

SC 302108/B  
WASSCE 2025  
ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE 1  
Objective Test  
1 hour

1

- ❖ TOPIC BASE, MOCK & PAST QUESTIONS
- ❖ NOTES
- ❖ SYLLABUS
- ❖ CHIEF EXAMINERS' REPORT
- ❖ LESSON NOTES
- ❖ COURSES
- ❖ CAREER/SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- ❖ CAMPUS NEWS

THE WEST AFRICAN EXA

West African Senior School Certificate Examination  
for School Candidates

SC 2025

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1  
OBJECTIVE TEST

1 hour

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so. While you are waiting, read and observe the following instructions. Write your name and index number in the spaces provided above.

1. Use **2B** pencil throughout.
2. On the pre-printed answer sheet, check that the following details are **correctly** printed:
  - (a) In the space marked **Name**, check your **surname** followed by your **other names**.
  - (b) In the spaces marked *Examination, Year, Subject and Paper*, check 'WASSCE', 'SC 2025', 'ENGLISH LANGUAGE', and '1' in that order.
  - (c) In the box marked *Index Number*, your **index number** has been printed vertically in the spaces on the left-hand side, and **each** numbered space has been shaded in line with **each** digit. **Reshade** each of the shaded spaces.
  - (d) In the box marked *Subject Code*, the digits 302113 are printed vertically in the spaces on the left-hand side. **Reshade** the corresponding numbered spaces as you did for your index number.
3. An example is given below. This is for a male candidate whose name is Ben Abu TETTEH. His *index number* is 7102143958 and he is offering *English Language 1*.

**THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL**

ANSWER SHEET

PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS

Name: TETTEH BEN ABU	GHA
Examination: WASSCE (SC)	Year: 2025
Subject: ENGLISH LANGUAGE	Paper: 1

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Use grade 2B pencil throughout.
2. Answer each question by choosing one letter and shading like this:  A  B  C  D
3. Erase completely any answer you wish to change.
4. Leave extra spaces blank if the answer spaces provided are more than you need.
5. Do not make any markings across the heavy black marks at the right hand edge of your answer sheet.

INDEX NUMBER	SUBJECT CODE
7	3
1	0
2	2
4	1
9	3
5	1
8	3

**For Supervisors only**

If candidate is absent shade this space

Answer **all** the questions.

Each question is followed by **four** options lettered A to D. Find the **correct** option for **each** question. Shade in **pencil** on your answer sheet the answer space which bears the same letter as the option you have chosen. Give only **one** answer to **each** question. Be sure you understand the instructions that follow them. Do not spend too much time on a question. If you find a question difficult, leave it and go and try it again later.

Use pencil throughout. If you wish to change an answer, erase your first answer completely and shade the appropriate space for the new answer.

An example is given below:

From the words lettered A to D, choose the word that **best completes** the sentence.

The three-month notice of resignation which the manager gave ..... in two weeks' time.

- A. lapses
- B. expires
- C. disrupts
- D. develops

The correct answer is expires which is lettered **B**, and therefore answer space **B** would be shaded.

A  B  C  D

Do **all** rough work in this question paper.

Now answer the following questions.

## PART A

### LEXIS AND STRUCTURE

#### SECTION I

In **each** of the following sentences, there is a word underlined and one gap. From the list of words lettered **A** to **D**, choose the word that is **most nearly opposite** in meaning to the underlined word and that will, at the same time, **correctly fill** the gap in the sentence.

1. You are too arrogant, you must learn to be .....  
 A. honest  
 B. weak  
 C. timid  
 D. humble
2. These traders must not mix fake currency notes with..... ones.  
 A. genuine  
 B. good  
 C. lawful  
 D. true
3. In her annual report, the CEO scolded the lazy workers but ..... the diligent ones.  
 A. admired  
 B. commended  
 C. recommended  
 D. remembered

