



# PIONEER INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Powered by Intellect, Driven by Values.

**ACADEMIC YEAR:** 2021/2022

**UNIT NAME :**ACADEMIC WRITING

**SEMESTER:** SEPT-DEC 2021

**UNIT CODE:** COMS 1110

**DATE:** DEC 2021

**TIME:** 2 HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer question one (30 marks) and any other two

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## **IMPORTANT NOTICE !!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**The following are the possible consequences if found guilty of an Examination Offence:**

- a) Expulsion from the University.**
- b) Academic Leave.**

### **QUESTION ONE**

- a) Identify and explain five characteristics of academic writing. **(10 marks)**
- b) Provide three characteristics of a topic sentence. **(8 marks)**
- c) You are given the following four sentences:
  - i) A lunar eclipse is an omen of a coming disaster
  - ii) Superstitions have been around forever.
  - iii) People hold many superstitious beliefs about the moon.
  - iv) Is made of green matter.

Identify the best topic sentence from the four above. **(2 marks)**

Give reasons why each of the others is not an ideal topic sentence. **(3 marks)**

- d) Arrange the following sentences so that they form a coherent paragraph: **(7 marks)**
  - i) Another important change was that people had the freedom to live and work wherever they wanted.
  - ii) The earliest significant change was for farming families who were no longer isolated.
  - iii) The final major change brought by the automobile was the building of superhighways, suburbs and huge shopping centres.
  - iv) The automobile revolutionized the way of life in the United States.
  - v) The automobile enabled them to drive to towns and cities comfortably and conveniently.
  - vi) In fact, people could work in a busy metropolitan city and drive home to the quiet suburbs.

### **Question Two**

- a) Given the following topic, identify its major components: **(8 marks)**  
Discuss the economic uses of rearing cattle in Northern Kenya.
- b) i) What is listening? **(2 marks)**  
ii) Discuss five ways in which you could improve your listening skills. **(10 marks)**

**Question Three**

- a) What is plagiarism and why should we avoid it? **8 marks**
- b) What must you look for when critically reading a text? **12 marks**

**Question Four**

- a) Identify four characteristics of a formal letter. **(8 marks)**
- b) Explain four ways in which a report differs from an official letter. **(8 marks)**
- c) Give four similarities between an essay and a report. **(4 marks)**

**Question Five**

- a) Differentiate between critical thinking and creative thinking. **(4 marks)**
  - b) Mention the major parts of a Term Paper. **(6 marks)**
  - c) Organise the following references as they should appear in your term paper:
    - i) A book written by Moses Jasanoff titled *Tuberculosis: A Sub-Saharan Perspective* that was published in 2001 in New York by Schaffter
    - ii) 2006 in Dublin, *The End of an Era: Spain 1785–1815*, published by University Press and authored by Karl Wildavsky
    - iii) *Second Language Acquisition: An Introductory Course* by Smaal Gass and Lee Selinker London, 2001 Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
    - iv) An article by Elias Bialystock called 'The structure of age: In search of barriers to second language acquisition'. *Second Language Research Journal* 1997, 13 (2) 116-37.
    - v) *The Psychology of Second Language Acquisition*. In Oxford town, Oxford University Press, author Zein Dörnyei in 2009
- (10 marks)**