

KENYA JUNIOR SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

GRADE 8 DECEMBER HOMEWORK

ENGLISH PAPER 2

(Composition and Literary Analysis)

Time - 1 hour 45 minutes

LEARNER'S DETAILS



Name: _____ . School: _____

Assessment Number: _____ . Date: _____

School Code: _____ . Signature: _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO LEARNERS

1. Write your name and assessment number in the spaces provided.
2. Write the name and code of your school in the spaces provided.
3. Write the date of the assessment and sign in the spaces provided.
4. This question paper consists of two sections: A and B.
5. Answer ALL questions in this paper.
6. Write ALL the answers in the spaces provided in this question paper.
7. Do NOT remove any page from this question paper.
8. Answer the questions in English.

For official use only

TASK	Maximum Score	Learner's Score
A		
Task 1 (Composition)	15	
B		
Task 2 (Oral Literature)	14	
Task 3 (Poetry)	11	
Task 4 (Novella)	10	
Total	50	

This paper consists of 8 printed pages. Candidates should check the question paper to ascertain that all the pages are printed as indicated and that no questions are missing.

This paper has 16 printed pages. Please check out to ensure all pages are printed

Turn over

KENYA JUNIOR SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw who had come to our rescue that evening...

TASK 1: COMPREHENSION (20 MARKS)



Passage 2

Once upon a time, the animals lived together. They hunted together and only went separate ways to sleep. All animals were happy with one another except for the Hare, who rarely did what was expected of him. When others joined hands to go hunting, he would disappear, climb a tall tree, and watch as the others shared the food. Later, he would go to the home of one of them, steal the food, eat it, and take the rest to his family. This way, he rarely lacked food but never worked for it.

One day, Tortoise complained that he had lost his food. Before he could be responded to, Pig said he too had lost his share the previous week. The others felt disturbed and asked Monkey to stay atop a huge tree to help catch the thief. Hare suggested that he could help patrol on the ground. The suggestion was accepted by all.

The following day, the animals went hunting as usual. Monkey was up the trees when he saw the others make a kill. He whistled to Hare, who reported immediately. Hare then climbed up the tree to join him. The two watched as the animals shared the meat, leaving two pieces to be delivered to them.

This trend continued for weeks, and the animals were happy that the mistrust and stealing had ended. Both Monkey and Hare were congratulated for a job well done.

Questions

6. How did the animals get their food? (2 marks)

.....

.....

7. Why did Hare not join the others in hunting? (2 marks)

.....

.....

8. What is the meaning of the word '**trend**' as used in the story? (1 mark)

.....

.....

9. What do you think would have happened if Hare had not attended the meeting? (2 marks)

.....

.....

Passage 3

Most of us take three meals a day: breakfast, lunch, and supper. At times, we have tea at ten o'clock and another between four and five o'clock. In between meals, we might take snacks.

It is hard to resist foods like doughnuts, groundnuts, or a piece of cake. Depending on food availability, we can eat continuously unless stopped. But why do we keep eating?

The body has a mechanism that controls eating. Some foods digest faster than others. Chapati, for example, takes longer to digest than sweet potatoes. Fruits and boiled roots clear the system but often leave one hungry soon after. It is not about the quantity of food but its nutrients.

Overeating can overwhelm the digestive system, leaving the person drowsy or tired. Often, much of the food is passed as waste. People sometimes complain about stomach issues after parties, forgetting they caused the problem themselves.

