

BECE ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2018

Questions & Answers Preview

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JUNE 2018

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 2

ESSAY-WRITING, COMPREHENSION AND LITERATURE

1 HOUR

This paper consists of three parts: A, B and C. Answer three questions in all; one question from Part A and all the questions in Part B and Part C.

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PAPER 2, PART A (ESSAY WRITING)

[30 MARKS]

Answer one question only from this part. Your composition should be about 250 words long.

Credit will be given for clarity of expression and orderly presentation of material.

1. As School Prefect, write a letter to your District or Municipal or Metropolitan Chief Executive requesting the maintenance of the buildings in your school.
2. Write arguments for or against the topic: Life in the city is more dangerous than that in the village.
3. Write a report to the Headteacher of your school about how a senior girl beat up a junior boy.

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PAPER 2 – PART B (COMPREHENSION)

[30 MARKS]

4. *Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions which follow.*

When Pozo adopted Abate and Ali, he vowed to take great care of them. And he did his best. But Abate and Ali did exactly as they were told not to. Their greatest passion was snail-hunting.

As he left home for an important meeting one afternoon, Pozo told the boys that he would be particularly pleased if they did not join any snail-hunting group or go snail-hunting by themselves. He even promised surprise presents if they abstained from snail-hunting for once. It was quite obvious to everyone that there would be snail-hunting as there had been a heavy downpour that morning.

Pozo's meeting was a marathon. When he arrived home at 8:30 that night, neither of the boys was at home. He felt that something grave might have happened. He stood still for some time confused. He switched on his radio and tuned in to his favourite station, Hiawa FM and the breaking news was: "Five snail-hunters have been run over at Yaaboi by the early evening in-coming Densuano-bound train". As the dreadful news hit him, Pozo winced.

Pozo was so stupefied that he did not notice Ali enter the house, sweating and breathless, carrying a head-load of snails. But where was Abate?

Furtively, the back door squeaked open. In stole the other boy, also sweating and breathless under the weight of the head-load of snails. On seeing him, Pozo sighed, relieved. He shook his head. "These boys will surely be the death of me", he murmured to himself. "When will they do exactly as they are told?"

(a)

(i) Why was Pozo taking care of the boys?

(ii) Why do you think Pozo did not want the boys to go snail-hunting?

(b) State the two reasons why Pozo was sure that the boys would go snail-hunting.

(c) What is the meaning of the sentence, “Pozo’s meeting was a marathon”?

(d) (i) Why was Pozo so worried when he returned from the meeting?

(ii) How did the news of the rail accident affect Pozo?

(e) Explain in your own words the following expressions as used in the passage:

(i) have been run over;

(ii) in stole the other boy;

(iii) be the death of me.

(f) For each of the following words, give another word or phrase that means the same, and can fit into the passage:

(i) vowed;

(ii) passion;

(iii) abstained;

(iv) grave;

(v) breathless.

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PAPER 2 – PART C (LITERATURE)

[10 MARKS]

Answer all the questions in this part.

5. Question 5(a) to 5(c) are based on the abridged and simplified version of Charles Dickens’ *Oliver Twist*.

CHARLES DICKENS: *Oliver Twist*

“Oliver walked 70 miles to London. In such a big city, no one would ever find him! It was chilly and his feet hurt but he was happy to leave his old, miserable life behind”

(Page 107)

(a) Two of the people who treated Oliver badly, making him run away to London areand

(b) An example of the use of contrast in the extract is.....

“I robbed her. Before her body was cold, I robbed her of the one item she had. She could have sold it for food or shelter but she kept it safe,”

(Page 117)

(c) “.....the one item she had”

was.....

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Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(d) and 5(e)

MERRILL CORNEY: *Debbie, Sandy and Pepe.*

“Well, we’ll just have to look after him ourselves then”, she said. “We’ll make a soft nest for him and feed him and when he grows up, he will stay in our garden.”

(Page 8)

(d) What did they choose for a nest for Pepe?

(e) Which figure of speech is mainly used in the extract?

Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(f) to 5(h)

AMA ATA AIDOO: *The Dilemma of a Ghost*

My spirit Mother ought to have come for me earlier.

Now, what shall I tell them who are gone?

The daughter of slaves who come from the white man’s land.

Someone should advise me on how to tell my story.

My children, I am dreading my arrival there.

Where they will ask me news of home.

Shall I tell them or shall I not?

(Page 37)

(f) Who is the speaker?

(g) What do the following expressions in the extract refer to?

(i) “..... who are gone?”

(ii) “..... there”.

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Read the following extract carefully and answer Question 5(h) and 5(i)

LAWRENCE DARMANI: *Scribbler’s Dream*

Scribbler,

The dream in your mind fills the shelf.

When upon the shelf you

gaze, vacuum stares at you.
There is your quill and
parchment
but heavy are your hands.
Why?
Because disuse numbs the
wrist.

(Page 98)

(h) What does “Scribbler” refer to?

(i) What does “The dream in your mind” refer to?

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PAPER 2 – PART A (ESSAY WRITING) – ANSWERED

[30 MARKS]

1. As School Prefect, write a letter to your District or Municipal or Metropolitan Chief Executive requesting the maintenance of the buildings in your school.

CONTENT: 10 marks

The candidate is required to describe the present state of the buildings and also state why maintenance is needed. Both parts should be treated well in sufficient detail.

Note: *If a candidate writes on only one part, the content is marked out of 5, instead of 10.*

ORGANISATION: 5 marks

This is a formal letter and the following features should be present:

- (i) Writer’s address (without name)
- (ii) Date
- (iii) Recipient’s designation and address
- (iv) Salutation – (Dear) Sir / Madam
- (v) The Heading / Title
- (vi) Subscription – Yours faithfully / sincerely
- (vii) Signature
- (viii) Full name
- (ix) Writer’s designation

It is expected that the ideas should be coherent and the paragraphs well-linked.

~ END OF PREVIEW ~

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**..by the name of
Jesus Christ ..
whom you crucified,
whom God raised
from the dead..**

Acts 4: 10