Tutorial Letter 001/3/2021

ENG1503

ALL REGISTRATION PERIODS

Department of English Studies

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This tutorial letter contains important information about the 2021 academic year

CONTENTS

Page

1 INTRODUCTION 3
2 PURPOSE OF TUTORIAL LETTER 3
3 PERTINENT INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW 3
3.1 The 2021 academic year 3
3.2 Assignments 3
3.3 Examinations 4
3.4 Other information 4
4 CONTACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY 4
5 CONCLUSION 4
6 ALL SEMESTER ASSIGNMENTS 5

1 INTRODUCTION

Dear Student

We trust that you and your families are well and keeping safe.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to many decisions that have affected the 2021 academic year. To this end, the management of Unisa took some decisions that will change some activities, procedures and processes.

Due to the ministerial request to extend the 2021 registration dates, UNISA had to revise both the tuition periods and the assessment arrangements for 2021 academic year. The purpose of this TL 001 is to inform you of the new assessment requirements for module ENG1503 for students registered for both semester periods.

2 PURPOSE OF TUTORIAL LETTER

The purpose of this tutorial letter is to provide you with information on the changes you should expect in 2021. We hope that the tutorial letter will answer most of your questions and ease anxieties associated with unfamiliarity with the new way of working due to the pandemic.

3 PERTINENT INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

3.1 The 2021 academic year

Due to the changes brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic, Unisa will run the 2021 academic year differently to our regular academic years. Responding to the letter received from the Minister of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Unisa Council resolved to **open the registration period for all students until 12 March 2021**. Safeguarding the academic integrity of the institution, the activities and timelines of UNISA are different during 2021. To accommodate a much shorter academic year, **Unisa will run the first and second semesters concurrently**.

3.2 Assignments

Assignment and exam dates are adjusted to align with the revised academic year. The following are the new assignment dates and their unique numbers:

Assignment number	Unique Numbers	Due Dates
Assignment 1	881633	10 May 2021
Assignment 2	853681	12 July 2021

Please note that the assignments and dates stated in Tutorial Letter 101 are no longer applicable, use the assignments and dates in this Tutorial Letter 001. We have to stress that you need to work hard from the onset as your **assignment mark will count towards your final mark** at the end of the year. **The information that is in Tutorial Letter 101 is very important. You are advised to use both Tutorial Letters throughout the semester.**

Semester 2 assignments

Due to the fact that all students are doing one semester and one examination**, all assignments that must be done are the same and are included in this Tutorial Letter. Please ignore the assignments in Tutorial Letter 101.**

3.3 Examinations

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Unisa resolved that all Unisa **examinations will be held online**. Thus, no venue-based examinations will be written in 2021. Please select the exam centre code (36013) for 'Online Examination' when registering online. Please note the following important information regarding examinations:

- You will receive your timetable closer to the examination. Your timetable will contain information on the date, time, duration and type of your examination.
- The marks for the assignments and the examination are equally weighted according to a 40/60 ration. Please refer to module specific tutorial letters for specific details.
- As part of student support, you will write mock exams in August, and the 2021 final examinations will take place from September to November 2021.

3.4 Other information

- All your study material (tutorial letters, study guides and information on prescribed books) can be accessed on myUnisa.
- If you are facing difficulty with registering for any of the modules, please email the Department of English Studies at: englishstudieshelp@unisa.ac.za

4 CONTACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY

You can contact your lecturers using the details found on myUnisa. Never use your private email accounts to reach your lecturers; always **use your allocated MyLife email account**.

5 CONCLUSION

We have uploaded resources on myUnisa under Additional Resources, Announcements, Podcasts and FAQs. In addition, join the online tutorial groups and other online learning activities to gain more knowledge. Do not hesitate to contact us via email if you are experiencing problems with this tutorial letter's content or with any academic aspect of the module.

6 ALL SEMESTER ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment: **01**
Unique number: **881633**
Due date: **10 May 2021**
Compulsory: **Yes**

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to teach you how to critically read an article, and to engage with and reflect on it in an academic manner by answering the assigned questions in short paragraphs. When marking the assignment, we will penalize poor language expression. Examples of poor language expression include serious errors in sentence structure, incomprehensible and barely literate vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, and so on. **NB: The following reading passage is available in the prescribed book, see page 297 – 298.**

TEXT A

The Happiness Factor
David Brooks

1 Two things happened to Sandra Bullock in 2010. First, she won an Academy Award for best actress. Then came the news reports claiming that her husband was an adulterous jerk. So the philosophic question of the day is: Would you take that as a deal? Would you exchange a tremendous professional triumph for a severe personal blow? On the one hand, an Academy Award is nothing to sneeze at. Bullock has earned the admiration of her peers in a way very few experience. She'll make more money for years to come. She may even live longer. Research by Donald A. Redelmeier and Sheldon M. Singh has found that, on average, Oscar winners live nearly four years longer than domineers that don't win.

2 Nonetheless, if you had to take more than three seconds to think about this question, you are absolutely crazy. Marital happiness is far more important than anything else in determining personal well-being. If you have a successful marriage, it doesn't matter how many professional setbacks you endure, you will be reasonably happy. If you have an unsuccessful marriage, it doesn't matter how many career triumphs you record, you will remain significantly unfulfilled.

3 This isn't just sermonizing. This is the age of research, so there's data to back this up. Over the past few decades, teams of researchers have been studying happiness. Their work, which seemed flimsy at first, has developed an impressive rigor, and one of the key findings is that, just as the old sages predicted, worldly success has shallow roots while interpersonal bonds permeate through and through.

