

EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA

SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION IN ARTS AND CULTURE
2012/2013 – NOVEMBER - 2016

22 DEC 2016

OEN 2243 – ADVANCED READING AND WRITING

Time: Three (03) Hours.

Instruction to the candidates

- Answer the first question and any three (03) questions. Altogether answer four (04) questions.
- Each question carries equal marks.
- Marks will be deducted for wrong spellings and wrong grammar.
- This paper contains two (02) pages.

1. Write a précis of the following passage and give a suitable title for it:

How America's new president will affect the global economy

Barack Obama has shifted the focus of US foreign policy. For most of the postwar period, Washington has looked eastwards across the Atlantic. Since the collapse of communist Russia and the rise of China, its gaze has been westwards across the Pacific.

This has been reflected in all three manifestations of American power: military, diplomatic and economic. Obama saw the Trans-Pacific Partnership as a way of keeping countries such as Japan, Brunei, Singapore and Malaysia out of Beijing's orbit. All these countries have an export-led model of growth and Obama's plan was to create a US-led free trade zone that included all the major economies of the Pacific apart from China.

That plan now lies in tatters. There will be no TPP under a Trump presidency and all the signs are that countries such as South Korea and Taiwan will be subject to the same protectionist strictures as Mexico and China.

This would result in slower growth across Asia as exports and investment weaken. Japan, which has been in the doldrums for a quarter of a century and which remains on the brink of deflation, appears to be most at risk, but it is not alone in being anxious about the impact of Trump.

In geopolitical terms, a tough US trade stance provides China with the opportunity to increase its influence in the region, bolstering economic ties and making countries of the Pacific rim less dependent on the American market.

(Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/nov/09>)
(240 words)

2. Write a letter to the Secretary of the Ministry of Highways and Higher Education stating the problem of 80% attendance in getting Mahapola payments and its consequences. Also imagine that you are the Secretary of the said ministry and write a reply to your letter.
3. Imagine that your name is Ms. Fathima, 20 years old from Malabai Road, Kaluthurai. Prepare a resume with the details given above.

4. Write a proposal based on the following details:
- a. It is about the waste water management.
 - b. The project must be done at the main hostels in the Eastern University, Sri Lanka.
 - c. The project period must be one year of duration on trial basis.
 - d. The cost of the project is Rs. 500,000/-.

5. Write a critical comment on the following article:

Donald Trump's victory in the presidential election Tuesday is likely to intensify business uncertainty in the near term and slow economic growth over the next few years as the nation probably retreats from open-trade policies that have defined the past generation and cracks down on undocumented workers, economists say.

Those policies are likely to more than offset a positive jolt from tax cuts that juice consumer and business spending.

Experts generally have tamped down forecasts that had called for a possible recession by 2018 based on the assumption that even a Republican Congress will pass only modified versions of Trump's proposals. Some economists say the Federal Reserve is likely to forgo an anticipated interest rate hike in December and generally keep rates lower for longer, mitigating some of the damage to economic growth and financial markets.

"It's not a cataclysmic event for the economy," says Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics. But, he adds, "at the very least, it means the economy will grow more slowly than would otherwise be the case."

In coming months, many businesses are likely to be gripped by anxiety.

"The uncertainty created by this shocking vote will cause businesses to be more cautious in their hiring and investment," Zandi says.

The uneasiness will be greatest for multinationals that depend on exports for a large chunk of their revenue and businesses that employ both undocumented and documented immigrants, says economist Gus Faucher of PNC Financial Services Group.

Overall, Zandi expects the economy to grow an average 1.75% a year during Trump's term, down from a 2% baseline, creating about 400,000 fewer jobs annually.