

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION**

024

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Time : 3 Hours

ANSWERS

Year : 2024

Instructions

1. This paper consists of sections A, B and C.
2. Non-programmable calculators may be used.
3. Communication devices and any unauthorised materials are **not** allowed in the examination room.
4. Write your **Examination Number** on every page of your answer booklet(s).

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1. (i) Why is literature referred to as a mirror of the society?

- A. People in the society produce it
- B. Certain people in the society own it
- C. It reflects what happens in the society
- D. It is sold and bought by people
- E. It helps people to be strong economically

Correct Answer: C. It reflects what happens in the society

Reason: Literature portrays people's lives, struggles, traditions, and values. It reflects both the positive and negative aspects of society, hence serving as a mirror.

(ii) Which one of the following distinguishes literature from other works of art like drawing?

- A. Creativity
- B. Aesthetic
- C. Originality
- D. Application
- E. Diction

Correct Answer: E. Diction

Reason: Literature is unique because it uses language as its medium of expression. The choice of words (diction) sets it apart from other art forms such as drawing or painting.

(iii) You are reading a novel and you reach a point where the characters are involved in serious conflict. Which stage of the plot is that?

- A. Climax stage
- B. Resolution stage
- C. Rising action stage
- D. Falling action stage
- E. Exposition stage

Correct Answer: A. Climax stage

Reason: The climax is the point of greatest tension or conflict in a story. It is where the main struggle comes to its peak before the resolution.

(iv) Literary artists sometimes skip certain events or incidents in presenting their message for the audience to become curious. Which literary term do we use to refer to such a state?

- A. Anxiety
- B. Exposition
- C. Conflict
- D. Suspense
- E. Protest

Correct Answer: D. Suspense

Reason: Suspense is created when a writer withholds information or skips details, making readers eager to know what happens next.

(v) How do novels differ from plays?

- A. They are well organised
- B. They are in chapters
- C. They are orally presented
- D. They are for society
- E. They educate society

Correct Answer: B. They are in chapters

Reason: Novels are presented in written form divided into chapters, while plays are divided into acts and scenes and are mainly meant for performance.

(vi) How are the people who are involved in various events and incidents in the novel called?

- A. Actresses
- B. Actors
- C. Persona
- D. Narrators
- E. Characters

Correct Answer: E. Characters

Reason: Characters are the people, animals, or beings that take part in the actions and incidents of a novel.

(vii) Besides language use, what else is artistic in Literature?

- A. Themes
- B. Lessons
- C. Setting
- D. Relevance
- E. Philosophy

Correct Answer: C. Setting

Reason: The artistic nature of literature is shown not only through language but also through how the setting (time and place) is crafted to create realism and artistic effect.

viii) Which device is more common in poetry than in other genres of Literature?

- A. Symbolism
- B. Alliteration
- C. Flashback
- D. Satire
- E. Metaphor

Correct Answer: B. Alliteration

Reason: Alliteration, the repetition of initial consonant sounds, is a stylistic device most common in poetry to create rhythm and musicality.

(ix) Why does literature use characters?

- A. Literature requires protagonists and antagonists
- B. Both characters and literature are imaginary in nature
- C. Literature is based on human characters
- D. Characters are the agents of events and incidents
- E. Literature reflects how characters behave

Correct Answer: D. Characters are the agents of events and incidents

Reason: Characters drive the plot forward by performing actions and engaging in incidents. Without them, the story would not develop.

(x) Why are literature and language inseparable?

- A. Language is the medium of the literary work
- B. Language attracts the attention of the audience
- C. Language makes literature to be systematic
- D. Language makes literature unique from other subjects
- E. Language never changes its form and content

Correct Answer: A. Language is the medium of the literary work

Reason: Literature is expressed through language. It is impossible to separate the two since language is the tool through which literary ideas and themes are communicated.

Perfect, let's now do **Question 2** step by step.

I will copy the respective question with its table, then match correctly with reasons.

2. Match the proverbs in List A with their corresponding messages in List B by choosing the letter of the correct answer and write it in the answer booklet(s) provided.

