

SC30218/B  
WASSCE 2023  
ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE 1  
Objective  
1 hour

1

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

West African Senior School Certificate Examination  
for School Candidates

SC 2023

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 2023', '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 302113 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 James Amadu KOKU His index number is 7102143958 and he is offering English Language 1.

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL  
ANSWER SHEET

PRINTED IN BLOCK LETTERS.	GHA
Name: AMADU JAMES KOKU	
Examination: WASSCE	Year: SC 2023
Subject: ENGLISH LANGUAGE	Paper: 1

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Use grade 2B pencil throughout.
- Answer each question by choosing one letter and 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.

INDEX NUMBER	
7	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
0	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
4	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
3	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
9	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
5	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
8	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

SUBJECT CODE	
3	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
0	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
3	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

For Supervisors only  
If candidate is absent shade this space.

Pilost  
1/2023

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. The diverse groups became ..... in a common course.
  - A. assimilated
  - B. concentrated
  - C. liberated
  - D. united
2. Aku's mood changed from the dismal to the .....
  - A. amorous
  - B. ecstatic
  - C. frivolous
  - D. gentle
3. The invigorating drinks served at the party made us forget how ..... the trip had been.
  - A. degenerating
  - B. depressing
  - C. enervating
  - D. sagging
4. Whereas tourism is thriving, other local businesses are .....
  - A. declining
  - B. descending
  - C. dropping
  - D. drowning

5. Although now a renowned doctor, Johnny rose from ..... beginnings.  
 A. humble  
 B. servile  
 C. unidentified  
 D. unrecognizable
6. The efforts to defuse the tension, rather ..... it.  
 A. aggravated  
 B. persisted  
 C. progressed  
 D. revived
7. Her condition may worsen rather than ..... if she continues to brood over the incident.  
 A. abate  
 B. improve  
 C. reduce  
 D. subside
8. Charitable actions can influence ..... people to change.  
 A. cautious  
 B. indifferent  
 C. notorious  
 D. selfish
9. No one knows the origin of this group, but we are sure of its .....  
 A. demise  
 B. demolition  
 C. evasion  
 D. extinction
10. It is interesting that minute creatures survive alongside ..... ones in the same habitat.  
 A. cunning  
 B. large  
 C. strong  
 D. violent

## SECTION II

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

11. The students tried every means to secure permission,.....?  
 A. couldn't they  
 B. didn't they  
 C. haven't they  
 D. shouldn't they
12. At the last P.T.A. meeting, tempers ..... between the parents and the teachers.  
 A. arise  
 B. arose  
 C. rise  
 D. rose
13. Every human being has a right ..... education.  
 A. of  
 B. on  
 C. for  
 D. to
14. The article ..... the attention of scholars everywhere.  
 A. assured  
 B. attracted  
 C. embraced  
 D. excited

Turn over

15. The building remains an ..... testimony to the ingenuity of ancient architecture.  
A. eloquent  
B. imminent  
C. inscribed  
D. intact
16. The manager said ..... criticisms would work for the good of the company.  
A. clarified  
B. commendable  
C. constructive  
D. plausible
17. The pastor's honesty is ..... question.  
A. against  
B. aside  
C. beside  
D. without
18. But for the timely intervention of the police, the thief ..... lynched.  
A. will have been  
B. would have been  
C. has been  
D. had been
19. People the world ..... are benefitting from technology.  
A. across  
B. around  
C. over  
D. upon
20. In a civilized society, one has the chance to express ..... opinion.  
A. my  
B. one's  
C. our  
D. your

## 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. The school was not surprised that Ama felt dejected at seeing her results.  
A. disappointed  
B. disorganized  
C. embittered  
D. frustrated
22. Serwaa wonders why Koomson has suddenly become conceited after his promotion.  
A. disrespectful  
B. haughty  
C. irritating  
D. selfish
23. The government should arrest quack doctors in the country.  
A. fraudulent  
B. uneducated  
C. unknown  
D. unprofessional

24. Many people deserted the area because of armed robbers.  
A. abandoned  
B. destroyed  
C. neglected  
D. rejected
25. Issah has shown much dedication to our cause.  
A. commitment  
B. attachment  
C. enthusiasm  
D. support
26. The Minister gets angry when you express your candid opinion.  
A. firm  
B. honest  
C. open  
D. right
27. Stephen's performance in the game was sterling.  
A. famous  
B. remarkable  
C. surprising  
D. visible
28. In 1940, Cape Coast Castle was so fortified that no enemy could attack it.  
A. defended  
B. fenced  
C. preserved  
D. reinforced
29. In some secondary schools, new students are harassed by their prefects.  
A. embarrassed  
B. questioned  
C. punished  
D. troubled
30. The chief has gained notoriety for his corrupt activities.  
A. disrespect  
B. enemies  
C. infamy  
D. ill-will

## 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. Joan made heavy weather of her new position in the office. This means that Joan  
A. behaved arrogantly.  
B. experienced difficulty.  
C. had no knowledge about her work.  
D. intimidated her staff.
32. Ama told her sister not to be afraid for she has her back always. This means that Ama  
A. will provide for her sister's needs.  
B. will defend her sister.  
C. likes her sister.  
D. consoles her sister.

