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June 2023
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE 2 & 1
Essay and Objective
1 hour 45 minutes

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THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
GHANA

Basic Education Certificate Examination

June 2023

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2 & 1
Essay and Objective

1 hour 45 minutes

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so. While you are waiting, read and observe the following instructions carefully. Write your name and index number in ink in the spaces provided above.

This booklet consists of two papers. Answer Paper 2 which comes first, in your answer booklet and Paper 1 on your Objective Test answer sheet. Paper 2 will last 1 hour 10 minutes after which the answer booklet will be collected. Do not start Paper 1 until you are told to do so. Paper 1 will last 35 minutes.

This paper consists of three parts: A, B and C. Answer three questions in all; one question from Part A and all the questions in Part B and Part C. Answer all the questions in your answer booklet.

Credit will be given for clarity of expression and orderly presentation of material.

PART A

ESSAY WRITING

[30 marks]

Answer one question only from this part.

Your composition should be about 250 words long.

1. Write a letter to the Director of Health of your district, discussing **two** ways in which the activities of some food sellers affect the health of people in your community and suggest **one** solution to the problem.
2. Narrate an interesting story that ends with the statement, *Indeed, it was a great achievement.*
3. Write an article for publication in a national newspaper on **two** effects of poor disposal of waste on the people and suggest **two** ways of solving the problem.

PART B

COMPREHENSION

[30 marks]

4. *Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions which follow.*

The new Headmistress of Beso Junior High School was impressed with the infrastructure and equipment in the school. She was also pleased with the staff and student population. However, one thing puzzled her. The students' performance was very poor, according to the records. She had a discussion with the staff who complained of student absenteeism due to ill health. A nurse in the community told her that the children were often under the weather.

They had malaria, although every family had been given insecticide-treated mosquito nets. It seemed however that the people did not use these nets as they should and therefore the numerous mosquitoes in the environment continued to bite them. While visiting some of the sick children in the community, the Headmistress noticed that there were several pits filled with water. At a general PTA meeting, she explained how mosquitoes could breed in the stagnant water in the pits. She also pointed out the effects of the poor health of the children on their academic performance. She then appealed for help to destroy the breeding places of the mosquitoes so that the children would become healthier and perform better in school.

Although some of the parents did not understand the connection between the water in the pits and the performance of the students, they agreed to help her. During the next dry season, work started. All hands were on deck. The people worked very hard and the pits were filled. Trees and flowers were planted on the reclaimed land. The community now looked more beautiful than before. Soon, the children's health improved and, later, their performance in the final examinations became better.

- (a) Mention **two** things the Headmistress liked about the school.
- (b) In which **two** ways did the children's poor health affect them?
- (c) Why did the Headmistress involve the parents in solving the problem?
- (d) (i) What made the community succeed in filling the pits?
(ii) What **two** benefits did the filling of the pits bring to the community?
- (e) Explain, in your own words, the following expressions as used in the passage:
(i) ... *one thing puzzled her*;
(ii) ... *often under the weather*;
(iii) *All hands were on deck*.
- (f) For **each** of the following words, give another word or a phrase that means **the same** and can fit into the passage:
(i) noticed;
(ii) pits;
(iii) appealed;
(iv) perform;
(v) connection.

PART C

LITERATURE

[10 marks]

*Answer all the questions in this part.*SACEY J.A. and DARMANI L.(COMP): *The Cockcrow*

5. Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(a) to 5(c)

KEN SARO-WIWA: *Home Sweet Home*

“My friend, Sira, was Waale’s only daughter. As I said, we had grown up together, and had attended school together. She had not been able to complete her elementary schooling, although she was a brilliant girl.”

(Page 181)

- (a) Who is Waale?
- (b) Sira could not complete her elementary schooling because
- (c) Sira was not among the people who came to welcome the writer because

Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(d) and 5(e).

AMA ATA AIDOO : *The Girl Who Can*

“They say that I was born in Hasodzi; and it is a very big village in the Central Region of our country, Ghana

(Page 142)

- (d) The extract is the of the story.
- (e) “They say that I was born” shows that

Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(f) to 5(h).

AMA ATA AIDOO: *The Dilemma of a Ghost*

MONKA [To herself]: I remember the time he was preparing to go to the white man’s land

The money the money This is something which no one should hear anything about.

(Act 3 , Page 56)

- (f) According to Monka, one of the things *no one should hear anything about* is
- (g) The extract is an example of a/an
- (h) *The money the money* is an example of a literary device called

Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(i) and 5(j).

EVELYN TOOLEY HUNT: *Mama Is a Sunrise*

When she comes slip-footing through the door,
she kindles us
like lump coal lighted
and we wake up glowing.

(Page 184)

- (i) The extract brings out the theme of
- (j) ... *she kindles us*
like lump coal lighted
The dominant figure of speech in the lines above is

END OF ESSAY TEST

DO NOT TURN OVER THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

**YOU WILL BE PENALIZED SEVERELY IF YOU ARE
FOUND LOOKING AT THE NEXT PAGE BEFORE
YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.**

PAPER 1
OBJECTIVE TEST

35 minutes

Answer all the questions on your Objective Test answer sheet.

1. Use **2B** pencil throughout.
2. On the pre-printed answer sheet, check that the following details are **correctly** printed: Your **surname** followed by your **other names**, the *Subject Name*, your *Index Number*, *Centre Number* and the *Paper Code*.
3. In the boxes marked *Candidate Number*, *Centre Number* and *Paper Code*, **reshade** each of the shaded spaces.
4. An example is given below. This is for a female candidate whose name is Clare Naa ALI. Her *index number* is 772384188 and she is writing the examination at *Centre Number* 77234. She is offering *English Language* 1 and the *Paper Code* is 0011.

