

**FINAL EXAMINATION****BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN APPLIED ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES****COURSE : ADVANCED READING****COURSE CODE : ELR2053****DURATION : 3 HOURS****INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

1. This question paper consists of **FOUR (4)** parts : PART A (3 questions)
: PART B (10 questions)
: PART C (9 questions)
: PART D (1 question)
2. Answer **ALL** questions in the **Question Paper**.
3. Please check to make sure that this examination pack consists of:
i. The Question Paper
4. Do not bring any material into the examination hall.
5. Please write your answer using permanent ink.

MYKAD/**PASSPORT NO :** _____**ID. NO. :** _____**LECTURER :** _____**SECTION :** _____

DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

This question paper consists of 15 printed pages including the front page.

PART A: READING SKILLS

The questions in PART A are based on the following text.

Thailand – Cambodia Border Conflict

- I Simmering tensions between Thailand and Cambodia have once again exploded along their shared border, derailing a fragile ceasefire backed by US President Donald Trump. At least five Thai soldiers and seven Cambodian civilians have been killed since Monday, with the countries accusing one another of starting the violence. The clashes, which have also seen Thailand launch airstrikes along the border, are the most serious since the ceasefire was agreed in July 2025. 5
- II This is not a recent **dispute** for both countries. The argument between Thailand and Cambodia dates back more than a century, when the borders of the two nations were drawn after the French occupation of Cambodia. Hostilities **escalated** in 2008, when Cambodia tried to register an 11th Century temple located in the disputed area as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. *The move* was met with heated protest from Thailand. Over the years, there have been sporadic clashes, with soldiers and civilians killed on both sides. 10
15
- III The latest tensions ramped up in May 2025, after a Cambodian soldier was killed in a clash. *This* plunged relations between the countries to their lowest point in more than a decade. In the run up to the first bout of fighting in July 2025, both nations had imposed border restrictions. Cambodia banned imports from Thailand, including fruit and vegetables, power supplies and internet services. *Both countries* had also strengthened troop presence along the border in recent weeks. 20
- IV Both sides exchanged gunfire, with each claiming the other had triggered the conflict. It escalated quickly, with Thailand accusing Cambodia of firing rockets and Bangkok carrying out air strikes on Cambodian military targets. At least 48 people were killed and thousands displaced during five days of fighting. *The incident* was massive! 25
- V Donald Trump then mediated between the parties in the conflict. He **intervened** and with the help of Malaysia, they negotiated a ceasefire. The US President later, oversaw the signing of what he called as "The Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord" in October 2025. Unfortunately, Thailand refused to call *it* that. Instead, referring to it as "Joint Declaration by the Prime Ministers of Thailand and Cambodia" on the outcomes of their meeting in Kuala Lumpur. 30
- VI Both agreed to withdraw their heavy weapons from the disputed region and establish an **interim** observer team to monitor it temporarily. The next step was supposed to include the release of 18 Cambodian soldiers held in Thailand. 35

- VII However, Thailand paused the agreement in November 2025, with Thai Prime Minister, Anutin Charnvirakul saying the security threat "has not actually decreased". At the time, Cambodia said it remained committed to the terms of the deal. After fighting broke out again in December 2025, Thailand's Foreign Minister, Sihasak Phuangketkeow told the BBC that the ceasefire was "not working" and that "the ball is in Cambodia's court". Nevertheless, Cambodia's former Prime Minister, Hun Sen said it had only returned fire late on Monday, in order to "respect the ceasefire". 40
- VIII Donald Trump, meanwhile, has called on both sides to **respect** the agreement. Where this leads next is unclear. While there have been serious exchanges of fire in the past, they de-escalated relatively quickly. 45

(Adapted from:
Drury, F., & Butler, G. (2025, December 9). *Why are Thailand and Cambodia fighting at the border?* BBC News.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cdjsxje2pje1o>)

QUESTION 1

With the help of contextual clues, replace the following words with similar meaning.

- a. dispute (line 8) : _____
- b. escalated (line 11) : _____
- c. intervened (line 29) : _____
- d. interim (line 36) : _____
- e. respect (line 47) : _____

(5 marks)

QUESTION 2

What do the following words in the passage refer to?