**Turn over**

33. I have half a mind to apply for this post. This means that I
- A. am not sure if I should apply.
  - B. will not apply now.
  - C. am not sure if I will be successful.
  - D. will not like the job.
34. Afi cannot make head or tail of what you are saying. This means that she doesn't
- A. accept your view.
  - B. hear you.
  - C. condemn you.
  - D. understand you.
35. No matter what difficulty you are facing now, there's always a silver lining at the end. This means that there is
- A. a difficulty to meet.
  - B. a happy ending.
  - C. an unknown future.
  - D. more work to do.
36. In the last year in office, the director became a lame duck. This means that he
- A. became a failure.
  - B. became isolated.
  - C. was disrespected.
  - D. was weak.
37. After he lost his election, Thomas withdrew to the village to lick his wounds. This means that he went to the village to
- A. console his supporters.
  - B. recover from his defeat.
  - C. organize a protest.
  - D. recover his loss.
38. In less than three months, the new MD has managed to bring the rebellious union members into line. This means that the new MD has succeeded in
- A. encouraging the union members to work harder.
  - B. making the union members conform to his dictates.
  - C. maintaining cordial relations with the union members.
  - D. persuading the union members to avoid strikes.
39. Despite his low wages, Mawuli was able to make ends meet. This means that Mawuli
- A. lived as a rich man.
  - B. managed his income.
  - C. was a happy man.
  - D. was very generous.
40. The building project failed because the company cut corners. This means that the company
- A. did not have enough money.
  - B. did not use the correct design.
  - C. spent less resources on the project.
  - D. was involved in corruption.

## 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.*

Football is a game which pits one —41— against the other. At —42—, each is made up of eleven —43— whose aim is to win the game by ensuring that they score more —44—. In order to ensure fairness, there is the —45— whose duty is to insist that the —46— of the game are obeyed. On each side of the —47—, there is a goal post which is guarded by a keeper who stops the ball from entering the net. If any other person touches the ball with the hand, that will be a —48—. It is even more serious if that person handles the ball in their goal area, for that will certainly be a penalty. There is always a reserve —49— which coaches rely on for substitutions. No football match worth its salt is complete without —50—.

	A.	B.	C.	D.
41.	squad	group	side	team ✓
42.	start off ✓	take off	kick off	set off
43.	contestants	opponents	players ✓	participants
44.	baskets	points ✓	runs	goals ✓
45.	referee ✓	manager	commissioner	umpire
46.	orders	laws	rules ✓	regulations
47.	area	turf	ground	pitch ✓
48.	violation	foul ✓	misdemeanour	mistake
49.	arena	column	place	bench ✓
50.	viewers	supporters ✓	spectators	audience

**Turn over**

PART B  
LITERATURE

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

NON-AFRICAN PROSE

ROBERT L. STEVENSON: *Treasure Island*

Read the following extract and answer questions 51 to 54.

How that personage haunted my dreams ... On stormy nights, when the winds shook the four corners of the house, and the surf roared along the cove and up the cliffs, I would see him in a thousand forms, and with a thousand diabolical expressions.

51. The expression, *that personage*, refers to
- the nut-brown man.
  - the man with one leg.
  - the patron of the inn.
  - a dead seafarer.
52. ... *the surf roared along the cove* is an example of
- alliteration.
  - metaphor.
  - oxymoron.
  - personification.
53. The general atmosphere in the extract is that of
- anxiety.
  - chaos.
  - fear.
  - gloom.
54. Patrons of the Admiral Benbow sang with the man because they
- enjoyed the song.
  - loved the song.
  - were drunk.
  - were afraid of him.

Read the following extract and answer questions 55 to 58.

... I don't like treasure voyages on any account; and I don't like them, above all, when they are secret, and when ... the secret has been told to the parrot.

