

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT**  
**INTENSIVE ENGLISH/ English 100**  
**FINAL EXAM/ Writing Component**  
**Fall 2007-08**

**ESSAY WRITING**

**Write an organized essay with examples and supporting details on ONE of the following:**

1. Illiteracy, (the inability to read or write) is a social disease that affects a society's health, economy, culture, and governance. Describe some of these effects. What are the expectations of an illiterate individual: what kind of a life would he/she have? What are some of the causes of illiteracy? In what ways can society fight this disease and cure it?

2. Are there equal opportunities available to all individuals to complete the education of their choice? What are some factors that hinder young people from pursuing the educational program of their choice? What are some measures taken by local governments, foreign governments, private organizations and educational institutions to encourage students to pursue specific educational programs? Based on your personal experience, how would you describe your ability to pursue the program of your choice?

3. Discuss the value of reading in a modern society. Why do you think it is such an important issue? Give reasons to explain the need for people to read on different topics. Refer to the attached passage, "Superman and Me", for support. Also, provide your own evidence (examples and personal experience).

4. Certain groups in societies suffer from discrimination. Describe some characteristics that make these groups "different" and discuss the effects of this discrimination in some areas such as the social, educational, cultural, economic or political circumstances of the specific group and of the society in which they are living. Give examples to demonstrate problems that arise as a result of discrimination.