- a. *The move* (line 13) : _____
- b. *This* (line 17) : _____
- c. *Both countries* (line 21) : _____
- d. *The incident* (line 27) : _____
- e. *it* (line 32) : _____

(5 marks)

QUESTION 3

Circle TRUE or FALSE for each of the following statements.

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| a. | The clashes in January 2026 were the first major outbreak of violence between Thailand and Cambodia since the French occupation of Cambodia | True / False |
| b. | The dispute between Thailand and Cambodia intensified in 2008 when Cambodia attempted to register an ancient temple as a UNESCO World Heritage Site | True / False |
| c. | In May 2025, the killing of a Cambodian soldier marked the lowest point in bilateral relations in more than a decade | True / False |
| d. | Cambodia responded to the July 2025 clashes by banning imports from Thailand, including food, electricity, and internet services | True / False |
| e. | During the July 2025 fighting, Thailand accused Cambodia of firing rockets, while Cambodia accused Thailand of launching airstrikes | True / False |
| f. | At least 48 people were killed and thousands displaced during five days of fighting in July 2025. | True / False |
| g. | Donald Trump, with Malaysia's assistance, mediated the ceasefire that led to the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord in October 2025 | True / False |
| h. | Thailand fully embraced the term "Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord" to describe the October 2025 agreement | True / False |
| i. | The ceasefire agreement included both the withdrawal of heavy weapons and the release of Cambodian soldiers held in Thailand | True / False |
| j. | In December 2025, Cambodia's former Prime Minister Hun Sen admitted to initiating fire against Thailand, disregarding the ceasefire | True / False |

(10 marks)

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

PART B: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Questions 1-10 are based on the following passage.

How to Avoid Getting Married

A story of Mr. Leacock, an editor of a correspondence column, who receives letter from a distressed young man.

- I "Dear Mr. Leacock,
- II "For some time past I have been the recipient of very marked attentions from a young lady. She has been calling at the house almost every evening, and has taken me out in her motor, and invited me to concerts and the theatre. On these latter occasions I have insisted on her taking my father with me, and have tried as far as possible to prevent her saying anything to me which would be unfit for father to hear. But my position has become a very difficult one. I do not think it right to accept her presents when I cannot feel that my heart is hers. Yesterday, she sent to my house a beautiful bouquet of American Beauty roses addressed to me, and a magnificent bunch of Timothy Hay for father. I do not know what to say. Would it be right for father to keep all this valuable hay? I have confided fully in father, and we have discussed the question of presents. He thinks that there are some that we can keep with propriety, and others that a sense of delicacy forbids us to retain. He himself is going to sort out the presents into the two classes. He thinks that as far as he can see, the Hay is in class B. Meantime I write to you, as I understand that Miss Laura Jean Libby and Miss Beatrix Fairfax are on their vacation, and in any case a friend of mine who follows their writings closely tells me that they are always full.
- III "I enclose a dollar, because I do not think it right to ask you to give all your valuable time and your best thought without giving you back what it is worth."
- IV On receipt of this I wrote back at once a private and confidential letter which I printed in the following edition of the paper.
- V "My dear, dear Boy",
- VI "Your letter has touched me. As soon as I opened it and saw the green and blue tint of the dollar bill which you had so daintily and prettily folded within the pages of your sweet letter, I knew that the note was from someone that I could learn to love, if our correspondence were to continue as it had begun. I took the dollar from your letter and kissed and fondled it a dozen times. Dear unknown boy! I shall always keep that dollar! No matter how much I may need it, or how many necessities, yes, absolute necessities, of life I may be wanting, I shall always keep that dollar. Do you understand, dear? I shall keep it. I shall not spend it. As far as the use of it goes, it will be just as if you had not sent it. Even if you were to send me another dollar, I should still keep the first one, so that no matter how many

