

FINAL
Examination Paper

(COVER PAGE)

Session : August 2016

Programme : Diploma In Mass Communication (DMCN)

Course : COM2108: Script Writing

Date of Examination : 09 December, 2016 (Friday)

Time : 5:00pm – 7:00pm Reading Time : Nil

Duration : 2 Hours

Special Instructions :

SECTION A: Answer **ALL** multiple questions.

SECTION B: Answer any **THREE (3)** short-answer questions.

SECTION C: Answer any **TWO (2)** essay questions.

IMPORTANT NOTE : THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN OUT OF THE EXAMINATION HALL

Materials permitted : Nil

Materials provided : OMR Sheets

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Moderator : Professor Madya Dr Ali Salman

This paper consists of 11 printed pages, including the cover page

DIPLOMA IN MASS COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME (DMCN)
COM2108: SCRIPT WRITING
FINAL EXAMINATION: AUGUST 2016 SESSION

Instruction: This paper consists of **THREE (3) SECTIONS**. Answer **ALL** questions in **SECTION A**; any **THREE (3)** questions in **SECTION B** and any **TWO (2)** questions in **SECTION C**.

SECTION A: Answer **ALL** questions in the OMR sheet provided. (30 marks)

1. When local Avon seller Peg Boggs (Dianne West) fails to make any profits in her neighborhood, she visits a medieval mansion located on a hill above town and discovers Edward (Johnny Depp), who is an artificial man with scissors-like blades for hands.

The above statement reflects the movie's

- A. logline
 - B. turning point
 - C. inciting incident
 - D. major conflict
2. In a nutshell, a dramatic premise can be perceived as
- A. the main character's journey in attaining his/her goals.
 - B. the escalating events that build up the plotline.
 - C. the scriptwriter's promise of what to be delivered to the audience.
 - D. the gist of the story boils down to one sentence.
3. Frodo Baggins is in Rivendell at the council meeting to decide what needs to happen with the ring. After seeing all the fighting and complaining from the different guests, Frodo decides that he will take the ring to Mordor himself and throw it in Mount Doom.

When this incident occurs in the movie, it suggests that the movie has hits its

- A. Plot Point I
 - B. Plot Point II
 - C. climax
 - D. mid-point
4. Falling action can turn into anticlimax when
- A. it fails to deliver a sense of catharsis to the audience.
 - B. the story ends with a cliffhanger.
 - C. the struggle of the main character is resolved too easily.
 - D. a new conflict is introduced.

5. An exposition has to be
- short and simple
 - captivating and alluring
 - explosive and memorable
 - suspenseful and thrilling
6. The following is true about Act II, **EXCEPT**
- plot point I marks the beginning of Act II.
 - climax is the highest point in Act II before the story hits falling action and ends.
 - midpoint in Act II denotes that the main character has to keep on going as there's no point of return for him/her.
 - it takes the biggest and longest portion of the script.
7. The primary plot of Titanic is a love story, while the sinking ship is secondary. Both plotlines are saturated with _____ relating to social class distinctions.
- allegory
 - foreshadow
 - dramatic premise
 - subtext
8. *In The Hunger Games, our main character, Katnis is forced to fight and kill for her life against 23 other tributes until she is the only survivor left.*

This reflects the type of conflict known as

- character vs. nature
 - character vs. character
 - character vs. society
 - character vs. the unknown
9. In *(500) Days of Summer*, Tom was writing greeting cards while his dream really architecture. Tom was too comfortable in his day job to chase anything else until the girl of his dreams, Summer, encouraged him to do it.

Summer fits the character story role of a

- love interest
- balance character
- catalyst
- contrasting character

10. In *Bridesmaids*, Kristin Wiig's failed bakery stole a big part of her confidence away. When it went under, she was forced to take a job she hated, leaving her desperate to find a man. When she starts dating the police officer, baking again becomes a major theme in their relationship. And when she experiences her rock bottom at the end of the second act, baking visually represents her rebirth.

The excerpt above shows that we would be able to craft a memorable character when we put extra effort in researching the character's _____.

