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NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

2023 BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

B1011 & B1012
ENGLISH STUDIES

2 hours

I&II

Please do not open this question booklet until you are told to do so.
While waiting, read the following instructions carefully.

There are **two papers** of multiple-choice questions. **Paper 1** is made up of 80 multiple-choice questions that will last for **1 hour 20 minutes** after which the **OMR** sheet will be collected. **Paper II** is made up of **40** multiple-choice questions that will last for **40 minutes**

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

PAPER I

Time Allowed: 1 hour 20 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Answer **all** questions,
2. Use **HB pencil** only.
3. Write your **Name** and **School Name** on the answer sheet provided. Also, write and shade appropriately your **Registration Number** in the spaces provided.
4. Answer each question by shading the box that corresponds to the option you have chosen.
5. Do **not** waste time on any question. If you find any difficult, go to the others and finish them before you come back to the difficult one(s).
6. There must **not** be more than one shading for an answer. Any answer with shading of more than one box will be marked wrong.
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PAPER I
MULTIPLE-CHOICE
SECTION A
COMPREHENSION

Read the passages below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the *most appropriate* of the options lettered **A-E (Nos. 1-10)**.

PASSAGE I

A hunter had a magic cloak. This cloak could take its wearer anywhere he wished to go. With its help, the hunter went with a girl to a mountain where there were many rich jewels. He did not know that the girl had made a plan with a witch to deceive him.

The hunter and the girl collected the best jewels on the mountain but the magic of the witch began to make the hunter feel very tired, and so he sat down and immediately fell asleep. As soon as he was fast asleep, the girl unfastened the cloak from his shoulders and put it over her own. Then, picking up the jewels, she wished herself at home. Immediately she disappeared.

When the hunter awoke, he saw that the girl had tricked him. He was alone on the strange mountain and did not know how to find his way down. Then, he saw three wicked giants coming towards him, and as he did not know how to escape, he lay down again and pretended to be asleep.

The first two giants wanted to kill him, but the third said, "it's not worth the trouble. Leave him alone. He can't stay where he is. If he climbs higher to the top of the mountain, the clouds will carry him away." So, they left him there and went away. As soon as they were gone, the hunter stood up and climbed to the top of the mountain. After a little while, a cloud floated near; he got hold of it and was carried about in the sky for some time. He was then dropped into a garden of vegetables.

He felt hungry, although he looked round in the garden, he found no fruits of any kind. Nothing grew in the garden except fresh vegetables. But he was so hungry that he decided to eat some of them. So he chose one, ate it, and at once felt very strange indeed. He felt himself changing completely. He developed four legs, a thick head and two long ears. To his **horror**, he was now a donkey. Still hungry, however, he ate another vegetable, and discovered that he was changing back to his human shape.

Before he left the garden, he took a bit of those vegetables. 'These', he said to himself, 'will help me to get back my cloak and punish those who had deceived me.' So, he went to search for the castle in which the girl and the witch lived. He painted his face brown so that even his own mother would not have recognized him, and went up to the castle, asking to be allowed to stay there for one night.

1. According to the passage, the hunter and the girl went up the mountain
 - A. for an adventure.
 - B. for sightseeing.
 - C. to hunt for treasure.
 - D. to search for the giants.
 - E. to test the magic cloak

2. The hunter fell asleep after collecting Jewels on the mountain because
 - A. he saw three giants coming towards him.
 - B. he was tired.
 - C. he wished to do so.
 - D. the girl collected the magic cloak from him.
 - E. the magic of the witch took its toll on him.

3. The giants believed that the hunter would
 - A. be carried away by some clouds.
 - B. be rescued in the end.
 - C. be taken to a vegetable garden.
 - D. change to a donkey.
 - E. go to the mountain top and die.

4. Which of the following can replace 'horror' as used in the passage?
 - A. Delight
 - B. Disdain
 - C. Dismay
 - D. Fear
 - E. Hope

5. A suitable title for this passage could be
 - A. How the Hunter was tricked.
 - B. The Hunter and the Magic Garden.
 - C. The Hunter and the Witch.
 - D. The Magic Cloak.
 - E. The Wicked Giants.