55. The speaker is
- Captain Smollett.
  - Jim Hawkins.
  - John Silver.
  - Trelawney.

56. The speaker's mood is that of  
 A. anger.  
 B. despair.  
 C. indifference.  
 D. sorrow.
57. The figure of speech used in the underlined expression is  
 A. allusion.  
 B. simile.  
 C. symbolism.  
 D. metaphor.
58. The *parrot* is  
 A. Captain Smollett.  
 B. John Silver.  
 C. Billy Bones.  
 D. Black Dog.
59. The story is about buccaneers and the  
 A. autocratic rule.  
 B. buried gold.  
 C. lost treasure.  
 D. hidden treasure.
60. The character associated with heroism is  
 A. Captain Flint.  
 B. Dr Livesey.  
 C. Jim Hawkins.  
 D. Israel Hands.

SECTION II  
 AFRICAN PROSE  
 MAMLE WOLO: *The Kaya Girl*

*Read the following extract and answer questions 51 to 55.*

They held an award ceremony for me and the other children.

51. *They* refers to  
 A. Abena's parents.  
 B. the district education officers.  
 C. the community.  
 D. the family.
52. The award ceremony was for  
 A. good behaviour.  
 B. the best athlete.  
 C. exceptional performance in WASSCE.  
 D. exceptional performance in BECE.

53. The speaker got for her award a  
 A. book.  
 B. car.  
 C. scholarship.  
 D. holiday abroad.
54. The listener described the speaker as  
 A. brave.  
 B. brilliant.  
 C. victorious.  
 D. humble.
55. The listener felt  
 A. proud.  
 B. superior.  
 C. jealous.  
 D. embarrassed.

*Read the following extract and answer questions 56 to 59.*  
 Sorry Madam! I said with an ingratiating smile as the customer marched into the shop. I scuttled after her with a quick backward nod at Faiza ...

56. The speaker is  
 A. Abena.  
 B. Asana.  
 C. a cousin.  
 D. Auntie Lydia.
57. The extract shows that the speaker is  
 A. discriminatory.  
 B. disrespectful.  
 C. ungrateful.  
 D. flattering.
58. The customer's reaction was that of  
 A. anger.  
 B. indifference.  
 C. ingratitude.  
 D. sadness.
59. In the meanwhile, Faiza had  
 A. disappeared.  
 B. entered the store.  
 C. slept.  
 D. called for help.

*Read the following extract and answer question 60.*  
 I was nervous that she would complain to Auntie Lydia. She looked the type. But it seemed my apology had done the trick...

60. In the extract, *she* is described as always  
 A. boastful.  
 B. fashionable.  
 C. complaining.  
 D. happy.

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

SECTION I  
NON-AFRICAN DRAMA  
HENRIK IBSEN: *An Enemy of the People*

Read the following extract and answer questions 61 to 64.

I know—but he won't do *that*, my dear Peter. You've no idea how delighted the Badger was when I fell out with you and your sagacious friends.

61. The speaker is  
A. Thomas Stockmann.  
B. Katherine Stockmann.  
C. Petra Stockmann.  
D. Morten Kiil.
62. The Badger is  
A. Katherine Stockmann.  
B. Morten Kiil.  
C. Petra Stockmann.  
D. Thomas Stockmann.
63. ... *that* refers to  
A. building the bath.  
B. changing his will.  
C. being a friend to Peter.  
D. writing an article.
64. Peter is the speaker's  
A. grandson.  
B. husband.  
C. brother.  
D. best friend.
65. The protagonist of the play is  
A. Dr. Thomas Stockmann.  
B. Captain Horster.  
C. Mayor Peter Stockmann.  
D. Mr. Morten Kiil.
66. The antagonist of the play is  
A. Captain Horster.  
B. Morten Kiil.  
C. Thomas Stockmann.  
D. Peter Stockmann.

Read the following extract and answer questions 67 to 70.

Well, tell your grandfather, then it'll be a nice surprise for the old chap — it's his tannery! He thinks I'm not right in the upper storey — yes, and he's not the only one, I know that! But they'll find out now, all of 'em.

67. The speaker is  
A. Thomas Stockmann.  
B. Morten Kiil.  
C. Petra Stockmann.  
D. Captain Horster.

Turn over

68. The addressee's grandfather is  
 A. Eilif.  
 B. Morten Kiil.  
 C. Peter Stockmann.  
 D. Thomas Stockmann.
69. ... *not right in the upper storey* is a  
 A. metaphor.  
 B. paradox.  
 C. hyperbole.  
 D. simile.
70. What the speaker blames the tannery for is the  
 A. corruption of the people.  
 B. dwindling profits of the newspaper.  
 C. increasing number of high buildings.  
 D. pollution of the Municipal Baths.

