

FINAL EXAMINATION

Semester	:	JANUARY 2026 SEMESTER
Programme Name	:	FOUNDATION IN ARTS
Course Code & Name	:	FA1213 ENGLISH II
Duration	:	3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

1. Please read the instructions given in the question paper **CAREFULLY**.
2. The question paper consists of **FOUR (4)** questions.
3. Answer **ALL** questions in the question paper.
4. Answers to the questions are to be written into the examination booklet.
5. Electronic dictionaries, lecture notes, files or any unauthorised materials except writing equipment are strictly prohibited.

This question paper must be submitted along with all used and/or unused rough papers and/ or graph papers (if any). Candidates are **NOT ALLOWED** to take any examination paper(s) used or unused out of the examination hall.

WARNING:

The Examination Board of Peninsula College Georgetown regards cheating as a very serious offence and will not hesitate to mete out the appropriate punitive actions according to the severity of the offence committed, and in accordance with the clauses stipulated in the Students' Handbook, up to and including expulsion from Peninsula College Georgetown.

(This booklet contains 8 printed pages including this page)

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ALLOWED TO DO SO

Answer **ALL** questions on the separate sheet provided.

[100 marks]

1. a) Read the article and then answer the following questions.

Misophones

We are sometimes annoyed by some sounds; for example, fingernails on chalkboards, forks and spoons hitting each other, Fran Drescher's nasal voice, or the sounds of can opening. That is normal. But for some people, there are particular sounds that can drive them crazy. An Atlanta journalist tried to strangle his own father across the table just because he chewed loudly every time he ate. An Arizona computer scientist detested the sounds of knives so much to the extent his girlfriend also developed the same feelings towards the sound. In another instance, an Oregon housewife chased her family members out of the house, all because she did not want to listen to them.

Take Tabachneck's story for example. Up until he was 14, he loved music very much and hearing people laugh. He found the sounds of sirens grating. *It* first started when he and his father were watching a movie at home in Pittsburgh. His dad was eating ice cream, and he started pushing his ice cream into a puddle and clicked his spoon against the bowl. That sound was somewhat different from other sounds as it provoked a feeling of anxiety and physical agitation at the same time. It was then Tabachneck found out that he had problems with certain sounds. Sounds that normal people think nothing of but could make him go berserk. That was the start of noise-related misery in his life.

Tabachneck was a computer science college dropout, not because he failed in his classes or tests, but because he could not stand the clicking sound in the computer labs. He tried to work at a customer service department since he thought he could manage that. Unfortunately, he was wrong. He could not stand the behaviour of a few of his colleagues. One loved to chew tobacco, another liked to talk with his mouth full, and the last one had this old keyboard he brought in to work just because he liked the sound of the keys. Not only did his studies and work life suffer, but Tabachneck's love life also suffered. He once loved a girl and was so close to making her his wife, but he had to eat in a separate room to avoid hearing her chewing her food. The relationship later ended because his then girlfriend smacked her chewing gum. Currently, he is dating a girl who occasionally cracks her joints. He said most people cannot be in a relationship with a misophone because they do not know which sounds would make a misophone irritated and agitated.

Over the years, Tabachneck's condition was thought to be psychological. And because his condition is poorly understood, he struggled to convince others that his problem was not a form of neuroticism. The doctors only gave him different diagnoses and medications. Nothing worked until in 2010, an audiologist told him that his symptoms are a textbook case of a disorder called misophonia. Psychologists called these people misophones, people who are sensitive to specific, low-volume sounds. One of the reasons medical practitioners could not diagnose Tabachneck sooner is because misophonia is not in the DSM-5, the so-called bible of psychiatric diagnoses, because this was too recently observed. It does not matter whether this disorder is a mental disorder or not, people like Tabachneck are experiencing this kind of discomfort every day in their daily lives.