4. The weather is always serene in some countries, but .....
- A. volatile
  - B. turbulent
  - C. strong
  - D. unkind
5. Follow the specific instructions and forget about the ..... ones.
- A. general
  - B. familiar
  - C. detailed
  - D. reliable
6. We live in a time that unscrupulous people take advantage of the .....
- A. upright
  - B. capable
  - C. simple
  - D. cautious
7. Instead of ..... the thief, his kinsmen actually hailed him.
- A. protecting
  - B. despising
  - C. denouncing
  - D. attacking
8. Most radio stations broadcast on obsolete equipment; only few use..... ones.
- A. refurbished
  - B. present
  - C. modern
  - D. civilized
9. Some of the people think the murder of the child was premeditated; others think it was .....
- A. unintentional
  - B. unfortunate
  - C. hidden
  - D. needless
10. How you passed all your compulsory subjects and failed the ..... one surprises me.
- A. popular
  - B. optional
  - C. easy
  - D. basic

## SECTION II

*From the words lettered A to D, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences.*

11. All delegates voted in ..... of the motion:
- A. agreement
  - B. compliance
  - C. acceptance
  - D. favour
12. In spite of her busy schedule, the boss was ..... enough to visit the janitor at the hospital.
- A. forthright
  - B. courteous
  - C. considerate
  - D. gentle

**Turn over**

13. Advertisers use various means to entice ..... buyers to purchase their goods.  
A. suitable  
B. prospective  
C. prosperous  
D. expectant
14. The date of many historical artefacts cannot be ..... with certainty.  
A. reclaimed  
B. determined  
C. reviewed  
D. deduced
15. I do not have the ..... doubt about Loki's integrity.  
A. very  
B. less  
C. least  
D. little
16. Clever students ..... ambitious aspirations for the future.  
A. contain  
B. programme  
C. harbour  
D. predict
17. If given the chance, I ..... love to live my life all over again.  
A. shall  
B. should  
C. would  
D. will
18. Their building project was ..... for lack of funds.  
A. forgotten  
B. abandoned  
C. renounced  
D. rejected
19. Good wine is a ..... to a good meal.  
A. completion  
B. compliment  
C. companion  
D. complement
20. Many studies have been conducted to ..... the problem of depression.  
A. attack  
B. address  
C. broaden  
D. express

### SECTION III

*Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one which is nearest in meaning to the underlined word or expression in each sentence.*

21. To get the best from the team, the coach integrated the old players and the young ones.  
A. joined  
B. fitted  
C. added  
D. blended

22. Some people parade their wealth in order to gain popularity.
- A. give out
  - B. manage
  - C. share
  - D. display
23. Robert succeeded through perseverance.
- A. persistence
  - B. knowledge
  - C. inspiration
  - D. accomplishment
24. Though their prefect, I am impotent when it comes to applying the rules.
- A. powerless
  - B. unsuccessful
  - C. unworthy
  - D. proud
25. Atinge wonders why Koomi has suddenly become conceited after his promotion.
- A. irritating
  - B. haughty
  - C. selfish
  - D. disrespectful
26. Writing articles became the focal point of Abu's life after his retirement.
- A. singular
  - B. actual
  - C. chosen
  - D. central
27. Some teenagers are devastated by the slightest criticism.
- A. defeated
  - B. deceived
  - C. derailed
  - D. distressed
28. Buba was stubborn in his refusal to meet the delegation.
- A. hard
  - B. changeless
  - C. unyielding
  - D. strong
29. I wish Jojo would stop pestering me about decorating the room.
- A. bothering
  - B. reminding
  - C. involving
  - D. compelling
30. Whenever avarice rears its ugly head, it should be avoided.
- A. antagonism
  - B. greed
  - C. anger
  - D. selfishness

## SECTION IV

*After each of the following sentences, a list of possible interpretations of all or part of the sentence is given. Choose the interpretation you consider most appropriate for each sentence.*

31. Aba spent the day sorting through a box full of odds and ends. This means that the box held
- A. assorted items.
  - B. unusual materials.
  - C. unimportant items.
  - D. reserved materials.
32. In spite of the insults from the students, the headmaster kept his balance during the meeting. This means that the headmaster
- A. stood still.
  - B. proved stubborn.
  - C. remained calm.
  - D. did not yield.
33. At the conference yesterday, we covered much ground. This means that we
- A. refused to discuss many things.
  - B. forgot many issues.
  - C. used a lot of space.
  - D. treated a lot of issues.
34. The findings are at odds with what is going on in the rest of the country. This means that the findings are
- A. under the direction of the government.
  - B. out of the ordinary.
  - C. different from the reality.
  - D. made public.
35. Alice was tickled pink when her prodigal sister arrived home from Canada. This means that Alice was
- A. jealous.
  - B. very happy.
  - C. indifferent.
  - D. very sad.
36. We arrived at the party late and saw our father, of all people, dancing. This means that we
- A. did not know our father was there.
  - B. should have gone to the party earlier.
  - C. were surprised to find our father dancing.
  - D. found our father dancing with everybody.
37. Adoko wore his heart on his sleeve. This means that Adoko
- A. kept strictly to himself at most times.
  - B. allowed his feelings to be seen by outsiders.
  - C. brought his feelings under control.
  - D. followed his hearts desires.
38. Driving is not difficult once you get the hang of it. This means that it is not difficult once you .....
- A. operate it well.
  - B. display it openly.
  - C. understand it.
  - D. live with it.

