

# KENYA CERTIFICATE OF BASIC EDUCATION (K.C.B.E)

## MARKING SCHEME

### GRADE 10: BUILDING CONSTRUCTION (Theory) – TERM 1 – JANUARY 2026

#### SECTION A (40 MARKS)

##### 1. (a) Definition of building (2 marks)

Award marks for any of the following correct ideas:

- ✓ A structure constructed to provide shelter.
- ✓ A permanent or temporary structure for human use.
- ✓ A structure made of materials like timber, stone, concrete or metal.
- ✓ A structure built for various functions such as living, working, storage.
- ✓ An enclosed space designed to support human activities.

##### (b) Functions of a building (2 marks)

Any 2 of the following:

- ✓ Provides shelter from weather (rain, sun, wind).
- ✓ Provides security from animals, theft, danger.
- ✓ Ensures privacy.
- ✓ Supports family activities (sleeping, cooking, studying).
- ✓ Provides comfort.
- ✓ Stores property.
- ✓ Acts as a residence.
- ✓ Protects from natural elements.

##### (c) Reasons for preferring a permanent house (2 marks)

Any 2 of the following:

- ✓ Durable / long-lasting.
- ✓ Safe and secure.
- ✓ Resistant to harsh weather.
- ✓ High property value.
- ✓ More comfortable.
- ✓ Requires less frequent repairs.
- ✓ Better insulation.
- ✓ More attractive appearance.
- ✓ Conforms to modern living standards.

##### 2. (a) Earliest shelter (1 mark)

Accept any of the following:

- ✓ Caves
- ✓ Rock shelters
- ✓ Tree trunks / hollow trees

- ✓ Animal skin tents (early nomads)

**(b) Reason early humans used caves (1 mark)**

Any correct idea:

- ✓ Protection from wild animals.
- ✓ Protection from rain, cold, heat.
- ✓ Already available—no construction needed.
- ✓ Safe hiding place.
- ✓ Provided warmth.

**(c) Changes from early shelters to modern buildings (2 marks)**

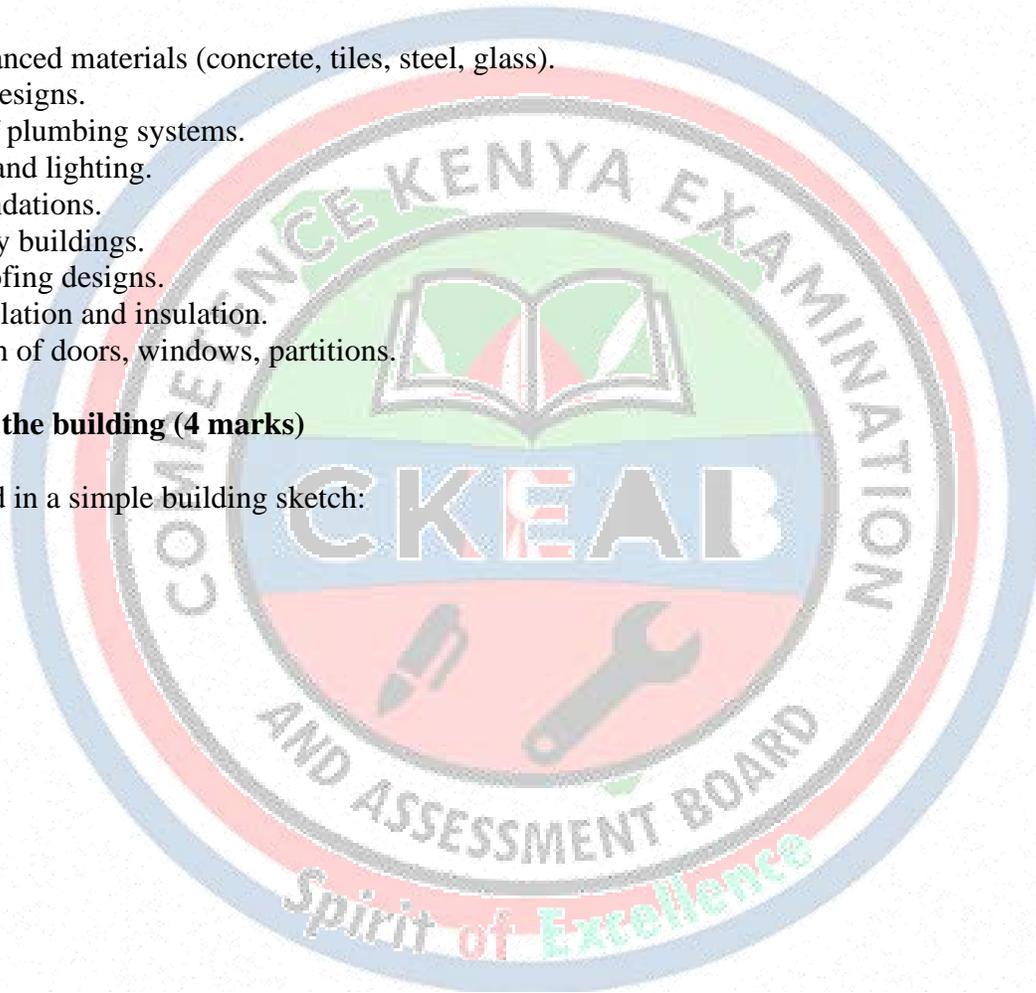
Any valid points:

- ✓ Use of advanced materials (concrete, tiles, steel, glass).
- ✓ Improved designs.
- ✓ Presence of plumbing systems.
- ✓ Electricity and lighting.
- ✓ Strong foundations.
- ✓ Multi-storey buildings.
- ✓ Modern roofing designs.
- ✓ Better ventilation and insulation.
- ✓ Introduction of doors, windows, partitions.

**3. Components of the building (4 marks)**

Accept any 4 found in a simple building sketch:

- ✓ Roof
- ✓ Wall
- ✓ Window
- ✓ Door
- ✓ Floor
- ✓ Foundation
- ✓ Eaves
- ✓ Gutter
- ✓ Beam
- ✓ Column
- ✓ Vent
- ✓ Roof truss
- ✓ Ceiling



**4. (a) Category of building (1 mark)**

Accept any of the following:

- ✓ Social

**(b) Importance of this category (2 marks)**

Any 2 correct:

- ✓ Supports education and learning.
- ✓ Stores information and knowledge.
- ✓ Promotes literacy.
- ✓ Promotes research.
- ✓ Community development.
- ✓ Resource centre for students.
- ✓ Entertainment

**(c) Example of another building in same category (1 mark)**

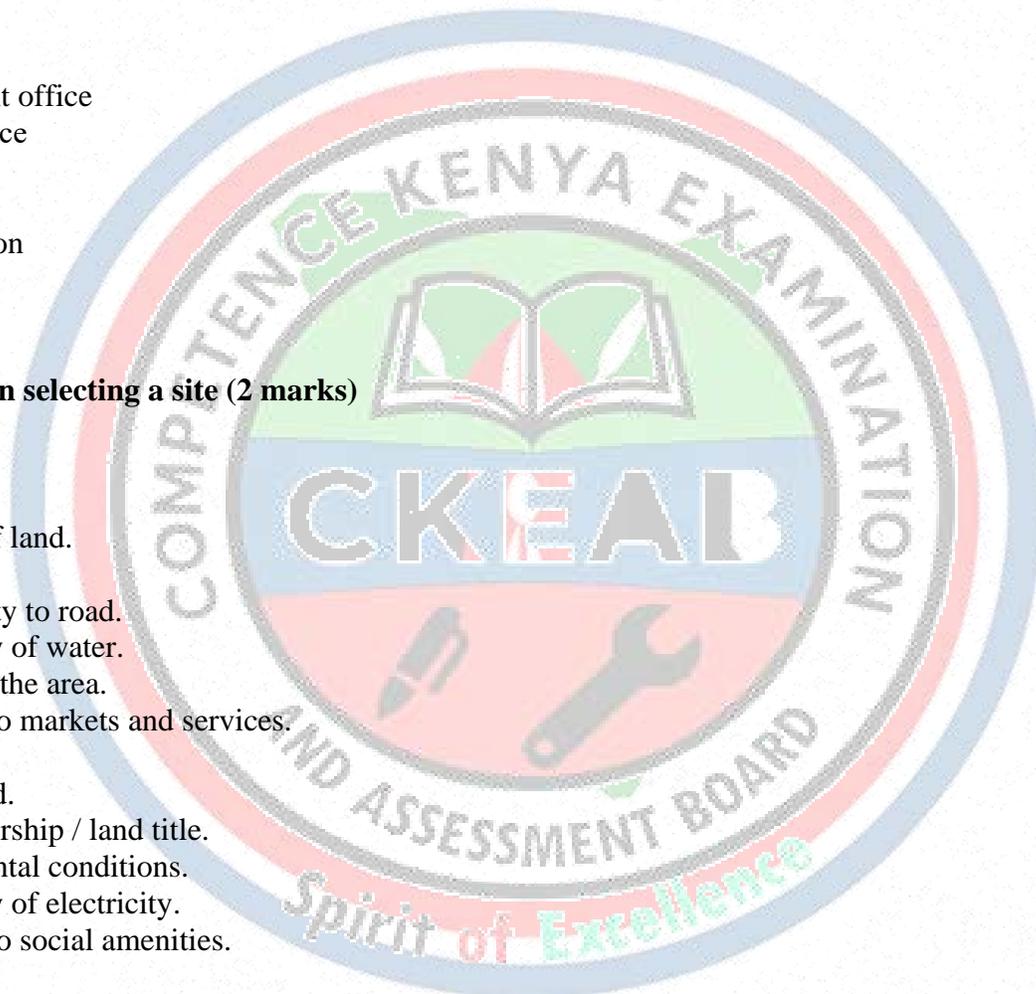
Any of the following:

- ✓ School
- ✓ Hospital
- ✓ Town hall
- ✓ Government office
- ✓ Chief's office
- ✓ Museum
- ✓ Court
- ✓ Police station

**5. (a) Factors when selecting a site (2 marks)**

Any 2:

- ✓ Drainage of land.
- ✓ Soil type.
- ✓ Accessibility to road.
- ✓ Availability of water.
- ✓ Security of the area.
- ✓ Proximity to markets and services.
- ✓ Land slope.
- ✓ Cost of land.
- ✓ Legal ownership / land title.
- ✓ Environmental conditions.
- ✓ Availability of electricity.
- ✓ Proximity to social amenities.



**(b) Natural features to avoid (2 marks)**

Any 2:

- ✓ Swamy land
- ✓ Flood-prone areas
- ✓ Steep slopes
- ✓ Rocky ground
- ✓ Near rivers or lakes
- ✓ Landslide-prone areas

- ✓ Termite-infested land
- ✓ Cliffs
- ✓ Thick forests
- ✓ Volcanic soil areas
- ✓ Marshy grounds

**6. (a) Safety measures (2 marks)**

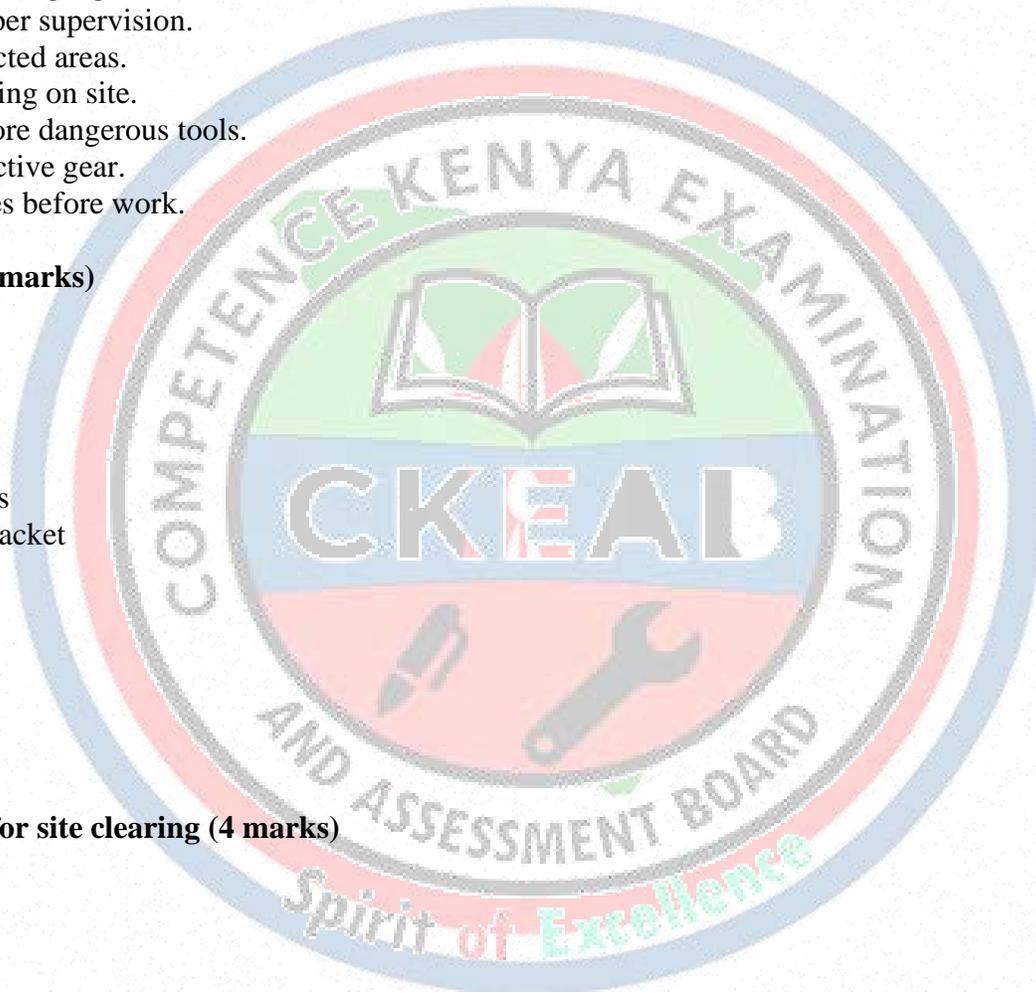
Accept any 2:

