

DOYEN PUBLISHERS

KENYA JUNIOR SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT



TERM 1 2025 MID-TERM EXAM

GRADE 9 – ENGLISH PAPER 2 – 901/2

(Composition and Literary Analysis)

Time: 1 hour 45 mins

NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____

STREAM: _____ DATE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

- Write your name, school, stream and date in the spaces provided above.
- This question paper consists of two sections: **A** and **B**.
- Answer **ALL** questions in this paper.
- Write **ALL** the answers in the spaces provided in this question paper.
- Do **NOT** remove any page from this question paper.
- Answer the questions in **English**.

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

RANGE (%)	LEVEL
80 - 100	Exceeding expectation
60 - 79	Meeting expectation
40 - 59	Approaching expectation
0 - 39	Below expectation

LEARNER'S SCORE

SCORES		TOTAL
A (Out of 15)		
B (Out of 35)		

This paper consists of 8 printed pages. Candidates should check the question paper to confirm that all pages are printed as indicated and that no questions are missing.

1. *Write your composition in the spaces provided below.*

We had come to the beginning of another school term. I had made up my mind to make this the most memorable in my Junior School life.....

This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper or a document template. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

SECTION B: LITERARY ANALYSIS (35 marks)

ORAL LITERATURE

2. Read the story below and then answer the questions that follow. (10 marks)

Once upon a time, in a vast and peaceful forest, Lion and Zebra were best of friends. They did everything together; hunting, playing and even resting under the shade of big trees. One sunny afternoon, Lion turned to Zebra and said, “My friend, we should start a business together. If we work hard, we’ll become the wealthiest animals in this jungle.”

Zebra’s eyes sparkled. “What kind of business do you have in mind?”

“How about we start a fruit orchard?” suggested Lion. “We’ll plant many trees, and in time, we can sell the fruits to all the animals in the forest.”

Zebra nodded. “That’s a great idea! But who will take care of the trees?”

“I will do the planting and watering,” said Lion, puffing out his chest. “You will be in charge of picking the fruits once they’re ripe.”

Zebra hesitated. “That seems like a lot of work for me. But okay, I’ll do it. I trust you, my friend.”

And so, they began their orchard. Every day, Lion would plant new trees and water them, while Zebra spent hours climbing and picking the fruits that grew on the branches.

As the months passed, the trees bore fruit. The apples, oranges and berries were delicious and ripe, but Zebra noticed that Lion seemed to take a longer break every day. While Zebra worked hard, picking the fruits and filling baskets, Lion would lie in the sun, enjoying the warmth.

One day, when the orchard was full of ripe fruit, Lion said, “I have a brilliant idea, my friend. We’ll sell the fruits, but let’s divide the harvest. I’ll take the fruits that hang on the trees, and you can take whatever has fallen to the ground.”

Zebra frowned but agreed. “That sounds fair, I suppose.”

Lion gathered all the fruits hanging on the branches; sweet and plump apples, oranges and berries, and carried them off to his home. Meanwhile, Zebra found only the few bruised fruits that had fallen to the ground, not much for all her hard work.

The next morning, Zebra realized that she had been tricked. She had done all the work, and Lion had taken all the best fruits. Furious, Zebra decided she would confront Lion.

When she arrived at Lion’s den, she found him lounging in the sun again, basking in his wealth. “Lion!” she roared. “You have stolen all the best fruits. We were supposed to share equally, but you tricked me!”

Lion stood up and smiled slyly. “Oh, Zebra, you misunderstood. I took the fruits that were above the ground and you took what fell below. That was our agreement, wasn’t it?”

Zebra’s face burned with anger, but Lion simply turned away, ignoring her. From that day on, Zebra and Lion were no longer friends. Zebra learned to never trust someone who didn’t value hard work and honesty and Lion learned that greed would always come with consequences.

And so, the two went their separate ways, each carrying a lesson from their failed business venture. And the forest, once full of laughter, grew quieter, as the animals watched the two former friends go their own paths. And that is the end of my story.

a) Identify the following from this story:

(2 marks)

i) Opening formula

ii) Closing formula

- b) If you were to tell this story to your friends, outline two things you would do in order to make it more interesting. (2 marks)

- c) Give an example of each of the following features of style in this story. (2 marks)

i) Irony

ii) Foreshadowing

- d) Explain **one** character trait of: (2 marks)

i) Lion

ii) Zebra

- e) What moral lesson do we learn from this story? (2 marks)

POETRY

3. Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow. (5 marks)

What worlds of wonder are our books
As one opens and looks,
New ideas and people rise
In our fancies and our eyes.

The room we sit in melts away
And we find ourselves at play
With someone who, before the end,
May become our friend.