An Oregon audiologist, Marsha Johnson, and other experts view misophonia as an 'old brain' problem, probably because it is located in the part of the cortex that processes emotion. Misophones will do anything for relief. 'You could say, "I'll hit you on the head with a guitar, and it will cure you" and you would have a hundred people lined up to pay you USD5000 to hit them on the head.' She is working on an approach that uses sound-generating equipment to weaken an individual's connection between certain sounds that they find annoying and the autonomous nervous system, paired with cognitive therapy. Some desperate misophones would try to cover the irritating sounds with an ocean of ambient noise. Some have tried working as Zumba instructors, others would use iPods, fans and earphones to help them stop hearing the irritating noises.

(Adapted from Reader's Digest Asia, March 2016)

- i. The main idea in paragraph 1 is that (2 marks)
- A there are people who chew their food loudly.
 - B there are people who are annoyed at certain sounds.
 - C there are places named Atlanta, Arizona and Oregon.
 - D there are people who are annoyed by Fran Drescher's nasal voice.
- ii. What does *it* in line 2 of paragraph 2 refer to? (2 marks)
- A The sound that started Tabachneck's noise-related misery.
 - B The movie that Tabachneck and his father were watching.
 - C The ice cream his father was eating.
 - D The sound of sirens.
- iii. In paragraph 3, why did Tabachneck face a series of unfortunate events in his life? (2 marks)
- A Because the sounds people made irritated him.
 - B Because he was not a college graduate.
 - C Because he was a fussy person.
 - D Because he did not have a job.
- iv. Why did the doctors give him different diagnoses and medications? (2 marks)
- A The symptoms that he had are not in the book of psychiatric diagnoses.
 - B His condition was thought to be psychological.
 - C His condition was a form of neuroticism.
 - D It was a mental disorder.
- v. Why would misophones do anything for relief? (2 marks)
- A There is no cure yet.
 - B Their future is bleak.
 - C They have a lot of money.
 - D They have a certain connection with sounds.
- vi. Misophonia is also known as an 'old brain' problem because (2 marks)
- A it releases emotions.
 - B it is located in the head.
 - C it is quite an old disorder.
 - D it is located in the cortex part that processes emotion.
- vii. Which of the following summarises the text? (2 marks)
- A Sounds that make people irritated.
 - B Misophones would do anything for relief.
 - C Tabachneck has been suffering from misophonia.
 - D Misophonia is a new-found disorder that is yet to be understood.

- b) Read sections **A–G** of a magazine article about the Mediterranean Sea. Then, answer Question **i – xi**.

Which sections include the following information? Write **A, B, C, D, E, F or G** for each question.

The Mediterranean Sea

A

In its 2.5 million square kilometer span, the Mediterranean Sea touches 3 different continents. In fact, 21 countries share a border with this large body of water. Despite being subdivided into fourteen smaller seas, including the Adriatic, Aegean and Ionian, the Mediterranean is characterized by a typical climate that boasts mild winters and hot summers. The former tends to be accompanied with precipitation, while the latter could be dry or humid depending on the specific location.

B

Due to its connections to a plethora of different lands, the Mediterranean was a central route for trade. Not only were goods such as food products, gold and textiles transferred between and beyond ports, but cultural exchanges also occurred. To name a few, Greeks, Romans, Persians, and Ottomans all had their turn in controlling the area and this influence was expanded when trade extended to Asian countries along the Silk Road and Spice Routes. Each of these ethnic groups played an essential role in the development of Western History and the shaping of the region's nations as we know them in modern day.

C

As a result of these mixing cultures, a common language was needed to conduct business between the merchants and travelers in the region. For this reason, Sabir became the Lingua Franca of the region until the 19th century. That is to say, this pidgin language was a mix of the Latin-based tongues with fusions of North-African, Turkish and Greek influences, simplified in a way that people from several linguistic backgrounds were able to communicate. In spite of its abridged linguistic construction, Sabir lost its traction as respective countries began gaining more power. Today, about thirteen official languages are spoken in the area with relatively limited similarities.

