

SC3021/B  
WASSCE 2020  
ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE 1  
Objective  
1 hour

1

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

West African Senior School Certificate Examination  
for School Candidates

SC 2020

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1

1 hour

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 the spaces provided above.

The paper is an Objective Test and carries 50 marks. Answer the questions on your objective answer sheet. The paper will last 1 hour

- Use 2B pencil throughout.
- On the pre-printed answer sheet, check that the following details are correctly printed:
  - In the space marked *Name*, check your **surname** followed by your **other names**.
  - In the spaces marked *Examination, Year, Subject* and *Paper*, check 'WASSCE', 'SC 2020', 'ENGLISH LANGUAGE', and '1' in that order.
  - In the box marked *Index Number*, your **index number** has been printed vertically in the spaces on the left-hand side, and each numbered space has been shaded in line with each digit. **Reshade** each of the shaded spaces.
  - In the box marked *Subject Code*, the digits 302212 are printed vertically in the spaces on the left-hand side. **Reshade** the corresponding numbered spaces as you did for your index number.
- An example is given below. This is for a male candidate whose *name* is Elliot Kofi AGBANA. His *index number* is 7102143958 and he is offering *English Language* 1.

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL  
ANSWER SHEET

PRINTED IN BLOCK LETTERS.	AGBANA ELLIOT KOFI	GHA
Name:	AGBANA ELLIOT KOFI	
Examination:	WASSCE	Year: SC 2020
Subject:	ENGLISH LANGUAGE	Paper: 1

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Use grade 2B pencil throughout.
- Answer each question by choosing one letter or shading it like this  A  B  C  D  E
- Erase completely any answer you wish to change.
- Leave extra spaces blank if the answer spaces provided are more than you need.
- Do not make any markings across the heavy black marks at the right hand edge of your answer sheet.

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Answer all the questions.

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

An example is given below:

From the words lettered A to D, choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The three-month notice of resignation which the manager gave ..... in two weeks' time.

- A. expires
- B. lapses
- C. disrupts
- D. develops

The correct answer is expires which is lettered A and therefore answer space A would be shaded.

A  B  C  D  E

Now answer the following questions.

PART A  
LEXIS AND STRUCTURE  
SECTION 1

In each of the following sentences, there is a word underlined and one gap. From the list of words lettered A to D, choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the underlined word and that will, at the same time, correctly fill the gap in the sentence.

1. Geraldine is very courteous but her brother, Gerald is unbelievably .....  
  - A. arrogant.
  - ~~B.~~ impolite.
  - C. snobbish.
  - D. haughty.
2. Whilst Lydia became ..... in the course of the contest, Lena was confident.  
  - A. assuring.
  - ~~B.~~ boastful
  - C. incensed
  - D. jittery
3. We thought Jane was the instigator of the take-over; it turned out that she was rather the .....  
  - A. accomplice
  - B. troubleshooter
  - ~~C.~~ advisor
  - D. cool-head
4. When they appeared before the disciplinary committee, Rex was unrepentant but Ray was .....  
  - A. sober
  - ~~B.~~ reformed
  - ~~C.~~ remorseful
  - D. quiet

- 5. Mama thought what I had done was smart but Dad said it was .....  
 A. dumb  
 B. lame  
 C. wicked  
 D. rough
- 6. Even though Joyce was praised for what she had done, her opponents ..... her.  
 A. admonished  
 B. mocked  
 C. warned  
 D. provoked
- 7. Instead of being gentle with the frightened child, Tom was rather .....  
 A. brisk.  
 B. firm.  
 C. brash.  
 D. harsh.
- 8. I felt very agitated yet I maintained a ..... demeanour.  
 A. brave  
 B. calm  
 C. strict  
 D. gentle
- 9. Adding much salt to food at table is ..... to the heart not beneficial.  
 A. hurtful  
 B. abusive  
 C. injurious  
 D. offensive
- 10. The sound from Larry's recorder was ..... rather than audible.  
 A. muffled  
 B. peaceful  
 C. noisy  
 D. blurred

SECTION II

From the words lettered A to D, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences.