- ✓ Keep site clean and organized.
- ✓ Use tools safely.
- ✓ Provide warning signs.
- ✓ Ensure proper supervision.
- ✓ Mark restricted areas.
- ✓ Avoid running on site.
- ✓ Properly store dangerous tools.
- ✓ Wear protective gear.
- ✓ Clear bushes before work.

**(b) Safety gear (2 marks)**

Any 2:

- ✓ Helmet
- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Safety boots
- ✓ Reflective jacket
- ✓ Goggles
- ✓ Ear muffs
- ✓ Dust mask
- ✓ Overalls



**7. (a) Hand tools for site clearing (4 marks)**

Any 4:

- ✓ Panga
- ✓ Slasher
- ✓ Hoe
- ✓ Rake
- ✓ Spade
- ✓ Shovel
- ✓ Axe
- ✓ Pickaxe
- ✓ Fork jembe
- ✓ Wheelbarrow
- ✓ Mattock

**(b) Methods of leveling (2 marks)**

Any 2:

- ✓ Cut method
- ✓ Fill method
- ✓ Cut and fill method
- ✓ Grading
- ✓ Use of pegs and string line
- ✓ Using water level

**8. (a) Removing topsoil (1 mark)**

Accept:

- ✓ Stripping
- ✓ Topsoil removal

**(b) Importance of stripping (1 mark)**

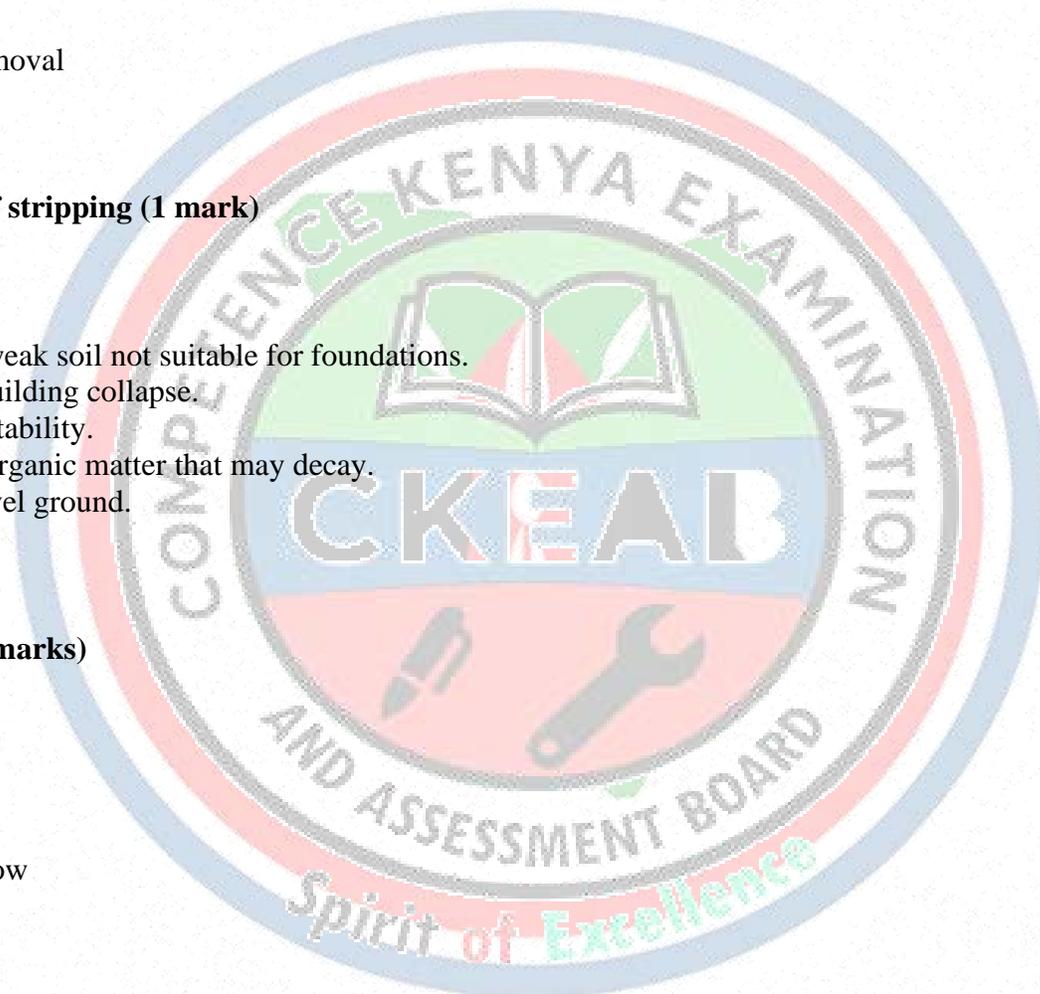
Any 1:

- ✓ Removes weak soil not suitable for foundations.
- ✓ Prevents building collapse.
- ✓ Improves stability.
- ✓ Removes organic matter that may decay.
- ✓ Ensures level ground.

**(c) Tools used (2 marks)**

Any 2:

- ✓ Shovel
- ✓ Spade
- ✓ Wheelbarrow
- ✓ Hoe
- ✓ Pickaxe
- ✓ Rake



**SECTION B (60 MARKS)**

**9. Commercial buildings (10 marks)**

**(a) Definition (2 marks)**

Award for ideas such as:

- ✓ A building used for business purposes.

- ✓ A structure intended for trade or profit.
- ✓ Any building that offers goods and services for money.
- ✓ A building designed for economic activities.

**(b) Examples (2 marks)**

Any 2:

- ✓ Shops
- ✓ Offices
- ✓ Supermarkets
- ✓ Banks
- ✓ Hotels
- ✓ Restaurants
- ✓ Market stalls
- ✓ Malls
- ✓ Warehouses

**(c) Importance in urban areas (6 marks)**

Any 3 of the following:

- ✓ Provide employment.
- ✓ Support economic growth.
- ✓ Promote trade.
- ✓ Generate income for owners.
- ✓ Offer essential services.
- ✓ Increase urban development.
- ✓ Attract investors.
- ✓ Increase government revenue through taxes.
- ✓ Encourage innovation and business expansion.
- ✓ Enhance living standards.

**10. Building components (9 marks)**

**(b) Functions**

**(i) Roof**

- ✓ Protects from rain, sun, wind.
- ✓ Provides shade.
- ✓ Completes the structure.
- ✓ Enhances building appearance.

**(ii) Wall**

- ✓ Provides enclosure and privacy.
- ✓ Supports roof and upper parts.
- ✓ Protects from weather.
- ✓ Divides rooms.



(iii) **Floor**

- ✓ Provides stable ground to walk on.
- ✓ Supports loads.
- ✓ Provides clean surface for activities.

(iv) **Window**

- ✓ Allows natural light.
- ✓ Provides ventilation.
- ✓ Enhances appearance.
- ✓ Enables viewing outside.

(v) **Door**

- ✓ Allows entry and exit.
- ✓ Provides security.
- ✓ Allows movement of goods and people.