Questions

10. In about 150 words, summarise the main reason why people eat from time to time. (4 marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

TASK 2: GRAMMAR (15 MARKS)

11. Fill in the blank spaces with the correct form of the word in brackets.

- (a) The President will soon be _____ the nation. (address)
- (b) Our football coach _____ his work well. (do)
- (c) The driver drove the bus _____ to enable us reach on time. (fast)

12. Replace the underlined words with the correct form of the word in brackets.

- (a) It is very difficult to raise many children nowadays. (look)
- (b) The game was postponed due to the El-Nino rains. (put)
- (c) They relocated to a new house because they could not tolerate the noise from the mines. (put)

13. Fill in the blank spaces with the correct alternative given in brackets.

- (a) It is high time you _____ the visitors. (saw, see)
- (b) Neither of the twins _____ rude. (is, are)
- (c) The packet of biscuits _____ twenty pieces of biscuits. (contain, contains)

14. Fill in the blank spaces with the correct form of the word in brackets.

- (a) The visit to Kenya by the King of England was a very _____ event. (history)
- (b) The monkey is taken as a very _____ animal. (mischief)
- (c) Of the three children, Kairo is the _____ in the family. (old)

15. Fill in the blank spaces with the correct alternative given in brackets.

- (a) The lizard escaped _____ a hole in the wall. (in, out, from)
- (b) Henry helps his parents _____ the weekends. (on, over, by)
- (c) The four men applied for the job but _____ of them qualified. (one, any, none)

TASK 3: ORAL LITERATURE & POETRY (15 MARKS)

Hyena and Hare were once friends. They lived close to each other and hunted together. However, neither ever visited the other because they had young ones to take care of.

One day, Hyena followed Hare to see where she got food. Hare visited her sick friend, Lion. She tricked animals into bringing themselves to Lion, who would kill them. Hare prepared some meat for Lion and carried the rest home. When Hyena discovered this, she confronted Hare. Hare denied it. Hyena then told Lion that medicine for his ailment was in Hyena’s short legs. Lion grabbed and ate Hyena.

Questions

- (a) What was common between the two friends? (1 mark)

.....

.....

- (b) Give a reason why the two friends never visited each other. (1 mark)

.....

.....

- (c) Explain why you think Lion asked Hare to bring Hyena the next day. (1 mark)

.....

.....

- (d) What lesson do we learn from this story? (1 mark)

.....

.....

Poem:

Laugh and Be Cheerful

by John Masefield

*Laugh and be joyful, brighten the world with a song,
Stand up to wrongs and make the weak feel strong.
Laugh, for life is fleeting, a thread so thin and small,
Be proud to belong to the great story of us all.*

*Laugh and be cheerful: remember, long ago,
God made Earth and Heaven, and filled them with glow.
He poured happiness like wine across land and sky,
The stars’ bright joy above, the earth’s delight nearby.*

*So laugh and drink from the sky’s vast blue cup,
Join the song of the stars as they sweep gently up.
Laugh, work, and play, and share the joy all around,
For the Earth holds the laughter of life’s sweetest sound.*

*Laugh together, like brothers and sisters true,
Enjoy the moments as guests in life’s grand view.
Be glad while music plays, while dancing fills the night,
Rejoice in each heartbeat, and in the Lord’s delight.*

Questions

- (a) Give two reasons why we should laugh. (2 marks)
 - (i).....
 - (ii)
- (b) What is the main idea of the poem? (1 mark)
 -
 -
- (c) Why did God make Heaven and Earth? (1 mark)
 -
 -
- (d) Give any pair of rhyming words in this poem. (1 mark)
 - (i)
 - (ii).....

Task 6: Class Reader

Excerpt:

We had only been searching for Jimi for a few minutes, yet it felt like hours to us. He had suddenly vanished, and Mika had frightened us terribly by telling stories of enormous ogres that wandered through the forest. These creatures were said to be so huge that they could swallow an entire cow in one bite. With such terrifying thoughts in mind, our fear grew even stronger, and every time we called Jimi’s name, only the echo from the nearby hill replied. Time seemed to move faster than we expected, and the sun was slowly dipping below the horizon.

“This is turning into a bigger problem than we imagined; we shouldn’t have come here at all,” Festo whispered anxiously.

“But it was your idea, Festo,” I reminded him.

“Yes, but I never imagined this. What should we do now?” he asked.

Just then, we heard leaves rustling, and we quickly turned toward the sound. There was Jimi, clutching a bunch of ripe guavas! His pockets were stuffed with the fruits, and his mouth was full too—no wonder he hadn’t answered our calls.

