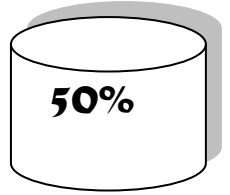


Jimma University
College of Social Sciences and Humanities
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
GINBOT 15, 2009 E.C.



Basic Writing Skills
Second Semester Final Mock Examination,

 **Only for Civil Engineering**

Time Given =2:00 Hrs.
Total Marks= 50%

Name _____

Id. No. _____

Group/Sec _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

This booklet contains **FOUR (4) sections:**

- ☛ Section One _ Sentence Skills (10%)
- ☛ Section Two _ Paragraph Analysis (15%)
- ☛ Section Three_ Essay Analysis (10%)
- ☛ Section Four _Essay Writing (15%)

GENERAL DIRECTION

- ☛ **Write your answers on the space given on the question paper.**

 **Good Work** 

☛ SECTION ONE: SENTENCE SKILLS (10%)

DIRECTION: *Identify the type of error in each of the following sentences and then write the correct version for each of them. (1% each)*

1. The salesperson sold the used car to the customer that needed extensive body work.

Type of error: _____

Correct Version: _____

2. I would prefer to fix an old car than watching television.

Type of error: _____

Correct Version: _____

3. Having already bought a new bicycle, the old one was put up for sale.

Type of error: _____

Correct version: _____

4. A young person does not receive enough advice on how they should choose their career.

Type of error: _____

Correct version: _____

5. She placed the table in the middle of the room which she had recently purchased.

Type of error: _____

Correct Version: _____

6. Last Saturday I saw Almaz. Riding her new bicycle.

Type of error: _____

Correct Version: _____

7. First try to do the assignment by yourself, if you can not do it, ask your teacher for help.

Type of error: _____

Correct Version: _____

8. Hirut found her bracelet searching in the cupboard.

Type of error: _____

Correct Version: _____

9. Martha together with her friends are taking English final exam at Jimma University now.

Type of error: _____

Correct Version: _____

10. To write well, good books must be read.

Type of error: _____

Correct Version: _____

☛ SECTION TWO: PARAGRAPH ANALYSIS (15%)

DIRECTION A: Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow it.(4%)

Easy chairs, chairs which are designed for people who like lounge back when they sit, usually have lots of padding, perhaps a curved back, and comfortable armrests. Straight chairs often have minimal padding, a vertical back, and sometimes no armrests. Contemporary computer chairs known as kneeler have padding for the knees and seat, but no back at all and no armrests. Chairs come in many different designs. However, depending on their purposes, chairs differ quite a bit.

1. Write the topic sentence of the above paragraph. (2 %)
2. Write the technique of paragraph development used in the above paragraph. Give justifications or reasons for your answer. (2 %)

DIRECTION B: Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow it. (6%)

A tall, husky man has long been a very special person in my life. His hair is the color of bricks in a school house, while his eyes are the color of hickory nuts shells. Above his eyes, he wears a permanent frown, but in his smile I can see his inner warmth peeking through. When he speaks, his voice sounds like a semi-truck going through a tunnel at a high rate of speed. The low gravelly tones echolike a bouncing tennis ball in an empty room. When he enters a room, he resembles a bear just walking from its winter slumber. But when he sites, a lap appears that would never turn away a child who wished to crawl up on it. When sitting there, I can detect the faint scent of old spice. His big muscular arms make me feel safe from any possible harm. His huge, powerful hands are like vise grips, but when wiping tears away they are like soft cotton. as

rough as this man appears on the outside, on the inside he is soft and gentle, just like a new born kitten. This very dear person is my father.

3. Write the pattern of paragraph organization/arrangement of supporting details in the above paragraph. (2%) _____
4. Comment on whether the above paragraph has unity or not. Give justification or reasons for your answer. (2%)

5. What kind/type of paragraph is the above paragraph? (2 %)

DIRECTION C: Read the paragraph given below, and (a) underline the *topic sentence (main idea)* and (b) write down in your own words what you are able to conclude from the information. (4 %)

The rules of conduct during an examination are clear. No books, calculators or papers are allowed in the test room. Proctors will not allow anyone with such items to take the test. Anyone caught cheating will be asked to leave the room. His or her test sheet will be taken. The incident will be reported to the proper authority. At the end of the test period, all materials will be returned to the proctor. Failure to abide by these rules will result in a failing grade for this test.