D

Nevertheless, a cultural likeness in cuisine does permeate the region. While you may have heard the term, "Mediterranean Diet", there is not a clear-cut definition of what this precisely means. Generally speaking, those who inhabit the area tend to promote a plant-based lifestyle. Instead of consuming a high proportion of red meat, they tend to incorporate a few doses of leaner options such as fish, chicken, or eggs. Unprocessed foods like fruits, veggies and legumes, as well as whole grains accompany these sources of protein. Of course, no Mediterranean meal is complete without healthy fat, like their famous olive oil.

E

It's not surprising that the World Health Organization recommends this lifestyle to help prevent chronic illnesses and increase lifespans. The emphasis placed on seasonal foods removes the need for processed chow. What's more is its lack of restrictions. Bread and fats, albeit not trans or saturated ones, are welcomed in moderation. Additionally, unlike other diets, this one does not promote harmful behaviours such as calorie counting.

F

Beyond the exportation of the Mediterranean way of life, tourists flock to experience it first-hand. Having over 45,000 kilometres of breathtaking coast, millions of people visit each year. The region is home to hundreds of islands, ranging in size from the large and well-known Italian provinces of Sicily and Sardinia to the miniscule isles of Greece. While high summer temperatures entice crowds of sunbathers, the vast array of cultural activities attract those looking to experience some of the region's history. Likewise, tourism is vital for locals, as they heavily rely on this industry. Without it, their livelihood would be severely impacted.

G

Notwithstanding the allure of this vacation destination, human intervention is certainly taking a toll on the landscape. The overdevelopment of the Mediterranean seaside for tourism is causing the decline of biodiversity and natural coastlines. Moreover, increased pollution from cruise ships and land-based activities is quickening this process. Another major concern is overfishing. It is estimated that the majority of natural sea species in the area are heavily threatened.

H

Additionally, a humanitarian issue has become prominent in news articles regarding the Mediterranean at the present time. Dubbed a graveyard by Malta's Prime Minister, the sea has become notorious for the deaths of many individuals. Many migrants from Africa and the Middle East trying to reach Europe have been the victims of the sea's rough waters, enduring awful conditions and capsized ships. Whether this situation is a result of reforms to European immigration policies or not, it has gained momentum and the call for change and responsibility is widely debated among Mediterranean nations.

Which section ...

- i. Explains how the Mediterranean Sea helped the exchange of goods and cultures between different civilisations? (1 mark)
- ii. Describes the development and purpose of a shared language used in the region? (1 mark)
- iii. Outlines common eating habits shared by people living in Mediterranean countries? (1 mark)
- iv. Explains why the Mediterranean diet is considered beneficial to health? (1 mark)
- v. Highlights the importance of tourism to people living in the Mediterranean region? (1 mark)
- vi. Describes environmental damage caused by human activities in the Mediterranean Sea? (1 mark)
- vii. Mentions a current humanitarian issue linked to the Mediterranean Sea? (1 mark)
- viii. Shows how historical events influenced the modern development of the Mediterranean region? (1 mark)
- ix. Mentions the typical climate of the Mediterranean region? (1 mark)

- x. Describes the geographical size of the Mediterranean Sea and the number of countries it borders? (1 mark)
 - xi. Explains how cultural similarities exist despite linguistic differences in the Mediterranean region? (1 mark)
- Total: [25 marks]

2. Read the article about street food, which is inexpensive food sold in public places and is popular in many countries. Write a summary about **the advantages of eating street food**. Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long).

You should use your own words as far as possible.

Street Food Culture

Street food refers to ready-to-eat meals sold in public places and enjoyed by millions of people around the world every day. The practice of selling food on the streets dates back hundreds of years, especially in busy cities where workers needed quick and affordable meals. In recent decades, street food has become more popular as urban populations have grown, and people look for convenient dining options. Today, street food is not only common in developing countries but is also celebrated in food festivals and markets worldwide.

Not everyone feels comfortable eating street food. Some people worry about cleanliness or food safety, much like how others avoid eating unfamiliar dishes. However, for those who enjoy it, street food offers a chance to taste authentic local flavours that are often unavailable in restaurants. From a vendor's perspective, offering a unique or traditional dish can help attract customers more easily than selling common food items. In addition, street food is accessible to a wide range of people because it is usually affordable and widely available.

