

KCSE CLUSTER TESTS 11

English Paper 2

1. COMPREHENSION (20 Marks)

Read the passage and then answer the questions that follow;

1. Two weeks before the fateful examination began; I was indiscreet enough to fight the principal' s son. He was a fellow fifth former with whom, up till then , I had no quarrel at all. He was inclined to be a little overbearing at times ;but then a flint needs contact with another flint in order to spark, and I had been forced to develop from the start an easy-going and tolerant disposition . I suppose as the examination drew nearer, our nerves became tauter and our tempers shorter .When, during a discussion in our classroom about careers Samuel declared unnecessarily loudly that he believed all persons who came from North should return to it to find employment , I suddenly felt my anger rising like a column of mercury. I asked him why, in as calm a voice as I could assume. He replied with a sneer by quoting a Sagrosan proverb whose meaning was roughly that even a man who does not know where he is going to ought, at least, to know where he has come from: and the gentle laughter, which greeted it brought my temper to boiling point. I was tall and well built, but so was he. Three strides took me beside him and by the time the class prefect succeeded in separating us, Sagrosan blood and Lokko blood had mingled on the floor. Moreover, as is the custom with us, the fight was as much verbal as physical and a torrent of abuse directed mainly against the other's antecedents was flowing out of each battered mouth.

We were bloody, sweaty, and dusty when it was over but still only partly through our respective stocks of abuse. Nothing more than a heightened respect each for the other might have come out of the fight, had Samuel been a boarder. Unfortunately for both of us, however, he lived very much under his august father's eye and the marks I had succeeded in leaving on his face were too distinctive to be hidden by any sort of artifice. I prepared for the worst (prepared in spirit that is, for physical preparations were known to be unavailing at such times). The summons to the principal's office duly came after lunch the same day. He was quite impartial, I'll say that for him. We were both arched over his desk and inscribed across our rumps with two dozen strokes of a bamboo four-footer. Then we were made to shake hands with each other and sent off for walk together along the beach and back (this was the principal's usual way of dealing with a pair of fighters, and one which usually made bosom friends of them).That thrashing and the walk which followed, gave me the moments of deepest mortification I have experienced, and drove home to me the utter futility and wastefulness of making issue of tribal divisions, in a land where much else required our attentions and our energies. Having heard from us how the fight started, the principal might so early have wasted our time and his reading us along patriotic sermon on the essential brotherhood of all the people of Songhai. Such a theme would have made him appear to me hypocrite and to Samuel a traitor -for we both knew only too well that the difference between us were real, if not deep. Instead, we were made to share a fellowship of misery and humiliation which linked us together more effectively than any half – believed fiction about cultural or ethnic affinities could have succeeded in doing.

QUESTIONS:

a) What was the cause of the fight? (2marks)

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b) Show how the statement “A flint needs contact with another flint in order to spark” is applicable to this story? (2marks)

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c) With illustrations, show the difference in character between the narrator and his classmate? (4marks)

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d) What is the narrator's attitude towards the head teacher? (3marks)

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e) Identify three phrases in the passage to describe the fierce nature of the fight? (3marks)

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f) Identify two images that are used to show the extent of the narrator's anger? (2marks)

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g) Explain the punishment that was meted to the by their principal. (2marks)

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h) Explain the meaning of the following phrases as used in passage: (2marks)

i) Bosom friends

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ii) Patriotic sermon

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20 marks

2. CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE (25 Marks)

Read the extract below then answer all the questions that follow.

2. (The procession turns into the gateway. Again the ADJUTANT lingers behind. He waits. Enter the wounded RIDER from the doorway. Two IRONSHIRTS of the Palace Guard have taken up positions by the gateway).

ADJUTANT (to RIDER): The Governor does not wish to receive military news before dinner-especially if it's depressing, as I assume. In the afternoon, His Excellency will confer with prominent architects They're coming to dinner too. And here they are! (Enter three gentlemen through the doorway). Go to the kitchen and eat, my friend. (As the RIDER

goes, the ADJUTANT greets the ARCHITECTS)4. Gentlemen, His Excellency expects you at dinner. He will devote all his time to you and your great new plans. Come! ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS: We marvel that His Excellency intends to build. There are disquieting rumours that the war in Persia has taken a turn for the worse.

ADJUTANT: All the more reason to build! There's nothing to those rumours anyway. Persia is a long way off, and the garrison here would let itself be hacked to bits for its Governor. (Noise from the palace. The shrill scream of a woman. Someone is shouting orders, Dumbfounded, the ADJUTANT

moves toward the gateway. An IRONSHIRT steps out, points his lance at him) What's this? Put down that lance you dog.

ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS: It's the prince! Don't you know the princes met lasts night in the capital? And they're against the Grand Duke and his Governors? Gentlemen, we'd better make ourselves scarce. (They rush off. The ADJUTANT remains helplessly behind). ADJUTANT (furiously to the palace Guard): Down with those lances! Don't you see the Governors life is threatened? (The IRONSHIRTS of the palace guard refuse to obey. They stare coldly and indifferently at the ADJUTANT and follow the next events without interest.)

SINGER:

O blindness of the great!

They go their way like gods.

Great over bent backs,

Sure of hired fists.

Trusting the power

Which has lasted so long.

But long is not forever.

O change form age to age!

Thou hope of the people!

Enter the GOVERNOR through the gateway, between two SOLDIERS armed to the teeth.

He is in chains. His face is gray.

Up, great sir, deign to walk upright!

From your palace the eyes of many foes follow you!

