Reading and Writing Examination:
LCEN6802: Academic Writing in English for Native Speakers

This examination counts for 60% of your final mark.

Duration: 2 hours
Date: XX-May-2013
Time: 10:00/14:30
Version: v1.02 2013-02-27
In this examination you can obtain a maximum of 100 points.

Answer ONE of the following questions in ENGLISH in the separate EXAMINATION ANSWER BOOK(S) provided.

You should write A MINIMUM OF 900 WORDS. Dictionaries are NOT permitted.

In order for your answers to remain anonymous do NOT use your name when completing the tasks.

1. Nowadays many educationalists stress the importance of creativity. Why is creativity important and how can we promote it in formal education?

2. It’s a popular cliché among bus users in London to complain of ‘waiting ages for a bus, and then three turn up at once’. Examine changes that could be adopted by Transport for London to improve London’s public bus services.

3. Why might having social intelligence skills be preferable to having physical skills or a high IQ?

4. ‘Errare humanum est (To err is human)’. Discuss the human experience of ‘being wrong’ with reference to psychological theory.

5. Since 1891 when mandatory education in Britain first became free for all children aged 5-12, there have been many changes in the style of primary teaching. Identify and evaluate key changes over time that may have improved (or not improved) children’s education, with reference to at least one country with which you are familiar.

6. Examine the work of two or more photographers and/or artists in relation to realism, with reference to contemporary examples and/or examples from a particular historical period.

7. “Art is a lie that makes us realize the truth” (Picasso). To what extent can ‘propaganda art’ be considered as ‘art’? Support your answer with reference to examples from one or more historic periods.

8. To what extent can the hosting of a major international sporting event increase the ‘soft power’ of the host nation?

9. Examine the impact of recent discoveries in genetics on the development of one or more pharmaceutical products.

10. In films or novels, some sequels can be criticised for ‘lacking originality’ while others can be regarded as ‘better than the original’. Critically examine the success of ‘sequels’ in either films or novels, with reference to examples with which you are familiar.

11. ‘Crime fiction writers nowadays are no longer bound by early conventions of the genre as popularised by Conan Doyle (author of Sherlock Holmes stories) or other early crime fiction writers.’ Discuss, with reference to examples from crime writers in one or more countries.
12. Are there any economic circumstances that would justify having a state monopoly or private monopoly in preference to a competitive market? Support your answer with reference to examples from two or more economic activities.

13. Non-statisticians often refer to the pattern of normal distribution as ‘a bell curve’. Discuss the use and importance of the bell curve in relation to two or more practical examples.

14. To what extent can a government ‘minimum wage’ policy succeed in reducing poverty?