



**MASENO UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016**

**FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE  
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION WITH INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY**

**MAIN CAMPUS**

**AEN 104: ART OF WRITTING**

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2016

Time: 2.30 - 4.30 pm

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions.



Q1. Use the essay below to answer the questions that follow.

As students we all have been challenged to do our best. Throughout our lives we have been labeled with our grades; in high school, the ones with low grades were left alone in misery, while the ones with higher grades were praised as the leaders of this horse race. Then, the question that comes into mind is: is it right to categorize students, does grading contribute to education?

It is assumed and stated in the philosophy of the current educational system that grading encourages learning and without it students would not study. That is far from being true and also expresses another flaw of our education system. The system is based on fear: the basic motive for students to study is fear of low grades. Furthermore, because the grades are the main criteria for passing courses, students do not study: they just develop methods of cheating. Thus, without learning the subject, they keep passing.

Since grades received in exams are more important than learning the subject matter, all students have to do to pass their courses is memorize how a specific problem is solved. Without knowing why such a method is used, students cannot apply their ability to solve the problem to daily life. However, they pass exams without learning why, how or what of the matter.

Another disadvantage of grading is that grades of a student are not updated. That means the grades of a student for the first year of school will still be valid in the last year, whether his knowledge about the subject has improved or deteriorated. Considering all the factors that affect a student's exams and marks, even a small incident may have a great impact in the long run.

Apart from these problems, which can be virtually solved by optimizing and improving the grading system, the most important defect of the system cannot be repaired without changing the whole system. The grading system causes inequalities, superior-inferior relations, classifications and even conflicts. It may be maintained that societies of the modern world are structured on these basic principles, but the fact that something exists does not justify it. Moreover, the

people grown up in such an education system will not be able to see the other side of the walls, or will be afraid even to take a glimpse.

To sum up, grading students is not a good practice and should be abolished. It is clear that education, especially education during childhood, has a great effect on one's life. And if you bring the children up in conditions of conflict and competition, they will look for conflicts in the future too.

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- i. Write a suitable title for the essay ( 2mks)
- ii. Identify the thesis sentence (2mks)
- iii. Identify the type of essay above and give 3 justifications for your choice.(10mks)
- iv. Discuss any three ways of generating information for the above essay(6mks)
- v. Use illustrations to demonstrate how cohesion and coherence has been achieved in paragraph 1 and 2.( 10mks)

Q2.Explain the features of this stages of the writing process

- a) Prewriting
- b) Revising
- c) Editing.(20mks)

Q3. Use the principles of paragraph construction to analyze this paragraph.

When I was growing up, one of the places I enjoyed most was the guava tree in the back yard. I used to spend hours high in the tree, picking and eating the sweet, sun-warmed fruits. My mother always worried about my falling out of the tree, but I never did. But I had some competition for the fruits — flocks of birds that enjoyed them as much as I did and would perch all over the tree, devouring the fruit whenever I wasn't there. I used to wonder why the grown-ups never ate any of the guavas; but actually when the birds and I had finished, there weren't many left.

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Q4. Compare and contrast an argumentative essay with a narrative essay (20mks)

Q5. Discuss any 4 ways you can make your introduction memorable, when writing.  
(20mks)