



THE KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

KJSEA 2025



10435093

901/1

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1

(Reading Comprehension, Oral Skills and Grammar)

Oct. 2025 – 1 hour 40 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES (Please read these instructions carefully)

1. You have been given this question paper and a separate answer sheet. The question paper consists of **50** Multiple Choice Questions. Answer **ALL** the questions.
2. Do any necessary rough work in this question paper.
3. When you have chosen your answer, mark it on the **ANSWER SHEET, NOT** in this question paper.

HOW TO USE THE ANSWER SHEET

4. Keep the answer sheet clean and do not fold it.
5. Use an ordinary (HB) pencil.
6. Confirm that the answer sheet you have been provided with has the following:

YOUR ASSESSMENT NUMBER

YOUR NAME

NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL

NAME OF THE SUBJECT

7. For each of the questions, **1 – 50**, four choices are given. The choices are lettered **A, B, C** and **D**. The letters are written inside circles. In each case, only **ONE** of the four choices is correct. Choose the correct answer.
8. On the answer sheet, show the correct answer by completely shading inside the circle which has the letter you have chosen.
9. Do not make any marks outside the circles. **Be sure of your answer before shading the circle.**

Example

In the Question paper:

- 40.** Which one of the following means the opposite of the word "better"?

- A. weak
- B. wrong
- C. worse
- D. wasted

The correct answer is C.

On the answer sheet:

In the set of circles numbered **40**, **shade** inside the circle with the letter C printed in it, as indicated below.

40. ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

10. Your **shading MUST** be inside the circle.
11. For each question, shade **ONLY ONE** circle.

This paper consists of 8 printed pages.

Candidates should check the question paper to ascertain that all the pages are printed as indicated and that no questions are missing.



Read the following passage and then answer questions 1 to 5.

Many people do not have enough time to rest adequately. However, it is important to prioritise rest and quality sleep every day. Rest and sleep are two different things, but both are equally important for our mental, emotional and physical health. Actually, prioritising rest can improve one's quality of sleep.

Rest can be difficult to define because it can mean different things to different people. It can be active, such as going for a walk outside, or passive, such as taking a moment to sit down and breathe deeply. Regardless of how you choose to rest, these actions can help you recover and recharge from physical and mental effort. That is why quality rest is linked to improved physical and mental health.

Sleep on the other hand is a state in which individuals are mentally detached from their surroundings. It is an essential part of the body's well being. Quality sleep can help us to reset, recover and recharge our bodies. Unlike rest, sleep is something the body cannot function without. In fact, if you are deprived of sleep, your body will force you to sleep, no matter what you are in the middle of doing.



1. According to the passage, passive rest involves
 - A. little movement of the body. ✓
 - B. going to a place nearby. ✗
 - C. taking a short break. ✓
 - D. indoor activities. ✗
2. Which one of the following statements is true about sleep according to the passage? It
 - A. cannot be defined. ✓
 - B. improves the quality of rest. ✗
 - C. cannot be avoided. ✗
 - D. helps one to recover time. ✗
3. The last sentence in the passage suggests that
 - A. sleep comes when it is not wanted. ✓
 - B. one can fall asleep while in action. ✗
 - C. no activity is more important than sleep. ✗
 - D. sleep cannot be forced. ✗
4. The following statements are true according to the passage **except** that
 - A. rest can remove us from our surrounding. ✓
 - B. physical and mental energy can be regained. ✓
 - C. adequate rest may not be common nowadays. ✗
 - D. rest and sleep are not the same thing. ✓
5. Which one of the following sayings **best** reflects the message in the passage?
 - A. Prevention is better than cure. ✗
 - B. Let the sleeping dogs lie. ✗
 - C. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. ✓
 - D. If you make a bed, you must lie on it. ✓

Read the following passage and then answer questions 6 to 10.

Laughter is normally an expression of happiness. This is probably because when we laugh, our faces brighten up. We generally laugh when we are amused. When we hear a joke, the natural response is to let out a laugh. However, not all people laugh at the same things. What one person finds amusing may be ordinary or even unpleasant to another.

Laughter is not always a sign of delight. Most of us have, without doubt, seen people laughing when there is nothing really funny. Such laughter could be out of nervousness or even politeness. A saying goes, "A rich man's joke is always funny". This means people are expected to laugh when a person of high status cracks a joke, however flat. Sometimes people laugh to mock others with the intention of making the victim feel bad. Such **derisive** laughter is unfortunate. Genuine laughter is thought to be healthy. No wonder, someone said that **laughter is the best medicine**.