39. The manager returned to find that his secretary had packed in her job. This means that she had
- fallen ill.
  - closed the office.
  - resigned her post.
  - ran away.
40. The politician rewarded all those who stood by him during the election. This means that the politician rewarded those who
- respected him.
  - supported him.
  - comforted him.
  - saved him.

## SECTION V

*In the following passage the numbered gaps indicate missing words. Against each number in the list below the passage, four choices are offered in columns lettered A to D. For each numbered gap, choose from the options provided for that number, the word that is most suitable to fill the gap.*

Whenever they hear or listen to good music play, many people are moved to sing or dance. Music affects their —41— strongly, and they respond to it in good measure. What runs as undercurrent in all music is —42— which can be fast or slow. But people are also attracted to music because of the —43— that they relate to or enact their life experiences with in a special way. Thus, good musicians pay attention to how well they —44— their songs. And since musicians have uniquely different —45— and interests, some may do hip pop, others highlife, reggae and so on. Such —46— are bound to have their own appeal and the musicians know that; they use repetition and a variety of images to make their songs exciting and meaningful. If a song hits the —47—, it shows that a lot of people enjoy it. And the longer it stays, the more money it brings to the —48—. That is why a musician needs a manager to oversee the —49— and marketing of the song. While each artiste has their followers, only a few make it to the top and become —50—.

	A.	B.	C.	D.
41.	situations	emotions	manners	affections
42.	rhythm	rhyme	mood	tone
43.	registers	themes	contents	lyrics
44.	design	build	compose	structure
45.	attributes	skills	talents	desires
46.	genres	styles	categories	approaches
47.	leagues	handles	numbers	charts
48.	originator	artiste	director	inventor
49.	advertising	manufacturing	production	formation
50.	celebrities	champions	personalities	winners

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- A. operate it well.
  - B. display it openly.
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PART B  
LITERATURE

Answer 30 questions in this part: 10 questions on Prose, 10 questions on Drama and 10 questions on Poetry.

## PROSE

Answer any set of 10 questions numbered 51 to 60 in either Section I or Section II.

## SECTION I

## NON-AFRICAN PROSE

ROBERT L. STEVENSON: *Treasure Island*

Read the following extract and answer questions 51 to 54.

...Now, treasure is ticklish work; I don't like treasure voyages on any account; and I don't like them, above all, when they are secret, and when ... the secret has been told to the parrot.

51. The parrot refers to .....
- A. Jim Hawkins.
  - B. Trelawney.
  - C. Israel Hands.
  - D. John Silver.
52. The speaker in the extract is
- A. John Silver.
  - B. Captain Smollett.
  - C. Dr. Livesey.
  - D. Jim Hawkins.
53. The mood of the speaker is that of
- A. indifference.
  - B. despair.
  - C. anger.
  - D. sorrow.
54. ...I don't like...I don't like... is an example of
- A. an allusion.
  - B. an alliteration.
  - C. a rhetorical question.
  - D. a repetition.
55. The point of view employed by the narrator is
- A. 1st person.
  - B. 2nd person.
  - C. 3rd person(omniscient).
  - D. 3rd person(limited).
56. The main antagonist in *Treasure Island* is
- A. John Silver.
  - B. Captain Smollett.
  - C. Dr. Livesey.
  - D. Jim Hawkins.

Read the following extract and answer questions 57 to 60.

...Where is he now? Well, he's dead now and under hatches; but for two years before that, shiver my timbers! The man was starving.