- 11. We shall overcome ..... how difficult it is.  
 A. no matter  
 B. irrespective  
 C. not looking  
 D. despite
- 12. Jemima will be here ..... a minute.  
 A. on  
 B. by  
 C. in  
 D. to
- 13. The ambulance sped ..... the hill.  
 A. downwards  
 B. down  
 C. between  
 D. upward
- 14. You ..... a scratch on your neck the last time we met.  
 A. are having  
 B. were having  
 C. had  
 D. have

15. He ..... they should be punished immediately.  
A. is thinking  
-B. think  
C. has thought  
D. thinks
16. .... midnight, Tom fell asleep.  
-A. By  
B. Until  
C. During  
D. On
17. Elorm and Jacob were then ..... war with each other.  
A. into  
B. with  
-C. at  
D. in
18. Though Tay had heard their cries for help, he ..... them.  
A. has ignored  
-B. ignores  
C. is ignoring  
D. ignored
19. Ali and Maria are good friends; they seldom .....  
A. have argument  
-B. will argue  
-C. argue  
D. argued
20. Kennedy and Portia ..... live in Accra.  
A.- used to  
B. use to  
C. once  
D. then

## SECTION III

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

21. Mother's message was motivational; it gingered the children to work hard.  
A. aspirational  
B. sensational  
-C. inspirational  
D. devotional
22. I have a hunch that the programme will not go well.  
-A. conviction  
B. suspicion  
C. revelation  
D. notion
23. Desmond admonished his people not to go to war.  
A. reproved  
B. threatened  
C. inspired  
-D. warned

24. Parliamentary proceedings have been adjourned until January.  
 A. annulled  
 B. scheduled  
 C. suspended  
 D. abolished
25. What the professor said was alien to all his students.  
 A. offensive  
 B. pleasing  
 C. unfamiliar  
 D. fantastic
26. The unwholesome practice is anathema to decent people.  
 A. a danger  
 B. a curse  
 C. a taboo  
 D. a malady
27. When Joanita was declared winner, pandemonium broke out.  
 A. catastrophe  
 B. chaos  
 C. riots  
 D. demonstrations
28. The subject of sanitation was accentuated at the meeting because of its importance.  
 A. emphasized  
 B. mentioned  
 C. considered  
 D. analysed
29. When the wild dog attacked the puppies, Cecil throttled it.  
 A. stifled  
 B. gagged  
 C. strangled  
 D. caged
30. Little Simon was given a drug to suppress his hyperactivity.  
 A. crush  
 B. conquer  
 C. restrict  
 D. control

## SECTION IV

*After each of the following sentences, a list of possible interpretations of all or part of the sentence is given. Choose the interpretation you consider most appropriate for each sentence.*

31. Ever since Uche disgraced my niece in public, she has kept him at arm's length. This means that my niece  
 A. doesn't want to get close to Uche.  
 B. has broken ties with Uche.  
 C. calls Uche frequently.  
 D. hates everything that Uche does.
32. If Seth really wants to be helped, he has to put his cards on the table. This means that Seth  
 A. has to write a detailed application to offices.  
 B. has to be truthful, honest and frank.  
 C. needs to be more sociable.  
 D. needs to reach out to everybody.

33. We consider the day our daughter first went to school as a red-letter day. This means that we believe the day to be
- A. of importance and therefore should be celebrated.
  - B. a very sad one for our daughter.
  - C. full of danger and uncertainties.
  - D. when she would start her scholarship.
34. When the officer challenged the order, the commander hit the ceiling. This means that the commander was
- A. surprised.
  - B. worried.
  - C. very angry.
  - D. embarrassed.
35. News of the chief's death spread like wildfire. This means that the news
- A. made the people feel uncomfortable.
  - B. was disseminated in a haphazard manner.
  - C. reached many people within a short time.
  - D. produced fiery reactions from all angles.
36. It looks like Selina got out of bed on the wrong side. This means that Selina
- A. woke up very late.
  - B. felt weak and unwell.
  - C. did not sleep well.
  - D. was in a very bad mood.
37. James developed cold feet when he met the Manager to discuss his transfer. This means that James
- A. suddenly felt feverish and sick.
  - B. had second thoughts about what he wanted to do.
  - C. became nervous and unable to talk.
  - D. decided to change his mind.
38. The priest's death was a bolt from the blue. This means that the priest
- A. died suddenly and unexpectedly.
  - B. was killed by unknown assailants.
  - C. died under mysterious circumstances.
  - D. died peacefully and quietly.
39. Anne is two-faced in her interactions with her friends. This means that Anne is
- A. courteous.
  - B. self-centred.
  - C. hypocritical.
  - D. accommodating.
40. When Joe got there, he decided to strike while the iron was hot. This means that Joe
- A. attacked the people he met there.
  - B. finished all his work in good time.
  - C. took daring decisions.
  - D. took advantage of the situation.