Questions

(a) Where did the events in this story take place? (1 mark)

.....

(b) Who are the characters mentioned in the story? (2 marks)

.....

(c) Mention two main characters and give reasons. (2 marks)

.....

.....

(d) “Yes, but I didn’t expect this...” What does this statement tell us about the others’ view of Festo? (1 mark)

.....

.....

MARKING SCHEME

Grade 8 English Paper 2 (Composition and Literary Analysis) assessment.

SECTION A: COMPOSITION (15 MARKS)

Task 1: Sample Guided Composition

I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw who had come to our rescue that evening. The cold night air had settled over the quiet forest trail, and my heart was pounding against my ribs like a trapped bird. Hours earlier, my friend Brian and I had taken a shortcut back home from school, only to lose our way as the fading daylight surrendered to deep shadows. Thick mist wrapped around the tall trees, muffling every sound except the terrifying rustle of dry leaves and the distant hooting of an owl. Panic had completely taken over, and we were huddling near a large rock, shivering uncontrollably from both fear and the biting chill.

Suddenly, a sharp beam of light pierced through the darkness, accompanied by the loud crunching of heavy boots on the gravel. We held our breath, trembling in terror, uncertain whether a dangerous wild animal or a malicious stranger was approaching. As the flashlight swept over our trembling figures, a familiar, firm voice called out our names. When the figure stepped into the circle of light, my jaw dropped—it was Mr. Otieno, our strict discipline master from school, whom we had always regarded with fear! Dressed in a thick jacket and carrying a heavy lantern, his usually stern face was filled with genuine relief and concern. Without losing a second, he wrapped us in warm blankets and guided us safely out of the dark woods to our frantic parents waiting at the edge of the village. That evening, I learned never to judge a person purely by their strict demeanor.

SECTION B: COMPREHENSION & LITERARY ANALYSIS

Task 1: Comprehension (20 Marks)

Passage 1

1. **Why was Karisa happy to go to the shop?** (1 mark)
✓ Answer: He was happy because he would keep the five-shilling balance to buy a sweet for himself.
2. **Why did Karisa's siblings remain behind?** (2 marks)
✓ Answer: They remained behind in the comfort of watching television at home.
3. **What is the meaning of the word 'interrupt' as used in the story?** (2 marks)
✓ Answer: To disturb, distract, or stop someone from continuing what they are doing.
4. **What do you think made Karisa leave the shop satisfied?** (2 marks)
✓ Answer: Musa the shopkeeper politely explained to him that fuel prices had gone up, causing the price of commodities to rise, so there was no balance left.
5. **From the story, Musa is a _____ shopkeeper.** (2 marks)
✓ Answer: cool

Passage 2

6. **How did the animals get their food?** (2 marks)
✓ Answer: They hunted together and shared the food among themselves.
7. **Why did Hare not join the others in hunting?** (2 marks)
✓ Answer: He was lazy and selfish; he preferred to hide in a tall tree, watch others share the kill, and later steal food from their homes.
8. **What is the meaning of the word 'trend' as used in the story?** (1 mark)
✓ Answer: A general direction, pattern, or repeated course of events.

9. **What do you think would have happened if Hare had not attended the meeting?** (2 marks)
✓ *Answer:* The animals would have suspected him of being the thief, or he would not have been assigned the patrol duty that helped him cover up his tracks.

Passage 3: Summary

10. **In about 150 words, summarise the main reason why people eat from time to time.** (4 marks)
✓ *Sample Summary:*

People eat continuously or at short intervals primarily because the body's digestive mechanism processes different foods at varying rates. Light foods such as fruits and boiled roots clear the digestive system quickly, leaving a person feeling hungry soon after. Furthermore, eating is often driven by the body's need for vital nutrients rather than the sheer quantity of food consumed. However, overeating can overwhelm the digestive system and cause tiredness or discomfort, meaning food intake should be balanced according to nutritional needs rather than mere availability.