List A

- (i) Little by little fills the measure.
- (ii) The remedy-for fire is fire.
- (iii) A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.
- (iv) A spark can start a fire that burns the entire prairie.

(v) Birds of a feather flock together.

(vi) Blood is thicker than water.

List B

A. Take precautions in various situations.

B. Family relationships are stronger than any others.

C. It is better to keep something you already have than taking a risk to lose it by trying to get much more.

D. A good hunter starts hunting in the bush he/she lives.

E. You become strong when you are united.

F. Related people are always close to one another.

G. Persevering in the face of difficulty is always fruitful.

H. Effective measures should be taken to rectify unpleasant situations.

ANSWER.

(i) Little by little fills the measure → **G. Persevering in the face of difficulty is always fruitful**

Reason: The proverb teaches patience and persistence. Small efforts consistently applied lead to success.

(ii) The remedy for fire is fire → **H. Effective measures should be taken to rectify unpleasant situations**

Reason: Some problems require strong or equal measures to solve them, just like fire is best fought with fire.

(iii) A bird in hand is worth two in the bush → **C. It is better to keep something you already have than taking a risk to lose it by trying to get much more**

Reason: The proverb emphasizes appreciating what you already possess instead of risking it for uncertain gains.

(iv) A spark can start a fire that burns the entire prairie → **A. Take precautions in various situations**

Reason: Small issues, if ignored, can cause great damage, just like a spark can ignite a large fire.

(v) Birds of a feather flock together → **E. You become strong when you are united**

Reason: People with similar interests or qualities always come together, and unity gives strength.

(vi) Blood is thicker than water → **B. Family relationships are stronger than any others**

Reason: This proverb emphasizes the importance and strength of family bonds over other relationships.

3. (a) How does Literature differ from other disciplines like History and Geography in the following aspects?

- (i) Language use
- (ii) People involved
- (iii) Events and incidents
- (iv) Setting

Answer:

In terms of language use, literature employs creative and figurative language such as metaphors, similes, personification, and symbolism, while History and Geography use factual and descriptive language that aims at explaining reality as it is.

In terms of people involved, literature often uses fictional or imagined characters to represent human experiences, while History deals with real historical figures and Geography discusses human populations or communities in relation to their environment.

Regarding events and incidents, literature presents both real and imaginary events to express themes and messages, while History records real past events and Geography analyses natural and human activities based on evidence.

In terms of setting, literature may use either real or imaginary settings to suit the writer's creativity, while History and Geography mainly use real settings based on actual places and environments.

3. (b) Briefly justify why literature is believed to be;

- (i) a product of the society.
- (ii) a product for the society.

Answer:

Literature is a product of the society because it originates from the people's experiences, culture, traditions, and daily struggles. Writers and storytellers draw their themes, characters, and settings from the social environment in which they live.

Literature is also a product for the society because it provides lessons, entertainment, moral guidance, and preserves culture for future generations. It educates the community and helps people to reflect on their values and practices.

4. Briefly explain six criteria for describing characters in literary works.

Answer:

Characters can be described through their physical appearance, which includes height, body structure, and general outlook as shown in the story.

They can be described through their speech, since the way they talk reveals their level of education, social background, and personality.

Characters are also described through their actions, because what they do in the story shows their nature, habits, and intentions.

Another way of describing characters is through their thoughts and feelings, which reveal their inner conflicts, beliefs, and emotional state.

Characters can also be described by what other characters say about them, which provides an external opinion on their behaviour and personality.

Finally, characters are described through their names and roles, since some names may carry symbolic meaning and their roles in the story show their importance to the plot.

5. Write a term that stands for each of the following descriptions.

- (i) The prayer songs sung for religious purposes.
- (ii) The songs of lamentation sung at the funeral of someone by mourners.
- (iii) The artistic phrases whose meanings are not clear from the individual words constructing them.
- (iv) Short artistic wise sayings meant to educate the audience.
- (v) The short interesting and amusing stories about a person or event.
- (vi) The short stories or narrations handed down through oral tradition usually from one generation to another.
- (vii) The short stories which are not based on facts, often with animal characters which convey a moral message to the audience.