SECTION V

In the following passage the numbered gaps indicate missing words. Against each number in the list below the passage, four choices are offered in columns lettered A to D. For each numbered gap, choose from the options provided for that number, the word that is most suitable to fill the gap.

Two months after moving into our new house, we hadn't noticed any —41— on the building till one Sunday morning when water started —42— from a corner of the shower in our —43— bedroom. We assumed it was a simple —44— and therefore asked my nephew, an apprentice, to fix it for us. He did, but the —45— lasted for that day only. The next morning, water started dropping heavily from both the bedroom and adjoining room.

Frantically, I called the —46— who promptly came to our rescue. A thorough check revealed that two roofing —47— had been blown away causing water to collect on —48—. The water had —49— gradually through the joints until that fateful Sunday when things became worse. We therefore had to reroof that —50— of the house.

- |     | A.         | B.        | C.         | D.        |
|-----|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 41. | -damages   | blemishes | challenges | defects   |
| 42. | -flowing   | oozing    | falling    | dripping  |
| 43. | inner      | -guest    | master     | big       |
| 44. | outflow    | -leakage  | trickling  | filtering |
| 45. | repair     | sealing   | mending    | blockade  |
| 46. | technician | mason     | plumber    | worker    |
| 47. | rafters    | -sheets   | thatches   | beams     |
| 48. | -ceiling   | top       | chimney    | attic     |
| 49. | soaked     | spread    | seeped     | sopped    |
| 50. | side       | -phase    | area       | line      |

Answer 30 questions in this part: 10 questions on Prose, 10 questions on Drama and 10 questions on Poetry.

## PROSE

Answer any set of 10 questions numbered 51 to 60 in either Section I or Section II.

## SECTION I

CHARLES DICKENS: *Great Expectations*

Read the following extract and answer questions 51 to 54.

My father, Pip he were given to drink and when he were overtook with drink, he hammered at my mother, most on merciful.

pg.38

51. Who spoke these words?
- Joe
  - Wopsle
  - Estella
  - Biddy
52. What was being discussed?
- Pumblechook's new job
  - Estella's trip to London
  - Going to school
  - Miss Havisham's temperament
53. ... he hammered away at my mother ... is an example of
- hyperbole.
  - oxymoron.
  - metaphor.
  - personification.
54. What does the extract say about the persona? He was
- quite irresponsible.
  - a liquor seller.
  - always drunk.
  - violent and a drunkard.
55. Biddy was
- Wopsle's wife.
  - Miss Havisham's daughter.
  - Pip's girlfriend.
  - Estella's sister.

Read the following extract and answer questions 56 to 60.

Morning made a considerable difference in my general prospect of life, and brightened it so much that it scarcely seemed the same. What lay heaviest on my mind was the consideration that six days intervened between me and the day of departure.

pg.124.

56. The speaker was about to travel to  
 A. Birmingham.  
 B. London.  
 C. Sandhurst.  
 D. Portsmouth.
57. Two other characters present were  
 A. Joe and Pumblechook.  
 B. Bidley and Estella.  
 C. Estella and Miss Havisham.  
 D. Joe and Bidley.
58. The speaker was thinking about the  
 A. uncertainty of his future.  
 B. bright prospects at his new destination.  
 C. prospect of being an apprentice.  
 D. joy of living with Miss Havisham.
59. The speaker was  
 A. Estella.  
 B. Pip.  
 C. Joe.  
 D. Bidley.
60. What is the meaning of the underlined part of the extract?  
 A. I'm going through the six most difficult days of my life.  
 B. I have six more days to go.  
 C. I will be spending six days there.  
 D. I will reconcile with them in six days.

## SECTION II

AMA ATA AIDOO: *No Sweetness Here*

Read the following extract and answer questions 51 to 53.

I'm saying, Zirigu, that there must be something wrong when young girls who have seen their blood not many moons gone, go sleeping with men who are old enough to be their fathers, sometimes their grandfathers. And no one is saying anything .... But the men are big men. They have the money ....

pg.11

51. Setu abhors the *big men* because they  
 A. sleep around with underage girls.  
 B. steal money belonging to the state.  
 C. are involved in crooked businesses.  
 D. exploit the poor and vulnerable.
52. Setu and Zirigu are  
 A. business partners.  
 B. staff of a guesthouse.  
 C. husband and wife.  
 D. village farmers.
53. *big men* as used in the extract symbolizes  
 A. state officials.  
 B. semi literates.  
 C. wealth and well being.  
 D. affluence and corruption.