57. The person being referred to as *he* in the extract is
- Jim.
  - Pew.
  - Dr. Livesey.
  - John Silver.
58. The speaker is
- Jim Hawkins.
  - Flint.
  - John Silver.
  - Pew.
59. The underlined indicates the speaker is
- in agreement.
  - happy.
  - sad.
  - in shock.
60. *Where is he now?* is an example of
- a rhetorical question.
  - a litotes.
  - an idiomatic expression.
  - an allusion.

**SECTION II**  
**AFRICAN PROSE**  
**MAMLE WOLO: *The Kaya Girl***

Read the following extract and answer questions 51 to 53.

She could not believe that they had built the pyramids just to house dead kings. Then we travelled millions of years back to see the dinosaurs.

51. The underlined is an example of
- synecdoche.
  - antithesis.
  - metonymy.
  - hyperbole.
52. *She* in the extract refers to
- Auntie Lydia.
  - Faiza.
  - Auntie Fatima.
  - Rakiya.
53. The speaker is
- Malik.
  - Asana.
  - Abena.
  - Mike.

**Turn over**

Read the following extract and answer questions 54 to 57.

As I put the others away, I lingered a little, arrested by the way in which the light brought them to life, like sparkling rainbows

54. The extract contains an example of a
- A. pun
  - B. rhyme
  - C. metaphor
  - D. simile
55. *Others* in the extract refers to
- A. costume jewellery.
  - B. English bowls.
  - C. pots.
  - D. pans.
56. The speaker in the extract is
- A. Abena.
  - B. Faiza.
  - C. Auntie Lydia.
  - D. Auntie Omotola.
57. *Them* refers to
- A. Mike and Stephen.
  - B. shiny clothes.
  - C. the dinosaurs.
  - D. Rakiya and Asana.
58. The market where Abena and Faiza meet for the first time is
- A. Kejetia.
  - B. Kaneshie.
  - C. Makola.
  - D. Mallata.
59. The one who eventually marries Abena in the book is .....
- A. Alhaji Brown Teeth.
  - B. Mr. Blankson.
  - C. Steve.
  - D. Mike.
60. In the text, Abena's father is a .....
- A. doctor.
  - B. lawyer.
  - C. teacher.
  - D. musician.

Answer any set of 10 questions numbered 61 to 70 in either Section I or Section II.

SECTION I  
NON-AFRICAN DRAMA  
HENRIK IBSEN: *An Enemy of the People*

Read the following extract and answer questions 61 to 65.

X: The mayor wasn't in a very sweet temper this afternoon.  
Y: It is his stomach. He has wretched digestion.

61. The characters, X and Y are  
A. Horster and Dr. Stockmann.  
B. Hovstad and Dr. Stockmann.  
C. Hovstad and Peter Stockmann.  
D. Horster and Peter Stockmann.
62. The person they are talking about is .....  
A. Peter Stockmann  
B. Eljif  
C. Horster  
D. Billing
63. "... *sweet temper*" illustrates the use of  
A. pun.  
B. parody.  
C. pathos.  
D. paradox.
64. The setting of the the above dialogue is Dr. Stockmann's  
A. kitchen.  
B. dinning room.  
C. sitting room.  
D. bedroom.
65. *It his stomach; He has wretched digestion.* This is an example of  
A. verbal irony.  
B. humour.  
C. sarcasm.  
D. situational irony.
66. The enemy of the people, in the eyes of the society is  
A. Dr. Stockmann.  
B. Horster.  
C. Hovstad.  
D. Peter Stockmann.
67. The editor of *The People's Herald* is  
A. Hovstad.  
B. Petra.  
C. Peter.  
D. Billing.

Read the following extract and answer questions 68 to 70.

We're not going on living in this plague-spot any longer!  
Pack up everything, Kate, as quick as you can. - the  
sooner we can get away the better.  
Ssh! - I think there's someone in the hall. See who it is, Petra ...

68. *Ssh* is an example of a/an
- pun.
  - parody.
  - synecdoche.
  - onomatopoeia.
69. The speakers are running away from .....
- the epidemic
  - the anger of the people
  - their leaders
  - their wrongdoings
70. The extract is an example of
- aside.
  - monologue.
  - dialogue.
  - soliloquy.

## SECTION II

### AFRICAN DRAMA

BILL MARSHALL: *The Son of Umbele*

Read the following extract and answer questions 61 to 64.

