



MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE CODE: CMJ 1100

COURSE TITLE: COMMUNICATION SKILLS

DATE: 23RD AUGUST, 2019

TIME: 0830 - 1030 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** questions

Read the following passage and then answer the questions that follow:

I think that we're mentally ill; those of us outside the asylums only hide it a little better – and maybe not all that much better, after all. We've all known people who talk to themselves, people who sometimes squinch their faces into horrible grimaces when they believe no one is watching, people who have some hysterical fear of snakes, the dark, the tight place, the long drop and of course those final worms and grubs that are waiting so patiently underground.

When we pay our four or five bucks and seat ourselves at tenth-row center in a theater showing a horror movie, we are daring the nightmare.

Why? Some of the reasons are simple and obvious. To show that we can, that we are, not afraid that we can ride this roller coaster. Which is not to say that a really good horror movie may not surprise a scream out of us at some point, the way we may scream when the roller coaster twists through a complete 360 or plows through a lake at the bottom of the drop, and horror movies, like roller coasters, have always been the special province of the young; by the time one turns 40 or 50, one's appetite for double twists or 260 degree loops may be considerably depleted.

We also go to re-establish our feelings of essential normality; the horror movie is innately conservative, even reactionary. Freda Jackson as the horrible melting woman in *Die, Monster, Die!* Confirms for us that no matter how far we may be removed from the beauty of a Robert Redford or a Diana Ross, we are still light years from true ugliness.

And we go to have fun.

Ah, but this is where the ground starts to slope away, isn't it? Because this is a very peculiar sort of fun, indeed. The fun comes from seeing others menaced - sometimes killed. One critic has suggested that if pro football has become the voyeur's version of combat, then the horror film has become the modern version of the public lynching.

It is true that the mythic, "fairy-tale" horror film intends to take away the shades of gray---It urges us to. put away our more civilized and adult penchant for analysis and to become children again,

seeing things in pure blacks and whites. It may be that horror movies provide psychic relief on this level because this invitation to lapse into simplicity, irrationality and even outright madness is extended so rarely. We are told we may allow our emotions a free rein--- or no rein at all.

If we are all insane, then sanity becomes a matter of degree. If your insanity leads you to carve up women like Jack the Ripper or the Cleveland Torso Murderer, we clap you away in the funny farm (but neither of those two amateur-night surgeons was ever caught, heh-heh-heh); if, on the other hand, your insanity leads you only to talk to yourself when you're under stress or to pick your nose on your morning bus, then you are left alone to go about your business --- though it is doubtful that you will ever be invited to the best parties.

The potential lyncher is in almost all of us (excluding saints, past and present; but then, most saints have been crazy in their own ways), and every now and then, he has to be let loose to scream and roll around in the grass. Our emotions and our fears form their own body, and we recognize that it demands its own exercise to maintain proper muscle tone. Certain of these emotional muscles are accepted

- even exalted - in civilized society, they are, of course, the emotions that tend to maintain the status quo of civilization itself, Love, friendship; loyalty, kindness- these are all the emotions that we applaud, emotions that have been immortalized in the couplets of Hallmark card and in the verses (I don't dare call it poetry) of Leonard Nimoy. .

When we exhibit these emotions, society showers us with positive reinforcement; we learn this even before we get out of diapers. When, as children, we hug our rotten little puke of a sister and give her a kiss, all the aunts and uncles smile and twit and cry, "Isn't he the sweetest little thing?" Such coveted treats as chocolate-covered graham crackers often follow. But if we deliberately slam the rotten little puke of a sister's fingers in the door, sanctions follow - angry remonstrance from parents, aunts and uncles; instead of a chocolate-covered graham cracker, a spanking.

The mythic horror movie, like the sick joke, has a dirty job to do. It deliberately appeals to all that is worst in us. It is morbidity unchained, our most base instincts let free, our nastiest fantasies realized--- and it all happens, fittingly enough; in the dark. For those reasons, good liberals often shy away from horror films. For myself, I like to see the most aggressive of them - Dawn of the Dead, for instance - as lifting a trap door in the civilized forebrain and throwing a basket of raw meat to the 'hungry alligators swimming around in that subterranean river beneath.

- a) What **three** forms of human behaviour does the author use to justify that we are all mentally ill? (3mks)
- b) What one statement does the author use to sum up the reasons why we pay to watch a horror movie. (1mk)

- c) “And we go to have fun”. Why is this fun viewed as peculiar according to the passage. (2mks)
- d) What kind of person does the author say may have problems when it comes to invitation to parties. (2mks)
- e) List the emotions that are said to uphold and perpetuate the civilization’s status quo. (2mks)
- f) How does the society encourage the display of accepted emotional tendencies. (1mk)
- g) State the reasons that prevent the good liberal from identifying and feeling comfortable with the horror movies. (3mks)
- h) What one word can best describe us when we delight in the suffering of others featured in these horror movies. (2mks)
- i) Rewrite the following sentence in the singular.**
- “We’ve all known people who talk to themselves, people who sometimes squinch their faces into horrible grimaces when they believe no one is watching.....” (2mks)
- j) In note form, give reasons why we pay to watch a horror movie. (4mks)
- k) Explain briefly the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage. (2 mks each)

i) Asylums

ii) Final worms and grubs

iii) Depleted

iv) Potential lyncher

2. Imagine that a group of young people enthusiastic with reading have approached you for advice on how to enhance their reading skills and where to source their reading materials. With the use of examples, briefly describe any FIVE types of libraries that would be helpful to them (20 mks)

3. Listening is one the least taught communication skill and therefore perpetually misunderstood by even great speakers. With the use of examples explain any FIVE factors that affect effective listening. (10 marks)

b) Mechanics use a certain type of listening different from psychologist or counselors in their day today activities. Briefly describe any FIVE types listening and their application in day today life (10 marks)

4. a) As a teacher, describe ANY FIVE considerations one must put into account when drawing up a study time table. (10 marks)

b) Briefly explain ANY FIVE activities that a student should be engaged in for effective studying. (10 marks)

5. Communication has been partly described as an as well as a science. Bearing in mind of the value of communication in society, a village women group invites you to help them understand the value of Communication. With the use of examples explain the various components and the two important processes of communication that you would consider in your presentation.

(20 marks)

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