



# Communications 12

Examination Booklet  
August 2007  
**Form A**

**DO NOT OPEN ANY EXAMINATION MATERIALS UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.**  
**FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS REFER TO THE RESPONSE BOOKLET.**



PART A: LITERARY TEXT

8 multiple-choice questions  
Value: 15%

Suggested Time: 20 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the following selection and answer the multiple-choice questions. For each question, select the **best** answer and record your choice on the **Answer Sheet** provided.

This poem describes a Jewish tailor's fondness for his cats.

## My Father Kept His Cats Well Fed

by Kenneth Sherman

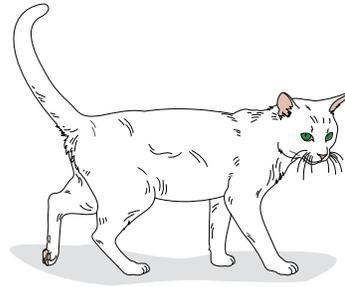
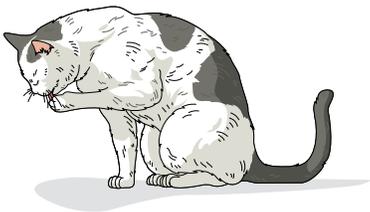


- 1 My father kept his cats well fed.  
In back of the tailor shop  
far from consumer eye  
they'd stretch  
5 on thick rolls of mohair,  
or new blue synthetics from Japan.

And somehow he bought time  
to keep fresh milk in the saucepan,  
providing leftovers  
10 from a hurried lunch.

Between the measurements and complaints,  
between the clean sound of closing shears  
they were his own animal symphony  
purring at a conducted stroke  
15 under the chin,  
behind the ear.

The cats,  
they sang my father's praise  
in the fishbone throat of the coldest nights  
20 where their lives, once lean, curled fat and secure



and dreamt their gifted names:  
*No Neck, Schwartz Kaatz, Rabinovitz...*  
a regular *minyan*<sup>1</sup>  
to greet his early mornings  
25 when snow outside  
dropped soft as padded paws  
and the shop was a museum hush.

There they reclined,  
impenetrable as the sphinx<sup>2</sup>,  
30 the curious engines of their soft throats  
running, their great eyes smouldering  
in the precious twilight of my father's day

before the startling ring  
and the long unwinding curses  
35 and cloth.

<sup>1</sup> minyan: a prayer meeting

<sup>2</sup> sphinx: a creature from Egyptian mythology

You have **Examination Booklet Form A**. In the box above #1 on your **Answer Sheet**, fill in the bubble as follows.

|                                       |                                  |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
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- Which action in the poem shows that the father cared for his cats?
  - He sang to them.
  - He let his customers feed them.
  - He included them in his prayers.
  - He let them lie on his rolls of cloth.
  
- Which literary device is found in “they were his own animal symphony” (line 13)?
  - simile
  - symbol
  - metaphor
  - onomatopoeia
  
- In lines 17–20, what is suggested about the cats?
  - They eat only fish.
  - They used to be strays.
  - They stay outside at night.
  - They stay inside only in winter.
  
- Which word best describes the mood created in lines 25–27?
  - boring
  - peaceful
  - nostalgic
  - mysterious
  
- In lines 33–35, what event is referred to?
  - Customers objected to the cats.
  - The father’s workday was ending.
  - Customers would soon arrive in the morning.
  - The father was startled by the quantity of work.

6. In the poem taken as a whole, which of the following best indicates that the cats are content?
- A. “purring at a conducted stroke” (line 14)
  - B. “and dreamt their gifted names” (line 21)
  - C. “impenetrable as the sphinx” (line 29)
  - D. “their great eyes smouldering” (line 31)
7. Which main contrast is shown throughout the poem?
- A. the bustle of the work vs. the calm of the cats
  - B. the loud complaints vs. the soft sound of scissors
  - C. the old age of the father vs. the youthful energy of the cats
  - D. the father’s generosity in the past vs. his selfishness in the present
8. Which statement best describes the relationship between the father and the cats?
- A. The father tolerates the cats.
  - B. The father cares only about the cats.
  - C. The cats and the father both benefit.
  - D. The cats are indifferent to the father.

