

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

Thursday, 10th February 2011

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) Read the following text and answer the questions after it.

It has been noted with concern that the stock of books in the library has been declining alarmingly. Students are asked to remind themselves of the rules for the borrowing and return of books, and to bear in mind the needs of other students. Penalties for overdue books will in the future be strictly enforced.

Questions:

i. Identify the context in which it has been taken.

The context is a formal notice issued in a school or college library setting, addressing students about their borrowing habits and reminding them of library rules.

ii. What is the source of information?

The source of information is a notice from the library administration.

iii. Outline the stylistic features of the text.

- Use of formal language: The text uses formal and official terms to convey authority.
- Instructional tone: It emphasizes the rules and penalties to ensure compliance.
- Clarity: The message is straightforward and easy to understand.

(b) State the difference between:

i. Polite language and familiar language.

Polite language is respectful and formal, often used in professional or formal settings (e.g., "May I borrow this book?"). Familiar language is casual and informal, used among friends or close acquaintances (e.g., "Can I grab this book?").

ii. Formal language and informal language.

Formal language adheres to grammatical rules and avoids contractions or slang (e.g., "We regret to inform you"). Informal language is conversational, using contractions and slang (e.g., "Sorry, we can't do that").

iii. Literal language and literary language.

Literal language conveys information exactly as it is, without embellishment (e.g., "The book is on the table"). Literary language uses figurative expressions for artistic effect (e.g., "The book rests like a treasure on the table").

iv. Written language and spoken language.

Written language is structured, permanent, and follows formal grammar rules. Spoken language is often spontaneous, uses informal grammar, and may include tone and gestures for context.

v. Slang and common core language.

Slang consists of informal, non-standard words or phrases used by specific groups (e.g., "cool" for "good"). Common core language refers to standard and widely understood vocabulary used in formal communication.

2. Read the following extracts carefully and then distinguish them stylistically.

Extract A:

Concert halls or large lecture rooms or broadcasting studios need to have special acoustic (sound) design. If not, sound is reflected from the walls, ceilings, or floors, and this can disturb the sound from an orchestra or a speaker which reaches the audience.

To absorb the sound from the surfaces, suitable tiles of plastic or cork or other porous materials are used to cover the walls and other surfaces in concert halls or studios. In a large lecture room, cushions are often placed at the back of chairs. Sound waves are absorbed by human bodies, so the cushions absorb the sound when the room is not full of people.

Extract B:

Drop a piece of calcium (a grey metal) into a dish of water and invert over it a boiling tube full of water. The calcium sinks, unlike the potassium and sodium; there is effervescence, and hydrogen (hydrogen) is given off which explodes if mixed with air and a flame applied.

The calcium gradually disappears and a white milky suspension is produced. The calcium hydroxide formed is only slightly soluble. If the suspension is carefully filtered to give a clear solution, carbon dioxide can then be blown through to give the usual suspension of calcium carbonate.

Answer:

Extract A:

The extract discusses the design of concert halls or lecture rooms for sound absorption. It is technical, focusing on soundproofing materials and their practical applications.

Extract B:

The extract provides instructions for a scientific experiment involving calcium. It is descriptive and instructional, focusing on chemical reactions and their outcomes.

Stylistic differences:

- Extract A uses technical language related to architecture and acoustics, aiming to inform about sound design.
- Extract B uses scientific terminology and procedural language to explain a chemistry experiment.

3. (a) What do you think is the source of The information for each of the following

i. In 1492, Columbus discovered America.

The source of this information is historical records or history books.

ii. The plaintiff is ready to take the witness stand.

The source of this information is legal documents or courtroom proceedings.

iii. Juggling eggs. Keeping a lot of state in your head while modifying a program. "Don't bother me now; I am juggling eggs," means that an interruption is likely to result in the programs being scrambled.

The source of this information is programming manuals or computer programming contexts.

iv. Hey, is that lazy dog still in bed? I gotta see him about something.

The source of this information is informal conversation or casual speech.

v. Excuse me. Is the manager in his office? I have an appointment.

