

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI
DIRECTORATE OF GENERAL STUDIES

2010/2011 HARMATTAN SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS
GST 101: USE OF ENGLISH

DATE: 2nd April, 2011

TIME: 1 ½ HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: (Read carefully and comply or be penalized accordingly)

1. This paper is multiple choice.
2. Use only the official answer sheet provided for your answers.
3. Use HB pencil to shade your number, your name and answers accordingly.
4. Answer all questions
5. From the options lettered a-e, choose the one that correctly answers each question.

SECTION A: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND/STUDY SKILLS/NOTE-TAKING/VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

1. One of the following is not a characteristic of English in Nigeria: a. second language b. official language c. mother tongue d. lingua franca among the educated class e. medium of instruction in schools
2. The global dominance of the English language today can be attributed to the following factors except: a. economic and political dominance of some of the countries that use it as their mother tongue b. the use of the language as the medium of broadcasting by major media outfits c. the aftermath of colonialism d. the superiority of the language e. the large amount of written documents in the language
3. A good private time-table should contain activities for the three aspects of human development, namely, cognitive (intellectual), affective (social and emotional), and psycho-motor (physical). Which of the following does NOT develop any of these aspects a. reading of magazines while relaxing b. attending town association meetings on campus c. attending fellowship d. taking a stroll round the campus e. none of the above
4. One of these is NOT a benefit of note-taking a. It helps to focus on the lecture b. It helps to write down the main points from a book read c. It helps to store information from lectures d. It can serve as a reference material e. It is quite useful for revision
5. A dictionary provides all the following information except a. information on sentence structure b. information on word pronunciation c. syllabication of words d. spelling e. parts of speech
6. In the dictionary, when a word is labelled "taboo" it means a. that the word can only be written and not spoken b. that the word is formal c. that it is a word people avoid because they think that it is offensive and embarrassing d. the word is prohibited e. none of the above
7. consistency: The information displayed in the word above is a. pronunciation information b. spelling information c. syllabic information d. etymological information e. grammatical information
8. The primary stress mark in a word indicates a. the syllable in a word that is said with the greatest effort b. the syllable in a word that is pronounced with minimum stress c. a word that is stressed d. a word that cannot be used connotatively e. the primary meaning of a word
9. Which of the following is true of listening a. listening is a mental and active process b. listening is automatic requiring no conscious effort c. listening is a natural and passive process which requires little or no conscious effort d. all of the above e. none of the above
10. Passive listening is a product of the following except a. a poor motivation to the learning process b. lack of reading material c. lack of will power d. a straying, fantasizing mind e. all of the above
11. UME as an abbreviation of University Matriculation Examination is an example of a. reduplicative b. blending c. acronym d. compounding e. clipping
12. We can talk of 'illegitimate child', 'illicit affair' and 'unlawful act'. The words 'illegitimate', 'illicit' and 'unlawful' share similar meanings, yet we cannot use them interchangeably with the words 'child', 'affair' and 'act'. This is a matter of a. connotation b. denotation c. figurative usage d. affixation e. collocation
13. The ruler is on the table. King Edward is a great ruler. The relationship between the two underlined words is that of a. synonymy b. antonymy c. polysemy d. homonymy e. hyponymy
14. The lexical relationship between 'cite', 'site' and 'sight' is that of a. antonymy b. synonymy c. homophony d. hyponymy e. homonymy
15. When a word conveys not only the ordinary meaning but also the user's emotion, we say the word is a. literal b. connotative c. denotative d. collocative e. etymological

Choose any of the following options that best interprets the underlined idiom

16. The man has blue blood in his vein. a. The man has aristocratic origin b. The man is brave c. The man is a coward d. The man is healthy e. The man has terminal ill-health
17. The information we have so far received about the man's background is a tip of the iceberg. a. The information is a little part of information about him b. The information is irrelevant c. The information is comprehensive d. The information is misleading e. The information is reliable
18. Uchenna decided to make a clean breast of everything. This means that Uchenna a. adopted clean habits b. denied any knowledge of the matter c. told the whole truth d. remained firm in his earlier decision e. remained silent about everything

19. The man had Dutch courage. a. The man had an uncommon courage b. The man had courage induced by fear c. The man had courage induced by alcohol d. The man is a coward e. The man has adventurous zeal
20. I had the news from the grapevine. This means that I heard the news from.... a. a very reliable source b. rumour c. cable television d. a man of God e. the persons directly concerned

SECTION B: READING/ OUTLINING/ SUMMARY SKILLS

Read the following passage and answer the questions on it.