- you sent, the recollection of one first friendship would not be contaminated with mercenary considerations. When I say dollar, darling, of course an express order, or a postal note, or even stamps would be all the same. But in that case do not address me in care of this office, as I should not like to think of your pretty little letters lying round where others might handle them. 40
- VII "But now I must stop chatting about myself, for I know that you cannot be interested in a simple old fogey such as I am. Let me talk to you about your letter and about the difficult question it raises for all marriageable young men. 45
- VIII "In the first place, let me tell you how glad I am that you confide in your father. Whatever happens, go at once to your father, put your arms about his neck, and have a good cry together. And you are right, too, about presents. It needs a wiser head than my poor perplexed boy to deal with them. Take them to your father to be sorted, or, if you feel that you must not overtax his love, address them to me in your own pretty hand. 50
- IX "And now let us talk, dear, as one heart to another. Remember always that if a girl is to have your heart, she must be worthy of you. When you look at your own bright innocent face in the mirror, resolve that you will give your hand to no girl who is not just as innocent as you are and no brighter than yourself. So that you must first find out how innocent she is. Ask her quietly and frankly – remember, dear, that the days of false modesty are passing away – whether she has ever been in jail. If she has not (and if you have not), then you know that you are dealing with a dear confiding girl who will make you a life mate. Then you must know, too, that her mind is worthy of your own. So many men to-day are led astray by the merely superficial graces and attractions of girls who in reality possess no mental equipment at all. Many a man is bitterly disillusioned after marriage when he realises that his wife cannot solve a quadratic equation, and that he is compelled to spend all his days with a woman who does not know that $x^2 + 2xy + y^2$ is the same thing, or, I think nearly the same thing, as $x + y$ squared. 55
60
65
- X "Don't overlook basic household skills. If a girl wants to date you, before letting her **"make her case,"** ask if she knows how to iron your suit. **If she can, let her woo; if not, tell her to whoa.** But I see I have written quite as much as I need for this column. Won't you write again, just as before, dear boy? 70

(Adapted from: Leacock, S. (1920). *How to avoid getting married*. Retrieved January 1, 2026, from <https://www.example.com/how-to-avoid-getting-married>)

Choose the correct answer.

1. Why does the young man involve his father in outings with the lady?
 - A. To ensure she pays for both tickets
 - B. To strengthen his father's social life.
 - C. To test her patience with family obligations
 - D. To stop her from saying things that are not proper.
2. What is the significance of the bouquet of roses and the bunch of hay?
 - A. They represent seasonal offerings in rural tradition
 - B. They show her attempt to bribe the family with luxuries
 - C. They symbolize the girl's affection for both son and father
 - D. They highlight her ignorance of proper gift-giving etiquette
3. How does the editor's response to the enclosed dollar satirise romantic correspondence?
 - A. By mocking the boy's lack of generosity
 - B. By refusing to accept payment for advice.
 - C. By treating money as a sacred token of affection
 - D. By insisting on financial independence in relationships
4. Why does the young man feel conflicted about accepting the girl's presents?
 - A. He fears his father will disapprove of them
 - B. He feels it is dishonest since he does not love her
 - C. He worries they are too expensive for her to afford
 - D. He believes gifts should only be exchanged after marriage
5. What does the editor's advice about crying with one's father reveal about the tone of the piece?
 - A. It emphasises the seriousness of filial duty
 - B. It mocks exaggerated emotional dependence on parents
 - C. It highlights the importance of family bonding in courtship
 - D. It suggests that fathers should control their sons' romantic choices
6. How does the editor's suggestion to test a girl's innocence by asking if she has been in jail function as *satire* (social or moral criticism through humour)?
 - A. It makes fun of shallow, silly ways to judge character.
 - B. It shows the editor's ignorance of proper moral evaluation
 - C. It reflects genuine social concerns about women's criminality
 - D. It demonstrates the seriousness of background checks in marriage

7. What common social expectation is Leacock making fun of when he says a wife should solve a quadratic equation?
- A. Mathematics is essential for domestic harmony
 - B. Education is irrelevant to romantic compatibility
 - C. Men should avoid women with scientific knowledge
 - D. Women must show they are as smart as men in marriage
8. The phrase “**make her case**” (line 70) means _____.
- A. to argue in court
 - B. to iron her clothes
 - C. to prepare a legal document
 - D. to present reasons for dating him
9. The tone of Leacock's reply to the boy can best be described as _____.
- A. cynical and bitter
 - B. earnest and moralising
 - C. playful and mock-serious
 - D. detached and analytical
10. The closing line “**if she can, let her woo; if not, tell her to whoa**” (line 71) demonstrates _____.
- A. a parody (making fun) religious rule
 - B. a critique of gender roles in courtship
 - C. a fun fact against unsuitable partners
 - D. a rhythmic joke and punning wordplay

(TOTAL: 10 MARKS)

PART C: READING COMPREHENSION

The questions in this part are based on the following text.