They'll fuss about me, pour oil into my ears and  
call me nice names. And do you know why?

61. *They* refers to
- sons and daughters.
  - the fishmongers.
  - men and women.
  - the fishermen.
62. They flatter the speaker in order to
- pay less for the fish they buy.
  - be given some fish free of charge.
  - buy some of the fish on credit.
  - let him sell all the fish to them.
63. The speaker's attitude towards them is one of
- disappointment.
  - indifference.
  - scorn.
  - mistrust.
64. The underlined is an example of
- a sarcasm.
  - an epithet.
  - a rhetorical question.
  - a verbal irony.

Read the following extract and answer questions 65 to 68.

X: There is no fish, my boys haven't returned. What is the matter with you people?

Y: I've not come to buy fish.

65. The speaker (X) is .....
- Benko
  - Attu
  - Sumako
  - Zekey
66. *What is the matter with you people?* suggests an atmosphere of
- frustration.
  - expectation.
  - happiness.
  - excitement.
67. The addressee (Y) is
- Joshua.
  - Duella.
  - Benko.
  - Sumako.
68. The speaker (X) is a
- fishmonger.
  - lifeguard.
  - diver.
  - fisherman.
69. *The Son of Umbele*, is a play divided into ..... acts.
- two
  - three
  - four
  - five
70. The play is a
- comedy.
  - satire.
  - tragedy.
  - melodrama.

#### POETRY

Answer any set of 10 questions numbered 71 to 80 in either Section I or Section II.

#### SECTION I NON-AFRICAN POETRY

WILFRED OWEN: *Anthem for Doomed Youth*

71. The following are examples of themes addressed in the poem **except**
- religion.
  - love.
  - anger.
  - war.

72. The tone of the persona towards people who have died in war is that of
- praise.
  - lament.
  - anger.
  - sarcasm.

WALT WHITMAN: *I Sit and Look Out*

73. The persona is merely
- an observer.
  - a protagonist.
  - an antagonist.
  - a complainant.
74. The point of view employed by the persona is
- omniscient.
  - second person.
  - first person.
  - third person.

JOHN DONNE: *Batter my heart Three Person'd God*

Read the following extract and answer questions 75 to 76.

Your force to break, blow, burn and make me new

75. By using *your*, the persona appeals to
- satan.
  - angels.
  - demons.
  - God.
76. The underlined illustrates the use of
- alliteration.
  - onomatopoeia.
  - assonance.
  - pun.

D. H. LAWRENCE: *Piano*

77. What takes the poet *down back the vista of years* is .....
- a song.
  - the house.
  - the piano.
  - a memory.
78. The setting of the poem is
- dusk.
  - dawn.
  - morning.
  - afternoon.

Read the following extract and answer questions 79 to 80.

If we must die – let it not be like hogs  
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot

79. The simile conveys the idea of dying as .....
- A. unpatriotic
  - B. unforgivable
  - C. strange
  - D. inhuman
80. The extract shows that the poet is
- A. encouraged.
  - B. defiant.
  - C. joyful.
  - D. frightened.

**SECTION II**  
**AFRICAN POETRY**

OSWALD MTSHALI: *Nightfall in Soweto*

I am the victim  
I am slaughtered/ every night in the streets

71. The lines show
- A. that the persona is homeless.
  - B. how persistent the violence is.
  - C. how very weak the persona is.
  - D. that only the persona is targeted.
72. The effect of the lines is conveyed by the use of
- A. irony.
  - B. hyperbole.
  - C. assonance.
  - D. antithesis.

KOFI AWOONOR: *The Weaver Bird*

We did not want to send it away  
We watched the building of the nest

73. The above lines show the people were
- A. hospitable.
  - B. gullible.
  - C. optimistic.
  - D. forgiving.
74. *We* refers most likely to
- A. the individual.
  - B. a colonialist.
  - C. a community.
  - D. the colonized.

75. The line *It is drumming hard here* refers to
- A. strong heart-beat.
  - B. rhythm of a drum.
  - C. noise from neighbours.
  - D. torrential rain.
76. The expression *like some fish* is
- A. a metaphor.
  - B. an alliteration.
  - C. a simile.
  - D. an assonance.