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## PART B: INFORMATIONAL TEXT

8 multiple-choice questions  
1 written-response question  
Value: 30%

Suggested Time: 30 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the following selection and answer the multiple-choice questions. For each question, select the **best** answer and record your choice on the **Answer Sheet** provided.



This article tells of a great mystery. Who really was the first to climb Mount Robson in the Canadian Rockies?

### Mount Robson Mystery

by Lynn Tanod

(adapted)

- 1 The “Monarch of the Rockies” towers 3954 metres above sea level. Long before British mountaineers tried to conquer Mount Everest, they came here to try Mount Robson—and fell short. Indeed, a climber ascending from the Yellowhead Highway up Robson’s south face to its summit gains the same elevation as he would climbing from Base Camp to the top of Mount Everest.
- 2 Somewhere up there, among the calving glaciers, falling rocks, avalanching snow, and thinning air, cowboy Curly Phillips inched along ledges in his smooth-soled boots; George Kinney struck his ice-axe through a cornice<sup>1</sup> and peered over a precipice that plummeted to the lake thousands of metres below; and Austrian guide Conrad Kain chopped five hundred steps into the ice to lead his companions up and down the mountain. A place of staggering beauty where mere mortals like me come to revitalize their spirits, Mount Robson is also the place where some of the most courageous mountaineers in Canadian history risked their lives to achieve their dreams.
- 3 One such man was George Kinney, born in New Brunswick in 1872. Mount Robson **enraptured** Kinney from the moment he beheld it: “Oh what a glorious sight it was that day we first saw it.” Kinney wrote during his 1907 expedition led by geologist and explorer A.P. Coleman, “There, buttressed across the whole valley and more, with its high flung crest mantled with a thousand ages of snow, Mount Robson shouldered its way into the eternal solitudes thousands of feet<sup>2</sup> higher than the surrounding mountains.”
- 4 That summer and the next, the party explored and mapped the area, naming Kinney Lake and Emperor Falls. However, their efforts to capture the peak from its west face were thwarted by snow, wind, and the sheer size of the mountain.
- 5 “The mountain’s combination of exposure and altitude results in bizarre and dangerous conditions,” explained Robert Sandford, a Canadian Rockies historian and author. “Mount Robson is monumental in its height, scale, presence, and weather. Men have literally been blown right off the mountain.”

<sup>1</sup> cornice: *an overhanging mass of snow*

<sup>2</sup> feet: *one foot equals .3 metres*

(continued on next page)

- 6 On September 9, 1908, Kinney narrowly missed such a fate when he left his party to make a harrowing solo attempt on the summit. After reaching about 2150 metres, he ate a meal of cold goat meat, wrapped his snow-sodden blankets around him, and tried to sleep on a “cliff in midair” while listening to the echo of avalanches falling all around him. The next morning, he climbed to the top of the mountain’s north shoulder, a story he dramatically retold in a *Canadian Alpine Journal* article.
- 7 “That storm was one of the fiercest blasts that I ever met. Three times, while crossing an exposed shale slope on the west, it literally tore me from my footholds and tumbled me over. . . . For over an hour I waited in the lee of a cliff, hoping the storm would pass. But instead of subsiding, it added the lash of snow to its fury, and whipped around the jutting crags in a foaming swirl of white. I determined to make a desperate attempt. . . . But the increased storm brought an enemy that completely vanquished<sup>3</sup> me.”
- 8 Kinney’s failure to reach the summit that day only stoked his passion. In 1909, the determined man set off on a month-long journey from Edmonton with three horses and two dollars and eighty-five cents in his pocket. He nearly drowned in the raging Rocky River and became stranded on an island in the middle of the swollen Athabasca River. Eventually, he partnered with Donald “Curly” Phillips, a twenty-five year old adventure-seeking guide from Ontario who had never climbed a mountain in his life.
- 9 Over the next twenty days, weather forced the two men to back down from Robson four times. Finally, nearly depleted of both food and energy, they climbed to 3200 metres and established “Camp Higher Up.” At dawn the next day—an inauspicious<sup>4</sup> Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>—the weather was clear, the snow was firm, and the pair was able to move rapidly. When the storm clouds moved in, they did not stop. The lack of places to rest, the sixty-degree angle climb, the ice-glazed rock, the blinding sleet: nothing could deter Kinney’s passion.
- 10 Five gruelling hours later, Kinney found himself chest-deep in snow masses along a razor-edged ridge. Standing atop a “needle peak,” he called into the wind, “In the name of Almighty God, by whose strength I have climbed here, I capture this peak, Mount Robson, for my own country, and for the Alpine Club of Canada.” Mount Robson had been conquered.
- 11 But every story has two sides and every mountain even more.
- 12 Though a gentleman’s word was usually accepted as proof enough, rumours that George Kinney and the rookie perhaps had not quite made it to the top began soon after their ascent. Though professional jealousy must also have been at play, many in the tight mountaineering community questioned the men’s experience and recalled Kinney’s tendency to exaggerate. Kinney’s lack of photographic evidence and his imprecise descriptions of the route also raised questions.
- 13 In the summer of 1913, the elite of the climbing world—led by Alpine Club of Canada organizer A.O. Wheeler and including Kain and Phillips—met at Mount Robson Camp with the publicized goal of reaching the summit. On July 31<sup>st</sup>, Kain led clients William Foster and Albert MacCarthy up Robson’s east face in a climb of daring and grace. Chopping steps in a zigzag route past ice gargoyles and navigating through a maze of terraced snow walls, Kain kept up a cheerful conversation with great cleverness and wit.
- 14 “Gentlemen, that’s as far as I can take you,” were Kain’s famous words when the three men finally stood on the summit.
- 15 Upon their return to the base camp below, the men related their adventure to their peers and the press. That night around the campfire, there was an astounding revelation. Phillips allegedly admitted that, in fact, he and Kinney had failed to “get up that last dome.”