Social Media's Effects on Health: Facts and Unknowns

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------------------|
| I | <p>Three billion people, around 40% of the world's population, use online social media. We are spending an average of two hours every day sharing, liking, tweeting and updating on these platforms, according to some reports. That breaks down to around half a million tweets and Snapchat photos shared every minute. With social media playing such a big part in our lives, could we be sacrificing our mental health and well-being as well as our time?</p> | 5 |
| II | <p>People use social media to vent about everything from customer service to politics, but the downside to this is that our feeds often resemble an endless stream of stress. In 2015, researchers at the Pew Research Center based in Washington DC sought to find out if social media induces more stress than it relieves. In the survey of 1,800 people, women reported being more stressed than men. Twitter was found to be a "significant contributor" because it increased their awareness of other people's stress. But Twitter also acted as a coping mechanism – and the more women used it, the less stressed they were. The same effect wasn't found for men, whom the researchers said had a more distant relationship with social media. Overall, the researchers concluded that social media use was linked to "modestly lower levels" of stress.</p> | 10

15 |
| III | <p>Next, in 2014, researchers in Austria found that participants reported lower moods after using Facebook for 20 minutes compared to those who just browsed the internet. The study suggested that people felt that way because they saw it as a waste of time. A good or bad mood may also spread between people on social media, according to researchers from the University of California, who assessed the emotional content of over a billion status updates from more than 100 million Facebook users between 2009 and 2012. Bad weather increased the number of negative posts by 1%, and the researchers found that one negative post by someone in a rainy city influenced another 1.3 negative posts by friends living in dry cities. The better news is that happy posts had a stronger influence; each one inspired 1.75 more happy posts. Whether a happy post translates to a genuine boost in mood, however, remains unclear.</p> | 20

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30 |
| IV | <p>Furthermore, researchers have looked at general anxiety provoked by social media, characterised by feelings of restlessness and worry, and trouble sleeping and concentrating. A study published in the journal Computers and Human Behaviour found that people who report using seven or more social media platforms were more than three times as likely as people using 0 – 2 platforms to have high levels of general anxiety symptoms. That said, it is unclear if and how social media causes anxiety. Researchers from Babes – Bolyai University in Romania reviewed existing research on the relationship between social anxiety and social networking in 2016, and said the results were mixed. They concluded that more research needs to be done.</p> | 35

40 |

- V Women's magazines and their use of underweight and Photoshopped models have been long maligned for stirring self-esteem issues among young women. But now, social media, with its filters and lighting and clever angles, is taking over as a primary concern among some campaigning groups and charities. Social media sites make more than half of users feel inadequate, according to a survey of 1,500 people by disability charity Scope, and half of 18 to 34 – year – olds say it makes them feel unattractive. A 2016 study by researchers at Penn State University suggested that viewing other people's selfies lowered self-esteem, because users compare themselves to photos of people looking their happiest. Research from the University of Strathclyde, Ohio University and University of Iowa also found that women compare themselves negatively to selfies of other women. 45
- VI It is clear that in many areas, not enough is known yet to draw many strong conclusions. **However, the evidence does point one way: social media affects people differently, depending on pre-existing conditions and personality traits.** 50 55 60

(Adapted from: Brown, J. (2018, January 5). *Is social media bad for you? The evidence and the unknowns.* BBC Future. <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20180104-is-social-media-bad-for-you-the-evidence-and-the-unknowns>)

Answer all the following questions.

1. What controversial issue is presented in the passage?

(2 marks)

2. 'Three billion people, around 40% of the world's population, use online social media' (lines 1 – 2).