DAVID RUBADIRI: *An African Thunderstorm*

As jagged blinding flashes  
Rumble, tremble and crack

77. The lines appeal to the reader's sense of
- A. sight and sound.
  - B. taste and smell.
  - C. touch and sight.
  - D. sight and smell.
78. The lines convey the force of
- A. lightning.
  - B. rain.
  - C. wind.
  - D. clouds.

GABRIEL OKARA: *Once upon a Time*

79. The poem can be described as
- A. a soliloquy.
  - B. a mime.
  - C. a dramatic irony.
  - D. a dramatic monologue.
80. The tone of the poem can be described as
- A. happy.
  - B. nostalgic.
  - C. sad.
  - D. indifferent.

**END OF PAPER**

SC 3022  
 WASSCE 2025  
 ENGLISH  
 LANGUAGE  
 (CORE) 2  
 Essay  
 2 hours

2

CANDIDATE'S NAME	
INDEX NUMBER	SIGNATURE
DATE:	

**THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL**  
**West African Senior School Certificate Examination**  
**for School Candidates**

SC 2025

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (CORE) 2

2 hours

DIRECTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. In the spaces provided above, insert your Name, full Index Number, normal Signature and the date of examination.
2. This booklet consists of **three** sections; **A, B** and **C**. Answer **three** questions in **all**: **one** question from section **A** and all the questions in sections **B** and **C**.
3. Write the **number** of each question at the top of each page.
4. Write on **both** sides of the paper unless otherwise instructed on the question paper.
5. Begin **each** answer to a question on a fresh page. Leave two lines between answers where these are sub-sections to the same question.
6. On **no account** should you tear up any part of the booklet. ggghhh
7. Write in the space provided below, the **NUMBER OF THE QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ANSWERED** in the order in which you have written them.

For Examiner's Use Only	
Question Number	Mark
<b>TOTAL</b>	

**Index Number:**.....

*Answer **three** questions in all: **one** question from Section A and all the questions in Sections B and C.*

SECTION A

ESSAY

[ 50 marks ]

*Answer **one** question only from this section.*

**All questions carry equal marks. Your answer should not be less than 450 words.**

*You are advised to spend about **50 minutes** on this section.*

1. The National Science and Mathematics Quiz is now a popular programme on the school calendar. Write a letter to your friend in another school explaining the benefits of participating in the Regional or National Science and Mathematics Quiz competition.
2. Write an article suitable for publication in a teenage magazine explaining **three** ways teenagers can avoid boredom.
3. Write a letter to your District Chief Executive in which you complain about **three** problems that students in the district are facing and suggest **three** solutions to them.
4. Write a suitable essay to end with the statement: *I woke up and it was all a terrible dream.*
5. You represented your country during an International Youth Summit where your country was chosen to host the event in the coming year. Write an acceptance speech, highlighting **at least three** things that make your country and people special.

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SECTION B  
COMPREHENSION  
[ 20 marks ]

*You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.*

6. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions on it.

Right from childhood, Bibo dreamt of becoming a pilot. Living close to an airbase in the country's capital, he used to be drawn to the mesmerising sight of combat jets manoeuvring in the sky above him during practice sessions. "One day," he said to his mother at the marketplace, where they had gone to buy soup ingredients, "I shall be flying one of those." His mother took a long look at him and smiled before saying, "Once you can conceive anything in your mind, my dear boy, you can achieve it." Slowly, Bibo nodded, still staring skywards in wonderment. After letting him soak in the show for a few more seconds, Bibo's mother patted him on the back and said, "But you must be prepared always to go the extra mile and never to give up, for nothing good comes easy."

From that day on, a steely resolve formed in the nine-year-old's mind. He was going to give it his best shot. He then requested that his parents buy him the relevant books. As loving parents who wanted the best for their inquisitive child, they obliged him. They also bought him an Internet-enabled handheld device, on which he could access only educational content for children. And so, every day Bibo devoted time to learning something new about aviation and the air force. So committed to this quest for success in combat aviation was he that it became something of an obsession, and he would sometimes mumble aeronautical terms in his sleep. However, Bibo's parents didn't worry too much because his performance in school kept improving.

