

EN244G

Exam: Academic Writing, 3 credits

Name: _____

This exam includes mostly theoretical questions about important aspects of writing, in particular academic writing, but also a practical question where you summarize a text. However, all questions make up one whole, and your grade for the exam will be based on the total number of points.

The maximum number of points for each question is stated within parentheses after the question. In questions that include more than one element/answer, the points awarded may be anywhere on the scale from 0 points to the maximum number of points for that question depending on the quality of the answer.

Write clearly, and allow time for going through your answers at the end of the exam.

Good luck ☺

Stefan

One of the examples in the questions comes from the following website:

<https://www.pearson.com/content/dam/one-dot-com/one-dot-com/us/en/higher-ed/en/products-services/course-products/mcwhorter-2e-info/pdf/sample-chapter--ch03.pdf>

Maximum points for the exam:	80
A	72
B	64
C	58
D	52
E	48
F	0-47

QUESTIONS

1. **Topic sentence and supporting sentences.** Below you find four sentences that could make up (a part of) a paragraph. Which of the four sentences is the topic sentence and which are the supporting sentences? Mark by writing **T** for topic sentence and **S** for supporting sentences. The sentences are presented in alphabetical order (and slightly modified for this exam). **Note:** An incorrect answer will result in one minus point (–1), whereas leaving the blank line will give 0 points. (4 points)

a) Cats are independent and have a mind and will of their own. _____

b) Dogs on the other hand are very intelligent and can understand humans. _____

c) Pets are in most ways in fact family members that we both love and need. _____

d) Turtles and snakes may not be as close to humans but are still pets. _____

2. **Topic sentence.** Below you find sentences that could be used as supporting sentences in a paragraph. Make up a reasonable/possible topic sentence that indicates what the paragraph is about, and write your topic sentence on the blank lines below. (4 points)

You've probably heard that older men die before older women virtually everywhere in the world. In the United States, women are expected to live an average of 80.4 years, while men live only 75.2 years. Sociologists attribute many factors to this trend. For example, men have higher testosterone levels than women, which may make men more likely to abuse alcohol and tobacco, drive aggressively, and engage in other life-threatening behaviors.

Men also choose riskier types of work and become involved in wartime aggression, which are connected to men's decreased life expectancy. Studies also show that women are less likely to experience life-threatening illnesses and health problems than men are.

3. **Coherence.** Below you find two examples of vague or incorrect pronoun coherence. The use of pronouns here makes the meaning either incorrect or unclear. Underline or circle the word(s) you want to change in order to make these sentences coherent, and rewrite those words—or the whole phrases—on the blank lines and explain why the two sentences are vague/incorrect and need to be changed. Note that since you have no context, several answers are possible. (8 points)

- a) Juliet realized, when she got home, that she had forgotten her laptop and her cellphone in school so she went back to get it. Luckily it was still there.
- b) Romeo went to the local convenience store to buy a salad. On the store's front door it said that the owner would come back soon. Romeo hoped he would return before 5 pm.

4. **Transition signals.** Choose the transition signal among the alternatives in parentheses that would best show how the different parts of the sentences are related. Answer by writing the correct transition signal on the blank line. The sentences come from *Longman Academic Writing Series 4*. (6 points)

- a) Hawaii has sunshine and friendly people; _____ (*however / nevertheless / on the contrary / similarly*), Mexico's weather is sunny and its people hospitable.
- b) Mangoes are a very common fruit; _____ (*indeed / however / similarly / therefore*), people eat more mangoes than any other fruit in the world.
- c) You are not eligible for a subsidized bus pass _____ (*although / despite / nevertheless / unless*) you are a full-time student.

5. **Clauses.** Which of the following clauses are independent (=main) clauses and which are dependent clauses? Answer by writing IND for independent or DEP for dependent on the blank lines. **Note:** An incorrect answer will result in a minus point (-1) whereas leaving the blank line will give 0 points. (6 points)

- a) But it's really called The Gulf of Mexico whatever Trumps says _____
- b) It's not easy to be afraid of heights _____
- c) Since it's too late for coffee _____
- d) They did really well in the exam _____
- e) Where's her hometown? _____
- f) Where people meet _____

6. **Parallelism.** The following sentences include problems with parallelism. Improve those sentences by writing your own version of the same text on the blank lines. (6 points)

- a) Many students like to travel and seeing new places.

- b) She went to Spain and bought two sweaters, five skirts, and socks.

- c) They taught their dog to play dead, roll over, and barking at strangers.

7. **Sentences.** What kind of sentences are the ones below? Choose between *simple sentences*, *compound sentences*, *complex sentences*, and *compound-complex sentences*. Answer by writing what kind of sentence it is on the blank lines. You can use a shortened form of the word or write at the bottom of the page. Note that the same sentence type may appear more than once here, and not all types are necessarily included. (4 points)

- a) Because it's soon Midsummer, the sun stays up late. _____
- b) Candy and chocolate are good for your soul. _____
- c) Do you believe in Santa Clause? _____
- d) They played well, and Aitana Bonmati scored the winning goal. _____

8. **Fragments, run-on sentences, comma splices, choppy sentences, and stringy sentences.** Answer by stating what kind of sentence problem there is in each of the questions below. Then correct the sentences by using a different sentence construction, adding/changing punctuation, and/or adding or removing words to make the sentences grammatically correct. (12 points)

- a) Because she's a great swimmer.