What type of evidence (fact or opinion) is used in the above excerpt? Provide a reason for your answer.

(2 marks)

3. Briefly explain why Twitter was described as both a "significant contributor" to stress and a coping mechanism for women in the Pew Research study.

(2 marks)

4. What does the Austrian study suggest about the difference between browsing the internet and using Facebook?

(2 marks)

5. State **ALL** the social media effects on health discussed in the passage.

(4 marks)

6. What psychological mechanism explains why viewing selfies might lower self-esteem, according to the Penn State study?

(2 marks)

7. **'However, the evidence does point one way: social media affects people differently, depending on pre-existing conditions and personality traits.'** (lines 58 – 60).

What is the author's tone? State your reason.

(2 marks)

8. In your opinion, who is the intended audience of this article?

(2 marks)

9. From your point of view, what are **TWO (2)** activities can be done to avoid spending too much time on social media?

(2 marks)

(TOTAL: 20 MARKS)

PART D: SUMMARY WRITING

Read the passage carefully. Then, answer the following question.

Exploring the Benefits and Challenges of Studying Abroad

- I Studying abroad has become a transformative experience for many students worldwide, offering opportunities to explore new cultures, gain global perspectives, and foster personal and professional growth. However, alongside these advantages, there are challenges that can test an individual's adaptability and resilience. This article explores both the rewarding and challenging aspects of study in the UK or any other nation providing a comprehensive understanding of what to expect. 5
- II Studying abroad presents several advantages that go beyond academics, impacting students' personal and professional lives significantly. Firstly, studying abroad demonstrates to future employers that you can thrive and succeed academically, socially, and professionally in unfamiliar and challenging environments. This builds skills like independence, cultural competence, adaptability, and problem-solving, which make you an attractive candidate for increasingly globalised industries and companies. 10
- III Next, living, studying, and travelling abroad pushes people out of their comfort zones mentally and emotionally. Moreover, coping in different cultural contexts builds confidence in taking on new situations. Overcoming language barriers expands communication skills. Interacting meaningfully with overseas friends grows interpersonal abilities. Together, this fosters resilience, self-awareness, diplomacy and maturity. 15
20
- IV Other than that, studying in another country opens the door to once-in-a-lifetime adventures and discoveries during your time as a student. Additionally, you can immerse yourself in unique traditions, artwork, architecture, and landscapes as you explore different regions each weekend and on holiday. It's an opportunity to create memorable stories that last a lifetime. 25
- V While the benefits are undeniable, study in the USA also presents hurdles that require preparation and perseverance. From tuition fees to airfare, overseas health insurance costs, and basic living expenses, studying internationally requires a major financial investment. For example, university accommodation, transportation, food, supplies, and emergencies abroad can be over 50-60% more expensive than expenses incurred while studying in your home country. This is out of reach for many qualified students without significant savings or scholarships. 30

- VI Next, while some international programs offer classes conducted in English, many universities and graduate schools require document fluency and test scores in a second language like French, Spanish, German or Mandarin before they will accept your enrolment application. Months or even years of language classes may be necessary before achieving needed proficiency. 35 40
- VII Furthermore, students studying overseas are separated from family and close friends for months or years at a time, with perhaps only a brief visit home once a year. Being disconnected from your closest support network for an extended timeframe can increase loneliness, anxiety, and depression and lead to homesickness. This feeling of grief and longing for home affects over 70% of students abroad. 45
- VIII Studying abroad is an enriching journey filled with opportunities to grow academically, professionally, and personally. While the challenges may seem daunting, they are an integral part of the experience that shapes resilience and adaptability. By embracing both the highs and lows, students can make the most of their time abroad and emerge with invaluable skills and memories that last a lifetime. Preparing well and maintaining an open mind are key to navigating this life-changing adventure successfully. 50

(Adapted from: <https://www.thehighereducationreview.com/articles/exploring-the-benefits-and-challenges-of-studying-abroad-nid-5486.html>)

QUESTION 1

Based on the passage, write a summary of **about 150 words** on the **benefits and challenges of studying abroad** in the space provided.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

(TOTAL: 50 MARKS)
(TOTAL: 100 MARKS)

END OF QUESTION PAPER