SECTION II  
 AFRICAN DRAMA  
 BILL MARSHALL: *The Son of Umbele*

61. The character that shot himself is  
 A. Joshua.  
 B. Attu.  
 C. Benko.  
 D. Zekey.
62. The character who appreciates Joshua's love is  
 A. Benko.  
 B. Duella.  
 C. Sumako.  
 D. Zekey.
63. The setting is a  
 A. large city.  
 B. fishing village.  
 C. farming village.  
 D. hut in the forest.

*Read the following extract and answer questions 64 to 67.*

... on the contrary, my mother provided for me. I had everything I wanted, even my special world...

64. The speaker is  
 A. Sumako.  
 B. Attu.  
 C. Joshua.  
 D. Zekey.
65. The addressee is  
 A. Sumako.  
 B. Benko.  
 C. Attu.  
 D. Joshua.

66. The speaker comes from a ..... family.

- A. generous
- B. poor
- C. religious
- D. rich

67. ... *even my special world* is

- A. metaphor.
- B. simile.
- C. symbol.
- D. personification.

*Read the following extract and answer question 68.*

For all you know, they might be lying at the bottom of the sea.

68. ... *they* refers to

- A. Joshua and Duella.
- B. sons of Sumako.
- C. the fishing nets.
- D. the gods.

*Read the following extract and answer questions 69 and 70.*

... they never learn. They will make food for the trouts, the whole confounded of them.

69. The speaker is

- A. Sumako.
- B. Duella.
- C. Benko.
- D. Attu.

70. The speaker is being

- A. generous.
- B. partial.
- C. polite.
- D. humorous.

#### POETRY

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

#### SECTION I

#### NON- AFRICAN POETRY

WILFRED OWEN: *Anthem for Doomed Youth*

71. The poem is about

- A. happiness.
- B. life.
- C. religion.
- D. war.

72. The line, *Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle* illustrates
- alliteration.
  - metaphor.
  - pun.
  - simile.

WALT WHITMAN: *I Sit and Look Out*

73. The dominant theme is
- friendship.
  - life's disappointments.
  - marital relations.
  - parenthood.
74. In the poem, the speaker is
- forgiving.
  - remorseful.
  - detached.
  - upset.

JOHN DONNE: *Butter my Heart Three Person'd God*

75. The poem is about
- faith.
  - betrayal.
  - love.
  - loyalty.

Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,  
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me

76. The above lines illustrate
- alliteration.
  - paradox.
  - irony.
  - personification.

D. H. LAWRENCE: *Piano*

77. The poem is about
- recollecting the past.
  - a little child's pranks.
  - a piano.
  - weeping.
78. The setting is
- autumn.
  - spring.
  - summer.
  - winter.

CLAUDE MCKAY: *If We Must Die*

79. The poem is a
- ballad.
  - dirge.
  - lyric.
  - sonnet.
80. The poem deals with the issue of
- animals.
  - love.
  - oppression.
  - redemption.

## SECTION II

## AFRICAN POETRY

OSWALD MTSHALI: *Nightfall in Soweto*

71. The poem is about  
 A. attraction of daylight.  
 B. diseases in society.  
 C. the negative effects of darkness.  
 D. insecurity in society.
72. The dominant figure of speech is  
 A. personification.  
 B. hyperbole.  
 C. simile.  
 D. oxymoron.

KOFI AWOONOR: *The Weaver Bird*

73. The weaver bird symbolizes  
 A. religion.  
 B. colonialism.  
 C. fishing.  
 D. recreation.

*And laid its eggs on our only tree.*

74. The above expression suggests  
 A. breeding.  
 B. betrayal.  
 C. invasion.  
 D. hospitality.

JOHN PEPPER CLARK: *Night Rain*

75. The poem deals with the issue of  
 A. competition.  
 B. deliverance.  
 C. maintenance.  
 D. poverty.
76. The setting is the  
 A. bags and vats.  
 B. countryside.  
 C. city.  
 D. rain.

DAVID RUBADIRI: *An African Thunderstorm*

77. The poem is about the power of  
 A. nature.  
 B. man.  
 C. children.  
 D. women.
78. The atmosphere is one of  
 A. peace.  
 B. hope.  
 C. delight.  
 D. confusion.

GABRIEL OKARA: *Once Upon a Time*

79. The poem is about the breakdown of
- A. communal life.
  - B. law and order.
  - C. western values.
  - D. social values.

*There was a time indeed, they used to shake  
hands with their hearts but that's gone, son.*

80. The speaker is
- A. cheated.
  - B. delighted.
  - C. sad.
  - D. unsafe.

***END OF PAPER***