

122/2

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2

(for both School and Private Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

ANSWERS

Wednesday, 12 May 2004

Instructions

1. This paper consists of section A, B, C and D.
2. Answer **five (5)** questions, choosing **one (1)** question from each section. Question **two (2)** is compulsory.
3. Each question weighs **twenty (20)** marks.
4. Communication devices and any unauthorized materials are **not** allowed in the assessment room.
5. Write your **Examination Number** every page of your answer booklet(s)

1. (a) Write brief notes on the following stylistic terms.

i. Colloquialism

Colloquialism refers to the use of informal or everyday language, often specific to a particular region or group. Examples include "gonna" for "going to" and "y'all" for "you all."

ii. Medium

Medium is the channel or method used for communication, such as spoken language, written text, or digital formats like emails and social media.

iii. Variety

Variety refers to the different forms of language used in various contexts, such as dialects, sociolects, and registers. For example, British English and American English are varieties of the English language.

iv. Province

Province, in stylistics, refers to a particular domain or field of language use, such as legal, medical, or journalistic language. Each province has its distinct vocabulary and style.

v. Slang

Slang consists of informal, often playful or unconventional words and phrases used primarily by specific groups. Examples include "lit" for exciting and "cool" for excellent.

(b) Consider the suitability of the subject matter to the mode in each of the texts given below. Rewrite the subject matter to suit the mode where necessary.

i. Dear Jane,

MOTHER SERIOUSLY ILL COME IMMEDIATELY

Yours,

Janeth

Revised:

Dear Jane,

I am writing to inform you that mother is seriously ill. Please come immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Janeth

ii. In a written academic essay

"You know, toxic substances found in waters include solvents such as chloroform, benzene, and the like, you see?"

Toxic substances found in water include solvents such as chloroform and benzene, among others.

iii. In a newspaper report

"Fifty-fourth minute. Veron to Bastista; a brilliant pass, that. And the score still Argentina 1, Nigeria nil. Danger cleared. The ball in field ... oh, but beautifully cut off and IT'S A GOAL!"

Revised:

In the fifty-fourth minute, Veron passed brilliantly to Bastista, maintaining the score at Argentina 1, Nigeria nil. The ball was intercepted, but a stunning finish resulted in a goal.

(c) (i) Many students have a tendency of trespassing the school grounds. Make a public notice to advise them to refrain from the habit.

Notice:

All students are hereby reminded that trespassing on school grounds is strictly prohibited. Kindly respect school property to maintain discipline and order.

(ii) You noticed an intruder at a party you are hosting. Suggest two ways you would tell him to go without making him feel offended or embarrassed.

i. "Excuse me, I think you might be at the wrong party. Let me help you find the right one."

ii. "Hi, we were expecting a specific group of guests for this event. May I kindly ask you to confirm if you're on the list?"

2. (a) Write brief notes on what you understand by the term "Non-standard English."

Non-standard English refers to varieties of English that differ from the standard or formal language norms. It includes regional dialects, slang, and colloquial expressions often used in informal settings.

(b) What is the difference between:

i. Pidgin and Creole English

Pidgin is a simplified form of language developed for communication between speakers of different native languages, often used in trade. Creole evolves from pidgin when it becomes a fully developed, native language for a community.

ii. Technical and legal language

Technical language consists of specialized vocabulary used in specific fields such as science or engineering. Legal language refers to the formal and precise terminology used in legal documents and contexts.

iii. British and American English

British and American English differ in spelling, pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. For example, "colour" (British) vs. "color" (American), and "lorry" (British) vs. "truck" (American).

3. (a) Human communication is a two-way process:

The sender responds to some internal or external stimulus, encodes the message in a particular code, and sends it through a channel. The receiver decodes the message, responds, and sends feedback.

Explain what the underlined concepts mean.

- i. Stimulus: Refers to an event or situation that prompts the sender to communicate. It can be internal, like a thought, or external, like a question.
- ii. Encoding: The process of converting thoughts or information into a message using a specific language or code.
- iii. Channel: The medium or means through which the message is transmitted, such as speech, writing, or electronic communication.
- iv. Decoding: The process by which the receiver interprets or understands the message sent by the sender.
- v. Feedback: The response provided by the receiver to indicate that the message has been understood or requires clarification.

(b) Comment on the language use exemplified in the text below.

"Of course ni obvious kwamba mtu hawezi kukushambulia without any sound reasons. Ni lazima kulikuwa na some motivation behind ... Anyway, tutaikiliza case yako."

