

Muungano KCSE Post Trial Exam

101/2

English (Comprehension, Literary Appreciation and Grammar)

PAPER 2

September 2015

2 ½ Hours

1. Comprehension (20mks): *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

The digital terrestrial transition in broadcasting is a global process involving the switch from analogue to digital broadcasting signals, a more efficient way of transmitting sound and pictures and which offers a number of potential benefits. Because the process of the digital terrestrial transition in broadcasting also involves re-allocating frequencies, African countries committed themselves to migrate to digital broadcasting by June 2015.

In a recent report produced as a 'must read' for anyone involved in the digital transition in Africa, only 19 countries in Africa had (officially or not officially) launched national digital terrestrial transition by June 2014, while only 3 countries had completed analogue switch off by December 2014: Tanzania, Rwanda and Mauritius. The report further showed how African governments were torn between the only two companies competing for the spoils of the digital terrestrial transition in Africa: StarTimes from China and Multichoice from South Africa. South Africa was yet to officially launch the analogue switch off process.

Almost 5 million homes (5% the total number of TV households in Africa, and growing) now have access to digital terrestrial transition bouquets either on a pay or free-basis according to various sources, including recent claims made by digital television players like StarTimes and GOtv executives. In theory and certainly from 2015, or from 2020 at the most-- depending on countries -- Africa's 100 million TV households will soon be able to access many more free digital TV channels in better quality. But the difference between 5 million and 100 million digital terrestrial television households is a very wide gap to close.

Key stakeholders like African governments, digital terrestrial television receivers' manufacturers and TV broadcasters need to understand the full process in order to optimize their strategy and catch the digital transition train at the right time. But this requires several complex stages over a very long period. Developing clear and detailed guidelines and **roadmaps** to facilitate the transition from analogue to digital currently is a hot priority not only for all African governments but also for local TV broadcasters.

Broadcasting and telecommunications are in many African countries treated as separate, vertical markets. However, digital convergence means that telecoms operators have become involved in broadcasting and broadcasting companies are looking at how they might deliver Internet and voice services. Thus digital television rollout will open spectrum to new telecoms licences -- the first real 'digital dividend'.

The challenge for African Government and regulators is that the digital transition contains a number of potential negatives: the biggest hurdle is the cost of set-top boxes to receive digital TV signals. In order to get digital transmissions, their citizens will either have to buy a set-top box or a digital television. The Set Top Box (STB) will be used to receive the digital signal and has the capability to interface with devices such as a cell phone, memory card or internet modem. It is therefore the gateway to many more services and information.

This digital transition in broadcasting will be a costly process (both for Government and citizens). The switch represents massive investments in digital networks and training across the vast African territories. Who will pay the huge bill to upgrade to digital terrestrial transition and for the new TV channels? Will it be the Government? Local or foreign investors? TV broadcasters? TV advertisers? Telecoms operators? It is indisputable, however, that in the long run, it is the consumers that will pick up the tab for the transition.

It is currently unclear who will benefit from the digital transition. It is likely that viewers will be offered a wider range of channels which can include those in vernacular language subject only to the broadcasters finding a business model to make the channels financially viable. With the right incentives, African governments can increase investment and jobs in the local TV sector. It offers a moment to reflect on what African public interest broadcasting might be and the business models that could be used to underpin its public interest purposes. The huge number of STB and digitally enabled televisions required across Africa represents lots of sales of such gadgets for the manufacturers.

Two consumers of the digital terrestrial television talking about the benefits of the transition may be reading from different scripts. With analogue you are only able to have standard definition television. With digital broadcasting high definition television is possible. This is the **premium** version of the digital television, offering cinema-quality picture and Dolby surround sound quality much better than today's analogue television, but only enjoyed by those with particularly large television screens. Although the digital terrestrial transition provides the opportunity to extend the signal coverage area within a country, viewers at the edge of signal coverage areas who currently get a poor quality signal will, with digital signals, get no picture at all.

- (a) What do you understand by digital terrestrial transition? (2mks)
- (b) Why do you think the author has put ‘*must read*’ in quotes? (1mk)
- (c) Explain why you think the author mentions South Africa in the last sentence of paragraph 2? (2mks)
- (d) Does the author believe the ‘*various sources*’ and the projections in paragraph 3? Give evidence to support your answer. (2mks)
- (e) What do you understand by ‘the first real digital dividend’? (2mks)
- (f) How is the set-top box the gateway to many more services and information? (1mk)
- (g) Explain the statement: “... *it is the consumers that will pick up the tab for the transition.*” (2mks)
- (h) Make notes on the potential beneficiaries of the digital terrestrial television. (3mks)
- (i) It is currently unclear who will benefit from the digital transition. (*Rewrite beginning: What...*) (1mk)
- (j) What shows that two consumers of digital terrestrial television talking about the benefits of the transition may not be reading from the same script? (2mks)
- (k) Explain the meaning of the following expressions as used in the passage. (2mks)

roadmaps

premium

1. Read the excerpt below and then answer the questions that follow.

GRUSHA: (*furiously*) A fine kind of justice! You play fast and loose with us because we don't talk as refined as that crowd with their lawyers.

AZDAK: That's true. You people are too dumb. It is only right you should get it in the neck.