PASSAGE A

RETHINKING URBAN TRANSPORT

The automobile once promised a dazzling world of speed, freedom, and convenience, magically conveying people wherever the road would take them. Given these alluring qualities, it is not surprising that people around the world enthusiastically embraced the dream of car ownership. But societies that have built their transport systems around the automobile are now waking up to a much harsher reality. The problems created by over reliance on the car are outweighing its benefits.

These problems are numerous and widespread. Traffic congestion and air pollution plague all major cities, and oil dependence makes economies vulnerable. Cities with streets designed for cars instead of people are increasingly unlivable. In developing countries, automobiles serve only a small elite and leave the vast majority with inadequate transport. In Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, recent reforms could add the problems of automobile dependence to overwhelming economic and environmental crises.

A new, more rational approach to transportation is needed, one that puts the automobile in its rightful place in a city as one among many options for travel. Buses and trains are more appropriate than private cars as the centerpieces of transportation systems, particularly in the world's most congested urban areas. At reasonable occupancy rates, public transport uses space and energy many times more efficiently than cars do and creates much less pollution.

In this new transport environment, walking and bicycling would also play important roles, complementing public transport with the convenience of individual mobility. These non-motorized forms of travel have the potential to provide a considerable share of transportation -- as long as cities cater for the needs of pedestrians and cyclists.

Getting away from automobile dominance also requires gradually restructuring cities and suburbs to lessen the need for driving. Development can be planned to create compact cities in which jobs, homes, and services are consolidated and near public transport. In both industrial and developing countries, careful urban planning can help meet future transportation needs by minimizing the demand for travel.

21. What was the initial attitude of people towards owning cars?
a. total excitement b. cautious admiration c. instant regret d. unreserved indignation
e. outright wonder
22. From the passage we can say that the use of automobiles for public transport
a. was instantly seen as problematic b. was seen as harsh c. is gradually becoming out-dated
d. is eventually being seen as creating more problems than being useful e. was unnecessarily vilified
23. The problem with the automobile in developing countries is that
a. it creates a lot of traffic congestion b. it pollutes the air c. it brings about a lot of economic crises
d. only a few have access to transport e. their economies are vulnerable as a result
24. An ideal transport system is one where
a. the automobile is totally discarded b. buses and trains are the sole means of public transport
c. cars alongside other means of transport are used.
d. walking and bicycling are the chief means of city transport e. pollution-free cars are used.
25. Buses and trains have the following qualities as means of public transport except
a. higher occupancy rate b. more freedom of movement c. more efficient utilization of energy
d. saving of space e. none of the above
26. Another word that can replace the word 'vulnerable' as used in the passage (second sentence of Paragraph Two) is
a. risk-prone b. unmanageable c. poor d. recessive e. down-turn
27. What do you consider to be the thesis statement of this passage?
a. Sentence One, Paragraph One b. Sentence Two, Paragraph One c. Sentence Three, Paragraph One
d. Sentence Four, Paragraph One e. Sentence One, Paragraph Two
28. The following cohesive devices are used in the passage except
a. repetition of the key words/expressions b. use of pronouns
c. use of demonstratives, e.g. these alluring, these problems etc.
d. use of the adverbial phrases indicating place, e.g. 'In developing countries....', 'In Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union...'
e. use of adjectives
29. What kind of writing is the passage above?
a. expository b. narrative c. descriptive d. argumentative e. all of the above
30. In conformity with this kind of essay, the dominant tense is
a. simple present tense b. present continuous tense c. simple past tense d. simple future tense
e. present perfect tense
31. One of the following is a summary of Paragraph Three in Passage A.
a. Buses and trains are the best form of transport in congested cities.
b. Public transport maximizes the use of space and energy

