

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION

122/2

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2

(for both School and Private Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

ANSWERS

Wednesday, 20th February 2008

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)

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1. (a) Write a letter in response to the following advertisement which appeared in the Daily News – 16/01/2008. Your name is Baraka Kayombo.

Letter Response

BARAKA KAYOMBO
P.O. Box 123,
Dodoma.
16th January 2008.

The Personnel Officer,
Akiba Bank,
P.O. Box 3489,
Dodoma.

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: APPLICATION FOR THE POSITION OF TRAINEE CASHIER.

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Trainee Cashier as advertised in the Daily News on 16th January 2008. I have successfully completed my Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education (ACSEE) and meet all the qualifications outlined in your advertisement.

I am fluent in both English and Kiswahili and possess a strong aptitude for working with numbers. I also enjoy interacting with people, which I believe aligns with your requirements.

I am eager to undertake the comprehensive two-year training program and contribute to the growth and success of Akiba Bank. Enclosed is my curriculum vitae for your consideration.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my skills and qualifications can benefit your organization.

Yours faithfully,
Baraka Kayombo

(b) Discuss the stylistic differences between a personal letter and the above-advertised letter.

- i. A personal letter uses an informal tone, while the above-advertised letter uses a formal tone.
- ii. Personal letters include emotional or personal expressions, while the above letter maintains professionalism and objectivity.
- iii. Personal letters often use casual language, while the above letter adheres to formal language and structure.

iv. Personal letters do not typically require enclosures, while the above letter includes a CV for consideration.

2. Language varies according to situational constraints. Discuss this statement by giving examples from the English Language.

Language adapts to the context in which it is used. Examples include:

- i. Formal settings: In professional or academic settings, formal language is used (e.g., "I would like to inquire about the availability of the product").
- ii. Informal settings: In casual conversations, informal language is used (e.g., "Hey, what's up?").
- iii. Digital communication: Language in text messages or social media is often concise and uses abbreviations (e.g., "LOL" for "laugh out loud").
- iv. Cultural context: Language changes based on cultural norms, such as the use of honorifics in some languages to show respect.

3. (a) Imagine that you are one of the street children living at Huruma Centre. Write a one-page report saying how you came to live at the Centre and also why you ran away from home.

Report

I arrived at Huruma Centre three months ago after being found by a social worker on the streets. I had run away from home due to constant conflicts between my parents. My father was abusive, and my mother could not protect me. The lack of a peaceful environment pushed me to seek refuge elsewhere.

Life on the streets was harsh. I struggled to find food and was exposed to many dangers. When I met a social worker who offered me shelter at Huruma Centre, I accepted the help immediately. Since coming here, I have found a sense of security and hope for a better future.

(b) Mention three stylistic features employed in your report.

- i. First-person narrative to give a personal perspective.
- ii. Simple and clear language to ensure readability.
- iii. Chronological structure to present events in order.

(c) Give reasons for using each of the above stylistic features.

- i. First-person narrative creates an emotional connection with the reader.
- ii. Simple language ensures the message is understood by a broad audience.
- iii. Chronological structure allows for a logical flow of events.

4. In an unjust system, the whole world becomes a prison. There is tragedy which is caused by the conflict between the forces attempting to maintain the unjust system against those struggling to destroy it. Using two plays under this section show the truth of this statement.

i. Betrayal in the City by Francis Imbuga

This play depicts Kafira, a fictional country ruled by a corrupt and oppressive regime. The unjust system suppresses freedom, silences dissent, and imprisons those who oppose it. For example, Juser and other rebels fight against the regime's oppression but are met with violence and incarceration, symbolizing how such a system turns the world into a prison for its citizens.

ii. An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen

In this play, Dr. Stockmann faces hostility when he exposes the contamination in the town's water supply. The majority, controlled by corrupt officials, suppress the truth to protect their economic interests. The conflict between truth and power leads to Stockmann's isolation, symbolizing the imprisonment of those who oppose systemic injustice.

These plays reveal how oppressive systems create a metaphorical prison by stifling freedom, justice, and truth.

5. How far do you support the view that drama is the modern and most effective way of conveying messages to the audience? Use two readings to support your views.

i. I Will Marry When I Want by Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Ngugi wa Mirii

Drama effectively conveys the struggles of the working class under capitalist exploitation. The use of dialogue and cultural elements, such as songs and dances, makes the message accessible and engaging. For example, the play's focus on Kiguunda and Wangeci highlights the economic oppression faced by many, encouraging critical reflection.

ii. The Caucasian Chalk Circle by Bertolt Brecht

This play uses symbolism and a thought-provoking narrative to explore themes of justice and morality. The dramatization of Grusha's sacrifice appeals to the audience's emotions while prompting intellectual engagement with social and ethical issues.

Drama's visual and interactive nature makes it an effective medium for addressing contemporary societal concerns.

6. In a well-knitted play, the dramatic characters are shaped to fit the needs of the plot and the plot must be shaped to fit the needs of the dramatic characters. Validate this statement using two plays.

i. Betrayal in the City by Francis Imbuga

The plot revolves around the struggle against political oppression, and the characters are crafted to serve this purpose. Juser, as a rebellious youth, drives the narrative of resistance, while Mulili embodies corruption and betrayal, essential to the story's conflict.

ii. The Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

The plot focuses on the tragic downfall of Willy Loman, and the characters reflect this theme. Willy's flawed dreams and misguided ambitions shape the narrative, while his family's struggles add depth to the plot, reinforcing the central theme of disillusionment.

