

# KENYA HIGH SCHOOL

## POST MOCK EXAMINATIONS

### ENGLISH PAPER 2 FORM 4, 2021

*Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education*

1. **Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

At length the air began to grow grey with light, then swift golden arrows came slashing across the snow, and at last the glorious sun peeped up above the lava wall and looked upon – frozen forms and upon Vent Rogel, sitting there among us stone dead. No wonder his back had felt cold, poor fellow. He had died when I heard him sigh, and was now almost frozen stiff. Shocked beyond measure we dragged ourselves from the corpse (strange, the horror we all have of the companionship of a dead body), and left it still sitting there with its arms clasped round its knees. By this time the sunlight was pouring its cold rays (for here they were cold) straight in at the mouth of the cave. Suddenly I heard an exclamation of fear from someone, and turned my head down the cave.

And this is what I saw. Sitting at the end of it, for it was more than twenty feet long, was another form, of which the head rested on the chest and the long arms hung down. I stared at it, and saw that it too was a dead man, and what was more, a white man.

The others saw it too, and the sight proved too much for our shattered nerves, one and all we scrambled out of the cave as fast as our half-frozen limbs would allow. Outside the cave, we halted, feeling rather foolish "I am going back" said Sir Henry. "Why?" asked Good.

"Because it has struck me that – what we saw – may be my brother. This was a new idea, and we re-entered the cave to put it to the proof. After the bright light outside, our eyes, weak as they were with staring at the snow, could not for a while pierce the glooms of the cave. Presently however we grew accustomed to the semi-darkness, and advanced on the dead form, Sir Henry knelt down and peered into its face

"Thank God", he said, with a sigh of relief, "it is not my brother". Then I went and looked. The corpse was that of a tall man with aquiline features, grizzled hair, and a long black moustache, the skin was perfectly yellow, and stretched tightly over the bones. Round the neck hung a yellow ivory crucifix. The corpse was frozen perfectly stiff.

Who on earth can it be? Said I. "Can't guess?" asked Good. I shook my head. "Why, the old Don Jose da Silvestra, of course who else?" "Impossible, ' I gasped, "He died three hundred years ago,"

"And what is there to prevent his lasting for three hundred years in this atmosphere. I should like to know?" asked Good. "If only the air is cold enough, flesh and blood will keep fresh forever, and Heaven knows it is cold enough here. The sun never gets in here, no animal comes here to tear or destroy and no doubt his slave of whom he speaks on the map took off his clothes and left him. He could not have buried him alone. "Look here he went on, stooping down and picking up a queer-shaped bone scraped at the end into a sharp point, "here is the "clef-bone" that he used to draw the map". We gazed astonished, for a moment forgetting our own miseries, at this extraordinary and, as it seemed to us, semi miraculous sight.

'Ay' said Sir Henry, and here is where he got his ink from, and he pointed to a small wound on the dead man's left arm.

'Did ever man see such a thing before?'

There was no longer any doubt about the matter, there he sat, the dead man, whose directions, written some ten generations ago, had led us to this spot. There in my own hand was the rude pen with which he had written them, and there round his neck was the crucifix his dying lips had kissed.

### **Questions**

- (a) From your reading of the passage how can you tell where the man spent the night (2mks)

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- (b) How can you tell that the writer had been together with Vent Rogel? (2mks)

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- (c) What caused the state of excitement or fear? (1mk)

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- (d) What hindered them from rushing out fast? (2mks)

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- (e) How according to the passage did the people know about the stare of the dead man (2mks)

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(f) Identify and explain the significance of the figure of speech employed in paragraph one (3mks)

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(g) Did the man ever see such a thing before? (Re-write the sentence beginning). He ..... (1mk)

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(h) Give one synonym for the word 'directions' as it is used in the passage. (1mk)

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(i) What evidence in the passage suggests why the body of Dan Jose da Silvestra remained intact for ten generations? (2mks)

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(j) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage (4mks)