- A. psychology
 - B. backstory
 - C. motivation
 - D. growing room
11. The following elements have to be examined when the character sheet is being developed, **EXCEPT**
- A. character's physical appearance
 - B. character's backstory
 - C. character's relationship with other characters
 - D. character's unique traits
12. Growing room is crucial in character development as it allows the character to
- A. receives more sympathy from the viewers.
 - B. show the other side of him/her.
 - C. go through physical changes from time to time.
 - D. demonstrate his/her ability to adapt to the new setting.
13. When police chief Brodie in *Jaws* is slapped and blamed by a distraught widow for her son's being eaten by the shark, we know he doesn't deserve it because he had tried to close the beaches but was opposed by the town's economic interest.

What does the excerpt above imply about a strong, compelling main character?

- A. The main character acts and reacts.
 - B. Build sympathy in your main character.
 - C. The main character is imperfect.
 - D. No character is more dynamic than the main character.
14. *Two characters are having an intimate conversation in the vineyard, but no sound is audible. Only melancholic background music accompanies the scene.*

The given scenario is an example of the use of

- A. offscreen dialogue
- B. dialogue absence
- C. overlapping dialogue
- D. cut out sound scene

15. Instead of using the term “marijuana” in your script, you can replace it with “grass” for instead. This is an example of the usage of
- A. slang
 - B. jargon
 - C. accent
 - D. cultural influence
16. *Ad-lib* suggests
- A. the sound to be put under.
 - B. the talent is allowed to improvise on set.
 - C. the talent should leave the frame.
 - D. an interruption for commercial break.
17. Film writing is _____ as it contains short sentences of simple construction using simple, informal words.
- A. natural
 - B. conversational
 - C. direct
 - D. economical
18. In film dialogue, as in life, the actual meaning often lies beneath the surface meaning. This is called
- A. context
 - B. subtext
 - C. metaphor
 - D. style

Question no 19 until 22 are based on the following scene excerpt.

INT/LIVING ROOM/NIGHT

(FRASER, MARGE)

The living room is in a mess. It looks rather spooky and gloomy. Fraser and Marge are searching for evidence on the crime scene and taking pictures.

MARGE

Where were you a cop?

FRASER

Los Angeles.

MARGE

Were you fired or did you quit?

FRASER

I took medical leave. It was making me sick. I burned out, I guess. Wasn't up for it. One day, I got a call for a jumper. A young Mexican girl – pregnant, infected with AIDS. She was truly one of the doomed. I asked her to come in off the ledge and into my arms. She asked me why she should bother living.

MARGE

What did you say?

FRASER

(Sighs)

Well, for a second I hesitated. And she saw it. Within that second, I couldn't think of honestly one optimistic thing to say to her. So she spread her arms and jumped. I started getting headaches, and eventually started blacking out. So I filed for medical.

Marge pats Fraser's shoulder and gives him a reassuring smile.

Cut to//

19. The element in italic is known as

- A. slug
- B. subtext
- C. setting
- D. action line

20. The element in bold is known as
- A. parenthesis
 - B. noddies
 - C. facial expression
 - D. action
21. What is the intended motive behind the establishment of this scene?
- A. To move the story forward
 - B. To reveal the emotional state
 - C. To ignite conflict
 - D. To reveal the character's background
22. Identify the dialogue hook technique applied in this scene.
- A. Sharing a progression
 - B. Parallel construction
 - C. Question/Answer
 - D. Disagreement
23. In which situation cut-ins becomes crucial in video editing?
- A. To establish an action from a closer shot
 - B. To establish time lapses
 - C. To have a proper continuity from one scene to another
 - D. To provide link of footages from the A-roll
24. _____ are any cuts that emphasizes spatio-temporal continuity and it is the basis for continuity editing.
- A. Cut-ins
 - B. Jump cuts
 - C. Master shots
 - D. Match cuts
25. _____ refers to the talking heads that directly relates to the moment.
- A. Host link
 - B. A-roll
 - C. News package
 - D. Segment
26. The basic building block of magazine programs is
- A. drama
 - B. news
 - C. staged events
 - D. interview

27. *Hoop Dreams* is a documentary that follows two young African-Americans through their high school years as they perfect their skills in basketball in the hopes of getting a college scholarship and eventually play in the NBA.

