

KCSE PREDICTIONS 2020

ENGLISH 2

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and then answer the questions that follow.

Unscrupulous as he was, Kwame Asante had a qualm as he looked at the woman sitting on the African stool near the bed. He had called her and yet when she came he did not quite know how to begin the conversation.

“Akosua, how would you like fifty pounds to start a small business of your own – selling cloths or perfume and powder?” The woman smiled nervously. Ten years of married life had made her wary of her husband’s fits of generosity.

She was as black as ebony, with the fine features peculiar to the girls of the Akwapim hills; graceful in her brown and red design cloth and the lovely silk head-tie wrapped round her head. Her feet were shod in ‘spitfire’ sandals and on her tiny ears she had the popular golden ear-rings named ‘Abongo’.

The slender woman on the stool was the mother of three children though she still looked a girl. Married under the native customary law, she had served her lord and master with zeal and zest. It is a law which as some other law in the Gold Coast, needs disinfecting for though it aids the man to gain his desire when it is at its fiercest, it in no way safeguards the position of the woman when the man’s passion abates.

“Would you like fifty pounds?” asked Kwame again. “Could make it a hundred. You have been a very good wife to me, Akosua.” Did the truth begin to dawn on the woman’s consciousness? No. She thrust the thought away from her. ‘He could not do it’.

Kwame cleared his throat – after all he might as well get it off his chest: hadn’t she noticed that the whole relationship had become impossible? A cloth woman was all right when one was young and struggling. She could be so useful – a general servant, and yet a wife. Akosua was so gentle, and even quite refined, but a man needs a change. He had just completed his two-storied building and he had been made a committee member of an important club. The other day his academy had conferred on him an associateship and his university had given him a coveted degree. He had at last achieved his ambition and had become an important man in the community. He was thinking seriously of entering the town council.

Fancy being addressed councilor Kwame Asante, O.B.A.... A.S.S. He smiled inanely to himself. Akosua looked at him in wonder.

“Er.... er.... Akosua...., I want to tell you I am going to marry a lady; you will be paid off with a hundred pounds. A.... frock.... lady....um....er of course you can read and write Ga and Twi but my friends will call you an illiterate woman.”

“Did you consult your friends before you married me ten years ago?” The voice was cold and calm, yet the words cut like a whip.

“If you are going to be impertinent, I shall not discuss the matter further.” He got up and walked up and down the room. “How many men in the Gold Coast will pay a woman off with one hundred pounds? You are only entitled to twenty-five pounds and here I am out of kindness

offering you a hundred. Show some gratitude, Akosua.” Akosua looked at him. Stark misery was in her eyes.

“I shall send the children to Achimota College.” There was a whining note in his voice. “I am only doing this because of my position in society. You see I may be called to Government House and other important places..... say something Akosua.

“I say you can keep your twenty five pounds, fifty pounds or a hundred pounds. I will have nothing to do with it. I will not be paid off.

“What! What! Come! Come! Don’t do anything rush!”

“If you dare touch me I shall strike your face.”

“Strike your master, your husband! Are you mad?”

“I shall leave this house.”

“If you dare to disgrace me by leaving the house before I am ready for you to go, there will be trouble. I do not intend to put up with a willful woman. What is my sin after all? I only want to become a decent and respectable member of society. If you leave this house without my knowledge and permission, I shall claim every penny I have spent on you since I married and lived with you these ten years; and not only that but I shall claim all the presents I have given to your parents and other relatives. You know our native customary law.”

“Yes, I know your native customary law. It is a grave to bury women alive whilst you men dance to the tom-tom on top of the mound of earth.”

Questions

- i) Why does Akosua smile nervously when Kwame offers her fifty pounds to start a small business of her own? (2mks)

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- ii) Explain the effect of Akosua’s silence on Kwame? (2mks)

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- iii) In not more than 60 words, summarize the reasons for Kwame’s intention to marry another wife. (4mks)

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v) Identify a statement from the passage which proves that Kwame was ashamed of the action he was about to take. (1mk)

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vi) What is Kwame Asante’s burning ambition? (1mks)

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vii) Rewrite the following sentence in reported speech
‘Did you consult your friends before you married me ten years ago?’ Akosua asked Kwame. (1 mks)

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viii) Give an instance of irony in the passage. (2mks)

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ix) *‘It is a grave to bury women alive whilst you men dance to the tom-tom on top of the grave.’*
Explain the meaning of this statement. (2 marks)

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x) What is Kwame’s attitude towards women? (2mks)

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xi) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage. (3 mks)

- a) Disinfecting
- b) The words cut like a whip
- c) Impertinent

LITERARY APPRECIATION:

BLOSSOMS OF THE SAVANNAH

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow.

Although Resian had a lot to complain and grumble about in life in their new environment, Taiyo found it tolerable. For instance, she gladly discovered that mornings in their new home began with a lively chatter of birds in the trees surrounding their house. That gave the home an atmosphere of tranquility and peace. However, one of the unpleasant aspects that the girls had to live with was the constant violation of their privacy. In Nasila, they soon discovered, the home belonged to all the clan members. It was not an unusual thing to get up in the morning to find the living room full of men and women who came early, not for any tangible business, but simply to share a sumptuous breakfast with their kith and kin. Taiyo and Resian were soon to get used to hearing an urgent knock at the door very early in the morning.

On opening, they would invariably be met by a grinning group of men or women who would unashamedly ask them what they were doing in bed that late in the morning. They would proceed to take seats in the living room and order them to serve them breakfast. When they got used to what at first, they considered negative aspects of the Nasila culture, Taiyo and Resian adjusted accordingly and soon they began to live harmoniously with the people. Their father was out of the homestead most of the time working at the shop and organizing other business matters. His absence meant the absence of his irksome and corrosive remarks that always heightened tension in the house. In his absence, the house was a continuous joy with comfort and conveniences, and the girls found it pleasurable to keep it clean and well-arranged.

