



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION

HMU1203 ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE II

END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

APRIL/MAY 2026

LECTURER: MS.J. MUZAMHINDO

DURATION: 3 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper contains **THREE** sections (Sections A, B and C).
 2. Section A is on **Academic Writing** (Essay)
 3. Answer **ALL** questions from Section B.
 4. Answer **ALL** questions from Section C.
 5. Start each question on a new page in your booklet.
 6. Credit will be awarded for logical, systematic and neat presentation
 7. Do not repeat material.
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Section A: Essay (30 marks)

Instructions

- a. Choose **ONE** topic from **question 1** and write an essay on it.
 - b. Credit will be given for good English expression, clear organization and originality of ideas.
 - c. Your essay should be approximately 400 words.
 - d. Write legibly.
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Question 1

- a. Describe a situation where you had to stand up for what you believe in.
- b. “AI tools like ChatGPT help or hurt academic integrity and their use in coursework assessments should be considered academic dishonesty” What are your views on this issue.
- c. Is a traditional university degree still necessary for success in the modern, digital economy? Discuss
- d. “Social Media is directly causing an increase in anxiety and depression among youth”. To what extent do you agree with this statement.
- e. Suggest strategies that could be adopted by universities to balance academic rigor with the responsibility to support student mental health. Support your answer with relevant and appropriate examples
- f. As an International student at Africa University, write about the impact of studying in a foreign country, your experiences with integration in the communities in host societies. (You may wish to refer to other countries where you have studied before coming to Africa University. Support your answer with relevant examples).
- g. “Access to healthy food and economic factors like food security, contribute to obesity and food-related health disparities (inequalities or differences)”. To what extent do you agree with this statement. Support your answer with relevant examples
- h. Discuss the importance of forgiveness, humility, understanding, compassion in seeking peace and resolving conflict

Section B: Reading Comprehension [40 marks].

Instructions

1. Read the following passage and answer **ALL** the questions at the end of the passage.
2. Do not copy out the question
3. Your responses should be precise and concise (*brief, clear, to the point*)
4. Write all answers in your Examination Booklet, clearly numbering the answers.
5. Write legibly.

The Electric Car Revolution: Is It Realistic or Optimistic?

Governments and motor manufacturers around the world are throwing money and resources into the development of electric vehicles. But can electric power really replace the internal combustion engine before the middle of the century? Maybe it can, but this is by no means certain.

Electric vehicles have arrived. With technology led by Tesla, and all of the world's major car manufacturers following along behind, electric vehicles are now a **common sight** on the roads of most developed countries. Yet the situation in less developed countries is rather different; the only African country to have started the change to electric vehicles is South Africa and even there, electric vehicle sales still **account for** less than 1% of the total. In South America, the situation is better, with all Latin American countries beginning the move towards electric vehicles, particularly Columbia which, in 2020, had a third of the continent's total electric car fleet. In Russia, the wealthy were investing in imported electric cars until the invasion of Ukraine stopped most imports; a very small number of electric vehicles are manufactured locally. In India the government is promoting **the purchase of** electric vehicles with tax exemptions and other incentives. So electric cars have arrived, and their share of the market is increasing almost worldwide.

Does this mean, therefore, that the world is on track to **phase out** the use of petrol-driven vehicles in less than thirty years? And does it mean that electric vehicles are the **sustainable** solution to our transport needs for the second half of the century? Unfortunately, to the disappointment of some people, the answer to both of these questions has to be "no".

The massive development of electric vehicles can only be possible if two conditions are met. Firstly, the expansion of electric vehicle manufacturing is dependent on the fragile ability of manufacturers to source vastly increased quantities of vital components and elements without which electric vehicles cannot operate; these include lithium, cobalt and "rare earths" such as neodymium and tantalum, as well as silicon chips which have already **been in short supply** since 2020. Secondly, few countries currently have electricity grids that are anywhere near being able to cope with the huge increase in demand for electricity that will accompany any rapid growth in electric vehicle ownership. Without adequate supplies of all the vital ingredients of electric motors and batteries, or without power supplies that are able to provide the electricity required to recharge millions of electric batteries every day (as well as supplying the current we need for everything else, such as lighting, heating, trains and electric devices), the electric car revolution will **run up against** insoluble problems in all but the most developed countries.

Governments and vehicle manufacturers are fully aware of these issues, but the consensus among policy-makers seems to be that somehow technology will come up with the answers, as it often has in the past. Analysts also predict that changing social attitudes and environmental awareness will lead to a reduction in private vehicle use and a fall in the numbers of vehicles on the roads. This prediction is likely to be right, though not necessarily for those reasons alone; any **shortage** of essential components will force up the cost of electric vehicles, and any shortage of battery recharging facilities or capacity will discourage people from buying electric

vehicles, leading to a fall in the number of vehicles on the roads. Ultimately the success of the transition to electric powered vehicles will depend on advances in technology in three fields; the weight of batteries, the amount of power that they can produce, and the speed at which they can be recharged or exchanged. It may surprise you to learn that electric vehicles are not a new idea; indeed, at the start of the automobile age in the late 19th century, America had as many electric cars as gas-driven cars, and New York's biggest taxi company used electric vehicles. In order to keep their taxis on the road when the batteries ran low, they set up battery points at strategic locations where instead of recharging their batteries, drivers would just exchange them for fully recharged ones, a process that took no longer than refilling with gasoline.