PASSAGE II

Worry is a disquieting thought, fear and anxiety about known realities and unknown future realities. It is deadly and has nothing positive to offer its victims other than to load them with distress, disability and disease.

Worry wreaks havoc on one's health. When one worries, one feels a rush of adrenaline; one's heart rate and blood pressure go up. This is often known as the fight-and-flight response. This response is the body's reaction to **danger** either to fight or to run away. When this is activated, the body releases some stress hormone[^] from the brain.

These hormones bring about different reactions that prepare the body for action. One of such hormones is cortisone. It is one important body hormone that helps the body in regulating and modulating many of the changes that occur in the body in response to stress. But its long-term release has negative effects that disrupt the body's processes and put one at increased risk of numerous health problems.

It opens the body to virus and bacterial attacks since the immune system - the body's defenses system - has been weakened. It could also lead to digestive problems, heart diseases, infertility and miscarriages since the immune and reproductive processes have been either shut down or disrupted.

However, worrying is a choice. The first thing to do when one is faced with the urge to worry is to take time out so that one can physically calm down; take short deep breathe, face one's fears, imagine the worst and resolve never to be overwhelmed by one's worries.

6. According to the writer, one of the main sources of worry is
- A. challenge.
 - B. disease.
 - C. fear.
 - D. instability.
 - E. laziness.
7. Which of the following is **not** caused by worry?
- A. High blood pressure
 - B. Increased heartbeat
 - C. Indigestion
 - D. Low immunity
 - E. Low secretion of adrenaline
8. According to the passage, the best remedy for worry is to
- A. avoids challenges.
 - B. engages in exercises.
 - C. ensures self comporment.
 - D. increase intake of alcohol.
 - E. takes a flight.
9. What part of speech is the word 'danger' as used in the passage?
- A. Adjective
 - B. Adverb
 - C. Noun
 - D. Pronoun
 - E. Verb
10. The main purpose of the writer in this passage is to
- A. appeal.
 - B. criticizes.
 - C. educates.
 - D. entertains.
 - E. persuades.

SECTION B

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Complete each of the following sentences with the *most appropriate* of the options lettered A-E (Nos. 11-25).

11. Government plans to _____ more youths in skills development.
- A. force
 - B. initiate
 - C. instruct
 - D. socialise
 - E. train
12. I bought this item at a very high
- A. cost
 - B. discount.
 - C. measure.
 - D. percentage.
 - E. rate.

13. The boy infected with_____had red spots all over his body.
A. bird flu
B. covid-19
C. measles
D. polio
E. tetanus
14. Doctors agree that drugs have psychological_____on users.
A. advantages
B. effects
C. problems
D. signs
E. symptoms
15. The man who was_____the dreaded disease was quarantined.
A. affected by
B. attacked by
C. infected with
D. infused with
E. injected with
16. Giving_____to the poor is encouraged by all religions.
A. alms
B. donations«
C. gifts
D. grants
E. loans
17. The_____recommended a pair of reading glasses for Mary.
A. dentist
B. gynaecologist
C. oncologist
D. optician
E. surgeon
18. When your train arrives, I will pick you up from the
A. airport.
B. jetty.
C. park.
D. station.
E. terminal.

Objective Questions 19 – 80 Removed in this Free Version

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PAPER II

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Time Allowed: 40 minutes

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1. Answer **all** questions,
2. Use **HB pencil** only.
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PAPER II

SECTION A

LITERARY APPRECIATION

1. Literature is categorized into three
 - A. branches.
 - B. divisions.
 - C. forms.
 - D. genres.
 - E. types.

2. A literary work that ends happily is
 - A. comedy.
 - B. farce. "
 - C. melodrama.
 - D. tragedy.
 - E. tragi-comedy.

3. Literature as an art is a
 - A. collection of books.
 - B. gallery of books.
 - C. library of oral poetry.
 - D. mirror of life.
 - E. written historical events.