Read the extract below and answer questions 54 to 57.

Maybe it is better that all mothers are not like you. Otherwise the land would be flowing with the blood of all the big men.

pg. 13

54. The speaker is
- Sissie.
  - Fiifi.
  - Kodjo Fi.
  - Zirigu.
55. The figure of speech contained in this extract is
- imagery.
  - symbolism.
  - metaphor.
  - allusion.
56. What had occasioned this speech?
- The high handedness of the authorities
  - Immorality of the big men
  - Extortion by the big men
  - The gap between the rich and the poor
57. The *mother* referred to in the extract is
- Setu.
  - Maami Fante.
  - Maami Ama.
  - Sissie.

Read the following extract and answer questions 58 to 60.

Please little sister, I am not trying to interfere in your private life. You said yourself a little while ago that you wanted a man of your own. That man belongs to so many women already ....

pg. 109

58. *Little sister* refers to
- Mercy.
  - Mary Koomson.
  - Sissie.
  - Connie.
59. The speaker is
- Esi Amofa.
  - Connie.
  - Yaa Gyawaa.
  - Mercy.
60. *That man* in the extract is
- Kojo Fi.
  - Mensah Arthur.
  - Fiifi Koomson.
  - Chicha.

## DRAMA

Answer any set of 10 questions numbered 61 to 70 in either Section I or Section II.

## SECTION I

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: *Merchant Of Venice*.

Read the following extract and answer questions 61 to 64.

Mislike me not for my complexion. The shadowed livery of the burnished sun  
To whom I am a neighbour and near bred.

Act II sc1 lines 1 - 3

61. The speaker is  
A. Bassanio.  
B. Salerio.  
C. Morocco.  
D. Shylock.
62. The underlined part of the extract suggests the speaker  
A. is at the mercy of the sun.  
B. is at war with the sun.  
C. regards the sun as a god.  
D. does not like the sun.
63. The addressee is  
A. Orlando.  
B. Nerissa.  
C. Antonio.  
D. Portia.
64. Which of the following characters was present at the scene?  
A. Jessica  
B. Nerissa  
C. Solanio  
D. Tubal
65. One of the themes of the play is  
A. justice and mercy.  
B. hatred and corruption.  
C. love and life.  
D. disloyalty and greed.

Read the following extract and answer questions 66 to 70.

In Belmont is a lady richly left;  
And she is fair ....  
Of wonderful virtues, sometimes from her eyes  
I did receive fair speechless messages.

Act 1 sc1 lines 160 - 163

66. These words were spoken  
A. at the Rialto.  
B. in Portia's house.  
C. in a street in Belmont.  
D. in a street in Venice.
67. To whom were these words spoken?  
A. Bassanio  
B. Antonio  
C. Nerissa  
D. Portia

68. What is the meaning of the **first line** of the extract?
- A lady with substantial fortune lives in Belmont.
  - The rich lady in Belmont has left.
  - There is no rich lady left in Belmont.
  - There is only one rich lady in Belmont.
69. The speaker intended to ..... the lady in question.
- do business with
  - woo
  - borrow from
  - make friends with
70. The lady in question is
- Jessica.
  - Portia.
  - Nerissa.
  - Juliet.

## SECTION II

YAW ASARE: *Ananse In The Land Of Idiots*

Read the following extract and answer questions 61 to 65.

Just look at him! How can such a sleepy scarecrow embody the watchful vigilance of an empire? Tell me somebody.

pg 19

61. Who is referred to in the extract?
- Pootagyiiri
  - Mbasila
  - Akpala
  - Sodziisa
62. The figure of speech found in the expression *sleepy scarecrow* is
- metaphor.
  - symbolism.
  - sarcasm.
  - synecdoche.
63. The speaker is
- Odudu.
  - Mbasila.
  - Pootagyiiri.
  - Ananse.
64. The speaker was being
- cunning.
  - sarcastic.
  - fair.
  - symbolic.
65. The *sleepy scarecrow* was supposed to be a
- drummer.
  - war captain.
  - leader of the royal archers.
  - guard.