The source of this information is formal communication in a workplace or office setting.

(b) Comment on the language use in the following text.

Rivers are the major agents of land sculpture throughout the world. As they flow, they carve valleys, transporting and depositing the material they have eroded sometimes hundreds of kilometers from its source. The material transported by a river is known as load. The effectiveness of rivers in their work of erosion, transport, and deposition depends on their energy. The greater the energy, the greater the ability to erode and transport.

Answer:

The language is formal, descriptive, and factual, focusing on the geographical processes of erosion, transportation, and deposition.

4. How would you relate the titles of the plays with what is presented by the playwrights in two plays that you have read under this section?

In *Betrayal in the City* by Francis Imbuga, the title reflects the theme of political betrayal and corruption in Kafira. The characters' disillusionment with leadership mirrors the betrayal experienced by the citizens.

In *I Will Marry When I Want* by Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Ngugi wa Mirii, the title symbolizes the resistance to societal and cultural oppression, emphasizing personal freedom and self-determination.

5. Discuss two common themes that are discussed by two playwrights and show their relevance to society today.

i. Oppression and Resistance: Both *Betrayal in the City* and *I Will Marry When I Want* explore the theme of oppression under corrupt regimes and the people's fight for justice. This remains relevant today as many societies struggle against political and social injustices.

ii. Cultural Identity: *I Will Marry When I Want* highlights the importance of preserving African traditions in the face of foreign influence, a theme that resonates in contemporary discussions about globalization and cultural erosion.

6. "Freedom is the right to do what you want, make your own decisions, and express your own opinions." Analyze the issue of freedom as discussed by two artists from two readings you have read.

In *Betrayal in the City*, freedom is depicted as a right that is denied by oppressive leadership. The characters' quest for justice and rebellion against the regime highlights the value of freedom in governance.

In *I Will Marry When I Want*, freedom is presented as the ability to resist societal pressures and assert individual rights, especially in cultural and economic contexts. This reflects the ongoing struggle for personal and collective freedom in modern society.

7. The use of symbolism and imagery is one of the techniques that the writers use to present their message(s) to their societies. Validate the truth of this statement.

Symbolism and imagery are powerful literary techniques that enable writers to convey deep and complex messages. They enhance the understanding of themes by appealing to readers' senses and emotions. The following examples validate the truth of this statement:

i. In "The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born" by Ayi Kwei Armah, the rotting bus symbolizes the moral decay of post-independence society. This imagery vividly portrays corruption and broken promises, effectively conveying the disillusionment of the people.

ii. In "The Vultures," the vultures represent oppressive and exploitative forces in society. Through this symbolism, the poet highlights the suffering of the powerless and critiques the greed and selfishness of the powerful.

iii. "The Bloodstained Monument" uses blood imagery to depict the horrors of colonization and the lasting wounds inflicted on colonized nations. The symbolism reinforces the message of injustice and resilience.

iv. In "Spring Will Return Under Our Bright Steps," spring symbolizes hope and renewal. This imagery effectively conveys the message of perseverance and the possibility of a better future after hardship.

By using these techniques, writers communicate societal issues in a way that resonates with readers and inspires reflection and action.

8. Choose two themes from two novels and discuss their relevance to Tanzania today.

i. Corruption and Leadership – A Man of the People by Chinua Achebe:

This novel explores the theme of corruption, where political leaders betray the trust of their citizens for personal gain. This theme is relevant to Tanzania today as corruption remains a challenge in governance, affecting the country's development and public trust.

ii. Poverty and Inequality – The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born by Ayi Kwei Armah:

The novel highlights the struggles of ordinary people in a corrupt society where wealth is unevenly distributed. In Tanzania, poverty and inequality continue to impact many communities, making this theme highly relevant as it encourages discussions on fairness and economic justice.