6. Laughter is not always a sign of delight because
 - ☒ A. some people make flat jokes.
 - ☐ B. there are other reasons why some people may laugh.
 - ☐ C. there are other ways of showing that one is happy.
 - ☐ D. some people doubt what others say.
7. The word '**derisive**' means the same as
 - ☒ A. insulting.
 - ☐ B. funny.
 - ☐ C. crazy.
 - ☐ D. interesting.
8. From the passage we can conclude that some people like to
 - ☒ A. please the rich.
 - ☐ B. obey the rich.
 - ☐ C. admire the rich.
 - ☐ D. praise the rich.
9. The expression '**laughter is the best medicine**' means that
 - ☐ A. laughing protects us from being sick.
 - ☐ B. there is no medicine as good as laughter.
 - ☒ C. genuine laughter gives us a feeling of well-being.
 - ☐ D. there is no need to take medicine when we can laugh.
10. What does the writer of the passage intend to achieve? To
 - ☒ A. explain why people should make good use of laughter.
 - ☐ B. describe how people laugh during various occasions.
 - ☐ C. encourage the readers to laugh all the time.
 - ☐ D. motivate people to think first before they laugh.

Read the following passage and then answer questions 11 to 16.

When the headteacher, Mr. Mutandi walked into our classroom carrying a book and two medium-sized sticks, the class went dead silent. We had never seen our headteacher walk around with sticks. Earlier in the day during the morning assembly, he had warned us against sneaking mobile phones into school. "It is an offence for learners to have phones in school. Anybody found with one will face dire consequences," Mr. Mutandi had emphasised.

We were therefore worried when the headteacher came to class carrying the sticks. "Who could be having a phone? When was he or she found? Where was the phone?" These were the questions running through our minds. Mr. Mutandi placed the sticks on the table and opened the book. Mwajuma, one of the girls in the class swiftly stood up.

"Sir, please forgive the offender," she said. The headteacher looked surprised. "What is it, Mwajuma? Who do I forgive?" He inquired. "The person who came with the phone," Mwajuma said in a trembling voice. "Oh, did someone come to school with a phone? And after the warnings I gave?" There was pin-drop silence in the room.

"Anyway, we will handle that after our lesson today. I am standing in for your Creative Arts teacher, Madam Sitati, who is unwell. And these two sticks will be used to **demonstrate** how we can make a sailing boat using material available in our immediate environment. Now get your exercise books out." We smiled at one another. All of us were ready for the lesson.

11. Why were the pupils worried when Mr. Mutandi walked into the class?
 - A. They feared the sizes of the sticks the headteacher had.
 - B. The headteacher had never been to their class with sticks.
 - C. They thought the headteacher had come to punish an offender.
 - D. The headteacher had just warned them during assembly.
12. Mwajuma can be said to be caring because she
 - A. does not wish that someone is punished.
 - B. does not want the headteacher to be upset.
 - C. stands up when addressing the headteacher.
 - D. talks to the headteacher in a trembling voice.
13. What does the word '**demonstrate**' mean as used in the passage?
 - A. guide
 - B. plan
 - C. find
 - D. show
14. Which word **best** describes the feeling in the class at the end of the story?
 - A. Fear
 - B. Relief
 - C. Happiness
 - D. Confusion
15. According to the passage, it is **true** to say that
 - A. some learners had mobile phones in the class.
 - B. Mr. Mutandi is a good Creative Arts teacher.
 - C. Mr. Mutandi always carried sticks for beating learners.
 - D. Mwajuma is the class prefect in charge of discipline.
16. Which one of the following **best** summarises the message of the story?
 - A. Hurry hurry has no blessing.
 - B. Do not put all your eggs in one basket.
 - C. Do not put the cart before the horse.
 - D. A stitch in time saves nine.

Read the following passage and then answer questions 17 to 20.

Four students, Sarah, Naipano, Mokua and Omar are working on a project. Apart from the fact that they are all curious, they have different personalities. Sarah and Mokua are both creative. They are different from Naipano who is organised, like Omar. Of the four students, Sarah and Omar find pleasure in helping others though Sarah is not relaxed like Omar. Mokua and Naipano are keen, while Omar is time-conscious just like Naipano. Despite their differences, the students understand the need to work together for the success of the project.

17. Part of the project required keenness and curiosity. Who are the **best** suited for this role?

- A. Naipano and Omar.
- B. Sarah and Naipano.
- C. Omar and Mokua.
- D. Mokua and Naipano.

18. Which student will be happy helping the group to keep time?

- A. Omar
- B. Naipano
- C. Mokua
- D. Sarah

19. Sarah and Mokua are **both**

- A. organised and keen.
- B. helpful and organised.
- C. creative and curious.
- D. relaxed and time-conscious.

20. Which one of the following students has a personality that no other student has?

- A. Sarah
- B. Naipano
- C. Omar
- D. Mokua

Read the following debate and then answer questions 21 to 23.

Hon. Sapota:



Madam Speaker, I rise to support the motion. Indeed, social media has affected many people negatively. Look at the way some people right here are addicted to it. For instance, Honorable Mapinga gets so busy with his phone that he does not even have time to **visit the washroom!** This has affected...

Hon. Mapinga:

Objection, Madam Speaker!

Speaker:

What is it, Honourable Mapinga?

Hon. Mapinga:

This member is a liar.

Speaker:

You are out of order, Honourable Mapinga. You are using unacceptable language.

