**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ADM NO: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**ENGLISH**

**FORM 3**

**TERM 1 2025**

**OPENER EXAMINATION**

**INSTRUCTIONS: *Answer all the Questions* TIME: 1 HR 30 MIN**

**SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION (20 MARKS)**

**Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.**

The communicative power of the English language

Once it used to be said that "the sun never sets on the British Empire". This meant that the British Empire covered all the time zones, so that when the sun was setting on one part of the Empire, it was rising on another.

The same thing can be said about the English language today. English is spoken as a first language in the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. It is also spoken in the Caribbean countries like Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana among others. In addition to this, English is used as a second language in over fifty countries spread across Africa and Asia. This means that when you have a good command of English you can enjoy the writings of people from all over the world, and you can communicate your ideas beyond the borders of this continent.

We in East Africa embraced the English language accidentally through the colonial experience. English came in as a welcome addition to our already rich language situation of over forty local languages and Kiswahili. In fact, the majority of Kenyans today are multilingual. They use at least three languages: a local language, Kiswahili and English. A good number of others speak a fourth language which may be either French, Spanish, German, Japanese or Arabic among others.

The local or ethnic language bonds a person to the history, culture and religious traditions of his or her people. If you speak one of the ethnic languages, for example, you are able to enjoy the songs, dances, stories, proverbs and riddles in that language. It also helps you to communicate with the older folks who may not understand English or Kiswahili.

Kiswahili is the national language in Kenya and is used by people from all the ethnic groups. When one speaks and understands Kiswahili, one can communicate with people from all over Kenya. Kiswahili is in fact a "regional language", because it is spoken in a number of countries in East and Central Africa. Lately, Kiswahili was indeed adopted as one of the working languages at African Union meetings. Kiswahili, therefore, opens opportunities beyond the borders of Kenya.

After Kenya attained independence, English was retained as the official language because it was, and still is, a great advantage for many of our operations. Though the original speakers of English were the people living in the British Isles, English is now spoken as a first language in two other continents, North America and Australia. It is also the second language for millions of people living all over the world. Therefore, with English you can be at home anywhere in the world. English provides us with a powerful link to the global village.

Recent developments in modern technology have enhanced our ability to speak, read, write and understand English well. Many of the computer programmes available, for example, are made to respond to instruction given in English.

English is also important for participation at the international level. Many reports and records on recent developments, science and other special research are in English. There is much more written literature in English than there is in any other language. Therefore, a student who can read and write English well is at an advantage.

In international news broadcasting, users of English are greatly advantaged. The prominent international news networks broadcast in English. English thus enjoys a prestigious position in the communication of events taking place in the world.

For those who want to be part of what is happening in the world, English is a very important tool. What does this mean for those of us in Africa and Asia, where English is learned mainly in school? There is need to put a lot of effort in the teaching and learning of this language so that we can be part of the vast changes taking place in the world today.

**Questions**

1. What is the meaning of the clause “the sun never sets on the British Empire?” (2 marks)

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2. In which region is English spoken as a second language, according to the passage? (1 mark)

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3. State two advantages that a person who has a good command of the English language has. (2 marks)

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4. How did English come to East Africa? (1 mark)

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5. Why is East Africa and particularly Kenya referred to as having a rich language situation? (2 marks)

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6. What is the benefit of being able to speak one of the ethnic languages in East Africa? (2 marks)

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7. What is the official language in Kenya? (1 mark)

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8. How is English useful in modern developments in technology? (2 marks)

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9. What makes a student who knows English to be at an advantage over one who doesn’t know? (2 marks)

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10. What can speakers of English in Africa and Asia do to avoid missing out in what is happening in the world today? (1 mark)

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11. What is the meaning of the following words according to the passage? (4 marks)

a) Multilingual……………………………………………………………………………………………

b) Adopted……………………………………………………………….……………………………….

c) Prominent………………………………………………………………………………………………

d) Vast………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**SECTION B: ORAL SKILLS (15 MARKS)**

1. In the following sets of words, identify the underlined speech sound that is odd from the rest and write it down.

For example: Cup, Queen, Kettle, Cease – **Cease**

i. Chair, Chord, Chore, Chain ………………………….

ii. Phase, Plight, Fame, Freight ………………………….

iii. Cynic, Census, Sugar, Sample ………………………….

2. For each of the following words, write a word that is pronounced the same way i. Sent ……………………………………

ii. Gate ……………………………………

iii. Cruise …………………………………….

3. You have noted that your desk mate Vivian has a poor handwriting. State two factors that might have contributed to this. (2 marks)

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4. Write two things that you can do when introducing yourself to a new person, so as to appear friendly. (2 marks)

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5. Indicate whether the following have a rising or falling intonation (3 marks)

i. What a wonderful watch you have! …………………………………………………….

ii. Hand in your answer sheets now. ……………………………………………………..

iii. Can I assist you? ……………………………………………………………………

6. You are expected to address an assembly of noisy students. How would you ensure that they listen to you? (2 marks)

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**SECTION C: GRAMMAR (15 MARKS)**

1.Complete the following sentences by filing in the blanks with the correct preposition . (3 marks)

1. The traveler was robbed………………………. all his money.
2. Mike expressed his interest …………………….. modern art.
3. Juma’s parents no longer have much influence ………………………. him.

2. Choose the correct pronoun to fill in the gap. (3 marks)

1. She knows as well as…………………. that food is not permitted in the dormitories (me, I)
2. There’s not much difference between you and …………………. (he, him)
3. I am taller than ………………….. (he, she)

3. Use the plural forms of the words in brackets to fill in the blank spaces. (3 marks)

1. You surely do not need three ………………………………………. (radio)
2. Remember to buy grandmother some …………………………………. (potato)
3. The two ………………………….. met so that they could make strategic plans for their locations. (Chief)

4. Complete the sentences below using appropriate reflexive pronouns. (4 marks)

1. The boy was beside………………………………………. with fury for missing the penalty.
2. Let us not deceive …………………………………….. that life is a bed of roses.
3. When one faces challenges, one has to encourage ……………………….. that things will just be fine.
4. A house divided against …………………………………… cannot stand.

5. Use the correct conjunctions to join the following pairs of sentences.

1. He drove carelessly. A warning that the car was very old.

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. I will not put the weapon away. I am assured of my safety.

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