(viii) The short stories used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.

(ix) The songs sung to soothe babies.

Answer:

The prayer songs sung for religious purposes are called hymns.

The songs of lamentation sung at the funeral are called dirges.

The artistic phrases whose meanings are not clear from individual words are called idioms.

Short artistic wise sayings meant to educate the audience are called proverbs.

The short interesting and amusing stories about a person or event are called anecdotes.

The short stories or narrations handed down orally are called folktales.

The short stories which are not based on facts and often use animals to convey morals are called fables.

The short stories used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson are called parables.

The songs sung to soothe babies are called lullabies.

6. Read the following story and answer the questions that follows:

Gemba was one of the most famous women who ruled in olden days when women were chiefs. Her government was tyrannical and oppressive to men. Women were allowed to have many husbands, and they tended to favour the young husbands. The old men did all the work until they could not stand it any longer. Men, therefore, decided to overthrow Gemba and made sure that women never ruled again.

After the men agreed that Gemba had to be overthrown, they conspired to make all the women pregnant in one season. That they did, and later in the year, all the women were expectant and weak. The men had an easier job of overthrowing women, and from then on, women have been ruled by men. Following the overthrow, polyandry was replaced with polygamy and since then the young men do all the hard work while the elders rest and give advice.

Questions:

(i) What genre of oral literature is the story called? Give one reason.

The story is a folktale. This is because it is a traditional story that explains social practices, contains imagination, and is passed down orally from generation to generation.

(ii) Name one characteristic of the genre of oral literature named in (i).

One characteristic of folktales is that they often involve exaggeration and creativity to teach lessons and explain cultural traditions.

(iii) What does the word *polyandry* mean as used in the story?

Polyandry means a marriage system in which one woman has multiple husbands at the same time.

(iv) Why do you think stories like this are rarely told in society today? Give one reason.

Stories like this are rarely told today because of modernization, which has reduced reliance on oral traditions, and also because some cultural practices such as polyandry are no longer widely accepted.

(v) What do you learn from the main character in the story?

From Gemba, we learn that misuse of power and oppression eventually leads to downfall, because leadership should be just and fair to all members of society.

(vi) Suggest a suitable title for this story.

A suitable title would be *The Overthrow of Gemba*.

7. Briefly explain how form and content are related in literature. Give six points.

Answer:

Form and content are related because content refers to the ideas, themes, and messages in a literary work, while form is the structure, style, and technique used to present those ideas.

Form determines how the content is organized and expressed, for example through poetry, prose, or drama, while content gives meaning to the form.

Without content, form would be empty, and without form, content would lack expression. Both must work together to create a complete literary work.

The beauty of literature comes from the harmony of form and content, as form makes the content attractive and enjoyable.

Form also influences how the audience understands and interprets the content, since structure and style shape the presentation of ideas.

Finally, content justifies the choice of form, because a writer selects a form that best conveys the intended theme and message to the audience.

8. For each statement in item (i) – (vi), write the literary term which is described:

- (i) The class, form, kind or type of a literary work.
- (ii) A novel that deals with imaginative content but is based on scientific theories and principles.
- (iii) A type of play that involves both sad and funny events.
- (iv) A poem about mourning for a dead person.
- (v) A narrative that is created from imagination.
- (vi) The term that is used to describe the novel, novella, novelette and a short story.

Answer:

The class, form, kind or type of a literary work is called a genre. It refers to the classification of literature into categories such as drama, poetry, and prose.

A novel that deals with imaginative content but is based on scientific theories and principles is called science fiction. It uses creative storytelling but relies on scientific reasoning or futuristic ideas.

A type of play that involves both sad and funny events is called a tragicomedy. It blends elements of tragedy and comedy to create a balance of emotions.

A poem about mourning for a dead person is called an elegy. It expresses grief and remembrance for the deceased.

A narrative that is created from imagination is called fiction. It includes works that are not based on actual events but are invented by the author.