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL, GHANA BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION OBJECTIVE ANSWER SHEET

CANDIDATE NAME: ALI CLARE NAA	SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1
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- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Use 2B pencil, Press firmly. | 4. your first mark completely. |
| 2. Answer each question by choosing one letter and then, shade through the letter chosen like this = A = B = C = D = E = | 5. If only four alternative answers are given for each question, ignore the letter E. |
| 3. If you want to change an answer, erase | Your question paper may have fewer than 60 questions. |

CANDIDATE NUMBER	CENTRE NUMBER	PAPER CODE
7 7 2 3 8 4 1 8 8	7 7 2 3 4	0 0 1 1
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3
4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	4 4 4 4
5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	5 5 5 5
6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	6 6 6 6
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8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	8 8 8 8
9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	9 9 9 9

For Supervisors only. If candidate is absent shade this space.



Answer **all** the questions.

Each question is followed by **four** options lettered A to D. Find the correct option for **each** question and shade **in pencil** on your answer sheet the space which bears the same letter as the option you have chosen. Give only **one** answer to each question. An example is given below.

From the list of words lettered A to D choose the one which is **closest in meaning** to the underlined word in the sentence.

The pupils laughed at the story because they thought it was incredible.

- A. strange
- B. interesting
- C. unbelievable
- D. funny

The correct answer is unbelievable, which is lettered C and therefore answer space C would be shaded.

A B C D E

Be sure you understand the instructions at the beginning of each section before you try to answer any of the questions that follow them.

Do **not** spend too much time on a question. If you find a question difficult, leave it and go on and try it again later.

Use **pencil** throughout. If you wish to change an answer, erase your first answer completely and shade the appropriate space for the new answer.

Do all rough work on this question paper.

Now answer the following questions.

PART A
LEXIS AND STRUCTURE

SECTION A

From the alternatives lettered A to D, choose the **one** which **most suitably completes** each sentence.

1. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,?
 - A. shan't it
 - B. isn't it
 - C. doesn't it
 - D. can't it
2. You cannot swim in the sea, you?
 - A. couldn't
 - B. can
 - C. don't
 - D. did

3. It is no use over spilt milk.
A. cry
B. of crying
C. crying
D. to cry
4. Some of the pineapples are sour to be eaten.
A. more so
B. more too
C. much too
D. much so
5., learners must behave well.
A. The last but not least
B. The last but not the least
C. Last but not least
D. Last but not the least
6. Where Asana and Betty spending their next holidays?
A. is
B. are
C. were
D. was
7. The messenger did not anyone in the house.
A. meet
B. met
C. meets
D. meeting
8. She lives in her house.
A. father -in-laws'
B. fathers -in- laws'
C. father's -in- law's
D. father -in- law's
9. Their sister wore a to the party.
A. beautiful silk pink dress
B. silk pink beautiful dress
C. pink beautiful silk dress
D. beautiful pink silk dress
10. It was late to go out alone.
A. too
B. very
C. much
D. so
11. This is the boy rescued us.
A. whose
B. which
C. whom
D. who

12. The nurse made me a lot of water.
 A. drink
 B. drank
 C. drunk
 D. to drink
13. It is not easy to identify voice it was.
 A. who
 B. whom
 C. who's
 D. whose
14. Neither the parents nor the child at home yesterday.
 A. are
 B. is
 C. were
 D. was
15. Her clothes would look better if she them.
 A. will wash
 B. washes
 C. washed
 D. would wash

SECTION B

Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one which is **nearest in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence.**

16. We will not allow him to dampen our spirits.
 A. suppress
 B. break
 C. destroy
 D. lower
17. The commotion at the stadium was avoidable.
 A. trouble
 B. confusion
 C. issue
 D. violence
18. What transpired between them remains a secret.
 A. manifested
 B. translated
 C. existed
 D. happened
19. Lance only talks about trivial matters.
 A. unimportant
 B. unpleasant
 C. unacceptable
 D. unexciting

20. The robbers ransacked the house.
- A. torched
 - B. destroyed
 - C. invaded
 - D. looted

SECTION C

In each of the following sentences a group of words has been underlined. Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one that best explains the underlined group of words.

21. I was informed at the eleventh hour about his decision to leave town. This means that I heard it
- A. very late.
 - B. at eleven o'clock.
 - C. immediately.
 - D. in good time.
22. We tried all we could to amuse her but she kept a straight face. This means that she
- A. did not listen to us.
 - B. looked straight ahead.
 - C. refused to laugh.
 - D. cried all the more.
23. When we went to Nina's house, we were told that she had gone away bag and baggage. This means that Nina had gone away
- A. leaving all her children.
 - B. leaving all her belongings.
 - C. without informing anyone.
 - D. with all her belongings.
24. Samantha's main problem is that she can see no further than her nose. This means that Samantha
- A. lacks foresight.
 - B. is easily deceived.
 - C. has a long nose.
 - D. cannot think.
25. When he lost his job, Yaro was left to sink or swim. This means that Yaro
- A. had to find another job.
 - B. shouted for help.
 - C. had to survive on his own.
 - D. was depressed.

SECTION D

From the list of words lettered A to D, choose the one that is **most nearly opposite in meaning** to the word underlined in **each** sentence.

26. She accidentally tore her dress.
A. intentionally
B. willingly
C. carelessly
D. foolishly
27. The story was written in simple language.
A. foreign
B. strange
C. local
D. complex
28. The arrogant storekeeper lost all his customers.
A. respectful
B. obedient
C. modest
D. sympathetic
29. We finished several projects last year.
A. initiated
B. concluded
C. stopped
D. organized
30. The unfavourable weather affected their health.
A. beautiful
B. pleasant
C. cool
D. promising

END OF PAPER