- c. The best form of transport required in urban areas is one that considers the automobile as one of the options for transport
- d. Private cars are not economical for public transport
- e. none of the above

PASSAGE B

Read the following passage and answer the questions on 31-40:

When I set out for London, little did I suspect that I was not on a journey to God's own city where harmony reigned supreme. So used to the frenzied life of Lagos was I that I had to come to associate that city with everything that was chaotic, and there was no doubt in my mind that Lagos was one giant symbol of our backwardness. As the plane taxied its way out of the tarmac of our national airport, I heaved a sigh of relief not so much because I was leaving my own country but that I was being relieved of the tension that had possessed me during those tense hours in the untidy lounge. I had felt so uneasy, my thoughts racing from one uncertainty to another. But I was at last air-borne, moving away from the whole uncertainty, from the whole load of fear, towards a place which I supposed would be El Dorado.

Everything that happened in the plane passed through my eyes like pictures on the screen. The white air hostess who instructed me on how to use the safety belt was an angel, what with her beauty, her pretty blue dress, and her ever smiling face. The same lady of the air served me snacks and supper. Another angel, whose queenly voice came through an invisible public address system, dished out occasional information on the progress of our journey. I had never felt so relaxed, and my jolted heartbeats each time the plane took what appeared like a sudden brief decent, did not matter. When eventually we were set for landing, the anxiety that came over me was almost thrilling. What was the wonderland going to be like? So overwhelmed was I that I almost lost consciousness of what happened thereafter.

But I would never forget the shock that greeted me when we arrived in the tubes station and boarded a train to behold the sea of white faces and the furtive glances from apparently indifferent co-passengers. I believe that the nostalgic feeling for Lagos which later became part of my life all my days in London began at this point.

- 32. Before the writer left Lagos, he believed London was a. a very neat place b. a very peaceful place c. situated in paradise d. noiseless e. city full of milk and honey
- 33. Before the plane left Lagos, the writer must have a. had a second thought about leaving his country b. been very hungry in the lounge c. been frightened by all the people in the lounge d. detested the filthy surroundings of the lounge e. none of the above
- 34. When the plane finally took off the writer felt happy because a. he was thrilled to be in a plane b. he believed that he was travelling to a problem-free country c. he no longer felt uneasy d. for the first time, he would be in El Dorado e. none of the above
- 35. The writer's attitude to the air hostess can be described as a. lustful b. worshipful c. timid d. gregarious e. inferior.
- 36. The writer, on getting into the train, was shocked because a. there were no attendants b. of the large number of white faces c. the people appeared unfriendly d. the train was not neater than those in Nigeria e. he saw many people in the train
- 37. The word 'frenzied' as used in the passage means a. orderly b. frenetic c. sporadic d. filthy e. expensive
- 38. The writer had nostalgic feeling for Lagos. This means that the writer a. wanted to come back to Lagos b. was disappointed at what he saw in London c. dreamt of Lagos always d. felt slightly sad on remembering his past happy experiences in Lagos e. hated Lagos
- 39. The use of 'but' in the last paragraph suggests a. an addition of a new idea to what has been said earlier b. a contrast of the idea in the preceding paragraph c. a further expansion of the idea in the preceding paragraph d. the conclusion of the discussion e. none of the above
- 40. If the first sentence in the second paragraph of the passage is the topic sentence, the remaining sentences in the same paragraph are best described as the a. elaborating sentences b. main sentences c. simple and compound sentences d. concluding sentences e. summary sentences
- 41. A type of reading that is characterized by careful, detailed reading with intense concentration is referred to as a. extensive reading b. intensive reading c. critical reading d. reading for links e. active reading
- 42. When our purpose for reading is to search for a specific piece of information, we adopt one of the following techniques a. skimming b. SQ3R c. scanning d. extensive reading e. intensive reading
- 43. Impediments to speed reading include the following except a. regression b. subvocalization c. finger pointing d. word for word reading e. scanning
- 44. Which of the following is not true of summary writing? a. summary must include examples and illustrations b. summary should be written in the writer's own words c. summary is all about restating the main ideas of a large passage in a very brief form d. in summary writing, mindless lifting is avoided e. none of the above
- 45. Which of the following is not true of outlining? A. It enhances effective writing. b. It promotes efficient note taking. c. It aids the memory. d. It uses numbering, spacing and different sizes of letters to indicate the structure of the passage e. none of the above