The term that is used to describe the novel, novella, novelette and a short story is prose fiction. These are extended works of narrative written in ordinary language.

9. By making reference to any two poems you have read in this course, prove that poetry is a reflection of social realities by providing three points from each poem.

Poetry reflects social realities by addressing issues that affect people in their daily lives. In the poem “*Hunger*” by David Rubadiri, the poet portrays the reality of poverty and famine. He highlights how people suffer due to lack of food, showing the harsh reality of hunger in society. This reflects the economic struggles faced by many communities.

The same poem also addresses inequality, as those in power or wealth live comfortably while the poor continue to suffer. The contrast between the privileged and the suffering masses mirrors real social divisions.

Furthermore, the poem demonstrates human endurance, as even in extreme hunger people continue to hope for survival. This shows that poetry is not only a mirror of suffering but also of resilience in the face of hardship.

In another poem, “*Building the Nation*” by Henry Barlow, the poet criticizes selfish leadership. He describes how politicians enjoy lavish meals while the workers and ordinary citizens struggle. This reflects the social reality of corruption and poor governance.

The poem also portrays exploitation, where workers serve tirelessly but their contributions are ignored by the ruling elite. This is a true reflection of inequality in society.

Finally, the poem emphasizes hypocrisy in leadership, where leaders claim to be serving the nation yet they only serve their personal interests. This reveals a political reality that people encounter in their everyday lives.

10. African playwrights write about cultural practices and their negative effects on society. Using the knowledge of two plays read, show the truth of this statement by giving three points from each play.

In Wole Soyinka's play *"The Lion and the Jewel"*, the playwright criticizes outdated cultural practices such as forced marriage. Baroka, the village chief, uses his power to marry Sidi without her true consent. This shows how traditional practices can undermine women's rights.

The play also highlights gender inequality, where women are valued mainly for their beauty and fertility instead of their abilities or intelligence. This cultural view denies women equal opportunities in society.

Another negative cultural practice shown is deception and trickery in leadership. Baroka tricks Sidi into marrying him, showing how tradition can be misused to oppress the vulnerable.

In Ama Ata Aidoo's play *"The Dilemma of a Ghost"*, the playwright portrays the conflict between African traditions and modern values. Ato's marriage to Eulalie, an African American woman, brings tension because his family expected him to marry within their culture. This shows how rigid cultural expectations can create conflict.

The play also criticizes superstition, where the family interprets Eulalie's childlessness through cultural beliefs instead of medical reasons. Such beliefs delay real solutions to problems.

Additionally, the play portrays the negative effects of polygamy and extended family interference in marriages. Ato and Eulalie's relationship suffers because of cultural intrusion, demonstrating the destructive impact of outdated customs.

11. Using two novels you have read in this section, justify the truth that novelists' testimonies are meant to redirect a society whenever it goes wrong. Give three points from each novel.

In Ferdinand Oyono's *"Houseboy"*, the novelist exposes the evils of colonialism. Through the experiences of Toundi, the novel reveals exploitation and racism under colonial masters. This testimony redirects society by encouraging the rejection of oppression and the fight for independence.

The novel also criticizes religious hypocrisy. The missionary priests who preach love and equality are the same ones who abuse Africans and exploit them. This calls society to evaluate the misuse of religion for selfish interests.

Moreover, the novel addresses social injustice by showing how Africans are treated as second-class in their own land. By exposing this, the novelist aims to awaken the spirit of justice and equality in society.

In Elechi Amadi's "*The Concubine*", the novelist reflects on the dangers of superstition and blind belief in fate. Ihuoma is seen as a cursed woman because her husbands die mysteriously, and society accepts this as fate instead of searching for real reasons. This testimony redirects society to question harmful beliefs.

The novel also reveals gender inequality, as women are blamed for misfortunes and denied full participation in society. By presenting Ihuoma's suffering, the novelist shows the need for change in cultural attitudes towards women.

Finally, the novel emphasizes the importance of rational thinking over tradition. Characters who depend entirely on diviners and fate fail to solve problems, while the novel encourages society to embrace reason and modern solutions.