DIRECTION D: Write a topic sentence for the following paragraph title. (1 %)

A problem at school

☛ SECTION THREE: ESSAY ANALYSIS (10%)

DIRECTION: Read the following essay and answer the questions that follow it.

“Necessity is the mother of invention.” Throughout history, many inventions have been created. The Industrial Revolution started in the late 1700s, and since then humankind has been developing at an exponential rate. Truly amazing and useful devices, such as the steam engine and telegraph, were invented. In the last 100 years, many inventions and innovations have been created that make society’s life better, and four devices stand out as the most useful: the jet airplane, the television, the laptop computer, and the cell phone.

The first most useful invention is the airplane, invented in 1903 by the Wright brothers. The airplane has transformed not only this society, but also the entire world. Airplanes make it possible to travel long distances in a few hours, whereas before it took days or weeks to travel by horseback. In fact, a plane enables people to travel over high mountains and deep oceans with ease. It is as if the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans were small rivers and the Himalaya and Rocky Mountains were tiny hills to jump over. In addition, with the invention of the plane, the world is smaller because a person can now effortlessly travel from one country to another to work, study, or take vacations.

The second most important invention in the last century is the computer, and specifically the laptop computer with an internet connection. The computer was invented in the mid-1900s, but in the 1980s the personal computer transformed how people use it. Because a laptop computer is small, portable, and can store large amounts of data, it is useful for business and study. From email to ecommerce and from eBooks to downloading movies and games, the personal computer has transformed everyone’s life. Computer software programs make it possible to keep track not only of business accounting and inventory, but also to buy and sell online. The Internet connects computers with a network of websites, and people can communicate on the computer with email, blogs, wikis, and even phone conversations.

This leads into the third most useful invention, the cell phone. Popularized in the 1990s, the cell phone keeps people safer and more connected. People can talk or send text messages to friends and family when they are far away, even in another country. Other examples of the cell phone’s

usefulness are that drivers can call to let someone know they will be delayed if they get stuck in traffic or call for help if their car breaks down. In addition, phones often have Internet browsers, so people can stay up-to-date with news and events. Also, with camera phones people can take and share pictures of friends and family easily.

The fourth most useful invention is the television. With many channels to choose from, and literally thousands of programs, the learning possibilities are endless. Although not all programs are educational, many programs are, and people can learn encyclopedic amounts of knowledge and information. News is available 24 hours a day, so when important events happen in another part of the world, people can find out easily. This is in contrast to the past when it took days, months, or even years to find out the news from faraway places. Also, comedy and dramatic shows let us enjoy the funny moments in life and deal more effectively with the serious ones.

The airplane, television, laptop computer and cell phone are all useful inventions. Although there are many inventions to choose from, these four have dramatically transformed the world. All these inventions are connecting people to other people, places, and ideas. It will be interesting to see what is invented in the future!

1. Write the possible title of the above essay. (2%)

2. Identify and write the thesis statement of the above essay. (2 %)

3. What technique has the writer used in the *introductory paragraph* of the above essay to attract his/her reader's attention? (2%)

4. Identify and write the kind of *conclusion* used in the above essay. (2%)

5. Among the four modes /types of essays, under which category the above essay is grouped? (2 %)

☛ SECTION FOUR: ESSAY WRITING (15%)

DIRECTION: Choose one 'Thesis Statement' of your interest from the six alternatives given below and write an argumentative essay consisting of five paragraphs. You should consider the evaluation criteria set.

1. University students should wear uniform.
2. Continuous assessment is preferable to the summative (end of term) assessment.
3. Corporal punishment should be restarted in elementary schools.
4. Life in dorm is worse than life at home.
5. Giving group assignments in universities increases the rate of dependence among students.
6. Giving re-exams to students who have scored an 'F' grade negatively affects the learners' motivation to work harder.

➔Note that your essay will be evaluated based on the following CRITERIA.

- *Compatible topic for the essay, three body paragraphs (in one of them you should raise your opponents' claim with their rationales) and a closing paragraph. (4%)*
- *Unity of ideas at paragraph and essay level (2%)*
- *Development of ideas with supporting evidences (2%)*
- *Appropriate organization of ideas (coherence). (3%)*
- *Usage of correct mechanics (Capitalization and punctuation marks). (2%)*
- *Layout of the essay. (2%)*

Essay

[illegible]