The language exemplifies code-switching, where English and Swahili are mixed. This use of language reflects informality, ease of communication, and cultural adaptability in informal or semi-formal contexts.

(c) Give five reasons why language can sometimes be used in the way it is in 3(b) above.

- i. To promote inclusivity by accommodating speakers of different languages.
- ii. To make communication more relatable and less formal.
- iii. To express ideas more precisely when one language lacks equivalent terms.
- iv. To reflect cultural identity and shared understanding within a community.
- v. To create a relaxed and conversational tone, fostering openness.

4. Using two readings you have done under this section, analyze the use of flashback style and its literary effect on the message.

-Betrayal in the City by Francis Imbuga

- I. Flashbacks are used to provide context about the struggles of Kafira's citizens under the dictatorship.
- II. They reveal the personal losses of characters like Juser, creating emotional depth.
- III. Flashbacks emphasize the continuity of oppression and the need for change.
- IV. The literary effect is to deepen the reader's understanding of the causes and effects of tyranny.

-I Will Marry When I Want by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

- I. Flashbacks highlight the socio-economic struggles of Kiguunda and his family.
- II. They expose the historical exploitation of workers, linking past and present injustices.
- III. The flashback scenes amplify the play's message of resilience and the fight for justice.
- IV. The literary effect is to connect the characters' personal stories to broader societal issues.

5. Pick two central characters from two readings you have done under this section, explain in detail their similarities and differences. State their impact on the overall message to the society.

- Juser in Betrayal in the City and Kiguunda in I Will Marry When I Want

Similarities:

- I. Both characters represent the oppressed in their societies.
- II. They fight against exploitation and injustice.

III. Their struggles highlight the need for societal change.

Differences:

-Jusper is a young intellectual, while Kiguunda is a laborer tied to tradition.

II. Jusper's rebellion is more direct and confrontational, while Kiguunda's resistance is gradual and rooted in family struggles.

Impact on Society:

I. Jusper's character inspires action against political tyranny.

II. Kiguunda's journey emphasizes the importance of unity and resilience among the working class.

6. Show how the playwrights of two plays of your choice have succeeded or failed to justify the need for a change in their societies. What techniques do they use to achieve this?

-Betrayal in the City by Francis Imbuga

I. The playwright uses satire to expose the absurdity of the ruling class.

II. Symbolism, like the prison, represents the constraints of dictatorship.

III. Dialogue reveals the characters' motivations and struggles, advocating for freedom.

IV. The play successfully justifies the need for change by depicting the consequences of oppression.

- The Lion and the Jewel by Wole Soyinka

I. The playwright uses humor and irony to critique societal norms and values.

II. The rivalry between Baroka and Lakunle symbolizes the conflict between tradition and modernity.

III. Through characterization, the play highlights the strengths and weaknesses of both sides.

IV. The play succeeds in emphasizing the need for balance and mutual understanding in societal progress.

7. With reference to two readings from this section, comment on the writers' use of imagery as a technique employed by the authors.

i. A Grain of Wheat by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

I. The imagery of sacrifice is evident in the metaphor of the "grain of wheat," symbolizing personal and communal sacrifice for independence.

II. Visual imagery is used to describe the suffering and struggle of Kenyan citizens under colonial rule.

III. Nature imagery, such as forests and fields, portrays the connection between the land and the fight for freedom.

IV. Emotional imagery is employed to evoke the pain and hope of the characters' experiences.

ii. The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born by Ayi Kwei Armah

I. The imagery of decay and filth symbolizes corruption and moral degradation in post-independence Ghana.

II. Visual imagery describes the oppressive urban environment, highlighting societal stagnation.

III. Nature imagery contrasts the ugliness of corruption with the beauty of moral integrity.

IV. Symbolic imagery is used to depict the protagonist's struggle for purity amidst widespread corruption.

8. Writers write for their societies, but by revealing the problems of their societies in detail, they help us to understand not only the societies they are portraying but also our own. Discuss this statement with reference to two readings.

i. A Man of the People by Chinua Achebe

- I. The novel reveals the problems of political corruption and nepotism in post-colonial Africa.
- II. Achebe highlights the betrayal of societal ideals by leaders, making readers reflect on their own governance systems.
- III. The struggles of the characters reflect the universal quest for justice and equality.
- IV. The work inspires readers to address societal flaws through self-examination and activism.

ii. The Stone Country by Alex la Guma

- I. The novel portrays racial discrimination and injustice in apartheid South Africa.
- II. The depiction of oppression encourages readers to empathize with victims of inequality.
- III. The story provides a deeper understanding of resilience and the fight for freedom.
- IV. It connects global audiences to the shared struggle against all forms of oppression.