Hoop Dreams is a documentary categorized under

- A. synthetic
 - B. cinema-verite
 - C. portrait
 - D. compilation
28. A documentary about the preparation and launch of Citrawarna Malaysia 2016 falls under which category?
- A. Direct cinema
 - B. Portrait
 - C. Rhetorical
 - D. Compilation
29. The following are tips to be practiced when you're writing a synopsis, **EXCEPT**
- A. Tell the story in the present tense
 - B. Do not include dialogue
 - C. The ending must be revealed
 - D. Tell the story in the first person
30. Draft script includes all the scenes, dialogue and action from the original
- A. outline
 - B. treatment
 - C. concept
 - D. proposal

SECTION B: Answer any **THREE (3)** questions in the answer booklet provided. All questions carry equal marks. **(30 marks)**

Question 1

Genre	:	Drama/Thriller
Logline	:	The bright lights of Hollywood find Jenna Behr seeking her way to stardom, but she has to embrace her meddling disapproving family and a disastrous accident that threatens to leave her disfigured.

Based on the information given, answer the following questions;

- (a) Write **TWO (2)** possible subplots that can interweave with the main plot. (6 marks)
- (b) Write a possible climax of the story. (2 marks)
- (c) Write a possible resolution by using the technique of Deus ex Machina. (2 marks)

(Total: 10 marks)

Question 2

- (a) List down **FIVE (5)** characteristics of good dialogue. (5 marks)
- (b) Explain briefly the meaning behind the following dialogue writing techniques;
- i. underwrite
 - ii. writing relationships
- (5 marks)

(Total: 10 marks)

Question 3

(a) Define the following character story roles and provide an example for each in a typical action thriller setting;

- i. helper
- ii. balance character
- iii. catalyst

(6 marks)

(b) Briefly explain **TWO (2)** distinctions that separate victim villain from self-serving villain.

(4 marks)

(Total: 10 marks)

Question 4

Assume you are planning of writing a documentary program script with the theme of iconic architectural achievements in Malaysia. The duration is half an hour per episode and the target audience is young professionals, architecture students and those who appreciate urban landscape.

(a) Explain briefly the visual treatment and concept of the program.

(4 marks)

(b) Draft the running order of the first episode of the documentary program.

(6 marks)

(Total: 10 marks)

Question 5

Explain how a scriptwriter manipulates the following elements to create a strong, compelling screenplay. Provide an example for each.

- i. pace
- ii. mood
- iii. dramatic tension
- iv. details
- v. dramatic irony

(10 marks)

SECTION C: Answer **TWO (2)** questions in the answer booklet provided. All questions carry equal marks. **(40 marks)**

Question 1

The main character is the crown jewel in a story.

Write an essay of not more than 350 words on the techniques that can be employed to create a solid main character in a story. Ensure that your essay is supported with elaboration and relevant examples.

(20 marks)

Question 2

A common form of film adaptation is the use of a novel as the basis of a feature film. For the past few years, we have seen an array of popular novels, especially teen novels and chick lit have been adapted to screen. It has become a new phenomenon in the film industry and indirectly making authors instant celebrities and millionaires.

What is your opinion about this trend? Is it healthy for the future of the film industry? Or is it a signal that scriptwriters are lacking of original ideas? Write an essay not more than 350 words to justify your stand. Ensure that your essay is supported with elaboration and relevant examples.

(20 marks)

Question 3

Based on the given scenario, create a draft script consisting of **FIVE (5)** scenes. You are not allowed to introduce anything new to the plot.

Vernon pulls the needle out his arm as the tourniquet loosened allowing the heroine to flow freely into his veins. He starts rambling about being rich when the high begins to hit him. Jaden, who's sitting across him, observes in fascination. He has never thought that the frequent trips to Malcone's parties will end up with Vernon turned into a heroine junkie. Jaden recalls their fourth acid trip at Malcone's. Thinking he was being chased by Bardley the Dancing Clown, Vernon jumped out a window to escape, only to end up in the hospital and the police being called. It was intense. Vernon's parents couldn't digest the medical report and fought with the police. They believed that their son was tricked and lured into this unscrupulous scheme and demanded the police to search for the responsible parties. Things worsened when Vernon and Jaden were kicked out of college. They both used to have promising futures when they were studying accounting in college. Now, they're both working as baristas at a pub in the city. They work during the day and shoot up most nights. Vernon's girlfriend, Beth advices him to quit drugs and admits into a rehabilitation center. He promises he'll change, but his words are like ashes in the wind. Jaden is pulled back into reality when Vernon's pale white arm is around him. Vernon offers him a heroine cig, rolled and ready to smoke. Jaden smiles sheepishly. No matter how nasty the world judges and sneers at Vernon, that guy is and forever will be his best buddy.

(20 marks)

