

# DOYEN PUBLISHERS

## KENYA JUNIOR SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT END TERM I 2025 JOINT EXAM



### GRADE 9 – ENGLISH PAPER 1 – 901/1

*(Reading Comprehension, Oral Skills and Grammar)*

**Time: 1 hour 30 mins**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

STREAM: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### INSTRUCTIONS

- a) Write your name, school, stream and date in the spaces provided above.
- b) This paper consists of 50 multiple choice questions. Answer **ALL** questions in this booklet.
- c) All answers must be given as per the guidelines of the questions.
- d) For each of the questions 1 – 50, four options are given. The options are lettered A, B, C and D. In each case, only **ONE** of the four options is correct. Choose the correct option and write it in the table below.
- e) Do all the necessary rough work on the question paper.

### ANSWER SHEET

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.
41.	42.	43.	44.	45.	46.	47.	48.	49.	50.										

### LEARNER'S SCORE

<b>Out of 50</b>	
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*This paper consists of 6 printed pages. Candidates should check the question paper to confirm that all pages are printed as indicated and that no questions are missing.*

**Read the passage below and answer questions 1 to 5**

At the top of the hill stood an old, abandoned house. The structure was weathered and worn with the once-bright paint now peeling away, leaving behind faded walls that seemed to tell the story of many forgotten years. The roof sagged under the weight of age and vines climbed up the sides of the house, wrapping around the windows like twisted hands. From a distance, the house looked like something out of a forgotten fairy tale, full of mystery and intrigue.

Locals often whispered about the house, sharing stories of strange sounds and flickering lights. It was said that on certain nights, you could hear soft footsteps coming from inside, though no one ever dared to go near it. Some believed the house was haunted, a place where spirits of the past still roamed. Others claimed it was simply abandoned, a relic of a bygone era. Despite its desolation, the house stood proudly on the hill, watching over the town with an eerie sense of permanence.

As years passed, the house became a symbol of curiosity and fear for the people who lived nearby. Few ever ventured close and the ones who did often reported a strange feeling in the air, as if the house were alive with secrets. No one could explain why it seemed so full of **mystery**, but the house continued to stand, its quiet presence haunting the town.

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| 1. What is the condition of the house when described in the passage?<br>A. It is newly built and modern.<br>B. It is old, weathered and abandoned.<br>C. It is in perfect condition.<br>D. It is a small, cozy house.                | 4. How does the house affect the people in the town?<br>A. They visit it regularly.<br>B. They are fascinated but afraid to approach it.<br>C. They see it as a symbol of wealth.<br>D. They ignore it completely.  |
| 2. Why do the locals believe the house is haunted?<br>A. Due to strange sounds and flickering lights.<br>B. Because it is a new construction.<br>C. Because of its beautiful design.<br>D. Because it is always crowded with people. | 5. The word <b>mystery</b> has been used in the text. What does it mean?<br>A. A known fact about the house.<br>B. A sense of joy and excitement.<br>C. Something that is difficult to understand or explain.<br>D. A clear explanation of the house's history. |
| 3. What do the vines climbing the house represent?<br>A. The house is newly renovated.<br>B. The house is a tourist attraction.<br>C. The house is full of life and activity.<br>D. The house has been abandoned for a long time.    |   |

**Read the passage below and answer questions 6 to 10**

Taxation plays a vital role in the development and functioning of a country and Kenya is no exception. The Kenyan government relies heavily on taxes as a source of revenue to fund essential public services and infrastructure. Taxes are collected by the Kenya Revenue Authority. Taxes in Kenya are levied in various forms including income tax, VAT (Value Added Tax) and corporate tax. These taxes help to finance key sectors such as healthcare, education and security and they also contribute to the country's economic growth. For many Kenyan citizens, tax payment is not just a civic duty but an essential part of nation-building.

However, Kenya's tax system faces several challenges. One major issue is the informal economy, which constitutes a significant portion of the country's economic activities. Many individuals and small businesses in this sector do not pay taxes, leading to a loss of potential revenue for the government. Additionally, tax evasion is a widespread problem, with some individuals and corporations deliberately underreporting their income or



assets. To address this, the government has implemented strict enforcement measures and digital tax systems to increase compliance.

Despite these challenges, the government continues to make strides in improving the efficiency of the tax system. The introduction of mobile money platforms like M-Pesa has helped streamline tax collection, particularly in rural areas. By increasing tax compliance and closing loopholes, Kenya hopes to boost its revenue and ensure sustainable economic growth in the long run. As more people recognize the importance of paying taxes, Kenya will likely see improvements in public services and infrastructure, ultimately benefiting its citizens.

