is getting late. We have to go home.
- vi) I need to cook. I need to wash the dishes. I need to clean the house.
- vii) Tiara encouraged me very much. She had gone through a bad experience.
- viii) He lives along the way. We can visit him on our way to school.
- ix) Kipruto has stopped driving a big car. Driving a big car is expensive.
- x) The pass mark is 70. You need to work very hard.

QUESTION 5

a) Write the plural form of the nouns below. **(5 marks)**

Criterion Hoof Analysis Crisis Emergency

b) Fill in the gap with an adjective formed from one of the words in the sentence. **(5 marks)**

- i) At first, we thought the damage was not _____ but the mechanic assured us that he could repair it.
- ii) I know you feel _____ towards them but I hope that resentment will end once they apologize.
- iii) Although we were allowed to choose our clothes, Pendo became too _____ and irritated everyone.
- iv) The machine was _____ but the defect was not detected in time.
- v) At times she gets _____ because she cannot balance her moods.

QUESTION 6

Fill in the gaps using the words below appropriately.

(10 marks)

A little, little, few, a few, some, any, many, much, a lot

- i) There were _____ of people at Julie's wedding.
- ii) How _____ money does she owe the school?
- iii) "Please get me _____ water," the little girl whispered.
- iv) George pays _____ attention in class.
- v) I don't see how you can accept _____ token for this beautiful painting.
- vi) Are there _____ new books in the store?
- vii) _____ people think that HIV/AIDs is a myth.
- viii) Do not bring any timer as we have _____ in the store.
- ix) She gave me _____ coins.
- x) The counselor offered _____ good advice on HIV/AIDs.

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