Questions

A) What happens immediately after this extract? (5 marks)

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B) Where had the family been living before and why did they move? (3 marks)

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C) Give the character traits of the following: (6marks)

Taiyo

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The people of Nasila

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D) Discuss a theme implied in the extract. (4 marks)

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E) Using the rest of the book, cite and explain one cultural aspect that had a life changing effect on the lives of the two girls (4mks)

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F) Explain a stylistic device used in the extract. (2mks)

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G) Taiyo and Resian adjusted accordingly? Add a question tag. (1mk)

ORAL LITERATURE

The Man, His Son and The Squirrel

There was a certain town whose only occupation was catching squirrels (ground squirrels). There was a man in this town who excelled at catching squirrels. One squirrel was so smart that it eluded everyone in town. It was said that only this man said to his son, “Come, let’s go to catch the squirrel.” They took an axe; they found the squirrel near its hole. Then the squirrel ran and entered its hole. They searched out all the holes, then they stopped them up. Then the man said to his son, “Don’t let the quirrel get out of its hole.” He answered, “Okay.” But one hole wasn’t stopped up, and the squirrel escaped. When it escaped, the father came to his son and said to him, “Why did you let it escape? If I go home now, I will beashmed.” He grabbed the axe and struck his son. Then he went on his way and left his son unconscious. Ants began to fill his eyeballs and his ears; vultures were circling above him.

In the afternnon, the headman of a rich caravan arrived at the spot. When he arrived, he setp up camp. Then he got up and went for a stroll and saw the boy. He called his slaves to take him and have him washed and shaved. The boy recovered. The headman had no offspring. When he took

the boy, he decided that he would make him his son. He sent a message to the chief of the town, telling him that he had an offspring, that he was happy he had become a complete man, and that he would now receive the gifts due to him.

The chief said, “This is a lie. He is not his son. If he is his son, then let him come that I can see.” Then the headman arrived in town. The chief gave his sons horses worth ten pounds. He said, “Go and join the son of the headman. Have a race. When you finish give these horses away” (forcing him to do the same). They did it and they returned. the next day, the chief again gave them horses worth ten pounds. They did as the day before. They did it five times. They ran out of horses. Then the chief said, “Indeed, it is his son I have run out of horses. If it weren’t his son, he wouldn’t agree to let him give his own horses away to match the presents.” Then the chief summoned his daughter. The Gralladima brought his to help. The Madaki also gave, and the Makama gave. Altogether, four wives. The chief gave a big house. The headman came and brought twenty concubines and gave to his son. There was continuous feasting.

Then one day the son saw his father, the one who had knocked him down with the axe because of the squirrels. The father came to the house of his son and said, “Throw away your gown and start catching squirrels.” The slaves of the headman said, “This is a crazy man, let us all strike him.” The boy said to him, “This is my father, the one who sired me.” The headman said, “I have already lied to the chief. Let us keep that secret. I will give your father wealth. Let him go home. Should he want to see you, let him come to visit you. If you want to see him, then you can go and visit him.” The real father said he did not agree. Then the headman said, “Well then, let us go out in the countryside.” They went. The headman unsheathed his sword. He handed it to the son, and said, “Kill one of the two of us.” Here ends the story.

Questions

(a) (i) Classify the above narrative. (1 mk)

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(ii) What are the characteristics of the above classification? (2 mks)

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(i) What is the function of this narrative? (1 mk)

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(b) Identify and illustrate any three features of oral narrative evident in the story. (6 mks)

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(c) Give one economic activity that is undertaken by the community referred to in this narrative. (2 mks)

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(d) Describe the character of the following:
(i) The young man (2 mks)

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(ii) his father (2 mks)

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(e) Whom do you think would be the most appropriate audience of this story. (2 mks)

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(f) What is the moral lesson of this narrative? (2 mks)

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GRAMMAR

A. Rewrite the following sentences as instructed.

(i) (a) The photographs will be taken at the venue of the wedding. The photographs will be taken in a reputable studio. (Combine into one sentence using 'eitheror,,,,') (1 mk)

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(b) Neither the children nor the peasantallowed to go to the hall yesterday.

(Rewrite filling the blank with an appropriate auxiliary verb). (1 mk)

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(ii) (a) The principal noticed serious laxity among the students. He warned them against such behaviour. (Combine the sentence using present participle.) (1 mk)

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(b) The farmer's cow gives twenty-five kilos of milk everyday. He feeds and waters it very well. (Combine using the present participle). (1 mk)

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(iii) Underline the gerund in the following sentence.

Kibet is studying but swimming is his hobby. (1 mk)

(iv) Replace the underlined word with a phrasal verb.

(a) It is not good to despise other people. (1 mk)

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(b) I am currently living with my brother in Karen. (1 mk)

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(c) The principal was annoyed with the three boys. (1 mk)

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B. Rewrite the following sentences correcting the errors.

(i) There are situations of which you need to act with speed or else the consequences will catch up with you. (1 mk)

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(ii) She likes football as it is more superior than hockey. (1 mk)

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C. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate prepositions.

- (i) He was chargedforging property inheritance document. (1 mk)
- (ii) Kamau dealsgroceries. (1 mk)

D. Give two meanings from the sentence below.

“Did you see the girls with a telescope?” (1 mk)

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E. Use the correct form of the words in the brackets to fill in the blanks.

- (i) The couple has applied for a divorce overdifferences. (reconcile). (1 mk)
- (ii) That matter is highly(contest) in a court of law. (1 mk)