

COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION

JUNIOR SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER ASSIGNMENT 2026



GRADE 8 – ENGLISH PAPER 2

Time: 2 Hours

LEARNER'S DETAILS

Name: _____ School: _____

Assessment Number: _____ Date: _____

School Code: _____ Signature: _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Write your name in the spaces provided above.
2. Write the name of your school and your stream in the spaces provided.
3. Write your admission number and the date of the assessment in the spaces provided.
4. This paper consists of two sections: A and B.
5. Answer all questions in section A and section B.
6. Answer the questions in English.
7. All answers MUST be written in the spaces provided in the paper.
8. Do NOT remove any page from this question paper.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (EXAMINER'S USE)

SECTION	SECTION A	SECTION B	% SCORE	EE1	EE2	ME1	ME2	AE1	AE2	BE1	BE2
SCORE RANGE	30 MARKS	50 MARKS		90-100	75-89	58-74	41-57	31-40	21-30	11-20	1-10
	POINTS			8 POINTS	7 POINTS	6 POINTS	5 POINTS	4 POINTS	3 POINTS	2 POINTS	1 POINT
LEARNER'S TOTAL SCORE											

SECTION A (30 MARKS)

Answer ALL questions in this section.

SECTION A: COMPOSITION (15 Marks)

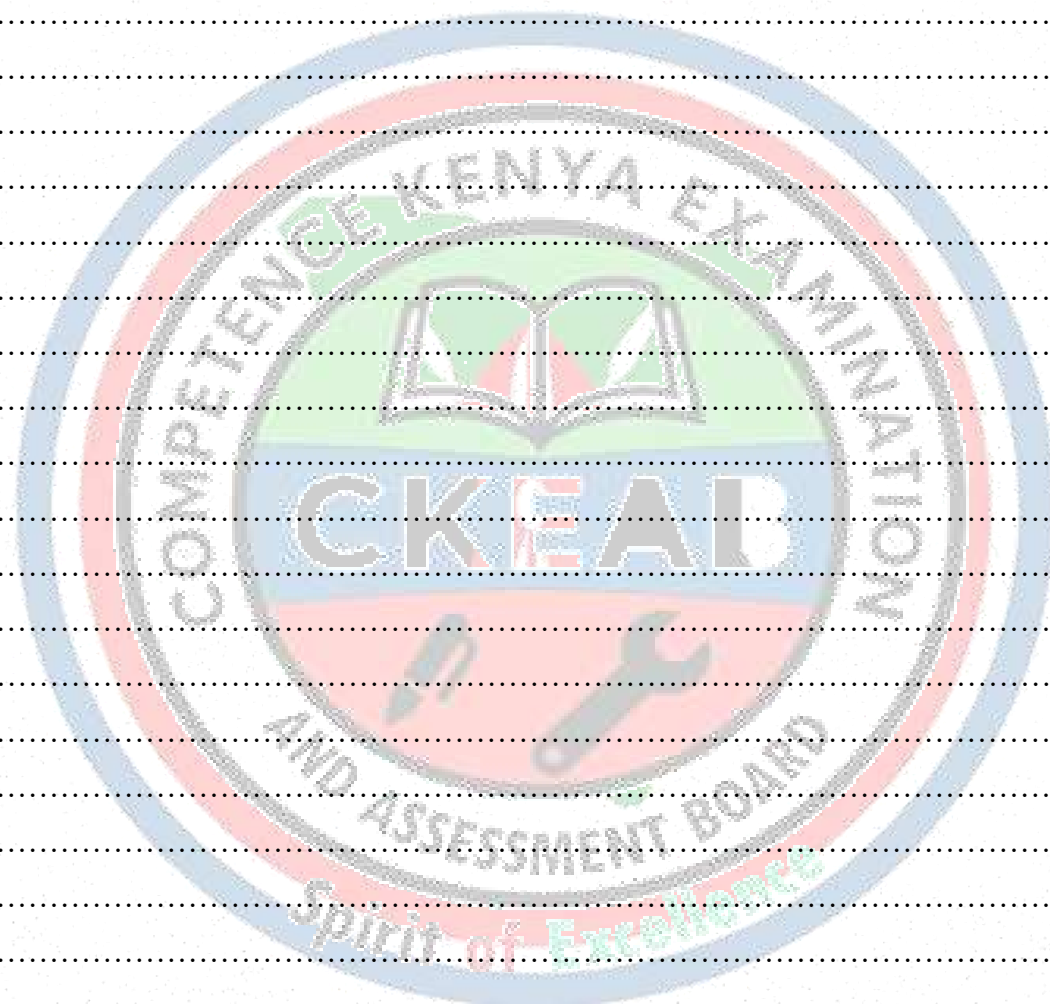
TASK 1: LETTER WRITING

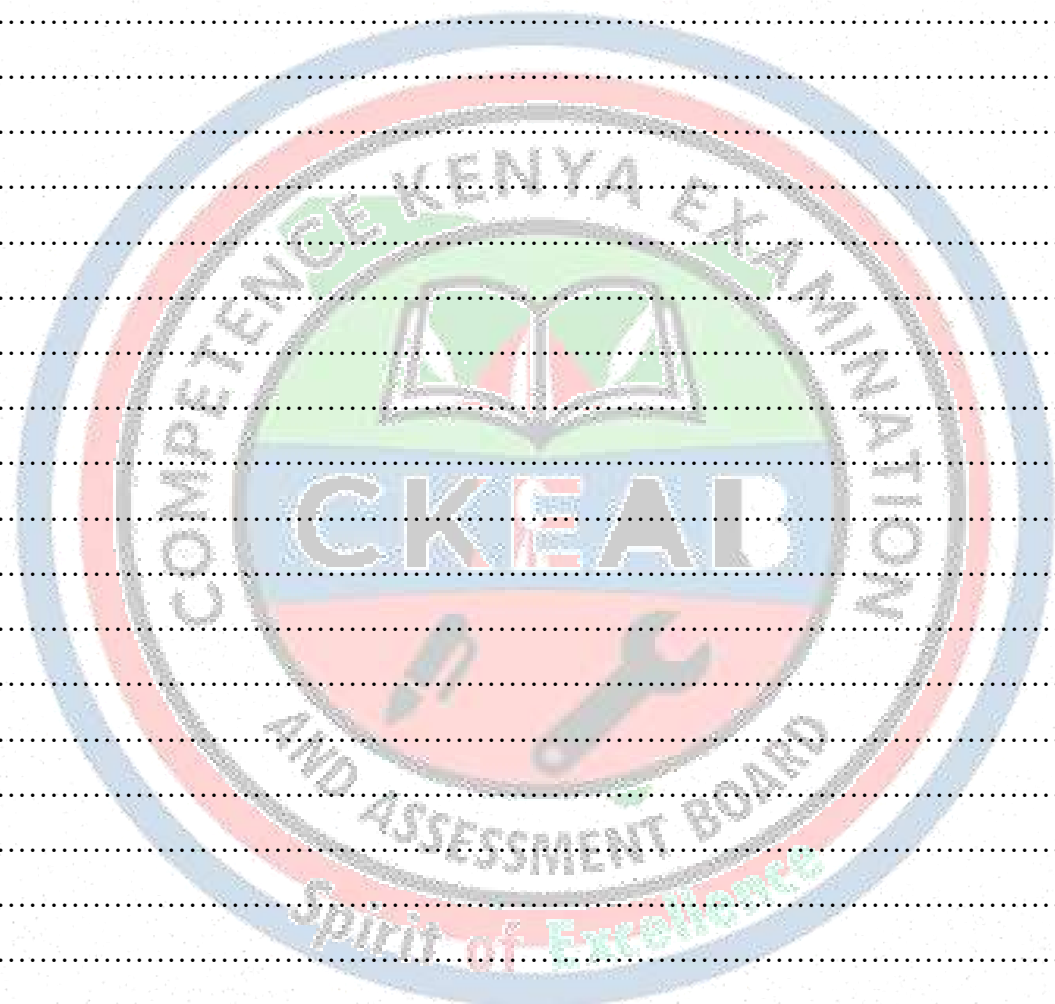
Write a letter to your class teacher thanking him or her for organizing an educational trip.

In your letter:

- Mention where you went,
- What you learnt, and
- Why the trip was important to you.

Begin and end your letter correctly. Use polite and formal language.





SECTION B: ORAL LITERATURE (14 Marks)
TASK 2: NARRATIVE

Read the story below and answer the questions that follow.

The Riddle of the Wise Girl

Long ago, in a faraway kingdom, the king loved riddles. Every month, he would ask his people a riddle, and anyone who failed to answer was fined a goat.

One day, the king asked, “What is it that walks on four legs in the morning, two legs at noon, and three legs in the evening?” The people were puzzled. Many lost their goats.

At last, a young girl named Lela came forward. “Your Majesty,” she said confidently, “the answer is a human being! As a baby, one crawls on all fours, as an adult one walks on two legs, and in old age one uses a walking stick.”

The king was amazed and said, “You are indeed wise. From today, you shall be my royal adviser.”