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| 6. What is the primary role of taxation in Kenya?<br>A. To increase personal wealth.<br>B. To fund essential public services and infrastructure.<br>C. To promote tourism.<br>D. To reduce government spending.  | 9. Which of the following is an example of a tax in Kenya?<br>A. Donations to charity.<br>B. Subscription fees for mobile phones.<br>C. Value Added Tax.<br>D. Fines for traffic offenses. |
| 7. Identify a challenge faced by Kenya's tax system?<br>A. The lack of mobile payment systems.<br>B. Low tax rates.<br>C. A shortage of taxpayers.<br>D. Widespread tax evasion and non-compliance.  | 10. Give a synonym of the word <i>stride</i> as used in the passage.<br>A. Progress<br>B. Changes<br>C. Mistakes<br>D. Delays.   |
| 8. How has M-Pesa contributed to tax collection in Kenya?<br>A. By streamlining tax collection in rural areas.<br>B. By encouraging businesses to avoid taxes.<br>C. By decreasing the number of tax collectors.<br>D. By reducing the need for businesses to report their earnings. |  |

**Read the passage below and answer questions 11 to 15**

Education is a fundamental right for all children, and in Kenya, it is considered one of the key pillars of national development. Over the past few decades, Kenya has made significant changes in improving access to education. The introduction of free primary education in 2003 was a landmark achievement that allowed millions of children, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds, to attend school. This policy has resulted in increased enrollment rates and a growing emphasis on the importance of education for socio-economic mobility.

Despite these positive changes, the education sector in Kenya still faces numerous challenges. One of the most significant issues is the disparity in educational quality between urban and rural areas. While urban schools often have better facilities, qualified teachers and access to resources, rural schools are still grappling with overcrowded classrooms, insufficient infrastructure and a shortage of teaching materials. This gap in educational quality contributes to unequal educational outcomes and limits the potential for many children in rural areas to succeed.

To address these disparities, the government, in collaboration with international partners, has invested in programs to improve education in rural areas. Initiatives such as the provision of digital learning tools and the recruitment of more teachers aim to bridge the gap. Additionally, the government has focused on improving the quality of education by emphasizing skills development, vocational training and making the curriculum more relevant to the needs of the job market. With these efforts, Kenya hopes to create a more equitable and effective education system that benefits all its citizens.

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| <p>11. What significant achievement did Kenya make in education in 2003?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Introduction of free secondary education.</li> <li>B. Introduction of free primary education.</li> <li>C. Building new universities.</li> <li>D. Establishment of online learning.</li> </ul> <p>12. What is one major challenge in Kenya's education system?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. The lack of students enrolling in schools.</li> <li>B. The absence of a national curriculum.</li> <li>C. Excessive funding for private schools.</li> <li>D. Disparity in educational quality between urban and rural areas.</li> </ul> <p>13. How does the education in rural areas differ from urban areas in Kenya?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Rural schools have better facilities and teachers.</li> <li>B. Urban schools have better facilities and more resources.</li> <li>C. Rural schools have more teachers than urban schools.</li> <li>D. There is no difference between urban and rural schools.</li> </ul> | <p>14. What is one of the goals of the government's educational initiatives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. To increase tuition fees in rural areas.</li> <li>B. To close all private schools.</li> <li>C. To make education more relevant to the job market.</li> <li>D. To limit the number of teachers in urban areas.</li> </ul> <p>15. The word <b>disparity</b> has been used in the passage. Give its antonym?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Similarity</li> <li>B. Equality</li> <li>C. Equity</li> <li>D. Inequality</li> </ul> |
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**Read the passage below and answer questions 16 to 20**

The runners stood at the starting line, their hearts racing with anticipation. The air was thick with nervous energy as they waited for the signal to begin. The tension was palpable and every runner could feel the pressure building. When the gun finally fired, they surged forward as one, their feet pounding the ground in perfect synchronization. The roar of the crowd in the distance encouraged them, but it only added to the pressure. Each runner focused on their goal, pushing through the pain that came with each step.

The race was grueling. Muscles began to ache and the breath of the runners became labored as they neared the halfway point. Some tried to maintain their pace, while others began to slow, their legs protesting against the strain. The finish line seemed so far away and yet it drew closer with every passing second. The runners began to dig deep, finding reserves of energy they didn't know they had. Sweat dripped from their brows but they refused to stop.

With only a few meters left, one runner surged ahead, breaking away from the pack. The crowd's cheers grew louder as the runner's feet flew faster and faster, crossing the finish line just moments before the others. The roar of the crowd was deafening as the winner raised their arms in triumph. The race had been close, but in the end, it was the last burst of energy that made the difference.

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| <p>16. How do the runners feel at the start of the race?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Calm and relaxed.</li> <li>B. Nervous and tense.</li> <li>C. Excited and carefree.</li> <li>D. Tired and weak.</li> </ul> | <p>17. What happens during the middle of the race?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. The runners experience pain and fatigue.</li> <li>B. The runners stop to rest.</li> <li>C. The runners get distracted by the crowd.</li> <li>D. The runners run at an easy pace.</li> </ul> |
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18. What drives the runners to push through the pain?  
 A. The excitement of the crowd.  
 B. The finish line getting closer.  
 C. Their desire to walk slowly.  
 D. Their need for a break.
19. How does the race end?  
 A. All the runners finish at the same time.  
 B. All the runners stop before reaching the finish line.  
 C. The race is canceled due to weather.  
 D. One runner wins by a small margin.
20. What is the crowd's reaction to the finish?  
 A. They are silent and uninterested.  
 B. They boo the winner.  
 C. They cheer loudly for the winner.  
 D. They leave the race early.

