



THE KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT CENTRE

National Assessment System for  
Monitoring Learner Achievement at  
Class 8 Level in Kenya

ENGLISH

NASMLA Class 8 Study



**LEARNERS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LEARNER'S ADMISSION NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS TO LEARNERS**

1. This paper consists of **50** Questions.
2. Answer all the questions by circling / ticking the correct answer.
3. You have **1 hour 40 minutes** to answer **all** the questions in this paper.

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**SCORING GRID (50 marks)**

<b>QUESTION</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>Mark (s)</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Score</b>															

<b>QUESTION</b>	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Mark (s)</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Score</b>															

<b>QUESTION</b>	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
<b>Mark (s)</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Score</b>															

<b>QUESTION</b>	46	47	48	49	50	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>
<b>Mark (s)</b>	1	1	1	1	1	<b>50</b>
<b>Score</b>						

Read the passage below. It contains blank spaces numbered 1 to 15. For each blank space, choose the best alternative from the choices given.

Self-esteem is appreciating your worth or ability. It is a feeling you 1 find within yourself. Self-esteem is different from other feelings 2 it is something you work 3 by yourself. It is not controlled by outside factors and it is 4, not like other feelings that come and go. 5 you feel about yourself affects 6 aspect of your life. Although high self-esteem is important, it is 7 in many young people today, and the 8 of society is to blame.

To build your self-esteem, you must 9 your worth first and 10 decide what success means to you. 11, your worth is nothing 12 than what you value in life. Society places 13 value on things that can be seen such as money, items we possess, physical appearance 14 career. Success should be 15 on deeper values. Truly, the higher your self-esteem, the happier you are.

1. A. needed to B. ought to C. had to D. dare to
2. A. because B. while C. but D. yet
3. A. to B. at C. on D. in
4. A. constant B. strong C. practised D. persistent
5. A. When B. How C. Why D. Who
6. A. no B. every C. some D. any
7. A. failing B. weak C. missing D. lost
8. A. influence B. control C. power D. effect
9. A. expose B. create C. reveal D. discover
10. A. then B. so C. again D. just
11. A. However B. Therefore C. Hence D. Thus
12. A. weaker B. more C. easier D. closer
13. A. same B. great C. normal D. complete
14. A. even B. also C. and D. with
15. A. formed B. given C. shared D. based

For questions 16 and 17, choose the alternative that **best** completes the sentence given.

16. The guests had barely walked into the hotel \_\_\_\_\_ it started raining.
- A. than
  - B. when
  - C. and
  - D. as
17. That year, neither schools nor worship places \_\_\_\_\_ open during the pandemic.
- A. were
  - B. is
  - C. are
  - D. was

In questions 18 and 19, choose the sentence that means the **same** as the underlined one.

18. She should work hard.
- A. She could work hard.
  - B. She might work hard.
  - C. She would work hard.
  - D. She ought to work hard.
19. If he had practised regularly, he would have won the race.
- A. He did not win the race because he practised regularly.
  - B. He practised regularly and did not win the race.
  - C. He did not win the race because he did not practise regularly.
  - D. He practised regularly but did not win the race.

In questions 20 and 21, choose the alternative that can **best** replace the underlined words.

20. The teachers could no longer put up with his behaviour.
- A. ignore
  - B. accept
  - C. tolerate
  - D. understand

21. The pupils were instructed to hand in their work before lunch break.
- A. submit
  - B. collect
  - C. complete
  - D. bring

For questions 22 and 23, choose the sentence that is **correctly** punctuated.

22. A. Were it not for his dedication, he would not have won the medal.  
B. Were it not for his dedication. He would not have won the medal.  
C. Were it not for his dedication he would not have won the medal.  
D. Were it not for his dedication he, would not have won the medal.
23. A. We shall set off in the morning, the teacher said.  
B. "We shall set off in the morning." The teacher said.  
C. "We shall set off in the morning the teacher said,"  
D. "We shall set off in the morning," the teacher said.

For questions 24 and 25, choose the **best** arrangement of the given sentences to make sensible paragraphs.

24. (i) She had to respond to an emergency call.  
(ii) The doctor rushed out of the house.  
(iii) It was very late in the night.  
(iv) She headed straight to the hospital.
- A. (iii), (ii), (iv), (i)
  - B. (iii), (i), (iv), (ii)
  - C. (iii), (iv), (i), (ii)
  - D. (iii), (iv), (ii), (i)
25. (i) However, he could not see what was happening outside.  
(ii) Baraka was startled by the wailing.  
(iii) He peeped through the window.  
(iv) He woke up from his sleep.
- A. (ii), (i), (iii), (iv)
  - B. (ii), (iii), (iv), (i)
  - C. (ii), (iv), (iii), (i)
  - D. (ii), (iii), (i), (iv)

Ever since Zena was a child, she did not feel part of her family. Being the last born, she always wondered why she looked different and why good luck never seemed to come her way. Her siblings who were well built and good looking became the envy of every visitor. She thought they were loved more than she. This left her feeling unhappy and rather downcast. Everyone who visited her home would exclaim to her parents, “How beautiful your children look! You must be a very happy and blessed family.” Her mother would always smile.

