

COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION
JUNIOR SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER ASSIGNMENT 2026



GRADE 8 – ENGLISH

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.

1. SECTION A:

TASK 1: READING COMPREHENSION (10 marks)

Read the dialogue below and answer questions 1 to 5.

Warden: Well, it looks like your time here is almost up. How are you feeling about your impending release?

Prisoner: I'm feeling a mix of emotions, Warden. I'm grateful for the chance to start fresh, but I'm also a bit apprehensive about what's waiting for me on the outside.

Warden: That is understandable. Just remember, you've served your time and you have the opportunity to make positive choices moving forward. Do you have any plans or goals for life outside prison?

Prisoner: I've been thinking a lot about that. I want to reconnect with my family and find a job. Most importantly, I'll strive to stay away from the people and habits that got me here in the first place.

Warden: That sounds like a great plan. Remember, we're here to support you as you transition back into society. Do you have any concerns or challenges you anticipate facing?

Prisoner: Yeah, finding employment with my record might be tough. However, I'm determined to prove that I've changed and deserve a second chance.

Warden: I believe in your ability to turn things around. Just stay focused, stay positive and lean on the support systems available to you. We are there for you.

Questions

1. What shows that the warden was concerned about the prisoner?

2. Why was the prisoner anxious?

3. What was the prisoner's main goal upon release?

4. What problem did the prisoner think he would come across?

5. Identify the statement that shows that the warden had great confidence in the prisoner's ability to succeed outside the prison?

2. **Read the passage below and answer questions**

Mekatilili wa Menza was a prominent Giriama woman and freedom fighter who played a significant role in resisting British colonial rule in the early 20th century. She is celebrated for her leadership and bravery in the face of oppression. She was opposed to British colonial policies such as forced labour, heavy taxation and land grabbing. She travelled from village to village, using traditional songs and dances to mobilise the Giriama people.

Her most famous act of defiance was the 'Kaya Fungo', a sacred oath she took with other Giriama leaders, pledging to resist the British. Mekatilili's activities drew the fury of the colonial authorities, who saw her as a huge threat. She was arrested and exiled to Kisii. Despite this, she escaped and made the long journey back to her homeland where she continued her resistance efforts. Her resilience and determination were remarkable. She was arrested and exiled multiple times but always managed to return.

Questions

1. Why was Mekatilili famous?

2. What did Mekatilili not like about the colonial administration?

3. What was the purpose of the sacred oath?

4. Write one word that means the same as fury as used in the passage.

5. Which statement in the passage proves that mekatilili was a thorn in the flesh of the colonial adminisrators?

3. **TASK 2: SUMMARY WRITING (5 marks)**

Read the passage below carefully. In not more than 100 words. describe the factors to consider when choosing a career.

Choosing a career is one of the most significant decisions individuals face in their lives. It influences not only their professional succeed but also their personal fulfillment and overall well-being. There are several factors to consider when choosing a career. First and foremost, self-assessment is crucial. Understanding one's strengths, weaknesses, passions and values can provide clarity on what careers might be a good fit. For example, someone with a passion for technology and problem-solving might find a fulfilling career in software development or engineering.

Educational and skill requirements are equally important to put into consideration. Some careers require specific degrees, certifications or technical skills. Researching the educational pathways and required qualifications for various careers can help individuals prepare adequately and avoid unnecessary setbacks. For instance, a career in medicine necessitates extensive education and training, which should be considered early on. Besides, market demand and job prospects are also important. Choosing a career in a growing field with high demand can enhance job security and offer better long-term prospects. It is essential to stay informed about industry trends, job market forecasts and economic shifts. For example, careers in renewable energy and technology are expected to grow hence offering numerous opportunities for those entering these fields.

Moreover, work-life balance and personal fulfillment should not be overlooked. A career that aligns with one's lifestyle preferences and personal values can lead to greater satisfaction and lower stress levels. It is important to consider factors such as work hours, travel requirements, job stability and the potential for growth and advancement. For example, someone who values creativity and flexibility might thrive in freelance work or artistic professions.

4. **SECTION B**

TASK 2: GRAMMAR IN USE. (15 MKS)

In questions 11 to 13 complete the sentence with the correct preposition.

The patient got admitted _____ Sabatia Hospital.

5. The girl is a victim _____ child labour.

6. Alcohol has several harmful effects _____ its users.

Join the sets of sentences with the word in brackets.