And now you don't need an architect, a carpenter will do.

You won't be moving to a new palace

But into a little hole in the ground.

Look about you once more, blind man!

The arrested man looks around.

Does all you had please you?

Between the Easter Mass and Easter meal

You are walking to a place whence no one returns.

The GOVERNOR is led off. A horn sounds an alarm, noise behind the gateway

When the house of the great one collapses

Many little ones are slain.

Those who had no share in the good fortunes of the mighty

Often have a share in their misfortunes

The plunging wagon

Drags the sweating oxen down with it I

nto the abyss.

The SERVANTS come rushing through the gateway in panic

a) Identify the setting of this extract? (2marks)

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b) What has Natella blamed the governor for just before this extract? (2marks)

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c) For what reason did the princes holds a meeting in the capital and how will this affect the governor later in the play? (3marks)

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d) Identify a dominant theme that has been highlighted in this extract. (2marks)

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e) Explain any two instances of irony in this extract. (4marks)

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f) Pick any four phrases from this extract that the singer uses to foreshadow the tragic end of the governor.

Write your answer in note form. (4marks)

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g) Basing your answer on what happens in this extract and elsewhere in the play, justify why it is right for the singer to refer to the governor as a blind man. (4marks)

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h) He will devote all his time to you and your great new plans. (Begin: All his time) (1mark)

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i) Explain the meaning of the following as used in the extract (3marks)

i. Confer.....

ii. Disquieting

iii. Make ourselves scarce.....

25 marks

3. ORAL LITERATURE (20 Marks)

3. NJABALA

Once upon a time, a man and his wife had a daughter. The girl's name was Njabala and she was stunningly beautiful. But she was badly brought up, that girl. She was spoiled. She did not want to do any work in the shamba or around the house. All through her childhood, it was her mother who cooked for her, washed and ironed her clothes for her, did everything for her. But Njabala's beauty was beyond words.

Anyway, Njabala grew up and was soon ready for marriage. She married a young man who took her to his home. But of course she couldn't do any work. When the time came for her to go and work in shamba, she didn't know what to do. She put both her hands on her head and cried out:

Mamma, mother-of-twins!

It's you who used to spoil me

Come and dig.

Whereupon the skeleton of her mother, who had died, suddenly appeared. It took the hoe and started clearing the shamba as it sang:

Njabala. this is the way women dig,
Njabala! Njabala. this is the way women dig,
Njabala! ;

Don't let me be caught by my in-laws. And it cleared a large patch of the shamba, from here to way. way out there. Then it disappeared back to the grave. This went on for quite some time. Every time Njabala went to the shamba. She would call out.

Mamma, Mother-of-twins!

It's you who used to spoil me

Come and dig,

Then the mother's little skeleton would come and clear the shamba, singing;

Njabala, this is the way women dig,
Njabala! Njabala, this is the way women dig,
Njabiala!

Don't let me be caught by my in-laws.

One day, however, a relative of Njabala's husband saw what was happening. She went and said to the husband. "You know what? The food we eat in this house is grown by skeletons".

The husband said, "Oh dear, Oh dear!" The next day, he went and hid in the shamba. When Njabala arrived, she called out as usual.

Mamma, Mother-of-twins!

It's you who used to spoil me Come and dig.

The skeleton came and began to dig as it sang:

Njabala. this is the way women dig,
Njabala! .

But suddenly, the man leapt out of his hiding and dealt his mother-in-law's Skeleton a big blow with his stick. The skeleton disappeared immediately. Njabala was almost fainting with shame and shock. Her husband said to her angrily, "So this is what's been happening? You've been feeding us on food grown by skeletons?"

From that day on, Njabala learned to work saying, "What else can I do now that my mother has been beaten and driven away?" And so she became a hard-working woman.

I left her happy with her husband and the rich crop she was harvesting from her shamba, and I came back here. That is what I saw.

QUESTIONS

i) Which audience would this narrative be most appropriate for? Justify your answer. (2mks)

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ii) State and explain two functions of song as an aspect of style in this narrative. (4marks)

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iii) Apart from the song, identify three typical features of oral narratives evident in this narrative. (4marks)

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iv) Using at least two expressions from the narrative, show evidence that the recorder remained true to live performance of the narrative. (4marks)

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v) Identify any two behaviours that this narrative condemn. (4marks)

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vi) Cite and explain a proverb from any community you are familiar with that comments on beauty. (2marks)

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20 marks

4. GRAMMAR (15 Marks)

4. a) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Do not change the meaning (3marks)

i) He worked so well that everyone was impressed (begin so well.)

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ii) The head of the family provides for her family. He also settles quarrels (begin Besides.....)

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iii) Mr. Matano was not surprised that Ndolo wrote the winning essay (begin That..)

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b) Punctuate the following sentences correctly (2marks)

i) The fisherman a very hardworking man made a large profit from the sales

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ii) Most students have one aim in their studies to pass their examinations.

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c) Fill the blanks with the correct form of the word in brackets (3marks) i) Ochieng's(pronounce) is very good.

ii) What is your.....(prefer)

iii) We were advised to settle our conflict with.....(sober)

d) Replace the underlined words with one word that means the same (2marks)

i) She was sitting on a bench in church next to the preacher.

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ii) Her father sells exercise books, pens, pencils, papers and ruler.

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e) Provide suitable question tags to the following statements (3marks)

i. Open the door.

ii. I am a student

iii. Let us go out

f) Write two sentences to convey two different meaning of each of the followings word (2marks)

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15 marks