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WASSCE 2011
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE 1
Essay
2½ hours

1

Name:

Index Number:

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
West African Senior School Certificate Examination

November 2011

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1

2½ hours

ESSAY

Write your name and index number in the spaces provided at the top right-hand corner of this booklet.

Answer four questions in all: one question from Section A and all the questions in Sections B and C.

SECTION A

ESSAY

[50 marks]

*Answer one question only from this section.
All questions carry equal marks. Your answer should
not be less than 450 words.*

You are advised to spend about 50 minutes on this section.

1. A friend of yours confided in you that she intends to drop out of school to get married. Write a letter to her giving, at least, three reasons why she should stay in school.
2. Write an article suitable for publication in a national newspaper on the menace of indecent dressing in the society.
3. Your school has been performing poorly in public examinations for the past three years. Write a letter to your principal suggesting ways of making the students more interested in academic work.
4. You are the chief speaker in a debate on the topic: "Religious education should be made compulsory in schools." Write your argument for or against the topic.
5. Write a story that illustrates the saying: "You reap what you sow."

SECTION B

COMPREHENSION

[40 marks]

*Answer all the questions in this section.
You are advised to spend about 50 minutes on this section.*

6. Read the following passage **carefully** and answer the questions on it.

A gorgeous man wearing a business suit popped into my office one morning, smiling confidently as if he was an old friend. He had a sense of grandeur about him. Politely, I asked if I could help him. He said he needed admission forms for five children of his older brother, a senator. I told him to pay five thousand naira for each form. With a smile, he said

that he was going to the bank to bring the money.

Before leaving my office, he introduced himself as Aboki, the manager of Abuja Cooperative shop (about four kilometers away) where cut-price, essential commodities like sugar, milk, rice, etc. were available. He then gave me his business card and asked whether we (staff) would be interested in buying provisions. Being interested, I went on to contact my staff.

On my return, I saw Aboki convulsed with frowns outside my office, apparently for my wasting his time. Anyway, I apologized and told him the types and quantities of the provisions we needed, all amounting to sixty thousand naira. Then, I pleaded with the school bursar to lend us that amount of money and deduct it from that month's salaries. Aboki requested that any teacher who owned a car should come along with the money and take him to the shop for the consignment. Mrs. Anekwe, the Vice-Principal (Administration), volunteered to go with him.

They set off on the trip about 10.20 a.m. But by 2p.m. (closing time), they had not yet returned and Aboki's car was no longer on the compound. It was about 3.50p.m. when Mrs. Anekwe drove in alone, tears flooding her face. The claws of apprehension gripped us. Emotionally charged, Mrs. Anekwe explained that on their way to the cooperative shop, they encountered a traffic hold-up. So, Aboki suggested that she turn into a rough road in order to move faster to their destination. She did as advised. Soon, they arrived at a lonely stretch of the road and Aboki suddenly pulled out a sharp knife and threatened to kill her if she did not give him all the money. Frightened, she complied, and Aboki took to his heels. That same day, we discovered that the car which Aboki had claimed to be his rather belonged to a visiting parent.

- (a) What rank does the writer have in the school?
- (b) What was Aboki's real intention in visiting the school?
- (c) What impression of himself did Aboki create for the writer?
- (d) Describe Aboki's mood when the writer returned to find him outside the latter's office.
- (e) Mention two schemes Aboki used in robbing Mrs. Anekwe.

- (f) *"The claws of apprehension gripped us."*
What figure of speech is contained in this expression?
- (g) *"Before leaving my office..."*
- What grammatical name is given to this expression as it is used in the passage?
 - What is its function?
- (h) For **each** of the following words or phrase, find another word or phrase which means the same and which can replace it as it is used in the passage:
- gorgeous;
 - apparently;
 - pleaded with;
 - volunteered;
 - encountered;
 - complied.

7. Read the following passage **carefully** and answer the questions on it.

The advice of experts that we should consume a lot of vegetables and fruits to protect us from diseases such as heart attack, stroke and hypertension should not be difficult to practise. There are very many fruits as plentiful as the common banana which can be enjoyed all year round. Including them in one's diet, especially in their raw form, should not be a task.

These rich sources of potassium could help to lower the risk of developing high blood pressure as well as boost body immunity. Researchers say that boosting levels of potassium in the diet may lower a person's risk of developing hypertension and decrease it in people who already have it. The researchers reviewed a number of studies that looked at the role of potassium in blood pressure management and concluded that if people increase their intake of potassium, the number of people with high blood pressure might decrease. They say that a regular intake of potassium-rich food can reduce the number of people suffering from hypertension by about 10 percent.

They point out that a daily intake of potassium might explain why vegetarians and some isolated populations have a very low incidence of heart diseases. They assert that hypertension affects only one percent of the population of isolated societies which consume diets low in sodium and high in potassium. The reverse is the case in industrialized societies where people consume large amounts of processed foods rich in sodium.

The researchers argue that an increase in potassium and a decrease in sodium is probably the most important measure that reduce heart diseases. So they conclude that a high intake of this mineral through the consumption of fruits and vegetables may control blood pressure levels and reduce instances of stroke and heart attack.

Potassium is a nutrient that can have a beneficial effect on blood pressure. It is important for regulating the body's fluid balance. Fortunately, the banana fruit is rich in potassium and therefore an ideal food for people with high blood pressure. One banana has about 450 mg of potassium and it is suggested that three to six servings of banana a day are needed to take advantage of the benefits of this fruit.

- (a) What are the key points made by the writer about potassium?
- (b) Why does the writer claim that the experts' advice about fruits should not be impracticable?
- (c) What do you think will happen to people who consume food rich in sodium?
- (d) On what did the experts base their conclusions?
- (e) What is the difference in the diets consumed by the industrialized and isolated societies?
- (f) "...as plentiful as the common banana "

What figure of speech is contained in the expression above?

- (g) "... a number of studies..."
 - (i) What grammatical name is given to this expression as it is used in the passage?
 - (ii) What is its function?