

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

MARKING SCHEME

GRADE 10: ENGLISH AND LITERATURE – TERM 1 – JANUARY 2026

SECTION A: ENGLISH (70 Marks)

1. Passage about Maria

a) Main problem Maria wrote about:

- ✓ Frequent power outages in her village.

b) Character trait of Maria:

- ✓ Determined/persistent (Evidence: “She decided to report on the frequent power outages...”)
- ✓ Diligent/hardworking (Evidence: “wrote her story carefully”)

c) Two ways Maria collected information:

- ✓ Interviewed neighbours.
- ✓ Asked the electricity company for comments.

d) Why Maria was shocked:

1. She did not expect to win first place.
2. She was surprised her report was read in front of the whole school.

e) Suggested title:

- ✓ “Power Outages in Our Village”
- ✓ “Maria’s Winning News Report”
- ✓ “The Struggle with Electricity Supply”

2. Passage on Plastic Pollution (Summary in ≤40 words)

- ✓ Oceans face plastic pollution from human activity.
- ✓ Marine life is harmed, microplastics enter the food chain, affecting humans.
- ✓ Coral reefs and habitats are damaged.
- ✓ Global efforts are needed to reduce plastics and recycle properly.

3. Homophones

- a) sell
- b) meet
- c) heel
- d) write

4. Tongue twister

- b) She sells seashells by the seashore

5. Characteristics of tongue twisters

- i. Repetition of similar sounds
- ii. Difficult to pronounce quickly
- iii. Rhythmic or alliterative pattern
- iv. Often humorous or entertaining

6. Sentence rewriting

- a) Passive: *The assignment was completed by the learners.*
- b) Reported speech: *Mary said that she would finish the work today.*
- c) Negative: *The teacher did not praise the boy.*

7. Dialogue

- a) Sign Brian is withdrawn: *He has been quieter than usual in class.*
- b) Etiquette: *Polite greetings; listening carefully; using respectful language.*
- c) Importance of parent-teacher collaboration:

- ✓ To monitor learner's progress.
- ✓ To provide consistent support.
- ✓ To address behavioral issues early.

- d) Reason a learner may be withdrawn:

- ✓ Lack of confidence
- ✓ Peer pressure
- ✓ Family problems
- ✓ Fear of failure

- e) Polite telephone conversation:

- ✓ *Good morning, Mr. Kibet. I am calling to discuss my son Brian's progress.*

8. Etiquette

- a) Good manners to waiter:

- ✓ Say "please" and "thank you"
- ✓ Wait patiently to be served

- b) Polite expressions on telephone:

- ✓ "Good morning/afternoon"
- ✓ "May I speak to... please?"

- c) Showing respect to an elder in a market:

- ✓ Greet them politely
- ✓ Listen attentively and avoid interrupting

9. Grammar & Vocabulary

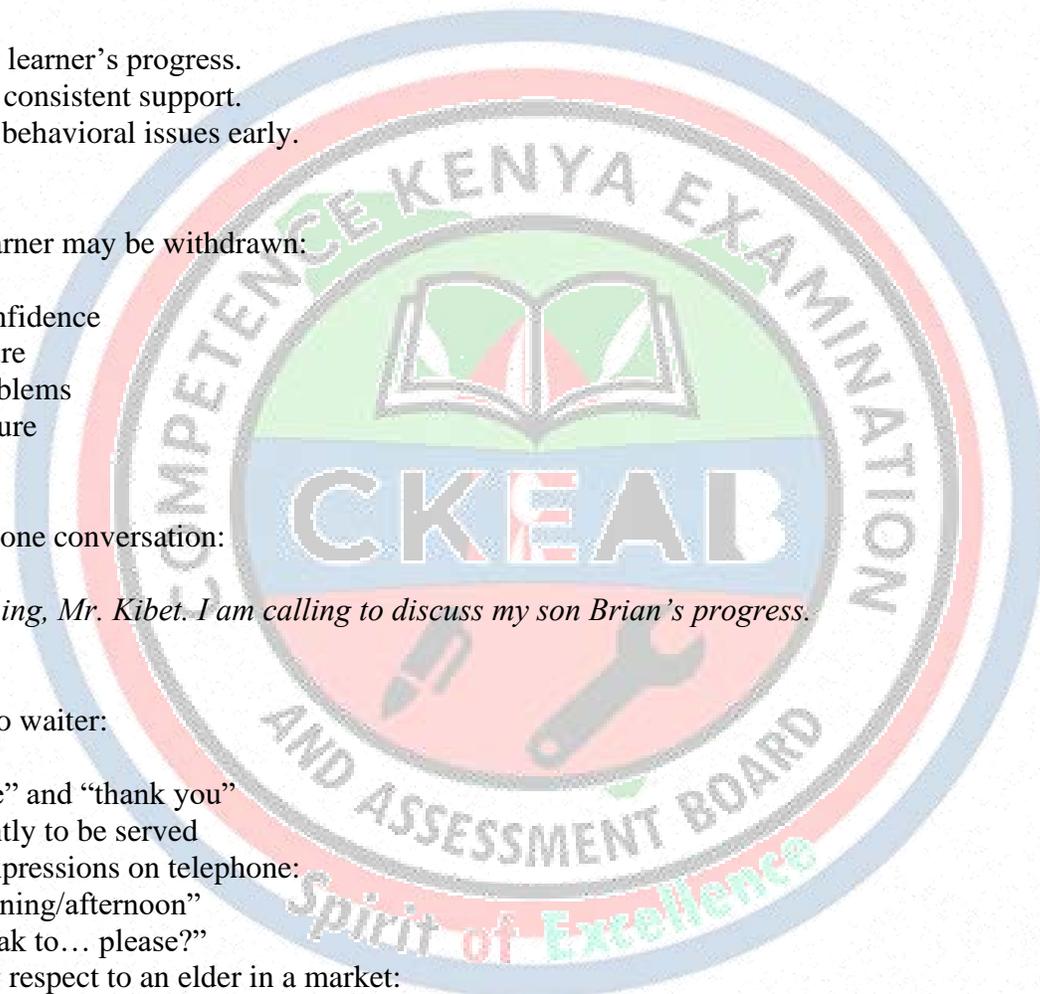
- a) Adjectives: *tall, heavy, dusty*

- b) Verb forms:

- i. goes
- ii. finished

- c) Prepositions:

- i. under
- ii. by



- d) Synonym replacement: *The enormous elephant walked slowly.*
 e) Future perfect tense: *They will have completed their training.*

SECTION B: LITERATURE (30 Marks)

10. Oral literature

- a) Definition: *Stories, songs, proverbs, myths, and folklore passed down orally through generations.*
 b) Importance:

- ✓ Preserves culture and traditions
 - ✓ Educates and entertains the community
- c) Sources:
- ✓ Elders and community storytellers
 - ✓ Cultural festivals and ceremonies

11. Oral narratives

- a) Features:

- ✓ Passed down orally
- ✓ Uses simple language
- ✓ Involves storytelling techniques like repetition and dialogue
- ✓ Often has moral lessons

- b) Functions:

- ✓ Educate young people
- ✓ Preserve culture and history
- ✓ Entertain the community
- ✓ Teach morals and values

- c) Categories:

- ✓ Folktales
- ✓ Legends
- ✓ Myths
- ✓ Fables

12. Poetry

- a) Elements:

- ✓ Rhythm/meter
- ✓ Rhyme
- ✓ Imagery
- ✓ Stanza structure

- b) Functions:

- ✓ Educate and preserve culture
- ✓ Express emotions and ideas
- ✓ Promote moral values

- c) African sources:

- ✓ Proverbs and chants
- ✓ Songs during ceremonies or farming

- d) Poem questions:

- i) Persona: *The drum or the village narrator describing daily life*
- ✓ Explanation: *It observes and guides villagers through its beats.*
- ii) Messages:
 - ✓ The drum unites the community
 - ✓ It warns of danger



- ✓ Marks important daily activities
- iii) Rhyming words (Stanza 1 or 2):
- ✓ rises / maize
- ✓ calling / days

13. Prose fiction

a) Features:

- ✓ Imaginary characters and events
- ✓ Narrative structure (beginning, middle, end)
- b) Influence of Kenyan novel history:
- ✓ Stories reflect social issues and historical events
- ✓ Incorporates Kenyan culture and traditions
- c) Elements of history reflected:
- ✓ Colonization and independence
- ✓ Community life and traditions

14. Non-fiction

a) Features:

- ✓ Based on facts
- ✓ Informative and educational
- b) Categories:
- ✓ Biographies
- ✓ Essays
- ✓ Reports
- ✓ Manuals
- c) Importance:
- ✓ Educates society with factual information
- ✓ Helps preserve historical records



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.

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