

TEACHERS COLLEGE OF JAMAICA

DECEMBER 2018-EXAMINATIONS

COMMON PAPER

LANGUAGE ARTS

**ADVANCED COMMUNICATION SKILLS
[LA302GEB]**

**YEAR: 4
EC/PRIMARY/SECONDARY**

TIME: 2 ½ HOURS

Instructions: Answer TWO questions, ONE from Section A and ONE from Section B.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

SECTION A-30 MARKS

Write an argumentative essay in 450-500 words on ONE of the following topics:

1. Corruption in Jamaica is responsible for the country's economic challenges.
2. Parents should be held responsible for their children's actions.
3. Secondary school students who have academic challenges should be expelled from school.
4. Praedial larceny is the biggest threat to agricultural development in Jamaica.

SECTION B -20 marks.

Write a 350-400-word critical review of ONE of the following articles:

5.a)

Garth A. Rattray | The wrong legacy (Part 2)

Published: Monday | September 24, 2018 | 12:11 AM

Eventually, when the newly constructed road-ways are flooded with the newly imported cars and are choked at various bottlenecks, what will we think of the much-vaunted 'legacy' then? As we throttle, burning off precious fuel and poisoning ourselves with exhaust, will we mostly remember the chaos, dust, respiratory illnesses, the demise of businesses and jobs from inaccessibility and loss of telecommunications? Will we wonder about the 'progress' that was limited by an inability to solve the traffic problems? Will the legacy backfire?

Adding to the milieu of our traffic nightmare is the big business that importing vehicles provide. Selling pre-owned and brand spanking new vehicles is a very profitable source of income. From prestigious, giant motor vehicle importers to the one-man, online entrepreneur, selling cars is very profitable. Everybody wants the independence and convenience of a personal vehicle. No one likes waiting 'forever' on large buses that are caught up in traffic somewhere else and are possibly already full by the time they arrive. We all know of the occasional bus bandits that brandish weapons and relieve hapless passengers of their property.

Although convenient, we would rather avoid the 'route taxis' that cram and scam with people while breaking every conceivable traffic law in a bid to get rid of existing passengers and grab new ones. And, of course, there have been recent incidents of thieves, posing as route taxis, that abduct and rob commuters. Our public transport system has a plethora of challenges.

Supply and demand

The demand for vehicles drives the supply market, and the supply market is so enticing that it drives the demand for vehicles. Importing, maintaining and fuelling vehicles soaks up massive amounts of precious foreign exchange, and the foreign exchange that they earn/produce is intangible. This upward spiralling, self-driven economic boom will never abate until commuters are offered practical and safe options. This is where our future salvation lies. The powers that be must dedicate more time, money and effort to public transport solutions instead of mainly engaging in mitigating projects that will be negated sooner than we dare to imagine.

We all know that; with any progress comes discomfort; however, in spite of the many experts involved and their apparent efforts at minimising dislocations and losses, the inconveniences, suffering and financial losses are great and pile up every day. I have patients who are constantly suffering from upper and lower respiratory diseases because of the dust. Some are literally freaking out because of heavy traffic going right by their homes.

I was sent into an intersection by an incompetent, untrained flag-person who was not too bright, and I was almost t-boned by the oncoming traffic that was not adequately signalled to stop. Detour signs are woefully lacking. They seem to be hurriedly flung on-site. Negotiating many roads depends on following the cars ahead and hoping that they know where they are going. There needs, to be a lot more thought and planning put into detour signs and many more informed and trained personnel manning them who can tell us where to go to get where we need to, because businesses are suffering massive revenue losses.

The contractors are disrupting thousands of telecommunications services. Many businesses will die because of lack of landlines and Internet service. FLOW/Cable & Wireless claims that, despite cautionary warnings and instructions, the excavation is destroying the lifelines of businesses. The telecoms giant must do more to safeguard its valued customers and the Government must intervene urgently to preserve lines and cables, and stop this callous, unrestrained, heavy-handed and extremely disruptive behaviour by the contractors.

The 'legacy' may well become one of dislocation, pain, suffering and financial ruin to gain limited reprieve from traffic congestion.

- Garth A. Rattray is a medical doctor with a family practice. Email feedback to columns@gleanerjm.com and garthrattray@gmail.com.

From: The Daily Gleaner

OR

5b)

Jaevion Nelson | Talking corruption to death

Published: Saturday | June 23, 2018 | 12:00 AM

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Isn't it uncanny that despite the commitments by political leaders to tackle the pervasiveness of corruption, countless news stories and features/documentaries exposing corrupt practices, and a handful of organisations working tirelessly around transparency and accountability, we don't seem to be making much progress at all?

Why is it that every year, administration after administration, we seem to be talking about and dealing with the same type of controversies related to corruption? Why do you continue to pussyfoot with addressing this issue? Are we not concerned about how our country's development is being stymied as a consequence? Or does the party we support take precedence over the nation's resources and welfare?

I have come to the conclusion that very little will change over the next few years because of citizens' attitude and how we continue to pander to the piecemeal approaches to address such a grave problem.

I am worn out by the banter in both traditional and social media about corruption. It's the darn same script every year with a different cast, where we point fingers, expose individuals for political mileage, retort with a laundry list of even more corrupt practices allegedly perpetrated by predecessors, call for someone to be sacked, and then, by day nine, we drink rum, we party, we move on, and we sleep as if we addressed the problem in a sustainable way.

It's rather worrying how the traditional media pander to all of this.

The situation is quite unfortunate. Unless we improve our systems, ensure greater transparency in the administration and use of public funds, increase accountability, and reduce corruption, our country's economic growth and development will continue to be strangled.

If indeed we want better for our country, if we want prosperity for all of us, we have to be more concerned as a people. It means that as citizens, we have to have more sober discussions about corruption and what we all need to do to be less complicit. We have to become more solution-oriented.

Focus on the issue

We have to focus on the issue broadly and not solely on the individual or party that is in question at a particular time. We have to appreciate that merely calling for someone to be sacked, as is the custom, is hardly a solution when weak systems remain intact for the individual's replacement to perpetrate the same wrong until they are exposed.

Civil society must also play its part. More organisations have to be concerned about transparency and accountability regardless of the issues they tend to work on. They must partner with, and lend support to, entities like the National Integrity Action (NIA), which, I believe, is the most resourced and leading entity working on the issue.

The NIA and its partners must recognise that they are hardly speaking to the populace. As my friend said to me the other day, "NIA is so important and could be more effective, but the problem I have is that the language they use is not accessible to the common man." I've heard this quite a lot.

We have to find more innovative ways to engage us in the fight against corruption. Until then, we'll continue to banter, point fingers, turn a blind eye and survive.

The media, too, have a crucial role and responsibility. Save for discussion programmes on radio and TV and opinion pieces in the paper, it must play a greater role in setting the agenda around how we treat with corruption as a country. News reports have to focus less on the sensationalism and do better in shaping public opinion and strengthening society.

Let's all play our part to make our country, our little rock, better.

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Jaevion Nelson is a human rights, economic and social justice advocate.

END OF EXAMINATION