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<sup>3</sup> vanquished: *defeated*

<sup>4</sup> inauspicious: *unlucky*

- 16 Did Kinney lie? Did Phillips lie? In the golden age of mountaineering, careers, reputations, and fortunes were made on first ascents. Phillips may have wanted to give his new employers and good friend Kain the opportunity to claim Robson for themselves. Kinney may have been unable to admit failure, though it seems strange that Phillips kept this secret to himself for four years. In 1913, popular opinion sided with him. History was quick to follow. Kain is generally regarded as the first man up Robson. The first woman, brave British Columbia mountaineer Phyllis Munday, ascended Robson in 1924.
- 17 Whatever the truth about Kinney, it does not erase the significance of his climb. "What he accomplished took tremendous courage and no small element of competence," says Robert Sandford. "In my view, their attempt was one of the boldest, most perilous ascents in history."

Indeed, Kain himself admired Kinney for climbing over the west ridge, "the most dangerous side one can choose." On his personal map of Mount Robson, Kain seemed to credit Kinney when he wrote, "Showing route taken on second ascent of Mount Robson, July 31, 1913." Kinney himself always maintained he had made it to the summit.

- 18 I often think of the strange and extraordinary George Kinney and his seemingly reckless adventures at Mount Robson. I wonder what drove him. What kind of person tries to climb a mountain twelve times? Who would dare to attempt it alone in a storm? Why did he do it?
- 19 I wonder just who was the first to conquer the "Monarch of the Rockies."

