

FORM 2 ENGLISH

OPENER EXAMINATION: TERM 2 2024

MARKING SCHEME

1. FUNCTIONAL WRITING

The Wildlife Club in your school is planning for a three-days camping trip in Maasai Mara. You intend to go for the trip with other club members.

SHOPPING LIST

Title 1 mark

Serial no, Item, description, quantity, approx. price, total amount

JOURNAL

Title 1 mark

Day, date 1 mark

3 entries 6 marks

Language 4 marks

2. COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and then answer questions that follow.

Esteemed biologist E.O. Wilson famously observed that "a principle difference between human beings and ants is that whereas we send our young men to war, they send their old ladies."

And so do termites.

When they become too old to help their colonies perform risky foraging tasks, elderly members of a termite species called *Neocapritermes taracua* provide one final service by sacrificing themselves to defend against predators, researchers reported last month in the journal Science.

As rival termites close in on their nest, the selfless termites break apart their bodies to create a toxic, sticky goo. That goo seals off tunnels that lead to the termite nest and sticks to would-be predators, disabling or even killing them. With their abdominal walls broken, the termites die too.

Thomas Bourguignon discovered this while collecting termite samples in French Guiana for his dissertation on community ecology.

He also noticed an unusual mechanism they use to carry out these suicidal attacks: They build up pouches on their abdomens that contain a mysterious blue substance.

Bourguignon and his colleagues dubbed these pouches "explosive backpacks." They seemed harmless on their own, but their contents became deadly when mixed with salivary secretions.

Some of the termites had elongated blue spots on their backpacks, and these workers were particularly combative in their encounters with members of another termite species called *Labiotermes labralis*. Other *Neocapritermes* termites lacked the blue spots; these so-called white workers were less aggressive against invaders.

Back in his lab at the Universite Libre de Bruxelles in Brussels, Bourguignon and his colleagues examined the blue substance. They determined that the spots were "a pair of crystal-like structures" made with a previously unknown protein, according to their report.

Whatever was in these crystals was certainly **potent**. When a group of 40 *Labiotermes* termites was exposed to a drop of the goo produced by blue workers, 26 of them died and 11 became paralyzed within an hour. By contrast, a drop of goo from a white worker killed only five enemies and **paralyzed** four in the same amount of time.

To test whether the blue crystals were indeed the deadly ingredient, the researchers removed them from the blue workers' pouches. Sure enough, their goo became less noxious, killing only seven *Labiotermes* termites and paralyzing eight. On the flip side, adding the crystals to the white workers' goo made it more lethal, killing 18 enemies and paralyzing five.

What's in the blue crystals that packs such a punch? The scientists discovered that the previously unknown protein contains 7 to 11 nanograms of copper per crystal. The copper gives the crystals their blue tint.

The older the termites got, the more worn-down their mandibles were and the larger their blue crystals grew, the research team reported. The increasing size of the crystals — and thus their larger "explosive backpacks" — make elderly termites ideal candidates for suicidal missions, said Bourguignon, now doing postdoctoral work at Hokkaido University in Japan.

"We are trying to understand the evolution of such a complicated a new system," said Yves Roisin, who was Bourguignon's thesis advisor and senior author of the study. "We are wondering what other related species explode in a suicidal fashion."

Olav Rueppell, a biologist at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, who was not involved in the research, said the finding "is a great discovery."

"It shows that each species is worth studying in its own right and that the biological diversity is full of surprises."

Questions

(a) What is the core difference between human beings and ants according to the passage?

(2 marks)

While human beings send their young men to war, ants send their old ladies.

(b) Outline the service offered by old termites to their young ones before they die. (3marks)

- **As rival termites close in on their nest, the selfless termites break apart their bodies to create a toxic, sticky goo.**
- **Goo seals off tunnels that lead to the termite nest and sticks to would-be predators, disabling or even killing them.**
- **With their abdominal walls broken, the termites die.**

(c) It shows that **each** species is worth studying in its own right and that the biological diversity is full of surprises. (1 mark)

Replace 'each' with

'each one'

It shows that each one of the species is worth studying in its own right and that the biological diversity is full of surprises.