4. Female protagonist is a/an
 - A. antagonist.
 - B. clown.
 - C. hero.
 - D. heroine.
 - E. villain.

5. Writer's choice of words is
 - A. diction.
 - B. language.
 - C. plot.
 - D. style.
 - E. theme.

6. Literary device that makes reference to past events is
 - A. expository.
 - B. flashacross.
 - C. flashback.
 - D. foreshadowing.
 - E. recall.

7. The genre of literature that is written in stanza is
 - A. drama.
 - B. poem.
 - C. poetry.
 - D. prose.
 - E. novel.

8. A question which does not require an answer is said to be
- A. classical.
 - B. direct.
 - C. indirect.
 - D. medieval.
 - E. rhetorical.

DRAMA

Maxwell Okwor Onyekachi: *Vengeance of the Spirit*

9. When Okpoko hears of Ngozi's suggestion on elopement, he
- A. draws back.
 - B. jumps up.
 - C. laughs at her.
 - D. shouts at her.
 - E. slaps her.
10. "Obiekwe is the dream of every woman" says
- A. Amaka.
 - B. Chidinma.
 - C. Ebele.
 - D. Ifeoma.
 - E. Obiageli.
11. The expression, "to seek Ngozi's hand in marriage" exemplifies the use of
- A. hyperbole.
 - B. metaphor.
 - C. personification.
 - D. simile.
 - E. synecdoche.
12. Okpoko could not complete Ngozi's bride price for ____ year(s).
- A. one
 - B. two
 - C. three
 - D. four
 - E. five

"Tade Adegbindin: *The Saint*

13. Aremu's wife is
- A. Adetoun.
 - B. Bisi.
 - C. Fabunmi.
 - D. Mope.
 - E. Tooke.
14. Adetoun follows her husband to seek _____ from Ladepo.
- A. advice
 - B. clarification
 - C. favour
 - D. forgiveness
 - E. help

15. Aremu gains admission to study philosophy in the
- A. College of Agriculture.
 - B. College of Education.
 - C. Monotechnic.
 - D. Polytechnic.
 - E. University.
16. The person referred to as “The saint” in the text is
- A. Adetoun.
 - B. Aremu.
 - C. Baba Agba.
 - D. Ladepo.
 - E. Yele.

Tina Bogwu: *The Rejected Child*

17. The following are languages used in the play **except**
- A. Edo.
 - B. English.
 - C. Igbo.
 - D. Pidgin.
 - E. Yoruba.
18. When snake bites Kilani, _____ comes to his rescue.
- A. 1st neighbour
 - B. Baba Qjo
 - C. Kasimawo
 - D. Omolaso
 - E. Sule
19. Joseph and Mary are
- A. criminals.
 - B. cultists.
 - C. impostors.
 - D. lawyers.
 - E. pastors.
20. “The sky is too big for any two birds to collide” as used in the text is a/an
- A. allusion.
 - B. euphemism.
 - C. idiom.
 - D. metaphor.
 - E. proverb.

Objective Questions 21 – 40 Removed in this Free Version

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NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

2023 BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

B1013
ENGLISH STUDIES
ESSAY

45 minutes

III

Please do not open this question booklet until you are told to do so.
While waiting, read the following instructions carefully.

Time Allowed: 45 minutes

1. Answer **both** questions
2. Write your **Name, Registration Number, School Number, School Name** and **Subject** in the appropriate space provided on the answer sheet.
3. Do all rough work in the answer booklet
4. Orderly presentation of work will be rewarded.
5. Now wait for the Supervisor to tell you to start

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PAPER III

ESSAY

Answer both questions **1** and **2**. Your answer to each question should **not** be less than **200** words. You are free to use the hints below each question and/or any other ones you like.

Each question carries fifteen (15) marks.

1. Write a composition on a birthday party you attended.

Hints:

- (i) Introduction
- (ii) Your relationship with the celebrant
- (iii) How the party was celebrated
- (iv) Activities you participated in during the party
- (v) Conclusion

2. Write a letter to your friend who has been ill and absent from school for a while, informing him/her of what has been going on in the school.

Hints:

- (i) Introduction and pleasantries
- (ii) Ask after his/her health
- (iii) Give him/her news about the school
- (iv) Conclusion

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