

TARGETER WINGS

JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

GRADE 8 - 2024

Wings
002



ENGLISH

TIME: 1hr 40mins

Name _____
School _____
Adm No: _____ Date _____

Instructions:

- (a) Write your name, school, admission number and date in the spaces provided above.
(b) Answer all questions in this question paper.

FOR EXAMINER'S USE ONLY			
Questions	Maximum score	Student's score	Performance scale
1 - 37	50		
Total	50		

SECTION: A

TASK 1: READING COMPREHENSION

1. Read the story below and answer questions 1- 5.

Karemba was the most favourite of Chief Munene's daughters. Moreover, she was the prettiest girl in the entire village. Karemba was ready to be given out for marriage but her strict father would not allow a coward to marry his princess. Wealth did not matter as well as where he would come from.

Chief Munene came up with a rare test of courage in search of Karemba's mister right. Somewhere in his huge and well-maintained backyard, was a pool that housed dozens of alligators. They were his personal pets that were well-fed throughout all seasons.

Several young potential husbands of Karemba stood round the pool when Chief Munene made the incredible announcement. Cold shivers ran down their spines when the thought of swimming across that deadly pool struck their minds. A stampede ensued and Donyo, a non-contestant accidentally plunged into the pool. The crowd screamed as Donyo swam here and there helplessly. He made it amid the loud noises but came out of the pool breathing fire.

"Who threw me into the pool?" he kept asking.
Soon the chief made the big announcement.

1. Who, according to Chief Munene, would eventually marry his daughter? (1mk)

2. Why did Chief Munene keep alligators? (1mk)

3. What is the meaning of the word 'incredible' as used in the story? (1mk)

4. How do you think Donyo found himself swimming in the pool? (1mk)

5. Which major announcement do you think was finally made by Chief Munene?

2. **Read the following story and then answer questions 6 - 9.**

There lived an old man and his grandson in Batuga village. The old man was known as Opunda and his grandson, Mosadi. Opunda owned a drove of donkeys most of which were sold while others were usually borrowed by fellow villagers to be returned after use for a little charge. Old Opunda was neither rich nor poor.

One day Opunda decided to sell one donkey which was the most stubborn. He requested Mosadi to accompany him to the market. "Tie a rope round that donkey's neck and drive it out of the stable," said Opunda pointing at one wild-looking donkey.

Soon they were trodding the path that led to the market. "Why let the donkey walk side by side with the old man. Let it carry him," suggested someone they met on the way. Without wasting time the old man hopped on the donkey.

"The animal is strong enough to carry both of you," another observer advised. Old Opunda and Mosadi followed the advice and moved on.

They were about to reach the market place when they were convinced to carry the donkey since it looked very exhausted. An embarrassing laughter filled the market as they entered through the gate.

6. How did old Opunda earn his income? (1mk)

7. Why did the old man decide to sell the donkey? (1mk)

8. Which advice made old Opunda and his grandson fool of themselves? (1mk)

9. What is the meaning of the word "embarrassing" as used in the story? (1mk)

TASK 2: Read the story below and then answer the question that follows

Students, just like other people, need to look after their physical fitness. Studies have shown that exercising improves brain performance. This does not mean you have to train for a marathon. Thirty minutes of exercise three times a week is enough. This helps you to absorb information from your books better and faster. It also improves sleep quality.

You do not need a gym membership to begin an exercise program. Since gym membership is expensive, you can build exercise into your daily routine. When you have time, get off at a distant bus stop and walk home. Still, never forget to use staircases instead of the lift.

Also, whenever you are carrying anything in your hands such as a briefcase, shopping or any luggage, try to swing your arms in a way that will work your muscles and exercise your body. Doing stomach crunches while watching the TV or in bed can be very effective and time saving. Don't see exercise as another work. See it as fun.

In about 50 words, summarise different ways a student can exercise.