These plays demonstrate the interdependence of characters and plot in creating a cohesive narrative.

7. Form and content are two sides of the same coin. Discuss this contention using two readings covered under this section.

i. A Man of the People by Chinua Achebe

The novel's form, characterized by its satirical tone and narrative structure, complements its content, which critiques corruption and betrayal in post-independence Africa. For instance, the humorous portrayal of Chief Nanga emphasizes the absurdity of his greed and selfishness.

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

The novel uses vivid imagery and a reflective narrative style to portray the decay of societal values and the protagonist's struggle for integrity. The form reinforces the content by immersing readers in the bleak reality of post-independence disillusionment.

These examples illustrate how form and content work together to convey the author's message effectively.

8. Evils of colonialism in independent Africa continue as most black leaders turn out to be photocopies of white photocopies. Validate this statement using two readings covered under this section.

i. A Man of the People by Chinua Achebe

Chief Nanga, a black leader, mirrors the exploitative behavior of colonial rulers. He enriches himself at the expense of the people, perpetuating the same injustices that colonial powers inflicted on the African populace.

ii. His Excellency the Head of State by Danny Safo

The leader in this novel uses dictatorial tactics to suppress dissent, mimicking the repressive systems established by colonial authorities. His prioritization of personal power over national welfare reflects the continuation of colonial exploitation.

Both texts show how some post-independence leaders replicate colonial practices, hindering true liberation.

9. Poverty and ignorance are the worst inseparable enemies facing most African countries today. Discuss the above statement using two readings covered under this section.

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

The novel portrays poverty and ignorance as intertwined challenges. For instance, the protagonist's refusal to engage in corruption highlights how systemic poverty and lack of education perpetuate moral decay and hinder societal progress.

ii. *A Man of the People* by Chinua Achebe

The exploitation of the poor by corrupt leaders demonstrates the link between poverty and ignorance. For example, the people's lack of awareness enables leaders like Chief Nanga to manipulate and exploit them for personal gain.

These readings emphasize the need to address poverty and ignorance to achieve sustainable development in Africa.

10. The effectiveness of poetry depends on the language choice by the poets. Verify this statement using four poems covered under this section.

i. In "Building the Nation," the poet uses simple and accessible language to highlight the hypocrisy and inequality in post-independence African governance. Words like "eating" symbolize corruption, making the message relatable and impactful.

ii. "The Vultures" uses vivid imagery and symbolic language to portray oppression. The choice of words like "prey" and "talons" emphasizes the exploitation of the weak, creating a powerful emotional response.

iii. In "Hard Work Brings Hope," the poet employs repetitive phrases and motivational language to stress the importance of diligence and resilience. This choice of words inspires readers to value hard work.

iv. "The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born" uses descriptive and figurative language to depict societal decay and disillusionment. The metaphorical references to "rot" and "filth" reinforce the themes of corruption and moral failure.

Through deliberate language choice, these poets effectively communicate their messages, making their work resonate with audiences.

11. Poetry, like other forms of literature, reflects social reality. Using four poems covered under this section, substantiate the truth of this statement showing clearly the artistic devices used.

i. In "The Cry of the Poor," the poet reflects the reality of poverty through imagery and symbolism. The description of "tears falling like rivers" captures the suffering of marginalized communities.

ii. "The Vultures" symbolizes the predatory nature of oppressors, reflecting the exploitation of the weak in society. The poet uses metaphorical language to critique power dynamics.

iii. "Hard Work Brings Hope" addresses the struggles of laborers and their resilience, reflecting the economic challenges faced by many. Repetition and motivational tone emphasize the poem's message.

iv. "Building the Nation" critiques social inequality and corruption in governance. The poet uses satire and irony to expose the hypocrisy of leaders, making the social reality clear to the audience.

These poems use various artistic devices to portray social realities and provoke thought and action among readers.

12. Read the following poem and answer the questions which come after it.

Boy on a Swing

Slowly he moves
to and fro, to and fro
then faster and faster
he swishes up and down

His blue shirt
billows in the breeze
like a tattered kite

The world whirls by
east becomes west
north turns to south
the four cardinal points
meet in his head

Mother
where did I come from?
when will I wear long trousers?
why was my father jailed?

(a) What is the poem about?

The poem reflects a child's innocence and curiosity about life, juxtaposed with the harsh realities of societal and family challenges. It portrays the child's struggle to understand his identity and circumstances.

(b) Mention and explain three poetic devices that have been used in the poem.

i. Imagery: The description of the "blue shirt billows in the breeze" evokes a vivid picture of the boy on the swing.

ii. Metaphor: The "four cardinal points meet in his head" symbolizes confusion and the overwhelming nature of his thoughts.

iii. Repetition: The phrase "to and fro, to and fro" emphasizes the swinging motion and the repetitive nature of the child's questions.

(c) What do you think long trousers in the last stanza mean?

Long trousers symbolize maturity and the transition from childhood to adulthood. They reflect the boy's desire to grow up and understand the complexities of life.

(d) What type of poem is it?

The poem is a reflective and lyrical poem. It captures personal emotions and thoughts while addressing societal themes.

(e) Comment on the feelings of the poet.

The poet conveys feelings of sadness, confusion, and helplessness. The child's questions reveal a sense of loss and a yearning for clarity amidst the challenges he faces.