SECTION C: ORAL COMMUNICATION

Choose the option which has the same vowel sound as the one represented by the letter(s) underlined

46. Fail
 a. cut b. abode c. tame d. pass e. right
47. key
 a. pen b. sheep c. hot d. cold e. they
48. elife
 a. educate b. sheep c. bait d. happy e. sip
49. dull
 a. hot b. zero c. come d. boy e. rule

Choose the option which has the same consonant sound as the one represented by the letter(s) underlined

50. with
 a. breathe b. take c. thank d. that e. then
54. knife
 a. king b. name c. kettle d. sing e. coal
55. jeep
 a. pleasure b. church c. gin d. sheet e. occasion
56. yellow
 a. yes b. union c. yawn d. all of the above e. none of the above

Choose from the words given the one that contains the sound represented by the given phonetic symbol

57. /s/
 a. tribes b. sugar c. churches d. shop e. targets
58. /e/
 a. head b. eat c. breeze d. receipt e. eight

SECTION II: LITERARY APPRECIATION

Use this extract from *Street Merchants* to answer Questions 59-63.

"The sick girl spent the night in the gutter, in the front yard where she fell, too weak to drag herself to a shelter."

59. The girl talked about is
 a. Chioma b. Elsie c. Ada d. Sally e. Bunmi
60. Whose househelp is she?
 a. Dr Sophie b. Lady Kay c. Madam Bonga d. Desk Nurse e. Komo
61. What offence brought the girl this problem?
 a. She stole money b. She lost money c. She got drunk d. She ran after her lover e. She was disobedient
62. The story of *Street Merchants* began in a
 a. wet morning b. hot morning c. rainy afternoon d. hot afternoon e. wet afternoon
63. The narrative technique used in the novel *Street Merchant* is
 a. first person narrative b. second person narrative c. third person narrative d. all-seeing narrative e. none of the above
64. The protagonist of *Street Merchants* is
 a. Madam Bonga b. Sally c. Chioma d. Elsie e. Okaka
65. *The Trial of the Militants* is what kind of writing?
 a. drama b. novel c. short-story d. poetry e. none of the above
66. One of the following is not a character in *The Trial of the Militants*
 a. ADC b. Ohi c. Nneka d. Steve e. Soothsayer

MUTABILITY

*The flower that smiles to-day
 To-morrow dies;
 All that we wish to stay,
 Tempts and then flies;*

*What is this world's delight?
 Lightning that mocks the night,
 Brief even as bright.*

67. What do you think is the message of this poem?
 a. flowers die quickly b. life is brief c. ladies can be deceitful and unreliable
 d. life goes on in spite of all odds e. none of the above
68. What figure of speech do we have in the lines "The flower that smiles to-day/To-morrow dies"?
 a. apostrophe b. simile c. personification d. metonymy e. euphemism
69. The last three lines can be interpreted literally as
 a. the world can be as bright as lightning at night if things are going well for you.
 b. the world is a deceitful place to live in
 c. pleasures of this world can be quite sensual but are short lived like lightning
 d. our delight can be cut short by such dangerous phenomena as lightning
 e. none of the above
70. In the poem, some of the lines end in similar sounds: 'today' and 'to stay'; 'dies' and 'flies'; 'delight,' 'night' and 'bright'. This is called
 a. alliteration b. rhyme c. onomatopoeia d. enjambment e. metaphor