Little did Zena’s parents know that these comments were taking a toll on her. Every time she heard the comments, she would stealthily walk away and end up in her bedroom. She would fall onto her bed and sob painfully.

“Why me? Why me?” Zena would ask herself. She believed no one heard her since no one came to her help. The sobs were like a lullaby to her. Soon she would be dead asleep. When she woke up, she would feel like she had been asleep for a long time. To make matters worse, nobody would come to check on her. This left her more frustrated. She found it difficult to eat. Gradually, she lost a lot of weight as anger, hatred and bitterness took the better of her. She thought of a way of calming her nerves, but self-pity slipped in too. This resulted into severe depression.

At school the story was the same for Zena. The strong feeling that all her teachers and her classmates **looked down upon** her still haunted her. Her performance was not any better as her grades moved from bad to worse. Her class teacher, Mrs Juma, noticed the same. She thought it wise to talk her through her problems. Her efforts to get Zena back on the right track proved futile. Soon, Mrs Juma informed the head teacher of Zena’s problem. On hearing that, he was concerned and decided to invite her parents to school. Since her father worked far away, he would not be present. Therefore, her mother would be the one to attend the meeting in the head teacher’s office.

The day came and Zena was summoned to the head teacher’s office as soon as her mother arrived. After a long discussion, Zena promised to **turn over a new leaf** and focus on her studies in order to improve on her grades. Despite this, the feeling of rejection never left her troubled mind. Things were made worse when her siblings continued excelling academically and receiving gifts. How sad it was!

“Zena, please come with me to the farm,” her mother told her one day. This surprised her because the mother usually went to the farm alone. On reaching the farm, mother and daughter worked for some time. Zena enjoyed the work as it made her forget her problems for a while. “Zena, do you know something?” Her mother asked suddenly. The girl was startled and stopped what she was doing. Her mother looked at her smiling. “You are beautiful, my daughter!” Zena stared at her mother in disbelief. “Yes, you are very beautiful, my child.” Her mother said, looking at her straight in the eye.

The mother’s words that day marked a turning point in Zena’s life. Her performance in school improved gradually, and soon she became a cheerful and confident girl.

26. From the first paragraph we can tell that Zena \_\_\_\_\_  
A. was not liked by anyone in the family.  
B. ignored her brothers and sisters.  
C. felt that she was never fortunate.  
D. disliked visitors who came to her home.
27. We can tell that Zena's family members were not aware of her problem because  
A. nobody ever checked on her.  
B. nobody heard her sobs.  
C. nobody praised her.  
D. nobody asked her anything.
28. Which of the following does **not** explain why Zena lost a lot of weight?  
A. She ate very little.  
B. She kept on crying.  
C. She slept too much.  
D. She was depressed.
29. The expression "look down upon" means  
A. reject.  
B. despise.  
C. ignore.  
D. tease.
30. Why did Mrs Juma find it wise to talk to Zena?  
A. Zena's weight had greatly reduced.  
B. Zena's performance had gone down.  
C. Zena's siblings were performing well.  
D. Zena's classmates did not respect her.
31. What did the head teacher do when he learnt about Zena's problem?  
A. He invited Zena to his office.  
B. He invited Mrs Juma to school.  
C. He called her parents to school.  
D. He asked Zena to turn over a new leaf.
32. The expression "turn over a new leaf" means  
A. starting something afresh.  
B. doing something again.  
C. taking things seriously.  
D. planning things well.
33. Zena looked at her mother in disbelief because  
A. her mother had looked at her smiling.  
B. her mother had spoken out suddenly.  
C. her mother had stopped her from working.  
D. her mother had said something she never expected.
34. Which one of the following **best** describes Zena?  
A. She was very selfish.  
B. She liked sleeping a lot.  
C. She was not beautiful at all.  
D. She lacked confidence in herself.
35. Which one of the following statements is **not** true?  
A. Zena forgot her problems for a while.  
B. Zena's mother disliked working with people.  
C. Zena rarely went to work in the farm.  
D. Zena's mother had planned to talk to her.
36. Zena's mother can **best** be described as  
A. confident.  
B. generous.  
C. brave.  
D. caring.
37. The **best** lesson we can learn from the passage is that we should  
A. always compare ourselves with others.  
B. accept ourselves the way we are.  
C. help our parents with farm work.  
D. work hard in everything we do.
38. Which of the following would be the **best** title for this story?  
A. The beautiful siblings  
B. The teacher's advice  
C. A new beginning  
D. A visit to the farm

Read the following passage and then answer questions 39 to 50.