9. Discuss the themes of leadership and selfishness as portrayed in two novels that you have read under this section.

Leadership and selfishness are key themes that reflect societal challenges in governance.

i. A Man of the People by Chinua Achebe:

Leadership is portrayed as corrupt and self-serving through the character of Chief Nanga, who prioritizes his personal interests over the welfare of the people. His betrayal of public trust highlights the consequences of selfishness in leadership, a theme that resonates with modern governance issues.

ii. His Excellency the Head of State by David Omowale:

The novel critiques the selfishness of leaders who misuse power for personal gain, neglecting the needs of the citizens. The portrayal of a tyrannical leader emphasizes the importance of accountability and the dangers of unchecked authority.

Both novels show that selfishness in leadership undermines societal progress and reinforces the need for ethical governance.

10. Read the poem provided and answer the questions.

(a) What is the poem about?

The poem emphasizes the importance of hard work and its connection to survival and self-worth. It conveys the Creator's command that every individual must work to earn their sustenance. Laziness is condemned, and the poem mocks idleness, highlighting that even nature (like animals and birds) works diligently for its own good.

(b) Comment on the language used in the poem.

The language is simple and direct, making the poem relatable to a wide audience. It uses:

- Repetition for emphasis, such as "You have no right to eat" and "You have the right to die."
- Sarcasm in the exclamation "Wonderful!" to criticize laziness.
- Figurative language, such as "Even birds laugh at you," to emphasize the ridicule of idleness.
- Commanding and instructional tones, as seen in "Take your hoe" and "Wake up!"

(c) What message do we get from the shortest stanza?

The shortest stanza, "Wonderful!", is sarcastic. It mocks the idea that those who do not work expect to survive, highlighting the absurdity of laziness and the necessity of labor for survival.

(d) What should people do to make their lives better?

People should engage in hard work and productive activities to improve their lives. They need to:

- Follow the Creator's command to work for their own good.
- Avoid idleness and focus on taking proactive steps to improve their well-being.
- Adopt a mindset of diligence and responsibility, as implied in the poem.

(e) Is the poem relevant to Tanzania? Give reasons for your answer.

Yes, the poem is relevant to Tanzania for several reasons:

- It promotes the value of hard work, which aligns with the agricultural and labor-based economy of the country.
- It addresses societal challenges, such as laziness and unemployment, which hinder economic growth.
- The poem's reference to the Creator resonates with Tanzanian cultural and religious beliefs, reinforcing its message in a relatable context.

11. With reference to four poems you have read under this section, discuss the issue of social inequality as portrayed by the artists.

Social inequality is a recurring theme in many poems, reflecting disparities in wealth, power, and opportunities. The following poems address this issue:

(a) The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born by Ayi Kwei Armah:

This poem highlights the struggles of ordinary people in a corrupt society. The imagery of decay symbolizes the marginalization of the poor and the betrayal of independence ideals by leaders.

(b) The Vultures:

The vultures represent the oppressive elite who exploit the weak. The stark contrast between the powerful and powerless highlights the gap in social and economic status.

(c) The Cry of the Poor:

This poem vividly describes the suffering of the impoverished, whose voices are ignored by the wealthy and powerful. It emphasizes the need for social justice and equality.

(d) Hard Work Brings Hope:

The poem contrasts the diligent laborers with the idle elite, emphasizing the unequal distribution of wealth and opportunities. It critiques the lack of recognition for hard work in society.

These poems use imagery, symbolism, and vivid descriptions to expose the realities of social inequality and inspire a call for justice.

12. Using four poems read under this section, show how the use of symbolism was effective in presenting the message.

Symbolism is an effective literary tool that conveys deeper meanings and enriches the message of a poem. The following poems use symbolism effectively:

(a) The Bloodstained Monument:

The “bloodstained monument” symbolizes the enduring scars of colonization, representing the suffering of oppressed nations and their struggle for freedom.

(b) The River Between:

The river symbolizes the ideological divide between tradition and modernity, portraying the cultural conflicts in a colonized society.

(c) The Vultures:

The vultures symbolize oppressive leaders and exploiters, illustrating greed and the exploitation of the weak.

(d) Spring Will Return:

Spring symbolizes hope and renewal, reinforcing the message of resilience and the potential for a brighter future after hardship.

Through symbolism, these poets effectively convey complex ideas, making their messages more relatable and impactful.