Thus battery exchange stations, rather than battery recharging points, may perhaps solve the problem of slow recharging times which currently prevents owners taking their electric vehicles on long trips. Yet battery exchange is not an option with today's large heavy batteries. While the latest generation of Lithium-ion batteries are almost twice as efficient as the batteries being used just five years ago, they remain big and heavy. Before batteries can become easy to exchange, a **quantum leap** in battery technology is needed, one which will allow batteries to store much larger amounts of electricity in much smaller and lighter units. Teams of top electrical engineers in universities and private laboratories worldwide are working on battery technology, and progress has been rapid. New types of lithium batteries are being developed, but the radical discovery that will revolutionize battery design is still to be made. As for the availability of clean renewable electricity in sufficient quantities to cope with demand from all the world's electric vehicles, progress in this direction is already underway. Ideally, notably in hot countries and outside cities, recharging points will be autonomous, generating their own electricity from solar panels and wind or water turbines and storing it either mechanically or in high-powered batteries. The technology already exists, and a California company, Beam Global, recently installed 30 solar-powered recharging stations in sunny parts of the state.

So are people who believe in the ability of technology to solve all our problems being realistic, or over-optimistic? And will other problems such as environmental issues and the availability of vital materials **throw a spanner in the works**? Will all the world's countries be able to complete the electric vehicle revolution, or will the world's poorer nations get left behind.... yet again? For the time being, progress is upwards, but can it continue? In terms of volume, the electric vehicle revolution has only just **got underway**.

Questions

1. Which African country has made progress in transitioning to electric vehicles, and what percentage of electric vehicle sales does it currently represent? [2 marks]
2. What percentage of the electric vehicle fleet in Latin America did Colombia account for in 2020? [2 marks]
3. What are three vital components required for electric vehicle manufacturing mentioned in the passage? [6 marks]
4. What impact did the invasion of Ukraine have on the wealthy in Russia in terms of electric vehicle imports, and how are electric cars primarily obtained in Russia? [3 marks]

5. What are the three technological advances the passage says are critical for the success of the transition to electric vehicles? [6 marks]
6. Why might electric vehicle sales be very low in most African countries except South Africa? [2 marks]
7. What inference can be made about the impact of electricity grid limitations on electric vehicle adoption? [2 marks]
8. Why do governments and manufacturers still believe technology will solve current EV challenges? [2 marks]
9. What is the potential consequence if poorer countries cannot build adequate EV infrastructure? [5 marks]
10. What are the potential economic and social implications of a delayed or uneven transition to electric vehicles globally? [5 marks]
11. What role do you think governments should play in facilitating the transition to electric vehicles given the multifaceted challenges outlined? [5 marks]

Section C: Contextual Meaning

Part 1: [20 marks]

- (i) The following words and expressions are used in the passage. Choose the correct meaning of each expression from the options given.

For example:

Consensus

- A. *disagreement*
- B. *verbal attack*
- C. *general agreement*

Answer: C

Now, do the following exercise:

Do not copy out the sentences.

In your answer booklet, write the question number and against it the letter (A, B or C) most suitable meaning

(i) A common sight

- A. expected
- B. familiar
- C. random

(ii) account for

- A. pay for
- B. form
- C. are under

(iii) the purchase of

- A. the buying of
- B. the modification of

- C. the following of
- (iv) **phase out**
 - A. increase
 - B. slowly start
 - C. gradually end
- (v) **been in short supply**
 - A. been hard to find
 - B. been easy to find
 - C. been smaller
- (vi) **to run up against**
 - A. go faster than
 - B. be helped by
 - C. be hindered by
- (vii) **shortage**
 - A. reduction
 - B. insufficient quantity
 - C. acceleration
- (viii) **got underway**
 - A. begun
 - B. finished
 - C. slowed down
- (ix) **throw a spanner in the works?**
 - A. supporting the work
 - B. agreeing with the work
 - C. disrupting the work
- (x) **quantum leap**
 - A. significant development
 - B. slow development
 - C. unwelcome development

Part II [10 marks]

Comparatives

Rewrite these sentences with the adjectives in brackets using the comparative. The meaning must stay the same. Underline the word used to complete the sentence.

Example: Last year's course wasn't as good as this year's. (**good**)

Answer: This year's course is **better** than last year's.

1. This hotel isn't as expensive as the Mara. (**expensive**). The Mara _____
2. The beaches in Jamaica aren't as dirty as they used to (**clean**) _____
3. Marie's restaurant isn't as expensive as Marco's. (**cheap**) Marie's restaurant _____
4. The weather this week isn't as bad as it was last week. (**bad**) Last week _____
5. As the day went on, the weather got _____ (**bad**)

END OF PAPER