**11. Site preparation (16 marks)**

**(a) Importance (6 marks)**

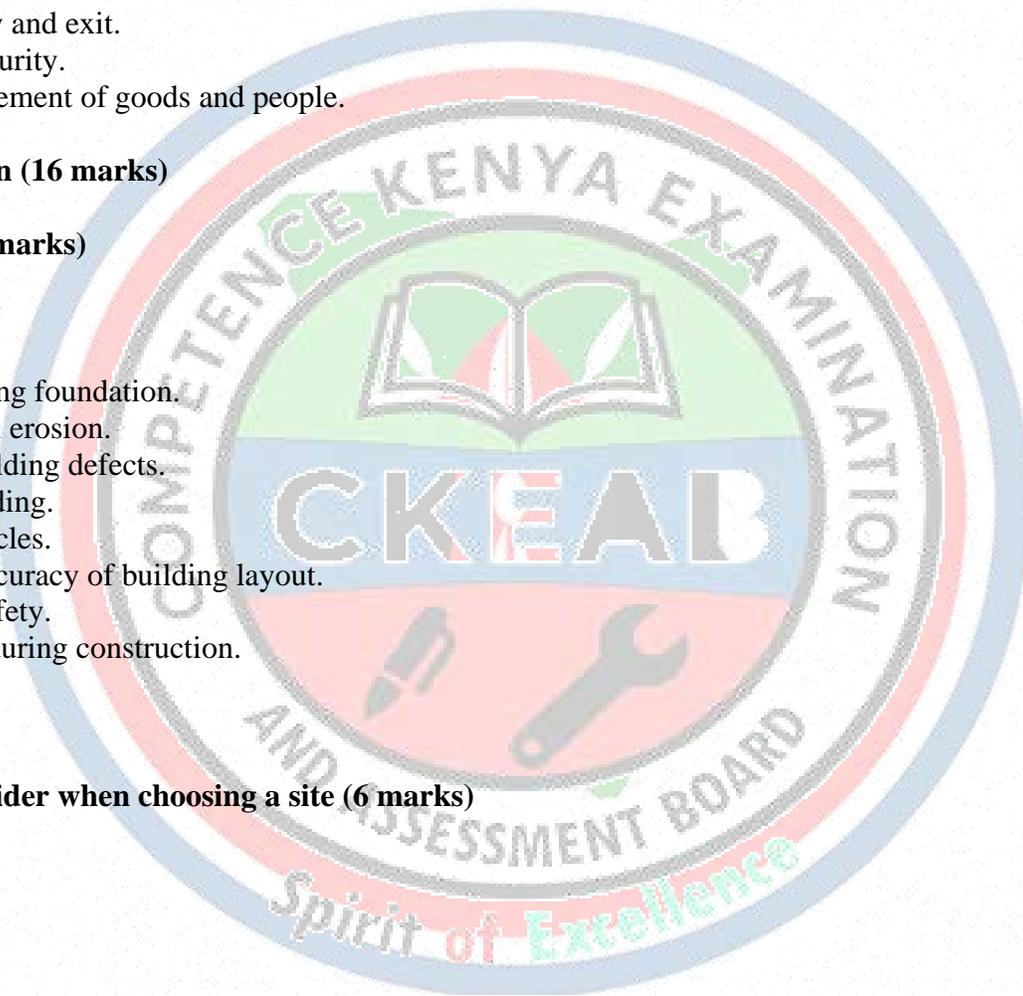
Any 3:

- ✓ Ensures strong foundation.
- ✓ Prevents soil erosion.
- ✓ Reduces building defects.
- ✓ Avoids flooding.
- ✓ Clears obstacles.
- ✓ Improves accuracy of building layout.
- ✓ Enhances safety.
- ✓ Saves time during construction.

**(b) Factors to consider when choosing a site (6 marks)**

Any 3:

- ✓ Soil type.
- ✓ Drainage.
- ✓ Water availability.
- ✓ Electricity access.
- ✓ Road access.
- ✓ Security.
- ✓ Legal land ownership.
- ✓ Cost of land.
- ✓ Proximity to town.
- ✓ Slope of land.
- ✓ Neighbourhood type.



**(c) Dangers of poor preparation (4 marks)**

Any 2:

- ✓ Building may collapse.
- ✓ Foundation failure.
- ✓ Cracked walls.
- ✓ Flooding.
- ✓ Soil erosion.
- ✓ Accidents to workers.
- ✓ Uneven floors.

**12. Clearing and levelling (14 marks)****(a) Tools (4 marks)**

Any 4:

- ✓ Panga
- ✓ Axe
- ✓ Hoe
- ✓ Shovel
- ✓ Spade
- ✓ Slashers
- ✓ Pickaxe
- ✓ Rake
- ✓ Wheelbarrow

**(b) Cut method (3 marks)**

Any correct idea:

- ✓ Removing soil from high areas.
- ✓ Lowering the ground to desired level.
- ✓ Excavating elevated parts of the land.
- ✓ Used in hilly areas.