Read the following extract and answer questions 66 to 70.

What sort of request is that? What purpose would that serve ...?  
You are a condemned man striving to buy back your life.

pg.14

66. The speaker and the addressee are  
A. Odudu and Mbasila.  
B. King and Akpala.  
C. Ananse and Akpala.  
D. Elder and Ananse.
67. The request was that  
A. two bodyguards be provided.  
B. the princess and her peers sing and dance.  
C. a secure place in the forest be reserved.  
D. a royal title be bestowed on the persona.
68. One other character present at the scene is  
A. King.  
B. Mbasila.  
C. Guard.  
D. Queen.
69. The underlined part of the extract is  
A. symbolic.  
B. metaphorical.  
C. satirical.  
D. comic.
70. Which of the following words **best** describes the addressee?  
A. Deceitful  
B. Courteous  
C. Smart  
D. Friendly

POETRY

Answer any set of 10 questions numbered 71 to 80 in either Section I or Section II.

SECTION I  
NON- AFRICAN POETRY

ANDREW MARVELL: *The Definition of Love*

71. *Magnanimous despair* in the poem illustrates

- A. synecdoche.  
B. personification.  
C. antithesis.  
D. metonymy.

As lines so love oblique may well  
themselves in every angle greet

72. The lines above contrast with the poet's feeling of

- A. togetherness.  
B. separation.  
C. hatred.  
D. anger.

PERCY B SHELLY: *Ozymandias*

73. The theme of the poem is **best** expressed as  
 A. time triumphs over all things.  
 B. mighty people are disgraced.  
 C. the greatness of a sculptor.  
 D. the hazards of desert traveling.
74. The end of the poem is  
 A. dramatic.  
 B. satiric.  
 C. ironic.  
 D. hyperbolic.

ROBERT FROST: *The Road Not Taken*

75. The setting of the poem is  
 A. morning.  
 B. afternoon.  
 C. evening.  
 D. night.
76. In the **last stanza**, the poet's mood is  
 A. solemn.  
 B. triumphant.  
 C. defiant.  
 D. sad.

JAMES STEPHENS: *What Tomas Said in a Pub*

77. The poem is dominated by images associated with  
 A. sight.  
 B. taste.  
 C. smell.  
 D. hearing.
78. Part of the poem's message is conveyed by  
 A. repetition.  
 B. simile.  
 C. rhyme.  
 D. alliteration.

SYLVIA PLATH: *Mirror*

I am not cruel, only truthful

79. The speaker is  
 A. the poet.  
 B. an old woman.  
 C. a young girl.  
 D. the mirror.
80. The poem is about  
 A. the fear of ageing.  
 B. the shape of a mirror.  
 C. a terrible fish.  
 D. a lake.

## SECTION II

## AFRICAN POETRY

KWESI BREW: *Lest We Should Be The Last*

71. The setting of the poem is  
 A. dawn.  
 B. dusk.  
 C. a riverside.  
 D. the countryside.

72. *We begin in hope and end in*  
 A. argument.  
 B. shame.  
 C. confusion.  
 D. disappointment.

LENRIE PETERS: *Lost Friends*

73. *Lost friends* in the poem are the  
 A. dead.  
 B. drunkards.  
 C. elite.  
 D. poor.
74. *Their new addiction* refers to  
 A. interests.  
 B. passion.  
 C. appetite.  
 D. work.

THERESA ENNIN: *Makola*

75. The poem is **best** described as  
 A. narrative.  
 B. a ballad.  
 C. descriptive.  
 D. a lyric.
76. *Why must it all be in his terms, at his convenience?* illustrates  
 A. metaphor.  
 B. rhetorical question.  
 C. hyperbole.  
 D. pathetic fallacy.

ABENA BUSIA: *Silver Wedding*

77. The theme of the poem is the reward of  
 A. parenthood.  
 B. childhood.  
 C. ageing.  
 D. wealth.
78. The images associated with the celebration appeal **mostly** to our sense of  
 A. smell.  
 B. hearing.  
 C. sight.  
 D. taste.

KOFI ANYIDOHO: *They Hunt The Night*

79. In *they sought to put us away ... they* refers to the  
 A. oppressors.  
 B. bullies.  
 C. people.  
 D. foreigners.
80. The poem ends on a tone of  
 A. reconciliation.  
 B. defiance.  
 C. submission.  
 D. anguish.