



THE KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENT ENGLISH SECTION B Grade 8–2026

LEARNER'S NAME: _____

GRADE: _____

ASSESSMENT NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO LEARNERS

Answer all the questions in the spaces provided.

Time: 2 Hours

SECTION B

For Teacher's Use Only

	Task 3 Reading Comprehension (Questions 1 - 3) 12 marks	Task 4 Grammar (Questions 4 - 8) 14 marks	Task 5 Oral Lit. (Question 9) 8 marks	Task 6 Poetry (Question 10) 8 marks	Task 7 Play (Question 11) 8 marks	Task 8 Writing (Question 12) 10 marks	TOTAL 60 marks
Learner's Score							
Performance Level							

This paper has 10 printed pages.

SECTION B

TASK 3: READING COMPREHENSION (12 MARKS)

1. *Read the story below and then answer the questions that follow. (5 marks)*

Wahu woke up before sunrise on the day of the school athletics trials. She had trained for several weeks, but as she tied her shoes, her stomach felt uneasy. The previous evening, heavy rain had fallen and the school field was still wet. Wahu wondered whether she should take part.

At the field, her friend Moraa noticed her worried face. "You have prepared well, Wahu. Just do your best," she said. Wahu smiled and joined the other runners. Their coach warned them to be careful because some parts of the track were slippery.

When the race began, Wahu kept a steady pace. Halfway through the race, one runner slipped and fell. Wahu stopped to help her up even though the other runners were moving ahead. Once the girl was safe, Wahu continued running. She did not finish first, but she crossed the line with a smile. The coach congratulated her for showing courage and concern for another runner.

a) What made Wahu feel uneasy before leaving for the trials? (1 mark)

b) Why did the coach warn the runners to be careful? (1 mark)

c) From the story, Wahu is a _____ girl. (1 mark)

- A. responsible
- B. generous
- C. forgiving

d) Why do you think Wahu smiled even though she did not finish first? (2 marks)

2. Read the story below and then answer the questions that follow. (3 marks)

During the school holiday, Wafula visited a wildlife **sanctuary** with his uncle. They saw elephants, zebras and giraffes moving freely in the open grassland. Wafula noticed some visitors throwing food wrappers on the ground. His uncle explained that litter could harm the animals if they ate it.

Wafula picked up the wrappers and put them in a nearby bin. He also reminded the other visitors not to disturb the animals. His uncle thanked him for helping to keep the animals safe.

a) Why did Wafula pick up the food wrappers? (1 mark)

b) What can we infer about Wafula from his actions? (1 mark)

c) From the passage, the word "**sanctuary**" can be replaced by _____. (1 mark)

- A. grazing field
- B. wildlife park
- C. animal market

3. Read the passage below and then answer the question that follows.

Good study habits help learners perform well in their schoolwork. Having a regular study timetable helps learners manage their time and complete their work without rushing. Studying in a quiet place enables learners to concentrate better and understand what they are reading. Learners who take short breaks during study sessions can remain alert and avoid becoming too tired. Revising class notes and practising questions also helps

learners remember what they have learnt. When learners organise their books, avoid distractions and study regularly, they develop confidence and become better prepared for tests and examinations.

Make notes on the benefits of good study habits as brought out in the passage. (4 marks)

Rough copy

Fair copy

TASK 4: GRAMMAR (14 MARKS)

4. *In each of the following sentences, choose the **best** alternative given in brackets to fill in the blank spaces. (3 marks)*

- a) The children walked _____ the bridge carefully. (across, against, between)
- b) Our teacher arrived _____ the meeting had started. (before, during, about)
- c) Amina sent the message _____ her brother. (to, by, at)

5. *Replace the underlined words with the correct form of the word given in brackets. (3 marks)*

- a) The coach **cancelled** the match because of the heavy rain. (call)
 - A. called on
 - B. called out
 - C. called off
 - D. called up
- b) We should **care for** the old people in our community. (look)
 - A. look after
 - B. look into
 - C. look over
 - D. look for
- c) The pupils **invented** a new game instead of copying one from another school. (come)
 - A. came across
 - B. came up with
 - C. came into
 - D. came over

6. Fill in the blank spaces with the correct alternative given in brackets. (3 marks)

(although; if; because; unless; so)

a) _____ you practise regularly, you will improve your reading skills.

b) You will miss the bus _____ you leave the house early.

c) We continued with the match _____ it began to rain.

7. Complete each of the following sentences with the correct word. (2 marks)

Example: This bag belongs to me. It is mine.

a) The blue bicycle belongs to James. It is _____.

b) These books belong to us. They are _____.

8. Fill in the blank spaces correctly. (3 marks)

Example: She is coming tomorrow, isn't she?

a) Your sister enjoys reading, _____?

b) They did not attend the meeting, _____?

c) The children were playing outside, _____?

SECTION C: LITERARY ANALYSIS

Answer **ALL** questions in this section.

TASK 5: ORAL LITERATURE (8 MARKS)

9. Read the story below and then answer the questions that follow.

Long ago, the animals lived beside a large forest where food was plentiful. During one dry season, the river became shallow, and the animals began to quarrel over the little water that remained. Tortoise called a meeting and advised the animals to take only the water they needed.

Leopard laughed at Tortoise. "Why should I listen to a slow animal?" he asked. He pushed to the front of the river and drank as much water as he wanted. The smaller animals had to wait.

The next morning, the river was almost dry. Tortoise told the animals about a nearby spring and suggested that they dig a small channel to bring its water to a new pool. The

animals worked together, and soon water began to flow into the pool. Leopard felt ashamed of his behaviour.

a) From the story, Leopard can be described as _____. (1 mark)

- A. lazy
- B. jealous
- C. fearful
- D. selfish

b) If you were narrating this story, how would say:

Leopard laughed at Tortoise. "Why should I listen to a slow animal?" he asked (3 marks)

c) Which moral lesson do we learn from this story? (2 marks)

d) Identify the opening formula used in the story. (2 marks)

TASK 6: POETRY (8 MARKS)

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

A New Day

When morning opens wide its door,
I hear the birds begin to sing;
The golden sunlight fills the floor,
And hope arrives on gentle wing.

I leave behind the fears of night,
I lift my head and face the day;
With every step I seek the light,
And choose to work, to learn, to play.

If clouds appear across my way,

I will not turn and hide from rain;
I will keep moving through the day,
For every storm will end again.

a) How many stanzas does this poem have? (1 mark)

b) Identify and illustrate **three** features of style in this poem. (6 marks)

c) What does the poem teach us? (1 mark)

TASK 7: PLAY (8 MARKS)

11. *Read the extract below and then answer the questions that follow.*

(At the school gate. Brian is searching the ground while Neema watches him.)

NEEMA: What are you looking for, Brian?

BRIAN: My classroom key. I had it when we left the library.

NEEMA: Think carefully. Where did you use it last?

BRIAN: I opened the library door and put the key in my pocket.

NEEMA: Check your pocket again.

(Brian checks his pocket and shakes his head.)

BRIAN: It is not there. Wait! I remember taking out my handkerchief near the garden.

NEEMA: Then let us look there before we tell the teacher.

(They walk quickly towards the garden.)

BRIAN: There it is, beside the flower bed! Thank you, Neema.

NEEMA: Next time, keep important things in a safe place.

(They return to class together.)

a) Where is the setting of this scene?

(2 marks)

b) Identify and illustrate **two** character traits of Neema.

(4 marks)

c) What is the relationship between the characters in the play? (2 marks)

TASK 8: WRITING (10 MARKS)

12. Write a composition beginning with the following sentence:

We thought it would be a normal journey, but things changed.

[illegible]

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