**(c) Fill method (3 marks)**

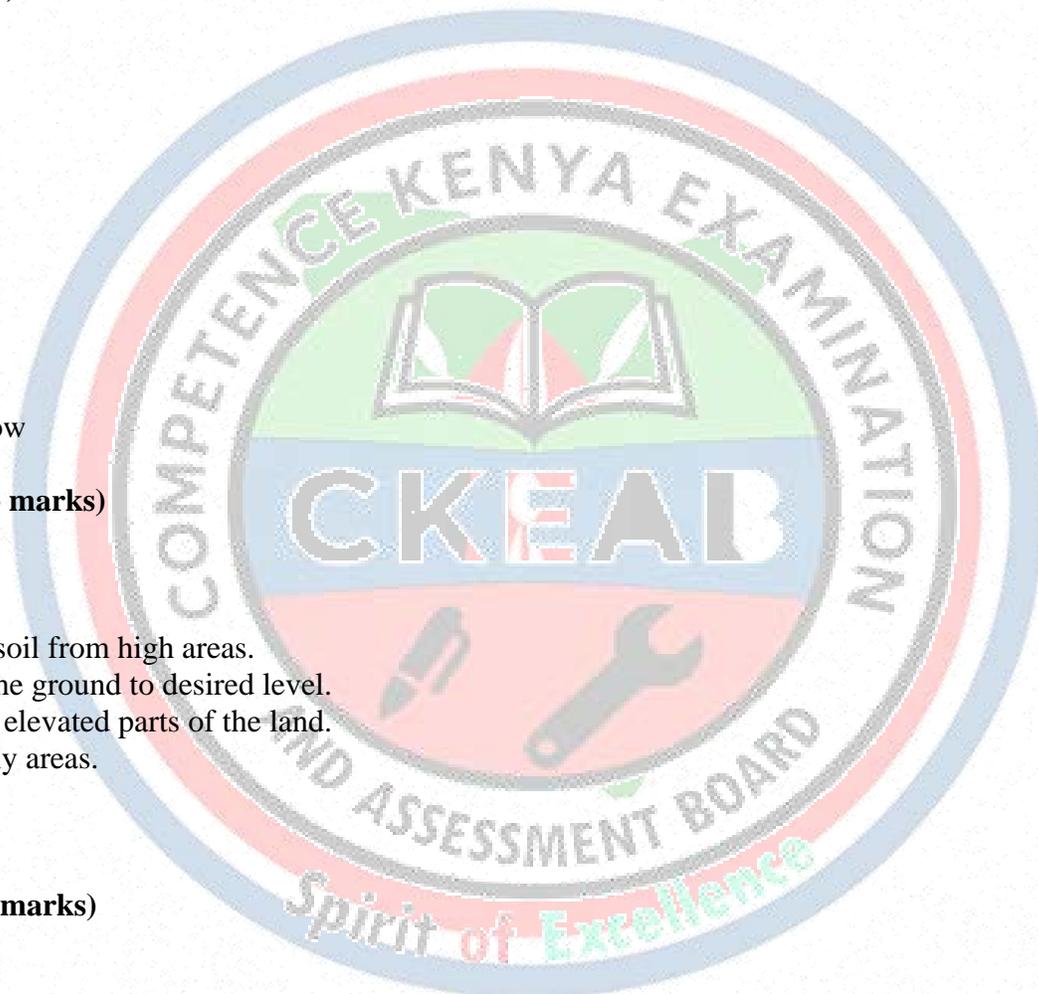
Accept:

- ✓ Adding soil to low areas.
- ✓ Raising the ground level.
- ✓ Filling depressions with gravel or soil.

**(d) Cut and fill method + advantage (4 marks)**

Correct ideas:

- ✓ Combination of cutting high areas and filling low areas.



- ✓ Balances the ground naturally.
- ✓ Creates level working space.

**Advantages (any):**

- ✓ Saves cost.
- ✓ Saves time.
- ✓ Uses available soil.
- ✓ Environmentally friendly.

**13. Social hall (10 marks)**

**(a) Type of building (1 mark)**

Accept:

- ✓ Social building
- ✓ Community building
- ✓ Public building
- ✓ Recreational building

**(b) Functions (6 marks)**

Any 3:

- ✓ Hosting meetings.
- ✓ Celebrations and ceremonies.
- ✓ Indoor games.
- ✓ Community training.
- ✓ Public announcements.
- ✓ Social events.
- ✓ Talent development.

**(c) Safety precautions (3 marks)**

Any 3:

- ✓ Use protective gear.
- ✓ Put warning signs.
- ✓ Clear bushes.
- ✓ Fence the site.
- ✓ Mark dangerous areas.
- ✓ Supervise workers.