7. The traffic was very bad. We arrived home rather late. (because)

8. She continues working hard. She will get a promotion. (if)

9. She will miss the bus. She is unlikely to leave immediately. (unless)

10. **For questions 17 to 19, complete the sentences with the correct simlie.**

The head teacher punished the girl who was as stubborn as a _____

11. When we were doing a test, the classroom was as silent as a _____

12. The athlete won the race because she had run as fast as a

13. **In questions 20 and 21, identify the adverb used in each sentence.**

We were filled with sheer joy when we arrived there.

14. Mercy always reminds her classmates to observe silence.

15. **For questions 22 and 23, complete the sentence with the correct word from the brackets.**

There seems to be ____ salt in the food; it is almost tasteless. (a little/little)

16. I wonder how he allowed ____ mistakes in his composition. (this, these)

17. **In questions 24 and 25, identify the reflexive pronoun in each sentence.**

The children amused themselves with a variety of games and activities.

18. John reminded himself of the need to pay attention in class.

19. **SECTIONC**

TASK 4: ORAL LITERATURE (7 marks)

Read the story below and answer questions 26 to 32.

Once upon a time, in a dense jungle near a fast-flowing river, there lived a clever monkey who spent his days swinging from tree to tree and feasting on delicious fruits. He was always cheerful since he had plenty of food to eat. On the other side of the river, there was a cunning crocodile who often watched the monkey and dreamed of catching him for a tasty meal. One hot afternoon, as the monkey relaxed on a tree branch, the crocodile called out to him from the riverbank. "Hello, Monkey! Don't you want to taste the sweet fruits on the other side of the river? They are much juicier and tastier than the ones you eat every day."

The monkey, being curious and always up for an adventure, was tempted by the crocodile's words. However, he was also wary of the crocodile's intentions. "How can I get to the other side of the river?" asked the monkey. "I can't swim!"

The crocodile, hiding his true intentions, smiled and said, "Don't worry, my friend. I can carry you on my back. Just hop on, and I'll take you safely across."

The monkey, sensing an opportunity to outwit the crocodile, decided to play along. "All right," he said. "But first, let me grab some mangoes from this tree to bring along for the journey." The monkey climbed up the tree and quickly filled his hands with mangoes. Then, pretending to be afraid of dropping them, he said to the crocodile, "Unfortunately, I can't carry all these mangoes and hold onto your back at the same time. Could you open your

mouth wide so I can place the mangoes in there while I hold onto your back?" The crocodile, thinking he had outsmarted the monkey, eagerly opened his mouth wide. The monkey then began to drop

the mangoes into the crocodile's mouth, one by one. But instead of jumping onto the crocodile's back, the monkey stayed safely on the tree branch.

As the crocodile's mouth filled with mangoes, he found it hard to speak. His jaws had strained so much hence leaving him in untold pain. The monkey seized the moment and laughed, "You foolish crocodile! Did you really think I would trust you? Enjoy your mangoes, but you'll never catch me!" Furious but unable to retaliate with his mouth full of mangoes, the crocodile splashed angrily in the water. The monkey, still laughing, swung away through the trees, leaving the crocodile to ponder how he had been outwitted.

Questions

1. What was the main cause of the monkey's good mood according to the first paragraph?

2. Why did the crocodile like looking at the monkey?

3. Write one word that means the same as **cunning** as used in the story.

4. What was the monkey's main concern as he considered the crocodile's suggestion?

5. Why did the monkey agree to the crocodile's suggestion?

6. Identify a statement that proves that the crocodile was foolish.

7. How did the crocodile react after discovering that he had been outsmarted?

20. **TASK 5: POETRY (5 Marks)**

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

In lands both far and near we roam,
To places that we call our own.

We wander through the city's glow,
And where the peaceful rivers flow.

The bustling markets, lively and bright,
The ancient ruins, a wondrous sight.

From sunrise to the evening's gleam,
We live a life that's like a dream.

New cultures, foods, and friends we find,
Creating memories we treasure in mind.

The world is vast, its wonders grand,
All waiting for a traveller's hand.

So pack your bags and set your sail,
For every journey tells a tale.

With every step, a story blooms,
As tourism fills our lives with room.

Questions

1. How many stanzas does the poem have? _____

2. Who do you think the persona in the poem is?

3. Identify two words in the first stanza that are similar in meaning.

4. How does the persona benefit from travelling?

5. What is the word class of the word **yast** as used in the poem?

21. **SECTION D**

TASK 6: CLASS READER (8 marks)

Read the excerpt below and answer questions 38 to 45.