Questions:

1. Who loved riddles in the story? (1 mark)
-
-
2. What happened to people who failed to answer the king’s riddle? (2 marks)
-
-
3. What was the riddle about? (2 marks)
-
-
4. How did Lela explain her answer? (3 marks)
-
-
5. Mention two character traits of Lela. (4 marks)
-
-
6. What moral lesson do we learn from this story? (2 marks)
-
-

SECTION C: (11 Marks)
TASK 3: POEM

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

“True Friendship”

(Adapted from Melodies of Africa and Other Poems)

A friend in need, a friend indeed,
Walks with you when all others leave.
In joy or sorrow, in calm or storm,
A true friend’s heart is always warm.

Not by gifts or words alone,
But by care and love well shown.
A friend forgives, and gently mends,
The broken bridge between good friends.

Questions:

1. What is the main theme of the poem? (2 marks)
-
-
2. Mention two qualities of a true friend according to the poem. (2 marks)
-
-
3. Identify one rhyme pattern used in the poem. (2 marks)
-
-
4. What message does the poet pass to the reader? (2 marks)
-
-
5. Suggest a suitable title for this poem. (1 mark)
-
-
6. Explain the meaning of the line “The broken bridge between good friends.” (2 marks)
-
-

SECTION D: CLASS READER (10 Marks)
TASK 4: EXTRACT FROM “Tears of Joy”

When the results were announced, Achieng sat silently, afraid to look at the notice board. She had worked very hard, but her heart pounded with fear. Her best friend, Wanja, ran to her shouting, “Achieng! You did it! You’re the top in our class!”

Tears rolled down Achieng’s cheeks. “I can’t believe it,” she whispered. Her teacher, Mr. Okoth, smiled proudly. “Hard work always pays, Achieng. You deserve it.”

That evening, Achieng’s mother prepared a small celebration meal. She hugged her daughter tightly and said, “These are tears of joy, my child.”

Questions:

1. What event is being described in this passage? (1 mark)
.....
.....
2. Why was Achieng afraid to look at the notice board? (2 marks)
.....
.....
3. Who informed her about her success? (1 mark)
.....
.....
4. How did Achieng and her family celebrate her achievement? (2 marks)
.....
.....
5. Identify one value shown by Mr. Okoth in the story. (2 marks)
.....
.....
6. What lesson can we learn from Achieng’s experience? (2 marks)
.....
.....

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GRADE 8 – ENGLISH PAPER 2

SECTION A: COMPOSITION – 15 MARKS

TASK 1: LETTER WRITING

Write a letter to your class teacher thanking him/her for organizing an educational trip.

Sample Answer

P.O. Box 123,
Kilgoris.
20th November 2026.

Dear Teacher,

RE: THANK YOU FOR ORGANIZING THE EDUCATIONAL TRIP

I am writing to sincerely thank you for organizing the educational trip we had recently. We visited the **Nairobi National Museum**, where we learnt many interesting things about the history, culture and wildlife of Kenya.

During the trip, I learnt about different communities, historical objects and important events in our country. I also learnt the importance of conserving our cultural heritage and protecting our environment.

The trip was important to me because it gave me an opportunity to learn outside the classroom. It also helped me to understand better what we have been taught in class. I enjoyed interacting with my classmates and teachers and gained new experiences.

Thank you once again for your effort and for giving us such a wonderful learning opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
Achieng

Suggested Marking Scheme – 15 Marks

Area	Marks
Correct format of a formal letter	4
Address/date/salutation/closing	2
Where they went	2
What was learnt	3
Importance of the trip	2

Appropriate formal and polite language	1
Grammar, spelling and punctuation	1
TOTAL	15

Accept any relevant, grammatically correct response. The place visited and experiences may differ from the sample answer.

SECTION B: ORAL LITERATURE – 14 MARKS

TASK 2: THE RIDDLE OF THE WISE GIRL

1. Who loved riddles in the story? (1 mark)

Answer:

The **king** loved riddles. ✓

2. What happened to people who failed to answer the king's riddle? (2 marks)

Answer:

They were **fined a goat**. ✓✓

Award:

- They were fined – 1 mark
- They lost/paid a goat – 1 mark

3. What was the riddle about? (2 marks)

Answer:

The riddle was about a **human being/person at different stages of life**. ✓✓

It described:

- A baby crawling on **four legs** – 1 mark
- An adult walking on **two legs** and an old person using a **walking stick** – 1 mark

4. How did Lela explain her answer? (3 marks)

Answer:

Lela explained that:

1. As a **baby**, a human being crawls on all fours. ✓
2. As an **adult**, a human being walks on two legs. ✓

3. In **old age**, a person uses a walking stick, making three points of support. ✓

5. Mention two character traits of Lela. (4 marks)

Any TWO traits, with relevant evidence/explanation.

