

ENG 2602 Pre-exam Session

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Rules of Engagement

Remember:

- If you want to raise a question that has already been raised, 'like' the existing question.
- Questions will be answered as the presentation continues.
- At the end of this presentation I shall address remaining questions according to their popularity.

Paper Format

The paper will be divided into two sections

- Section A: Language Section
 - Persuasive Prose
 - Conversational Analysis
- Section B: Literature Section
 - Poetry
 - Prose Fiction
 - Drama
- You will be expected to answer **one question per section**.
- The examination will be a two hour paper.

Persuasive Prose

- You will be given a short passage from an unseen persuasive text (such as a newspaper article, an advertisement, a political speech or an advertisement).
- You will have to write an essay in which you analyse the passage: this means that you will have to outline briefly **what** the passage is about, **why** it has been written, and **who** the target audience is, and then to explain in detail **how** it has been written. Your essay should focus on **how** the author **uses language** to persuade his/her target audience.

Sample Question

Read the following speech carefully and write an essay in which you critically analyse the text. Your essay should have an introduction, body and conclusion. Your essay should address

- **what** the passage is about
- **why** it has been written
- **who** the target audience is
- **how** language and other persuasive techniques have been used persuasively

How to treat the scaffolding questions

- Group first three questions into the introduction.
- Use the body to discuss the rhetorical devices for persuasiveness.
- Your essay should focus on **how** the author **uses language** to persuade his/her target audience.

Conversational Analysis

- Be prepared to write an essay on an aspect or a range of aspects of conversation analysis, such as (but not limited to) turn-taking, pauses, overlaps, fillers, cooperative principles, implicature, politeness.
- Refer to the 'Conversational analysis additional resource' document under the 'Additional Resources' tab on myUnisa for a survey of the key facets of this section.
- Avoid trying to analyse the conversation in the same way as a persuasive text.

Sample Question

Conversations are usually structured in a particular manner to facilitate communication and social interaction. Discuss the **THREE** main dimensions of Conversational Analysis, used in the given transcript of a conversation. Your discussion must include examples.

Points to Consider

- **Actions**

- Pauses
- Overlap
- Repairing conversations
- Speech acts

- **Intersubjective understanding**

- Implicature
- Relies on shared understanding otherwise the conversation breaks down

More Points to Consider

- **Structure**
 - Opening and closing conversations
 - Turn-taking =
 - ❖ Adjacency pairs = Q&A/ invitation and acceptance or declination /
 - ❖ Back-channeling
- Cultural aspects in a conversation
 - Politeness
- Social nature of conversations
 - Maxims (Quality/Relevance/Quantity/Manner)

Prose fiction

- You will be given a short passage from an unseen prose fiction text.
- You will have to write an essay in which you analyse the passage.
- You need to discuss in detail how it uses language, for example, to portray character, shape, tone and setting, for thematic and symbolic effects, etc.

Sample Question

Write an essay in which you provide a critical analysis of the following passage from the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. Ensure that your essay is not simply a paraphrase of the passage and that you discuss how language is used to develop characterization and theme. Also consider the narrative perspective. Limit your analysis to the given passage, even if you know the story.

Steps to follow

- Identify key words in the question
- Identify the narrative perspective (justify with evidence)
- Identify the characters (portrayal through language)
- Identify the theme – the purpose may be related to this (how language reveals it)

Poetry

- You will be given a poem from the list of poems provided under 'Additional Resources' on myUnisa.
- You will have to write an essay in which you analyse the poem.
- You must discuss in detail how it uses language to present and explore its main themes and concerns.

Sample Question

Write an essay in which you analyse in detail the way in which the poem deals with its subject. Carefully examine how the poet uses syntax, diction, figures of speech and sound effects to express his views.

Drama

- You will be given an excerpt from an unseen play.
- You will be expected to write an essay in which you analyse how the passage uses language, for example, to form imagery or reveal the qualities of the characters in relation to the passage's main themes and concerns.

Sample Question

Write an essay in which you analyse the effect and purpose of this dramatic dialogue between Willy and Linda. You may use the following points to guide your analysis.

- What does the dialogue reveal about their characters, the mood between them, their relationship and the plot?
- The language used plays a crucial role in creating dramatic characters, atmosphere and meaning, so pay careful attention to it in your analysis.

Steps towards responding

- Identify key words
- Use key words to map your essay
- Write your introduction
- Write topic sentences for your paragraphs using the key words map
- Paragraph development
- Conclude

What is wrong with this sample response?

In the dialogue there are two people that speak to each other, Willy and Linda. I get the feeling that they are husband and wife because they talk about their children. It can also mean that they have children together but is not necessarily married. Maybe they just live together (he comes home to her) and is in a relationship. Willy is the poor salesman that supports his family. Willy comes from work to find his wife or partner in the house and then fights with her about their son Biff. Willy is angry that he does not have a job and thinks he is lazy. Linda on the other hand sounds like a calm and positive person. She is very level headed and tries to reason with Willy. She never gets angry with Willy and tries to keep him calm. She is a real mother hen as well because she tries to defend Biff, she tries to explain his ways and why he did not make any money.

Good Luck!

ENG2602 Team

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