In the year 2020, the world was almost brought to a standstill by a newly discovered virus: the Coronavirus. This virus was found to be responsible for the Coronavirus disease, also known as Covid-19. The number 19 indicates that the virus was discovered in the year 2019. Covid-19 is a life threatening and highly infectious respiratory illness. Indeed, thousands of lives were lost worldwide to this pandemic.

In Kenya, the first case of the disease was reported in March 2020. To control the spread of the deadly virus, the government took **drastic** measures. These measures greatly affected people's everyday lives. Most of the measures were meant to prevent people from crowding or being close to one another. The virus was more easily transmitted when people were in close physical contact with one another. Therefore, social distancing was very important.

Perhaps the most drastic of these measures was the closing of schools and other learning institutions. All learners were required to stay home thus, school compounds were deserted. Never before had learners been home for so long! There were efforts to conduct lessons through various means like television, radio and the internet.

Apart from schools, places like markets, hotels, offices and worship areas were all affected. Social gatherings such as political rallies, parties, weddings, funerals and concerts were either suspended or controlled. These restrictions negatively affected economic activities. People could no longer freely buy and sell goods and services. As a result, many people found themselves jobless while others lost their means of livelihood.

However, **every cloud has a silver lining**. The Covid-19 pandemic had its bright side too. Many people made good use of the plenty of time on their hands to learn new skills. Hidden talents and abilities were exposed. Family relationships improved as members spent more time together. People also discovered new ways of doing things, for example, it was realized that meetings could be conducted without people having to be in the same room. Hygienic practices such as washing of hands and covering the mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing were adopted. New economic activities also came up. Some institutions produced face masks and sanitizers for sale, hence giving people new means of livelihood.

All in all, the Coronavirus experience taught us that good health is not to be taken for granted, and that without it, everything else matters very little.



39. Which one of the following is **true** about the year 2020?
- A. Respiratory diseases increased rapidly.
  - B. The Coronavirus disease was discovered.
  - C. Most of the world’s activities were disrupted.
  - D. All people stopped doing any work.
40. From the first paragraph, we learn that the Coronavirus
- A. is a respiratory problem.
  - B. is a highly infectious disease.
  - C. kills all infected people.
  - D. causes a life threatening illness.
41. Which of the following was **not** a measure taken to control the spread of the Coronavirus?
- A. Encouraging social distancing at all times.
  - B. Closing of schools and other institutions.
  - C. Stopping people from attending public gatherings.
  - D. Conducting lessons through television, radio and internet.
42. The word “drastic” as used in the passage means the same as
- A. harsh.
  - B. extreme.
  - C. complete.
  - D. scaring.
43. Why were all learners required to stay away from school?
- A. To stop them from playing with one another.
  - B. To make them stay home with family members.
  - C. To let them learn through radio, television and internet.
  - D. To prevent them from crowding and being close to one another.
44. The word “pandemic” as used in the passage means a disease which
- A. is widespread across countries.
  - B. breaks out in a country.
  - C. is feared by everyone worldwide.
  - D. is very rare in the world.
45. Which one of the following is **not** a result of the restrictions placed on social gatherings?
- A. It became difficult to trade.
  - B. People could not earn money easily.
  - C. People became less friendly.
  - D. It was not easy to meet classmates.
46. The saying “every cloud has a silver lining” as used in the passage means
- A. it was difficult to see the effects of the disease.
  - B. the Coronavirus was of great benefit to us.
  - C. most people took advantage of Coronavirus.
  - D. the disease brought about some good things.
47. Which one of the following is **true** about covering the mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing?
- A. It could enable people to maintain social distance.
  - B. It was discovered during the Coronavirus pandemic.
  - C. It could ensure the virus was finished completely.
  - D. It was one of the hygienic practices emphasized.
48. The fact that most families spent time together
- A. made the members discover new things.
  - B. increased the members’ love for work.
  - C. made the members relate much better.
  - D. increased the members’ skills and talents.



49. The most important lesson learnt from the Coronavirus pandemic is that
- A. nothing is more important than good health.
  - B. without good health, the virus will affect us.
  - C. nothing matters more than the Coronavirus.
  - D. the Coronavirus will spread everywhere.
50. Which one of the following is the **most** suitable title for the passage?
- A. The benefits of the Coronavirus pandemic
  - B. The disease that changed the world
  - C. The fight against a deadly virus
  - D. The effects of respiratory diseases