Task 2: Grammar (15 Marks)

11. **Correct form of the word in brackets:**
✓ (a) The President will soon be **addressing** the nation.
✓ (b) Our football coach **does** his work well.
✓ (c) The driver drove the bus **fast** to enable us reach on time. (*Note: "fast" is both an adjective and an adverb; "fastly" is incorrect*)
12. **Phrasal verb replacement:**
✓ (a) It is very difficult to **look after** / **bring up** many children nowadays.
✓ (b) The game was **put off** due to the El-Nino rains.
✓ (c) They relocated to a new house because they could not **put up with** the noise from the mines.
13. **Correct alternative:**
✓ (a) It is high time you **saw** the visitors. (*Subjunctive mood uses past tense after "high time"*)
✓ (b) Neither of the twins **is** rude. (*Singular verb for "neither"*)
✓ (c) The packet of biscuits **contains** twenty pieces of biscuits. (*Singular subject "packet"*)
14. **Word formation/Adjectives:**
✓ (a) The visit to Kenya by the King of England was a very **historic** event.
✓ (b) The monkey is taken as a very **mischievous** animal.
✓ (c) Of the three children, Kairo is the **oldest** / **eldest** in the family.
15. **Prepositions and Pronouns:**
✓ (a) The lizard escaped **through** / **from** a hole in the wall. (*Best fit: from*)
✓ (b) Henry helps his parents **on** / **over** the weekends. (*Best fit: on*)
✓ (c) The four men applied for the job but **none** of them qualified.

Task 3: Oral Literature & Poetry (15 Marks)

Story 1: Hyena and Hare

- (a) **What was common between the two friends?** (1 mark)
✓ *Answer:* They lived close to each other, hunted together, and both had young ones to care for.
- (b) **Give a reason why the two friends never visited each other.** (1 mark)
✓ *Answer:* They had young ones at home to take care of.
- (c) **Explain why you think Lion asked Hare to bring Hyena the next day.** (1 mark)
✓ *Answer:* Lion wanted to capture and eat Hyena after Hyena claimed her short legs contained his medicine.
- (d) **What lesson do we learn from this story?** (1 mark)
✓ *Answer:* Betrayal and evil schemes against others often backfire on the plotter / Deceit leads to destruction.

Poem: Laugh and Be Cheerful

- (a) **Give two reasons why we should laugh:** (2 marks)
 - ✓ (i) Life is fleeting and short ("a thread so thin and small").
 - ✓ (ii) To brighten the world and make the weak feel strong.
- (b) **What is the main idea of the poem?** (1 mark)
 - ✓ *Answer:* Embracing joy, cheerfulness, and living life to the fullest despite its brevity.
- (c) **Why did God make Heaven and Earth?** (1 mark)
 - ✓ *Answer:* To fill them with beauty/glow and share happiness across the land and sky.
- (d) **Give any pair of rhyming words in this poem:** (1 mark)
 - ✓ (i) **song / strong** (or *small / all, glow / ago, sky / nearby, cup / up, sound / around, true / view, night / delight*)
 - ✓ (ii) (*Matches the chosen pair above*)

Task 4: Class Reader / Novella (10 Marks)

- (a) **Where did the events in this story take place?** (1 mark)
 - ✓ *Answer:* In a forest / woods near a hill.
- (b) **Who are the characters mentioned in the story?** (2 marks)
 - ✓ *Answer:* Jimi, Mika, Festo, and the narrator.
- (c) **Mention two main characters and give reasons.** (2 marks)
 - ✓ *Answer:*
 1. **Festo:** He initiated the trip into the forest and expresses anxiety during the search.
 2. **Jimi:** His sudden disappearance drives the whole plot and search conflict.
- (d) **“Yes, but I didn’t expect this...” What does this statement tell us about the others’ view of Festo?** (1 mark)
 - ✓ *Answer:* They view him as responsible for leading them into trouble, or as someone who acts without fully considering the consequences of his plans.