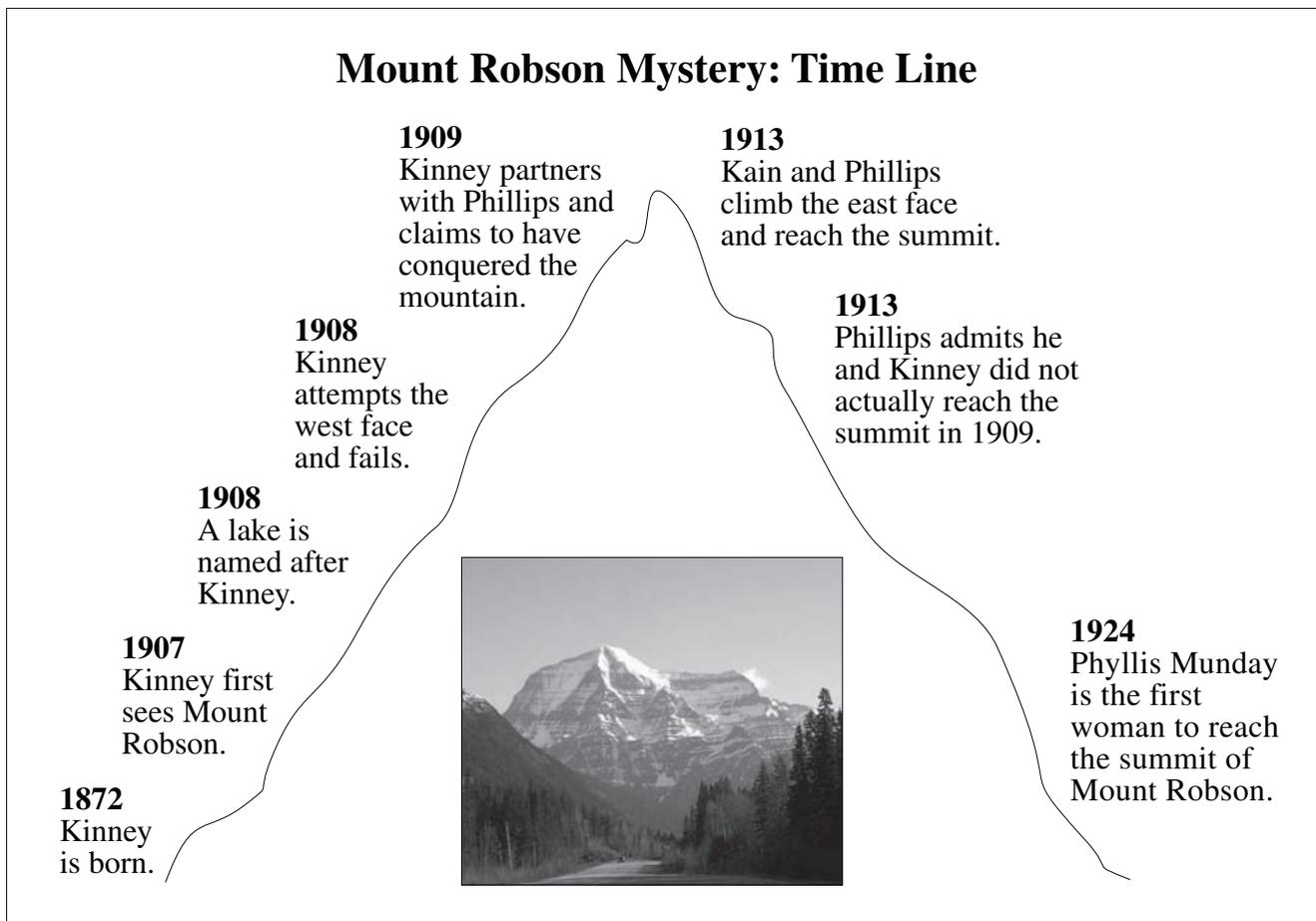


Figure 1

9. What does “enraptured” (paragraph 3) mean?
- A. enriched
  - B. fascinated
  - C. intimidated
  - D. overwhelmed
10. Why is Mount Robson called the “Monarch of the Rockies”?
- A. It is a place of staggering beauty.
  - B. It is renowned for its fierce weather conditions.
  - C. It is covered in a mantle of a thousand ages of snow.
  - D. It is significantly higher than the surrounding mountains.
11. Which of the following **best** illustrates the determination of mountain climbers?
- A. Phillips inched along ledges in his smooth-soled boots. (paragraph 2)
  - B. Kinney’s failure only stoked his passion. (paragraph 8)
  - C. Kinney had a tendency to exaggerate. (paragraph 12)
  - D. Kain led clients up Mount Robson’s east face. (paragraph 13)
12. At what point does the writer **first** introduce doubt about Kinney’s claim?
- A. “their efforts to capture the peak from its west face were thwarted” (paragraph 4)
  - B. “But every story has two sides” (paragraph 11)
  - C. “Though professional jealousy must also have been at play” (paragraph 12)
  - D. “Phillips allegedly admitted that, in fact, he and Kinney had failed” (paragraph 15)
13. Which quotation is a fact rather than an opinion?
- A. “‘Oh what a glorious sight it was that day we first saw it.’ ” (paragraph 3)
  - B. “‘Mount Robson shouldered its way into the eternal solitudes...’ ” (paragraph 3)
  - C. “‘Men have literally been blown right off the mountain.’ ” (paragraph 5)
  - D. “‘one of the boldest, most perilous ascents in history’ ” (paragraph 17)