- b) I used to play soccer, I didn't play very well, though.

- c) It's cold outside. We need to put on a sweater. I prefer my gray one. It's warm. And it looks nice. I bought it two years ago. It was on sale.

9. **Passive voice.** Turn the following sentences written in the active voice into the passive voice. Only include the agent when/if it's needed. (6 points)

a) Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell wrote "Birds of a Feather."

b) His daughter bought the tickets to the concert.

c) They gave her some good travel advice.

10. **References.** Write the references the way they should be written in *References* or *Works Cited* to the following imagined source in an academic text. Use the style guide of your choice. Underline details that should be written in italics on a computer. (4 points)

A book with the facts below.

Title: Macbeth

Author: William Shakespeare

Name of publisher: Oxford University Press

Year of publication: 1939

Media: Print

SUMMARY

11. **Summary.** Summarize the following excerpt from the article “Shizo Kanakuri: The Man Who Took 54 Years To Finish a Marathon” by Kaushik Patowary (*Amusing Planet*, Oct. 5, 2022). Your summary should be on 120–150 words and may include a maximum of two short quotes. A few words are explained on the next page. No citation is needed. (20 points)

Shizo Kanakuri: The Man Who Took 54 Years To Finish a Marathon

Shizo Kanakuri was not a slow runner. In fact, he reportedly set the world record by completing a 40-km marathon run in 2 hours, 32 minutes, and 45 seconds at a domestic event, that qualified him to represent Japan at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics. Yet, on race day, he could barely compete and dropped out before he reached the half-way mark. Embarrassed at his failure, Shizo Kanakuri never showed up. It would be decades before he was formally allowed to finish the race.

[...]

Kanakuri had only flimsy street shoes that were inadequate for the gravel course. About half-way into the race, suffering from the heat, he stopped at a house and asked the residents for a glass of water. The family fed him raspberry juice, fruits and cinnamon rolls and gave him a couch to rest. Kanakuri lied down and against his better judgement fell asleep. When he woke up, it was next morning.

Kanakuri was deeply disappointed and ashamed of his actions. He wrote in his journal the next day: “It’s the morning after my defeat. My heart is aching with regret for the rest of my life. It was the most significant day of my life. But failure teaches success, and I can only wait for the day with fair weather after the rain so that I can clean up my shame. If people want to laugh, laugh. I showed the lack of physical strength Japanese people have and their immature skills. I can’t fulfill this burden but dying is easy, and living is hard. To wipe off this shame, I will work with all my strength to brush up my marathon skills and raise the prestige of our country.”

Kanakuri did not notify the race officials, and quietly returned to Japan. His early departure was made fun of by the Swedes, who claimed that he had been running around the country for years, in search of the finish line.

Once back in his country, Kanakuri renewed training, determined to uphold his name and his nation’s honour. He shared his experiences with other young people and urged them to begin long-distance running. In addition, he started recruiting and training female athletes. He also taught blind kids how to run by having them grab onto a thread. He is credited with inventing the multistage long-distance relay race known as the Ekiden, which is still well-liked in Japan.

Kanakuri continued to represent Japan in the Olympics. He competed in the 1920 Summer Olympics held in Antwerp, Belgium, where he finished the marathon race in 2 hours, 48 minutes and 45.4 seconds and placed 16th. Kanakuri also participated in the 1924 Summer Olympics, but failed to finish the race.

Around the time of the 50th anniversary of the 1912 Games, the tale of his disappearance started to gain attention. More people became aware of the missing Japanese runner, and many who knew of the folk legend were surprised to learn that he was alive and well in his home country.

In 1967, Swedish officials invited Kanakuri, now 76 years old, to return to Stockholm and finish the race that he started 54 years ago. They held a ceremony, which was covered heavily in the Swedish media. When he finally crossed the finish line, his time was announced as 54 years 8 months 6 days 5 hours 32 minutes 20.3 seconds.

A stadium announcer blared, "This concludes all the events from the 1912 Stockholm Games," and Kanakuri joked: "It was a long trip. Along the way, I got married, had six children and 10 grandchildren."

<https://www.amusingplanet.com/2022/10/shizo-kanakuri-man-who-took-54-years-to.html>

Vocabulary (most definitions taken from Oxford Learners' Dictionaries: American English)

▪ flimsy	badly made and not strong enough for the purpose for which it is used
▪ gravel	small stones, often used to make the surface of paths and roads
▪ notify	to formally or officially tell someone about something
▪ recruit	to find new people to join a company, an organization, the armed forces, etc.
▪ blare	to make a loud unpleasant noise
▪ conclude	to come to an end; to bring something to an end

Article accessed on May 11, 2025 from:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-01325-3>

Good luck!

Stefan