- i. shattered nerves \_\_\_\_\_
  
- ii. clasped \_\_\_\_\_
  
- iii. accustomed \_\_\_\_\_
  
- iv. grizzled \_\_\_\_\_

**BLOSSOMS OF THE SAVANNAH**

Read the following excerpts 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**

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

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

3) Give the character traits of the following:  
Taiyo

The people of Nasila (8 marks)

4) Discuss a theme implied in the extract. (3 marks)

5) 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 (3mks)

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

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

2. **POETRY**

**Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.**

**THE BREWING NIGHT**

It was that memorable night when I heard it

Yes, I heard it all  
That night sleep deserted me,  
Mocked at me and tantalized me,  
So I lay awake, sharp in all my senses.  
It was long past midnight:  
Time dragged on, the clock chime;  
The dog wouldn't bark, nor the baby cry;

It was a moonless and windless night;  
The whole universe seemed to stagnate  
In dark, dreary, dead slumber.  
What was amiss? I knew not.

The dead quietness and solitude  
Seemed to be eternal, but  
Waves of babbling and muttering  
Began to trickle through the streets;  
A distant roaring of heavy trucks filled the air,  
Hurried footsteps eroded through the street.  
What was a miss? I knew not.

I pulled my curtain  
And there I saw it all  
Heavy boots thick uniforms and solid helmets  
Dimly discernible under the pale street lamp  
The atmosphere stood stiff and solid with  
Brawny- faced and clenched –teeth determination

The night had pulsed with passion high and wild;  
The streets were stained with new portraits framed;  
The wheel changed hands and new plans were filed.  
The morning saw the country strangely dresses  
And everyone attended the rally.  
To hear the eloquence from a strange face,  
And everyone quietly nodded and said, 'yes'

(By Yusuf O. Kassam, in *Poems from East Africa*.)

**Questions**

(a) Explain what the poem is about. (3 mks)

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(b) In what ways was the night described in the poem peculiar? (2 mks)

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(c) What was a miss? I knew not. (rewrite as one sentence beginning I did.....) (2 mks)

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(d) Paraphrase in one sentence what the persona saw when he or she pulled the curtain to see. (1 mk)

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(e) What is the significance of stanza two? (3 mks)

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(f) Identify and explain any one personification in the poem. (2 mks)

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(g) Explain in your own words what happens in the last stanza. (5 mks)

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(h) Explain the meaning of the title. (2 mks)

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4. **GRAMMAR**

(a) **Fill in the blank spaces with most appropriate words (3mks)**

- i. My uncle, \_\_\_\_\_ I am sure you remember, flew to Britain yesterday.
- ii. The Principal, \_\_\_\_\_ is out at the moment, will see you when he comes back.
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_ of the students is brighter?

(b) **Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions after each. (2mks)**

- i. He was the wisest man (Rewrite using "wiser")

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- ii. There is no excuse for rudeness. (Rewrite to end with 'exclusable')

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(c) **Fill in the blank spaces below with the correct form of the verb in brackets (3mks)**

- i. The team was \_\_\_\_\_ for coming late (qualify)
- ii. They were \_\_\_\_\_ attacked by the gangsters (vicious)
- iii. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the matter brought the president to their county. (grave)

(d) **Use the correct collective nouns in the following sentences (3mks)**

- i. The evening party was beautiful by the \_\_\_\_\_ of colours.
- ii. The guest of honour was given a \_\_\_\_\_ of flowers.
- iii. She put a \_\_\_\_\_ of salt in her food.

(e) **Complete the sentences below by changing the verb in brackets, in each case, into the form indicated in the instructions after each.**

- i. \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) to your parents is a bad practice.  
(infinitive)
- ii. John considers \_\_\_\_\_ (work) very seriously.  
(gerund)



- iii. Farida expected \_\_\_\_\_ find everyone settled.  
(infinitive)
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_(prefer) tilapia to mudfish is  
understandable in your circumstances (gerund)