**Read the passage below. It contains blank spaces numbered 21 to 30. For each blank space, choose the best alternative from the choices given.**

Some people are able to 21 worry quite easily. Others, 22 are like sponges. They soak it up and 23 time, worrying becomes a habit that they find difficult to break. Of course, we all tend to worry about everything. It could be money, safety, appearance, performance, friends, family or a thousand other things. But it is 24 to realise that worry accomplishes nothing positive. It lets air out of all you do, draining fun and excitement 25 everything. Worry makes us miserable, impatient and forgetful. It can keep you up at night or make your stomach ache. It can make it hard to concentrate. Constant worry can lead to 26 stress, panic attacks or other issues. What most people do not realise is that it is actually a waste of time and the more you worry the 27 you achieve. So, let go 28 your worries. After all, many of 29 things that you worry about 30 never happen.

- |     | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b>    | <b>C</b>     | <b>D</b>  |
|-----|----------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| 21. | defeat   | overcome    | fight        | prevent   |
| 22. | however  | furthermore | nevertheless | moreover  |
| 23. | in       | on          | by           | over      |
| 24. | wise     | useful      | good         | important |
| 25. | from     | in          | of           | for       |
| 26. | severe   | serious     | excess       | extreme   |
| 27. | little   | less        | least        | lesser    |
| 28. | out      | of          | off          | away      |
| 29. | the      | such        | these        | those     |
| 30. | can      | will        | must         | may       |

**For questions 31 and 34, choose the correct quantifier.**

31. There is \_\_\_\_\_ I can do about it now.  
 A. some    B. little    C. nothing    D. a few
32. \_\_\_\_\_ information is found in the library.  
 A. A lot    B. Lots    C. Much    D. A lot of
33. There is \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom to be acquired in life experiences.  
 A. much    B. a lot of    C. many    D. a lot

34. There were \_\_\_\_\_ people at the baby shower.  
 A. little    B. much    C. few    D. a little

**For questions 35 and 37, change the sentences to past tense.**

35. She has been studying all day.  
 A. She had studied all day.  
 B. She studied all day.  
 C. She has studied all day.  
 D. She study all day.

36. By the time we arrive, the meeting starts.  
 A. By the time we arrived, the meeting was starting.  
 B. By the time we arrived, the meeting has started.  
 C. By the time we arrived, the meeting had started.  
 D. By the time we arrived, the meeting start.
37. They go to the market every weekend.  
 A. They gone to the market every weekend.  
 B. They went to the market every weekend.  
 C. They going to the market every weekend.  
 D. They was going to the market every weekend.

**For questions 38 and 40, choose the opposite of the underlined words.**

38. The movie was incredible and left everyone amazed.  
 A. ordinary                      C. average  
 B. boring                        D. ordinary
39. She gave an accurate answer, leaving no room for doubt.  
 A. incorrect                    C. clear  
 B. precise                       D. correct
40. The weather today is warm, which is perfect for a picnic.  
 A. freezing                      C. chilly  
 B. hot                             D. cold

**For questions 41 to 43, choose the alternative that best fills the blank space.**

41. His sight was \_\_\_\_\_ that could not read.  
 A. very bad                      C. so bad  
 B. such bad                      D. too bad
42. "Did you get a new pen?"  
 Yes, \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. I got                            C. I got it  
 B. I did                           D. I did get
43. Omondi Timon didn't like the porridge and \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. John did neither            C. nor John did  
 B. neither did John            D. nor did John

**For questions 44 to 46, choose the sentence that means the same as the underlined one.**

44. If Ali had run faster, he would have won the race.  
 A. Ali ran so fast that he won the race.  
 B. Ali ran too fast to win the race.  
 C. Ali did not run fast enough to win the race.  
 D. Ali ran very fast but he did not win the race.
45. "I went for a long walk yesterday." Said James.  
 A. James said that he went for a long walk the day before.  
 B. James said that he had gone for a long walk the day before.  
 C. James said that he had gone for a long walk yesterday.  
 D. James said that he had gone for a long walk the other day.

46. There was hardly any water in the tank.

- A. There was no water in the tank.  
 B. There was some water in the tank.  
 C. There was very little water in the tank.  
 D. There was a lot of water in the tank.

**For questions 47 to 50, choose the correct conjunction to fill in the blank space.**

47. They have never witnessed such weather \_\_\_\_\_ July last year.  
 A. from                            C. unless  
 B. since                           D. which
48. You do not need to talk \_\_\_\_\_ it is necessary.  
 A. if                                C. since  
 B. that                             D. unless
49. She usually eats at home \_\_\_\_\_ she dislikes restaurants.  
 A. because                       C. which  
 B. when                           D. unless
50. I did not know \_\_\_\_\_ they were jailed for three months.  
 A. why                             C. that  
 B. which                           D. when

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