Or we sail along the page
To some other land or age

Here's our body in the chair
But our mind is over there,

Each book is a magic box
Which with touch a child unlocks,
In between their outside covers
Books hold all the things for their lovers.

a) How many stanzas are there in the poem? (1 mark)

b) Who is the persona in the poem? (2 marks)

c) Identify any **two** pairs of rhyming words from the poem. (2 marks)

PLAY

4. Below is a section of the play “The Last Laugh” by Robinson Ocharo. Read it and then answer the questions that follow. (10 marks)

ACT I SCENE II

(Later that day, in the afternoon. A field in the small compound of the health facility. Mariko is leading the workers in a song.)

Mariko : When he calls me

Voices : I will answer

When he calls me

I will answer

When he calls me

I will answer

I will answer to the call of my comrade

Answer to the call of my comrades.

Mariko : (*Addressing the workers.*) Who is poor? Why is he or she poor? (*Pause.*) The farm produces two hundred and fifty liters of milk, but none of us has ever had a drop. We work under five hundred orange trees, but none of us has ever tasted an orange. Our children are dying of malnutrition because they are fed rotten maize and beans throughout the year. Who said slavery was abolished? Was it?

Voices : (*In unison.*) It was not.

Mariko : Yes, it was. (*Pause.*) But not on Orwa's farm. Why doesn't poverty end once it has struck? Above all, who is this holding nature's blessings in his hands so tightly and not letting others have their

share? One can go around cheating and tricking, but remember that you can lie to all the people, but not all the time. There are many poor people, and the rich are very few. (*Facing the audience.*) These people need food. They need medicine. They need shelter. They need help from you, you, and you over there, you and... (*Enter Kolla.*) Oh! Our saviour is here.

Kolla : (*Aside.*) Oh my God! Are these the workers who toil so hard on our farm? (*To Mariko.*) Why are you here and what is the problem?

Mariko : Go and call your brother, Oka. Quickly!

(*Kolla starts walking towards the gate but before she gets to the gate, Oka walks in*)

Kolla : Oka, the people want you. They have sent me to call you.

Oka : Sister, did they ask you to come and get me? What could be troubling them?

Kolla : Let us go. You will see for yourself. You will not believe it.

(*Oka and Kolla walk to where the workers are. The workers are happy to see Oka.*)

a) Where does this scene take place? (1 mark)

b) When does this scene take place? (1 mark)

c) Based on Mariko's speech and actions, what kind of leader do you think she is? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

d) Explain why the playwright uses repetition in Mariko's speech? (2 marks)

e) How does Mariko describe the workers' living conditions on the farm? Give two examples. (2 marks)

f) What does Mariko mean when he says “**I will answer to the call of my comrade**”? (2 marks)

NOVELLA

5. Below is a section of the novella “A Handful of Millet” by David K Mulwa. Read it and then answer the questions that follow. (10 marks)

On the morning of the day this story begins, Mama Mukulu wa Ndulu woke up with a start. All night, she had tossed and turned upon the hides and skins on which she lay. It was dark. All was unusually quiet (not even the nagging cicada with his endless *ee-ri-ri-rii* song tore through the heavy silence of the darkness). She was later to tell the village that she could actually stretch forth her hands and claw at the silent darkness that seemed to enshroud her like a clammy mist of death.

Then, suddenly, the cock crowed from inside her hut. She sighed with relief. At least someone else was awake. She gathered courage and stepped out into the darkness, with the cock-crow cheering her on.

Her son's hut loomed larger now, and her courage grew. She reached his door and listened. It was silent! She listened again, then heard it—the loud, regular rumble of her son's snores. Without knowing why, Mukulu's anger boiled over. She tried his door, and it opened without the slightest resistance. He hadn't even bolted it from inside. Her anger filled the room and washed over the floor, threatening to rock the reed bed on which he lay.

"Kisasi!" she screamed. "Oh, you'll be the death of me! Still snoring at this time of day! The cock crows, the birds sing, and here you are, sleeping like the hippo that stuffed itself to sleep with our last crop of maize! And what did you do? Slept! Slept while the hippos fattened upon your late father's sweat! You couldn't even rouse yourself to guard the crop. Now our granary is empty! Wake up and go to the millet plantation before the sun rises and the birds feast upon your father's sweat! Oh, why did he bother to toil till the stars shone upon his back to leave you wealth you'll never protect? Wake up!" She ranted on until the hides rattled in protest and Kisasi woke up.

a) Describe the setting of the excerpt. (2 marks)

b) The cock crowing seems to be a pivotal moment in the story. What do you think it symbolizes? (2 marks)

c) List any two character traits of Mama Mukulu. (2 marks)

d) What cultural or societal values might be influencing Mama Mukulu's sense of duty and expectations for her son? (2 marks)

e) What is the central conflict of this passage? (2 marks)

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