**14. Recreational buildings (10 marks)**

**(a) Types (4 marks)**

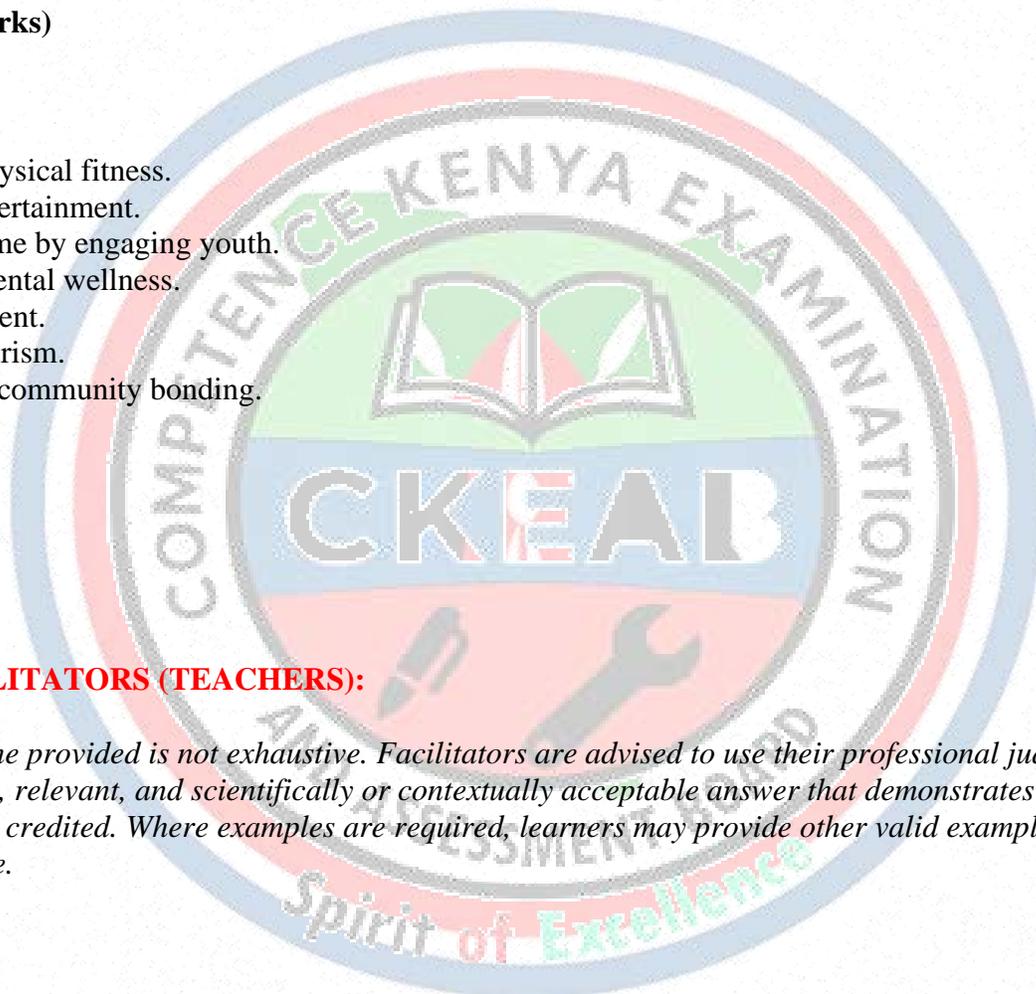
Any 4:

- ✓ Stadium
- ✓ Gymnasium
- ✓ Swimming pool
- ✓ Sports complex
- ✓ Theatre
- ✓ Park pavilion
- ✓ Youth centre
- ✓ Amusement park
- ✓ Basketball court shed
- ✓ Club house

**(b) Benefits (6 marks)**

Any 3:

- ✓ Promote physical fitness.
- ✓ Provide entertainment.
- ✓ Reduce crime by engaging youth.
- ✓ Enhance mental wellness.
- ✓ Promote talent.
- ✓ Support tourism.
- ✓ Strengthen community bonding.



**NOTE TO FACILITATORS (TEACHERS):**

*The marking scheme provided is not exhaustive. Facilitators are advised to use their professional judgment when awarding marks. Any correct, relevant, and scientifically or contextually acceptable answer that demonstrates understanding of the concepts should be credited. Where examples are required, learners may provide other valid examples apart from those listed in the scheme.*

©2026

All rights reserved

**©COMPETENCE KENYA EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT BOARD**

THIS IS THE LAST PRINTED PAGE