14. According to the article, what is one reason people risked their lives trying to reach the summit?
- A. Careers were made on first ascents.
  - B. Financial gain came from sponsorship.
  - C. Climbers wished to improve their level of physical fitness.
  - D. Climbers wished to qualify as members of the Alpine Club of Canada.
15. Which statement best describes the writer's attitude towards mountain climbers?
- A. She believes they are foolish.
  - B. She thinks they should be admired.
  - C. She thinks they are just glory seekers.
  - D. She believes they always tell the truth.
16. With reference to the time line (Figure 1), which statement about **Phillips** is supported?
- A. He had a lake named after him.
  - B. He reached the summit in 1913.
  - C. He ascended the east face in 1909.
  - D. He claimed Munday was the first person to reach the summit.

You have **Examination Booklet Form A**. In the box above #1 on your **Answer Sheet**, ensure you filled in the bubble as follows.

|                                       |                                  |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
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**PART B: INFORMATIONAL TEXT**  
**WRITTEN RESPONSE**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** In paragraph form and in approximately **125 words**, answer question 1 in the **Response Booklet**. Write in **ink**. Use the **Organization and Planning** space to plan your work. The mark for your answer will be based on the appropriateness of the examples you use as well as the adequacy of your explanation and the quality of your written expression.

1. Refer to the article **Mount Robson Mystery** on pages 5 to 7.

Who do you think was the first person to reach the summit of Mount Robson—Kinney or Kain? Support your answer with references to the article.

**Organization and Planning**

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Response Booklet**.

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## PART C: COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

2 written-response questions

Suggested Time: 35 minutes

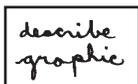
Value: 25%

### VISUAL DESIGN

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer question 2 in the **Response Booklet**. Use the **Organization and Planning** space to plan your work.

Read the situation below and create an appropriate visual design (complete with title). Use a variety of text, visuals, and graphics to support the message.

You may use some of the following symbols in your visual design.

- underline words to indicate *italics*
- **circle** words to indicate **bold**
-  use a box to indicate the look and placement of a graphic

#### 2. Scenario:

You are **Leni Cowan**, a member of the students' council at Ravenhill Secondary School in Burns Lake, BC. The council is planning to hold the annual 30-Hour Famine in your school gym to raise money for your local food bank.

#### Task:

**Read the information below. Create an effective poster to advertise the 30-Hour Famine and to encourage students to participate.**

#### Information:

*You and fellow student council members, Suzanne and Roger, are discussing plans for the 30-Hour Famine.*

Leni: "We need as many people as possible to come out for the 30-Hour Famine this year. It's such a good cause because all the proceeds go to the food bank. What do you think will make people interested?"

Suzanne: "We should have a band, with dancing."

Roger: "How about asking kRash? They're really good. And karaoke would be fun too."

Leni: "Great! We should also have lots of board games and card games."

Suzanne: "We could set up a darts corner too."

Roger: "And don't forget about movies and video games. I can ask Burns Lake Video to donate some DVDs and game disks."



(continued on next page)

Suzanne: “Cool! I know my dad’s store will donate juices and bottled water.”

Roger: “Mario’s Deli is usually willing to provide breakfast items for the morning after the fast.”

Leni: “What’s the date of the Famine again?”

Suzanne: “Thursday, April 23, starting at midnight, and ending Saturday at 6:00 a.m. The actual gathering in the gym for the activities starts after classes on the Friday and goes until Saturday morning.”

Leni: “We can put the pledge forms for the Famine on the counter in the Main Office.”

Roger: “All the activities will really help to take everyone’s mind off being hungry.”

Leni: “And having lots to do will encourage people to sign up.”

Suzanne: “Let’s get started on that poster, and stock those food bank shelves!”

### **Organization and Planning**

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Response Booklet**.

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## PART C: BUSINESS LETTER

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer question 3 in the **Response Booklet**. Write in **ink**. Use the **Organization and Planning** space to plan your work.

Writing as the individual below and using the information provided, write a **business** letter of **more than one** paragraph. Use complete and correct sentences.

3. You are **Leni Cowan**, a member of the students' council at Ravenhill Secondary School. Your school address is 45 Osprey Crescent, Burns Lake, BC V4R 5M5.

The students' council is planning a 30-Hour Famine in the school starting Thursday, April 23, to raise money for the local food bank. To encourage as many students as possible to participate, you are offering a free breakfast to end the fast on Saturday morning. You want to ask the manager of Mario's Deli to donate bagels, muffins, fruit and other breakfast items.