9. Comment on the meaning and relevance of two titles of novels/short stories you have read under this section. Briefly consider the intention of each writer and assess the extent to which the title has managed to carry it out throughout the reading.

i. A Grain of Wheat by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

- I. The title symbolizes sacrifice and regeneration, central to the theme of independence.
- II. It reflects the biblical idea of death leading to life, as characters sacrifice for freedom.
- III. The writer's intention is to emphasize the value of selflessness for societal progress.
- IV. The title effectively encapsulates the novel's focus on personal and communal sacrifices.

ii. The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born by Ayi Kwei Armah

- I. The title suggests unfulfilled potential and the longing for moral integrity in society.
- II. It critiques the corruption of post-independence leaders, contrasting them with the ideal leaders yet to emerge.
- III. The writer's intention is to highlight the need for genuine leadership and societal renewal.
- IV. The title aptly conveys the novel's exploration of disillusionment and hope for the future.

10. "Poetry is linguistically authentic. It is also emotionally authentic and thus provides an equally authentic and individual response from the reader." With reference to four relevant poems, discuss the truth of this statement.

i. Building the Nation by Henry Barlow

- I. Linguistically authentic through simple language reflecting daily life.
- II. Emotionally authentic by exposing the plight of the working class and evoking empathy.

ii. Your Pain by Armando Guebuza

I. Linguistically powerful with repetition to emphasize unity.

II. Emotionally engaging through its depiction of resistance and sacrifice.

iii. Song of Lawino by Okot p'Bitek

I. Authentic language blending African idioms and English.

II. Emotional authenticity in Lawino's lamentation for lost traditions.

iv. The Ballad of the Landlord by Langston Hughes

I. Authentic dialogue reflecting societal inequality.

II. Emotionally impactful in highlighting racial discrimination and injustice.

11. A good poet strives to strike a balance between form and content for effective presentation of the message of his/her work. Use four poems to show how the poets have succeeded or failed in this aspect.

i. Building the Nation by Henry Barlow

I. The simple structure complements the straightforward message of inequality.

ii. Your Pain by Armando Guebuza

I. The structured repetition emphasizes the struggle against oppression.

iii. The Ballad of the Landlord by Langston Hughes

I. The rhythmic form enhances the narrative of social injustice.

iv. Song of Lawino by Okot p'Bitek

I. The free-verse form reflects the authenticity and emotional power of the content.

12. Read the following poem careful then answer the questions that follow

Your Pain – Armando Guebuza

Your pain

Yet more my pain

Shall suffocate oppression

Your eyes

Yet more my eyes

Shall be speaking of revolt

Your scars

Yet more more my scars

Will be remembering the whip

My strength

Yet more your strength

Shall overcome imperialism

My hands

Yet more your hands

Will be lifted fully armed

My blood

Yet more your blood

Shall irrigate our victory

Questions

a) What does the heading of the poem suggest?

The heading "Your Pain" suggests shared suffering and collective struggle, emphasizing that the pain experienced by one person is felt by others, symbolizing unity in fighting oppression.

b) What type of poem is this? Give reasons.

This is a political and revolutionary poem.

i. It focuses on themes of resistance against oppression and imperialism.

ii. It uses strong imagery and repetition to inspire action and solidarity.

iii. The language calls for empowerment and unity among oppressed individuals.

c) Isolate four poetic devices and show why they have been used.

i. Repetition: "Yet more my pain" emphasizes shared suffering and unity in the struggle.

ii. Symbolism: "Blood" symbolizes sacrifice and the price of liberation.

iii. Imagery: "Scars will be remembering the whip" vividly portrays the brutality of oppression.

iv. Personification: "Shall irrigate our victory" gives life to blood, symbolizing its contribution to freedom.

d) Who do you think the persona is?

The persona is likely a revolutionary leader or a member of the oppressed community, voicing the collective struggles and aspirations of the people against imperialism.

e) Mention two ways through which the poet suggests oppression can be brought to an end.

i. By uniting in strength and actively resisting the oppressors.

ii. Through sacrifices and perseverance, as highlighted by the imagery of "blood" and "hands fully armed."