Rough copy

SECTION : B

TASK 3: GRAMMAR (16 MARKS)

Fill in the blank spaces with the correct alternative given in brackets (3mks)

10. He had arrived and _____ repairing our desks. (began, begun)
11. The man carelessly _____ his clean hat on the floor. (lain, laid)
12. The dias was well _____ for everyone to see the governor. (risen, raised)

Fill in the blank spaces in the sentences below using the correct form of the word in brackets (3mks)

13. I still do not know the man's _____ (occupy)
14. We swerved to the left to avoid head on _____ (collide)
15. That wheelbarrow is not old. It needs some _____ (maintain)

Use a suitable suffix or prefix with the given word to complete each sentence. (3mks)

16. The doctors did not _____ what killed the businessman. (close)
17. They were scared of the _____ of the house. (empty)
18. The harsh weather made our hiking _____. (possible)

Fill in the blank spaces with the correct joining word given in brackets (4mks)

19. Students should either come by bus _____ walk. (and, nor, or)
20. It is not known why children prefer sweets _____ fruits. (than, or, to)
21. _____ singing, Alpha dances very well. (Except, Besides, Despite)
22. It is hard to succeed _____ you work seriously. (because, although, unless)

Fill in the blank space with the appropriate word given in the brackets (3mks)

23. The kitten is dull today. _____ feeling unwell. (Its, It's)
24. She is more excited than _____ (your, you're)
25. The team and _____ arrived together at the stadium. (us, we)

SECTION: C

TASK 4: ORAL LITERATURE AND POETRY

8. **In this section, answer all the following questions**

Long ago, a man went to see the circus show. Before the show began, he was amused when he saw a lot of elephants held by only a rope tied to their front leg. Confused, the man stopped wondering how such huge creatures were being controlled by a thin yet a small rope.

There were no chains or steel cages. Obviously, the elephants were capable of breaking away the ropes anytime but for some unknown reason were not even trying. The man became curious and went closer to their trainer to enquire why the elephants were not trying to escape.

To answer his question, the trainer told him that they were like this since the time they were very young. As they grew up stronger and bigger, they did not notice the difference. They believed the rope could still hold them. The man was completely shocked and pitied the elephants.

26. What type of friendship is between the man and the elephants? (1mk)
-
27. Why did the elephants not break away the ropes even after growing bigger and stronger? (1mk)
-
28. What does the writer mean by the expression "they did not notice the difference"? (1mk)
-
29. What lesson do we learn from the story? (1mk)
-

Read the poem below and then answer questions 30 - 33.

My parents kept me from children who were rough.
 Who threw words like stones and who wore torn clothes.
 Their thighs showed through rags. They ran in the streets.
 And climbed cliffs and stripped by the country streams.

I feared more than tigers their muscles like iron.
 Their jerking hands and knees tight on my arms.
 I feared the salt coarse pointing of those boys.
 Who copied my lisp behind me on the road.

They were lithe, they sprang out behind hedges.
 Like dogs to bark at my world. They threw mud.
 While I looked the other way, pretending to smile.
 I longed to forgive them, but they never smiled.

30. How many stanzas are in this poem? (1mk)
-
31. Whom is the speaker talking about in the first stanza? (1mk)
-
32. Give two examples of similes from the poem above. (2mks)
-
33. What do you think is the main message in the poem? (1mk)
-

SECTION: D

CLASS READERS

10. **Read the extract below and then answer the questions that follow**

Babito, a middle-aged man, was walking on a dusty road. His old worn-out shoes were not of much help to him. He at times followed paths that led to bumpy roads rarely used by vehicles. Some of the roads had big potholes which were a nightmare to many drivers. Some drivers resorted to using longer routes for they feared the holes might swallow their small cars. In fact, in some of the holes, villagers had resorted to planting banana suckers.

34. Where is the main character in this extract? (1mk)
-
35. What are two signs of poor leadership in this story? (2mks)
-
36. Why does the writer refer to potholes as a nightmare to many drivers? (2mks)
-
37. Identify any irony used in the extract. (1mk)
-

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TIME: 40mins

SECTION B:
ENGLISH : COMPOSITION

Name _____	
School _____	
Adm No: _____	Date _____

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

1. *Write your name, school, admission number and date in the spaces provided above.*
2. *Now open the page, read the instructions of the composition carefully and write your composition on the the lines provided.*

This Question Paper consists of 4 printed pages.

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