



Strathmore
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

BAC 2105: COMMUNICATION AND RHETORIC

Date: 9th November, 2020

Time: 13:30 – 15:30

Instructions

1. This examination consists of **FOUR** questions.
2. Answer **Question ONE (COMPULSORY)** and any other **TWO** questions.

Question 1

(30 marks)

Carefully read the following essay and answer the questions that follow.

I WISH THEY'D DO IT RIGHT
Jane Doe

The author of "I wish They'd Do it Right," wished to remain anonymous. The piece was then attributed to Jane Doe when it first appeared in the New York Times on 10th February, 1977.

1. My son and his wife are not married. They have lived together for seven years without benefit of license. Though occasionally marriage has been a subject of conjecture, it did not seem important until the day they announced, jubilantly, that they were going to have a child. It was happy news. I was ready and eager to become a grandmother. Now, I thought, they will take the final step and make their relationship legal.
2. I was apprised of the Lamaze method of natural childbirth. I was prepared by the Leboyer for birth without violence. I admired the expectant mother's discipline. She ate only organic foods, abstained from alcohol, avoided insecticides, smog and trauma. Every precaution was taken to ensure the arrival of a healthy, happy infant. No royal birth had been prepared for more auspiciously. All that was lacking was legitimacy.
3. Finally, when my grandson was two weeks old, I dared to question their intentions.
4. "We don't believe in marriage, was all that was volunteered.
5. "Not even for your son's sake?" I asked. "Maybe he will."
6. Their eyes were impenetrable, their faces stiffened to masks. "You wouldn't understand," I was told.

7. And I don't. Surely they cannot believe they are pioneering, making revolutionary changes in society. That frontier has long been tamed. Today marriage offers all the options. Books and talk shows have surfeited us the freedom offered in open marriage. Lawyers, psychologists and marriage counsellors are growing rich executing marriage contracts. And divorce, should come to that, is in most states easy and inexpensive.
8. On the other hand, living together out of wedlock can be economically impractical as well as socially awkward. How do I present her - as my son's roommate? His spouse? His spice, as one facetious friend suggested? Even my son flounders in these waters. Recently, I heard him refer to her as his girlfriend. I cannot believe that that description will be endearing to their son when he is able to understand.
9. I have resolved that problem for myself, bypassing their omission, introducing her as she is, as my daughter-in-law. But my son, in militant support of his ideology, refutes any assumptions, however casual, that they have taken vows.
10. There are economic benefits which they are denying themselves. When they applied for housing in the students dormitory of the university where he is seeking his doctorate, they were asked for their marriage certificate. Not having one, they were forced to find other, more expensive quarters off campus. Her medical insurance, provided by the company where she was employed, was denied him. He is not her husband. There have been and will be other inconveniences they have elected to endure.
11. Their son will not enjoy the luxury of choice about the inconveniences and scurrility to which he will be subjected from those of his peers and elders who dislike and fear society's nonconformists.
12. And if in the future, his parents should decide to separate, will he not suffer greater damage than the child of divorce, who may find comfort in the knowledge that his parents once believed they could live happily ever after, and committed themselves to that ideal? The child of unwed parents has no sanctuary. His mother and father have assiduously avoided a pledge of permanency, leaving him drifting and insecure.
13. I know my son is motivated by idealism and honesty in his reluctance to concede to what he considers mere ceremony. But he is wise enough to know that no one individual can fight all of society's foibles and frauds. Why does he persist in this, a battle already lost? Because though he rejects marriage, California, his residence, has declared that while couples living together in imitation of marriage are no longer under the jurisdiction of the family court, their relationship is viewed by the state as an implicit contract somewhat like a business agreement. This position was mandated when equal property rights were granted a woman who had been abandoned by the man she had lived with for a number of years.
14. Finally, the couple's adamancy has been depriving to all the rest of the family. There has been no celebration of the wedding or anniversaries. There has been concealment from certain family elders who could not cope with the situation. Its irregularity has put constraint on the grandparents, who are stifled by one another's possible embarrassment or hurt.
15. I hope that one day very soon my son and his wife will acknowledge their cohabitation with a license. The rest of us will not love them any more for it. We love and support them as much as possible now. But it will be easier and happier for us knowing that our grandson will be spared the continued explanation and harassment, the doubts and anxieties of being a child of unmarried parents.

Questions

- i. Discuss points on the value of using the cause-and-effect and explanation patterns in this essay. **(10 marks)**.
- ii. Summarize the essay, "I wish They'd Do It Right." **(20 marks)**.

Question 2

Discuss and compare the thoughts, feelings, organization and language between these two passages: **(15 marks)**.

- [a] Ladi Mamman is a lively and intelligent girl who would like to enjoy life with other children of her age. But for over six months she had been confined to her home, becoming progressively weaker, and experiencing great difficulty in breathing.
- About a fortnight ago the girl, who is of the Bima tribe, was sent from her home at Gowl, near Gombe, to a doctor in Jos, where an examination revealed a large mediastinal tumour within her chest, compressing her windpipe over about four inches.
- The position was desperate and in view of the difficulties of anaesthesia created by the tracheal compression and the extensive nature of the surgery that would be required, it was the collective opinion of doctors in Jos that she should go to London for an operation.
- Authorities at the Brompton Chest Hospital, London, which is one of the leading hospitals of its kind in the world, have been contacted and have agreed to perform what, by any standards, is a major operation.
- But one big problem remains. A problem that must be solved if Ladi is to be given a chance to fight for her life. Cash must be raised to pay for the trip and the necessary hospital fees. Already the Amalgamated Tin Miners of Nigeria of Jos has donated £50, a further £75 has been collected and the Red Cross has promised £100.
- Still needed is about £300.
- The *New Nigerian*, which has promised to help with meeting the cost of the air fare, appeals for donations to help raise the balance. Any individual or firm prepared to help is to contact the Managing Director, Northern Newspapers, Kaduna, immediately.
- This girl needs this operation to stand a chance of recovery. Are YOU prepared to help?

- [b] At noon the fever reached its climax. A visceral cough racked the sick man's body and he now was spitting blood. The glands had ceased swelling, but they were still there, like lumps of iron embedded in the joints. Rieux decided that lacing them was impracticable. Now and again, in the intervals between the bouts of fever and coughing fits, Tarrou still gazed at his friends. But soon his eyes opened less and less often and the glow that shown from the ravaged face in the brief moments of recognition grew steadily fainter. The storm, lashing his body into convulsive movement, lit it up with ever rarer flashes, and in the heart of the tempest he was slowly drifting, derelict. And now Rieux had before him only a mask-like face, inert, from which the smile had gone for ever. This human form, his friend's, lacerated by the spear thrusts of the plague, consumed by searing superhuman fires, buffeted by all the ravaging winds of heaven, was foundering under his eyes in the dark flood of the pestilence, and he could do nothing to avert the wreck. He could only stand, unavailing, on the shore, empty-handed and sick at heart, unarmed and helpless yet again under the onset of calamity. And thus, when the end came, the tears that blinded Rieux's eyes were tears of impotence; and he did not see Tarrou roll over, face to the wall, and die with a short, hollow groan as if somewhere within him an essential chord had snapped ...

Question 3

Construct a comprehensive persuasive essay outlined on one of the following topics:(**15 marks**)

- i. Health Care Communication in the COVID-19 days.
- ii. Has Communication Technology made the People Less Effective Communicators?
- iii. Teaching, Learning and Education in a New Era.

Question 4

“Communication and Rhetoric is important in human relationships and it should be taught to all students irrespective of the course they have enrolled for at university.”

(15 marks)

Critically evaluate the statement above, having taken the course.