Hon. Mapinga:

I beg your pardon, Madam Speaker. What should I have said?

Speaker:

You should have said that the Honorable member is not truthful.

Hon. Sapota:

Thank you Madam Speaker, for saving me from being given a bad name.

21. The **main** role of the speaker as shown in the debate is to
- A. teach members good behaviour.
 - B. decide who wins the debate.
 - C. maintain order during debates.
 - D. give members strong warnings.
22. Hon. Sapota uses the expression '**visit the washroom**' because she wants to
- A. be honest.
 - B. sound correct.
 - C. be clear.
 - D. sound polite.
23. Why does Hon. Mapinga tell the speaker, "**I beg your pardon**"? He wants the speaker to
- A. repeat what she had said.
 - B. forgive him.
 - C. correct him.
 - D. prove what she had said.
24. During a class discussion a student says something that you strongly disagree with. Which of the following statements would be the most appropriate to start your response?
- A. That argument is completely crazy.
 - B. I don't agree with that crazy argument.
 - C. I disagree with the argument.
 - D. Nobody can agree with that argument.
25. You have gone to a school for the first time and you want to go to the office. Which of the following is the **most** suitable way of asking for directions to the office?
- A. Excuse me, can I know where the office is?
 - B. Excuse me, I beg to go to the office.
 - C. Excuse me, could you show me where the office is?
 - D. Excuse me, I want to go to the office.

Read the passage below and then answer questions 26 to 35.

Nobody enjoys waiting. You may be waiting for a friend, a colleague or a boss who is 26 for an appointment. You 27 as well be forced to idle in a waiting 28 for a bus or a flight that is behind schedule. 29 can be as upsetting to patients as being kept waiting for a doctor who turns 30 to be no show?

To 31 the anxiety associated with waiting, you are advised to carry a book with you 32 you go. 33 time spent on the waiting bench can be put to 34 use by reading a captivating novel or a motivational book. Waiting 35 not be a painful experience after all.

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| 26. A. absent | B. late | C. lost | D. called |
| 27. A. must | B. shall | C. should | D. could |
| 28. A. area | B. time | C. class | D. process |
| 29. A. Who | B. Which | C. What | D. Where |

30. A. up B. off C. on D. out
 31. A. discourage B. spoil C. finish D. reduce
 32. A. wherever B. since C. unless D. whenever
 33. A. All B. A C. The D. No
 34. A. best B. good C. well D. more
 35. A. need B. can C. may D. could

For questions 36 to 42, select the **best** alternative to complete the sentence.

36. Makau has two beautiful _____.
 A. sisters-in-laws
 B. sister-in-laws
 C. sisters-in-law
 D. sister-in-law
37. _____ the comedian's jokes were extremely funny, few of us laughed.
 A. As
 B. Unless
 C. Since
 D. Though
38. During the nutrition lesson, we watched a _____ preparing delicious chapati on television.
 A. cook
 B. cooker
 C. cookery
 D. cooking
39. Mariam and Kemboi have been good friends since Grade 6 and they get _____ really well.
 A. across
 B. along
 C. about
 D. around
40. My aunt says that we should _____ disrespect _____ shout at people.
 A. both, or
 B. not only, but also
 C. neither, nor
 D. either, or
41. The girl _____ I told you about is very friendly.
 A. which
 B. whose
 C. whom
 D. who
42. Which one of these five books do you like _____?
 A. most
 B. better
 C. more
 D. less



43. Red Cross officials met the needy families. The **opposite** of the underlined word is
- poor
 - hungry
 - affected
 - wealthy

Choose the alternative that **best** replaces the underlined words.

44. The teacher asked the students if the students had submitted the students' projects.
- they, our
 - we, our
 - they, their
 - we, their

For questions 45 to 48, choose the alternative that means the same as the underlined sentence.

45. The school bus was repaired by the mechanic.
- The mechanic repaired the school bus.
 - The mechanic is repairing the school bus.
 - The mechanic has been repairing the school bus.
 - The mechanic was repairing the school bus.
46. Monica said, "I work here every day."
- Monica said that she worked here every day.
 - Monica said that she worked there every day.
 - Monica said that she works here every day.
 - Monica said that she works there every day.
47. I can hardly wait to hear the story.
- I am not interested in listening to the story.
 - I am eager to listen to the story.
 - I am able to listen to the story.
 - I am not waiting to listen to the story.
48. If it rains, we will not come.
- Unless it rains, we will come.
 - Unless it rains, we will not come.
 - Unless it does not rain, we will come.
 - Unless it does not rain, we will not come.
49. Which one of the following sentences is **correctly** punctuated?
- What? A beautiful place this is!
 - What! A beautiful place this is?
 - What a beautiful place this is!
 - What a beautiful place this is?
50. We can always **bank on** our new governor. This means that the new governor is
- wise.
 - strong.
 - healthy.
 - reliable.

THIS IS THE LAST PRINTED PAGE.

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