4 For example, the relationship between happiness and income is complicated, and after a point, tenuous. It is true that poor nations become happier as they become middle-class nations. But once the basic necessities have been achieved, future income is lightly connected to well-being. Growing countries are slightly less happy than countries with slower growth rates, according to Carol Graham of the Brookings Institution and Eduardo Lora. The United States is much richer than it was in overall

happiness. On the other hand, it has become a much more unequal country, but this inequality doesn't seem to have reduced national happiness.

5 On a personal scale, winning the lottery doesn't seem to produce lasting gains in well-being. People aren't happiest during the years when they are winning the most promotions. Instead, people are happy in their twenties, dip in middle age and then, on average, hit peak happiness just after retirement after age sixty-five. People get slightly happier as they climb the income scale, but this depends on how they experience growth. Does wealth inflame unrealistic expectations? Does it destabilize settled relationships? Or does it flow from a virtuous cycle in which an interesting job produces hard work that in turn leads to more interesting opportunities.

6 If the relationship between money and well-being is complicated, the correspondence between personal relationships and happiness is not. The daily activities most associated with happiness are sex, socializing after work, and having dinner with others. The daily activity most injuring to happiness is commuting. According to one study, joining a group that meets even just once a month produces the same happiness gain as doubling your income. According to another, being married produces a psychic gain equivalent to more than $100, 000 a year.

7 If you want to find a good place to live, just ask people if they trust their neighbours. Levels of social trust vary enormously, but countries with high social trust have happier people, better health, more efficient government, more economic growth, and less fear of crime (regardless of whether actual crime rates are increasing or decreasing). The overall impression from this research is that economic and professional success exist on the surface of life, and that they emerge out of interpersonal relationships, which are much deeper and more important.

8 The second impression is that most of us pay attention to the wrong things. Most people vastly overestimate the extent to which more money would improve their lives. Most schools and college spend too much money preparing students for careers and not enough preparing them to make social decisions. Most government release a ton of data on economic trends but not enough on trust and other social conditions. In short, modern societies have developed vast institutions oriented around the things that are easy to count, not around the things that matter most. They have an affinity for material concerns and a primordial fear of moral and social ones.

Adapted from Gaetz et al. (2018). Academic English: Reading and writing across the disciplines. Harlow, England: Pearson

Question 1

Short Paragraph Questions and Conventions of Academic Writing: All the questions must be written in full sentences.

1.1. In paragraph 7, the writer mentions social trust but does not clearly define it. Infer or guess what social trust is from the passage. (5)

1.2. In paragraph 8, the author states, “Most schools and colleges spend too much money preparing students for careers and not enough preparing them to make social decisions.” Do you agree with this statement? In a paragraph of **100** words, give reasons to substantiate your answer. (10)

1.3. In a paragraph of **100** words summarise three main ideas of the text. (10)

1.4. Cite three specific features and examples of academic language from the passage. Refer to Unit 5 of Tutorial letter 501 for this question. (10)

1.5. Based on the passage, do you agree with the factors associated with increased levels of happiness? Write a paragraph of **150** words to present your view. Use your own experience to substantiate your views. (15)

Total = [50 Marks]

Assignment: **02**
Unique number: **853681**
Due date: **12 July 2021**
Compulsory: **Yes**

Research-based essay

Instructions

In this question you are expected to write an **essay** of 500 words long. Your essay should demonstrate the conventions you have learned from the module about essay structure and layout. This includes forming a thesis statement, clarity of message, taking a clear position and stance, using the appropriate words for the type of essay; cohesion and logical organisation of information, proper paragraphing, correct sentence structure and referencing.

In order to successfully answer this question, find at least five academically valid sources and include a reference list. At least one source must be from a printed book or journal. Website sources are allowed as a main source only if they are authored articles from journals or books from nationally/internationally recognised institutions (This means you may not use websites such as Wikipedia). Articles from newspapers, magazines or civic organisations **may not** be used as a reliable source of scientific information. Website articles written by unidentified individuals or authors **may not** be used.

Your essay should demonstrate the conventions you have learned from the module about essay structure and layout. This includes forming a thesis statement, clarity of message, taking a clear position and stance, using the appropriate words for the type of essay; cohesion and logical organisation of information, proper paragraphing, correct sentence structure and referencing.

Choose one of the following topics:

TEXT B

Violence against women is the most pervasive yet least recognized human rights violation in the world. It also is a profound health problem, sapping women's energy, compromising their physical health, and eroding their self-esteem. In addition to causing injury, violence increases women's long-term risk of a number of other health problems, including chronic pain, physical disability, drug and alcohol abuse and depression. Women with a history of physical or sexual abuse are also at increased risk for unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

Adapted from: Heise. L, Ellsberg. M. & Gottmoeller. M (2002): A global overview of gender-based violence

Question 1: Part A: From the extract above, write a research-based essay in which you discuss the causes and effects of gender-based violence (GBV) (300 words). Part B: How can GBV be addressed? (choose a specific context when answering part B) (300 words).

OR

TEXT C

To combat information coup, tech-savvy journalists and independent reporters channel information through social media, blogs, and news websites, governments survive by using stringent Internet surveillance apparatus that effectively block websites and subtly filter information; hence only selective news is allowed to penetrate the firewall. The governments also hunt down journalists who access disallowed websites to create a ubiquitous atmosphere of fear, harassment, and persecution.

Abbasi.L. S & Al-Sharqi, L: (2015) Running head: Media Censorship: Freedom Versus Responsibility

Question 2: Should governments censor the media? Read the extract above and write an argumentative essay. Start by explaining "censorship". This will assist you to write with clear understanding.

TOTAL: [100 Marks]

We wish you all the best in your studies.

ENG1503 TEAM