The king's heart was very troubled. His daughter would soon become a laughing stock in the kingdom if she remained single. He decided to get her a husband as soon as possible. However, he declared that the suitor had to be the wisest man in the kingdom. Any man who could tell the princess' name was wise enough to take care of her. Only the family members knew the princess by her name. It was announced throughout the land, that the king wanted the wisest man to marry his daughter. Whoever could tell her name would be given her hand in marriage. The rich and famous went with gifts to the palace to try their luck but they could not guess the princess' name.

Soon, every available man in the land had gone to ask for the princess' hand in marriage, but no one could tell her name. So, the tortoise, a very crafty animal, decided he would give it a try. But before he went to the palace, he sneaked around the princess and her siblings, following them everywhere without their knowledge. Just when the tortoise started to give up, luck smiled on him one day. The princess and her siblings went apple picking on the outskirts of the town. They had not gone very far when the youngest brother of the princess saw a bike. Now, a bike was a very uncommon sight in those days. The lad was so excited that he called his sister by name and asked if she would like to ride a bicycle. That's how the tortoise knew the princess' name.

The tortoise was full of beans as he made his way towards the palace. Of course, he announced to the public that he knew the princess' name. Although no one believed him, a huge crowd followed him to the palace.

They were eager to see what would happen. The king's family was astonished when a huge crowd showed up at the palace. When the tortoise declared that he knew the princess' name, the king laughed him off.

However, as soon as the tortoise called the princess by her name, the King's jaw dropped as tears streamed down his cheeks. The crowd was equally stunned at the turn of events. The king had no choice but to give his daughter to the tortoise as his wife. The princess and the queen were down in the dumps. But there was nothing anyone could do. And so, the tortoise took his wife home. The princesses protested but her father had made a solemn vow ...

Questions

1. Why was the king troubled?

2. Why did the king want his daughter to be married to a wise man?

3. What was the greatest hindrance to the princess' suitors?

4. What is the part of speech of the word **crafty** as used in the passage?

5. Write one word that can best replace **give up** in the story.

6. What caused the princess' brother to mention her name?

7. Why did the crowd follow the tortoise to the palace?

8. Describe one character trait of the king according to the story.

Answers

1.
 1. He asked questions about the prisoner's feelings, plans and potential challenges. He also offers support and encouragement to the prisoner.
 2. He was unsure about what awaited him outside prison and was concerned about finding employment with his criminal record.
 3. To stay away from the negative influences and habits that led to his imprisonment.
 4. The prisoner thought he would have difficulty finding employment due to his criminal record.
 5. I believe in your ability to turn things around.
2.
 1. Mekatili was famous for her leadership and bravery in resisting British colonial rule.
 2. Mekatilili opposed forced labour, heavy taxation and land grabbing by the British colonial administration.
 3. It was meant for them to pledge their resistance against the British colonial rule.
 4. rage
 5. Mekatilili's activities drew the fury of the colonial authorities, who saw her as a huge threat.

3. Accept a summary like this one

When choosing a career, consider self-assessment to understand your strengths, weaknesses, passions and values. Consider the educational and skill requirement of your dream career. Evaluate market demand and job prospects to enhance job security. Stay informed about industry trends and economic shifts. Additionally, consider work-life balance and personal fulfillment by aligning career choices with your lifestyle preferences and values. This can lead to greater satisfaction and lower stress levels.

4. to
5. of
6. on
7. We arrived home rather late because the traffic was very bad.
8. If she continues working hard, she will get a promotion.
9. Unless she leaves immediately. She will miss the bus.
10. mule
11. a cemetery or graveyard

12. a cheetah

13. there

14. always

15. little

16. these

17. themselves

18. himself

- 19.
1. The fact that he had plenty of food to eat.
 2. He dreamed of catching him for a tasty meal.
 3. sly, crafty
 4. He was wary of the crocodile's true intentions.
 5. He sensed an opportunity to outwit the crocodile.
 6. The crocodile, thinking he had outsmarted the monkey, eagerly opened his mouth wide.
 7. He splashed angrily in the water.
- 20.
1. The poem has four stanzas.
 2. The persona in the poem is likely a traveler, a tourist or someone who enjoys exploring different places.
 3. 'roam' and 'wander'
 4. By experiencing new cultures, foods and making new friends.
 5. It is an adjective.
- 21.
1. His daughter would soon become a laughing stock in the kingdom if she remained single.
 2. He believed that only a wise man could take good care of her.
 3. They could not guess her name.
 4. It is an adjective.
 5. despair, quit
 6. He was excited to see a bicycle and wanted to ask his sister if she would like to ride it.
 7. The crowd followed the tortoise to the palace because they were eager to see if he really knew the princess' name and what would happen as a result.
 8. The king was honest. He kept to his promise.