Write a formal letter of request to Mr. Mario Severi, Manager of Mario's Deli, 864 Alexis Drive, Burns Lake, BC V4X 4N5.

### Organization and Planning

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Response Booklet**.

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**PART D: COMPOSITION**

**1 written-response question**  
**Value: 30%**

**Suggested Time: 35 minutes**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer **one** of the following questions in the **Response Booklet**. Write in **ink**. Use the **Organization and Planning** space to plan your work.

Write a multi-paragraph composition of approximately **200 to 250** words based on **one** of the following topics, using standard English. In your composition, you may use any appropriate method of development. You may explain, persuade, or describe, or you may tell a story.

If you write on more than one topic, only the **first** will be marked.

4. No one should have to go hungry.

**OR**

5. I never solved the mystery.

**Organization and Planning**

Use this space to plan your ideas before writing in the **Response Booklet**.

**WRITING ON THIS PAGE WILL NOT BE MARKED**

**END OF EXAMINATION**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sherman, Kenneth. “My Father Kept His Cats Well Fed.” *The Cost of Living*. Toronto, Ontario: Mosaic Press, 1981.

Tanod, Lynn. “Mount Robson Mystery.” adapted from “Mount Robson Madness.” *Beautiful British Columbia Magazine*, Vancouver, British Columbia: Tourism British Columbia. Fall 2003. 12–19.

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**Course Code = COM 12**  
**AUGUST 2007**

Exam Booklet Form/ Cahier d'examen    A B C D E F G H

**Student Instructions**

1. Place your Personal Education Number (PEN) label at the top of this Booklet **AND** fill in the bubble (Form A, B, C, D, E, F, G or H) that corresponds to the letter on your Examination Booklet.
2. Use a pencil to fill in bubbles when answering questions on your Answer Sheet.
3. Use a blue- or black-ink pen when answering written-response questions in this Booklet.
4. Indicate in the space below which question you have selected:  
 Composition Question: 4  **or** 5
5. Read the Examination Rules on the back of this Booklet.

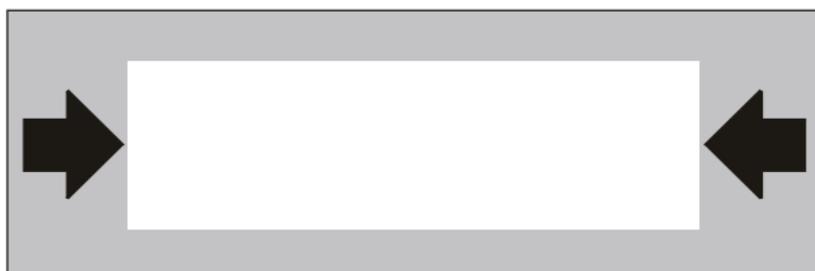
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| Question 2               |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |  |
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| Question 3               |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |  |
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| Question                 |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |  |
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**Course Code = COM 12**

**Communications 12**

**AUGUST 2007**

**Response Booklet**



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## Examination Rules

1. The time allotted for this examination is two hours.  
You may, however, take up to 60 minutes of additional time to finish.
2. Answers entered in the Examination Booklet will not be marked.
3. Cheating on an examination will result in a mark of zero. The Ministry of Education considers cheating to have occurred if students break any of the following rules:
  - Students must not be in possession of or have used any secure examination materials prior to the examination session.
  - Students must not communicate with other students during the examination.
  - Students must not give or receive assistance of any kind in answering an examination question during an examination, including allowing one's paper to be viewed by others or copying answers from another student's paper.
  - Students must not possess any book, paper or item that might assist in writing an examination, including a dictionary or piece of electronic equipment, that is not specifically authorized for the examination by ministry policy.
  - Students must not copy, plagiarize or present as one's own, work done by any other person.
  - Students must immediately follow the invigilator's order to stop writing at the end of the examination time and must not alter an Examination Booklet, Response Booklet or Answer Sheet after the invigilator has asked students to hand in examination papers.
  - Students must not remove any piece of the examination materials from the examination room, including work pages.
4. The use of inappropriate language or content may result in a mark of zero being awarded.
5. Upon completion of the examination, return all examination materials to the supervising invigilator.