(d) What makes elderly termite an ideal contender for a suicidal mission? (2marks)

The increasing size of the crystals and their larger explosive backpacks

(e) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage. (2 marks)

- i. Potent **powerful /strong**
- ii. Paralyzed **made unable to walk**

3. CLOZE TEST

Read the passage below and then fill in the blank spaces. Use only ONE word in each space.

We often hear people talk about organic food and see it on shop shelves but many of us do not know exactly what organic food is and why it is so expensive. Is it really better? And is eating organic food a ...1...**healthier**..... option?

Organic food is food that has been produced naturally, using only natural substances ...2.....**such**..... as earth and water. No chemical fertilizers or poisons are used and the food is a hundred per cent ...3...**natural**.....

Modern farming involves a lot more than just hoping for rain-it is a science. Thanks to scientific developments during the past decades, farmers ...4.....**can**..... now produce larger quantities of food. They can for example, feed animals hormones to make them healthier ...5.....**and**..... fatter. On chicken farms, fowls are kept in small enclosures and given special food to make them and ...6...**their**... eggs bigger.

Crop farmers can use seed that ...7.....**has**..... been specifically developed to provide large harvests. To prevent their crops from being infected with pest and diseases, crop farmers ...8...**spray**..... insecticides and other chemicals on the fields.

But for some time now researchers have been wondering what quantities of these substances land up in our food and how dangerous they are. They started at looking at farming methods and soon discovered that these were also harmful ...9...**to**..... the environment. Good soil ...10.....**contains**.... minerals and very small creatures among the plants. This is just one of the miracles around us.

4. ORAL SKILLS

a) Read the oral poem below and answer the questions that follow. (10marks)

THE BRIDE

Why do you wear that dress so white?

Why do you wear that veil so light?

Why do your young eyes shine so bright?

Is it your wedding?

I wear the dress and veil to show [Download this and other FREE revision materials from https://teacher.co.ke/notes](https://teacher.co.ke/notes)

That gladly to my love I go

My young eyes shine because I know
It is my wedding.

Questions

- i) Describe the *rhyme scheme* of the poem. (2 marks)
aaab cccd It is a regular rhyme scheme.
- ii) Which intonation would use on the following lines? (2 marks)
Why do wear that dress so white? **Falling**
Is it your wedding? **Rising**
- iii) In which two ways has the poet achieved rhythm? (2 marks)
Alliteration your, young
Assonance gladly, love do you
Rhyming words
- iv) The following words have been used in the poem. Give another word that is pronounced in the same manner. (2 marks)

you**ewe**.....

so**sew**.....

- b) Use each of the following words twice to show two different meanings. (4 marks)

i. Address

**The letter did not have a recipient's address.
Please address your issues with the principal.**

ii. Contest

**There is a science contest tomorrow.
Omollo will contest for the school president seat.**

- c) **Should Siza's shoes slightly slip, she'll cease to seize Sisha's shoulder.**

i. Identify the genre above. (1 mark)

Tongue twister

ii. State two characteristics of the genre. (2 marks)

It is brief, it is alliterative, it is said in quick succession

5. GRAMMAR

Fill in the blank spaces with the correct order of adjectives

- i. Mine is the**small, blue, leather**..... handbag. (blue, leather, small)
- ii. She gave me a.....**small, square, metal**.....jewelry box. (small, metal, square)
- iii. There is a**wonderful, soft, woolen**.....rug in the room (soft, wonderful, woolen)

Fill in the gaps using the verb in bracket in the present progressive aspect

- i. The guests.....**are eating**..... dinner now (eat)
- ii. She.....**is running**..... very fast (run)
- iii. I**am feeling**..... very tired today (feel)

Fill in the blank spaces with the correct preposition

- i. The two girls are fond.....**of**.....each other
- ii. Mary swam.....**across**.....the river
- iii. The bridge will be built.....**over**.....the water.

Use suitable quantifier phrases to complete the sentences below.

- i. I gave her.....**a piece of**.... of advice to help her improve her manners.
- ii. There is.....**a lot of**..... noise coming from that room.
- iii. Ngugi wrote ...**a lot of**..... of his early novels while still in Kenya.

Fill in the blanks with suitable pronouns.

- i. I cannot allow**her**.... to take over the restaurant before she is well trained.
- ii. The cat drank**its**..... milk.
- iii.**Everybody/everyone**..... should obey the law.