Possible answers:

1. **Wise/intelligent** – She correctly solved the difficult riddle. ✓✓
2. **Confident/brave** – She came forward and answered the king confidently. ✓✓
3. **Courageous** – She was not afraid to answer the king's question. ✓✓
4. **Knowledgeable** – She understood the different stages of human life. ✓✓
5. **Quick-thinking** – She was able to solve the riddle when others failed. ✓✓

Award: 2 marks for each correctly identified and supported trait.

6. What moral lesson do we learn from this story? (2 marks)

Any relevant lesson, for example:

- **Wisdom and knowledge can help one overcome difficult challenges.** ✓✓
- **We should not be afraid to express our knowledge and ideas.** ✓✓
- **Courage and confidence can lead to opportunities.** ✓✓
- **Intelligence and good thinking should be valued.** ✓✓

SECTION C: POETRY – 11 MARKS

TASK 3: “TRUE FRIENDSHIP”

1. What is the main theme of the poem? (2 marks)

Answer:

The main theme is **true friendship/loyalty in friendship.** ✓✓

Other acceptable answers:

- Importance of true friendship
- Loyalty and care among friends
- Love and support in friendship

2. Mention two qualities of a true friend according to the poem. (2 marks)

Any TWO:

1. **Loyalty** ✓
2. **Care** ✓
3. **Love** ✓
4. **Forgiveness** ✓
5. **Supportiveness** ✓
6. **Faithfulness** ✓
7. **Being there during difficult times** ✓

Any two × 1 mark = 2 marks

3. Identify one rhyme pattern used in the poem. (2 marks)

Answer:

The rhyme pattern is **AABBCCDD**. ✓✓

Examples:

- **indeed – leave** → slant/near rhyme
- **storm – warm** → rhyme
- **alone – shown** → rhyme
- **mends – friends** → rhyme

Note: Accept **AABBCCDD** where the learner identifies the paired end-rhyme structure.

4. What message does the poet pass to the reader? (2 marks)

Answer:

The poet teaches that **a true friend should remain supportive, caring and loyal during both good and difficult times**. ✓✓

Other acceptable messages:

- We should value genuine friendships.
- Friends should forgive one another.
- True friendship is shown through actions, care and love rather than gifts alone.

5. Suggest a suitable title for this poem. (1 mark)

Answer:

True Friendship ✓

Other acceptable titles:

- **A True Friend**
- **The Value of Friendship**
- **A Good Friend**
- **Friendship**

6. Explain the meaning of the line “The broken bridge between good friends.” (2 marks)

Answer:

The line refers to a **damaged friendship or disagreement between friends that needs to be repaired through forgiveness, understanding and reconciliation.** ✓✓

SECTION D: CLASS READER – 10 MARKS

TASK 4: EXTRACT FROM “TEARS OF JOY”

1. What event is being described in this passage? (1 mark)

Answer:

The **announcement of examination/results and Achieng's success as the top learner in her class.** ✓

2. Why was Achieng afraid to look at the notice board? (2 marks)

Answer:

She was afraid because **she was anxious about her results and did not know whether she had performed well despite working very hard.** ✓✓

3. Who informed her about her success? (1 mark)

Answer:

Her **best friend, Wanja,** informed her. ✓

4. How did Achieng and her family celebrate her achievement? (2 marks)

Answer:

- Achieng's **mother prepared a small celebration meal.** ✓
- Her mother **hugged her and celebrated her success with her.** ✓

5. Identify one value shown by Mr. Okoth in the story. (2 marks)

Answer:

Encouragement/appreciation. ✓✓

Evidence: Mr. Okoth congratulated Achieng and told her that her **hard work had paid off**.

Other acceptable values:

- Support
- Encouragement
- Appreciation
- Recognition
- Motivation

6. What lesson can we learn from Achieng's experience? (2 marks)

Answer:

We learn that **hard work, determination and perseverance can lead to success.** ✓✓

Other acceptable answers:

- We should work hard to achieve our goals.
- Success comes through dedication and effort.
- We should remain hopeful even when we are anxious about our performance.
- Hard work should be accompanied by persistence.

SUMMARY OF MARKS

Section	Task	Marks
A	Composition – Letter Writing	15
B	Oral Literature – Narrative	14
C	Poetry	11
D	Class Reader	10
TOTAL OF QUESTIONS PROVIDED		50 MARKS