Soon, Bibo was admitted to secondary school and continued to excel. However, as he got to the final year of senior secondary school, tragedy struck in the family! While returning from a relative's burial in the countryside, Bibo's parents' saloon car was crushed by a truck whose driver had been intoxicated. All of a sudden, Bibo became an orphan. "How was he going to fulfil his dreams without the support of his affectionate parents?" he worried. With his parents' assets inaccessible because of legal complications, Bibo had to adjust to a new life in the care of less well-off foster parents. There, he experienced the unpleasant side of life. To earn his meals, for instance, he had to engage in hawking vegetables to augment the family's income. Through all of these, however, he never lost sight of his dream.

Day after day, he slugged it out with life, enduring deprivations and taking it all in his stride. In the end, at twenty-one — five good years after leaving secondary school — he finally managed to raise the money for the entrance examination into Air Force University. Because of Bibo's extraordinary performance in the selection test, several organisations offered him a full scholarship. At last, he was on the way to realising his dream — and he would never forget his mother's marketplace pep talk.

- (a) What inspired Bibo to dream of pursuing a career in the air force?
- (b) How old was Bibo when his mother gave him a pep talk at the marketplace?
- (c) Why were Bibo's parents not bothered about his obsession with flying planes?
- (d) Why did Bibo's parents give him a device on which he could access only educational content?
- (e) What led Bibo to a life of penury after his parents' death?

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- (f) How did Bibo contribute to his foster family's income?
- (g) ... *he slugged it out with life...*  
What figure of speech is used in this expression?
- (h) "...where they had gone to buy soup ingredients."  
(i) What is the grammatical name of this expression as it is used in the passage?  
(ii) What is its function?
- (i) *For each of the following words, find another word or phrase that means the same and which can replace it as it is used in the passage:*  
(i) mesmerising;  
(ii) wonderment;  
(iii) steely;  
(iv) affectionate;  
(v) augment;  
(vi) deprivations.

SECTION C

SUMMARY

[ 30 marks ]

*You are advised to spend about 40 minutes on this section.*

7. *Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions on it.*

Every nation aspires to greatness, but not all nations are able to achieve it. Any nation aspiring to be great must educate its citizens, as an ignorant citizenry cannot make a nation great. A nation can be considered great if it has a high percentage of well-educated, innovative and skilled personnel. It is in a knowledge-driven economy that inventions can occur and jobs are created. This cycle of learning and innovation fuels economic growth. All developed nations have high literacy levels, whereas underdeveloped nations invest very little in education, and therefore fall short of the desired literacy level.

Then, consider the citizenry. What roles do they play in promoting or inhibiting the economic growth of the country? When you have people who believe in self-aggrandisement rather than corporate welfare and national progress, you can forget about national greatness. Where this obtains, people are engaged in the endless activity of feathering their own nests rather than promoting the common good. Both individual and corporate responsibility are required if a nation is to achieve success or greatness. Realise that roads, hospitals, schools, power supply and the like can only be made available through concerted efforts and sustained collaboration.

Related to that is the problem of nepotism. Nepotism on a large scale can turn into massive corruption and when unchecked, it systematically undermines merit-based progress. Think of a building project, for example, the execution of which is handled by an accountant – a cousin of the chairman in charge –

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instead of a qualified civil engineer. Think also of employing relatives who are half-baked graduates in the teaching or health services. The level of damage that such actions cause is better imagined.

It is unfortunate that many nations aspiring to be great are experiencing social and political unrest. Investors are not attracted to countries where there are communal conflicts, kidnappings and thuggery, among others. Violence scares away most opportunities. No investor will feel confident enough to establish a business where there is unrest; and without investments, there will be increased unemployment, continued dependence on other countries for most basic needs and a high level of poverty. Development and national growth need peace to thrive.

Many people believe that the availability of natural resources such as mineral deposits makes a nation great. Such people had better think again – natural resources mean nothing alone! Natural resources can help only where there are enlightened, committed, selfless and dedicated citizens to tap them. Otherwise, the vast resources will soon be wasted. Let us not forget that Singapore and Japan have very few natural resources but are among the greatest nations of the world. These are nations with highly competent, dedicated and patriotic citizens. So, it is brainpower and commitment rather than the mere possession of natural resources that promote a country's greatness.

- (a) In **three** sentences, **one** for **each**, summarise the factors that make a nation great.
- (b) In **three** sentences, **one** for **each**, summarise the factors that hinder a nation's greatness.



