Although selling food on the street may seem simple, preparing safe and tasty meals requires a lot of effort. Vendors often work long hours to prepare fresh ingredients, cook food properly, and serve customers quickly. As a result, street food dishes are usually made with care and reflect strong culinary traditions. Many vendors focus on a small menu, allowing them to perfect their recipes and maintain consistent quality.

Street food is also convenient for consumers. Meals can be eaten on the go, shared with friends, or enjoyed at any time of day. This convenience makes street food especially popular among students, workers, and travellers. Food stalls are often located near markets, offices, or transport areas, making them easy to access.

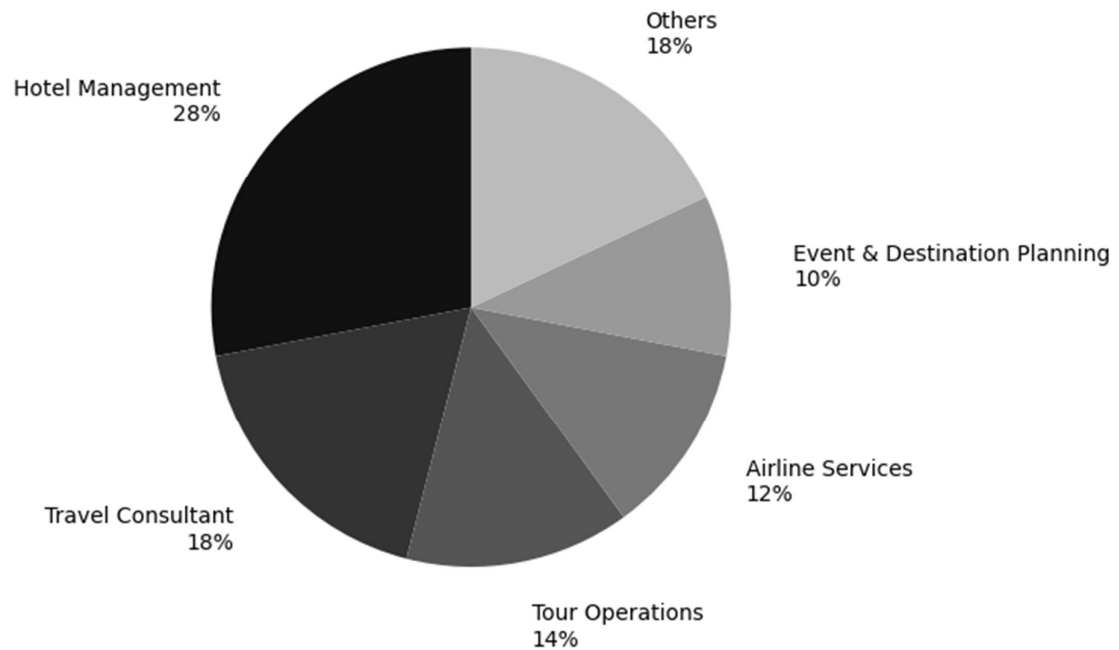
For vendors, running a successful street food business can be highly rewarding. Seeing regular customers return and recommend the food to others gives a strong sense of achievement. It is satisfying to know that hard work and passion for food can bring both financial stability and personal pride.

Total: [25 marks]

3. The chart and table below show the employment sectors of Tourism Management graduates after completing their undergraduate degree at a university in the UK, along with their average annual income.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

Employment Sectors of Tourism Management Graduates in the UK



Employment sectors	Percentage	Average annual income in Pounds Sterling
Hotel Management	28%	38,000
Travel Consultant	18%	30,500
Tour Operations	14%	27,000
Airline Services	12%	42,000
Event and Destination Planning	10%	35,000
Others	18%	29,000

Total: [25 marks]

4. You recently attended a PTA meeting with your parents where one of the speakers talked about the generation gap between parents and children. The following comment was made by the speaker.

Today's generation is very different from their parents' generation.

Write an essay expressing your opinion on that statement. Write at least 250 words.

Total: [25 marks]

- END OF QUESTIONS -