GRUSHA: You want to hand the child over to her, and she wouldn't even know how to keep it dry, she is so "refined"! You know about as much about justice as I do!

AZDAK: There is something in that. I'm an ignorant man. Haven't even decent pair of pants on under this gown. Look! With me, everything goes on food and drink – I was educated in a convent. Incidentally, I'll fine you ten piasters for contempt of court. And you are a very silly girl, to turn me against you, instead of making eyes at me and wiggling your backside a little to keep me in a good temper. Twenty piasters!

GRUSHA: Even if it was thirty, I'd tell you what I think of your justice, you drunken onion!

(*Incoherently.*) How dare you talk to me like that? As if you were somebody? For you were born to this. You weren't born to rap your own mother on the knuckles if she swipes a little bowl of salt some place. Aren't you ashamed of yourself when you see how I tremble before you? You've made yourself their servant so no one will take their houses from them—houses they had stolen! Since when have houses belonged to the bedbugs? But you're on the watch, or they couldn't drag our men into their wars! You bribe taker!

AZDAK *half gets up, starts beaming. With his little hammer he halfheartedly knocks on the table as if to get silence. As GRUSHA's scolding continues, he only beats time with his hammer.*

I have no respect for you. No more than for a thief or a bandit with a knife! You can do what you want. You can take the child away from me, a hundred against one, but I tell you one thing: only extortionist should be chosen for a profession such as yours, and men who rape children! As punishment! Yes let *them* sit in judgment on their fellow creatures. It is worse than to hang from the gallows.

AZDAK: (*sitting down*): Now it'll be thirty! And I won't go on squabbling with you—we're not in a tavern. What'd happen to my dignity as a judge? Anyway, I have lost interest in your case.

Where is the couple who wanted a divorce? (*To SHAUWA:*) Bring 'em in. This case is adjourned for fifteen minutes.

FIRST LAWYER (*to the GOVERNOR'S WIFE*): Even without using the rest of the evidence, Madam, we have the verdict in the bag.

- (a) **What** has infuriated Grusha at the beginning of the excerpt? (2mks)
- (b) "You can take the child away from me..." **Mention two** other instances from the rest of the play when Grusha shows readiness to leave Michael only to turn around and protect him. (2mks)
- (c) **Identify two** instances of sarcasm in the excerpt. (2mks)
- (d) This case is adjourned for fifteen minutes. (*Add a question tag.*) (1mk)
- (e) **Identify and illustrate two** themes evident in the excerpt. (4mks)
- (f) Grusha's reaction to Azdak's speech is based on a misunderstanding. **Explain.** (2mks)
- (g) **With illustrations describe** Azdak's character as portrayed in this excerpt. (4mks)
- (h) **Identify two** issues that Grusha raises concerning the ruling class and the poor. (4mks)
- (i) "Even without using the rest of the evidence, Madam, we have the verdict in the bag." From your understanding of the play, **explain** the irony in the statement. (2mks)
- (j) From your understanding of the ending, **why** is it proper for the judge to hear the case of the old couple at this time? (2mks)

2. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

The Necklace

From a distance I watched,
Fearful of inching any further,
A cold sweat trickled rivulets,
Cold shocks transmitted down my spines,
Making me shiver at noon,
Undaring to approach the form.

Around me,
Whispering voices hummed,
Voices hoarse and voices shrill,
Of infants neglected on mothers' backs,
Of law-enforcer with baton in hand,
Vainly hiding his cowardly heart,
I only heard the voices,
A continuous drone around me.

I had seen it all,
Unbelieving eyes in awe,
Terminating the belief in me,
Of man's superior intelligence,
I had seen the beastly man,
Evolution reversed in seconds,
Blood-letting with speed and thirst.

It was over in minutes,
The necessities of execution availed,
The firestone tyre,
Petrol in blackened tin,
And igniters in numerous hands,
Each participant ready and anxious,
To set the man aflame.

As the smouldering form blackened,
Smell of sizzling flesh filling the air,
Piercing the nostrils,
And choking me breathless,
I watched in wonder, witness to an unwritten law.

As the crowds dispersed, the haggling and bargaining resumed,
Buying, selling and cheating,
As men in uniform arrived,
Bearing away the charred remains.

Peter A. Ganira

- (a) **What** is the relevance of the title? (2mks)
- (b) How are the feelings of the speaker different from those of the participants as shown in the first two stanzas? (4mks)
- (c) **In what way** is “*evolution reversed*” in the poem? (2mks)
- (d) Describe the following characters. (4mks)
- i) Law-enforcer
 - ii) Participants

(e) Identify and explain the dominant feature of style in the fourth stanza of the poem. (3mks)

(f) Give three instances from the poem to show that incidents like this are common in the society. (3mks)

(g) What in your view is the poet's message in this poem? (2mks)

3. a) Rewrite the sentences below according to the instructions given after each. Do not change the meaning. (3mks)

(i) Both parents disapproved of my conduct over the last holiday. (*Begin: Neither ...*)

(ii) "I will see you today, tomorrow or any day that you choose," she told me. (*Begin: She told me that ...*)

(iii) Let us now leave. (*Add a question tag.*)

b) Use the appropriate preposition to fill in the blank spaces. (2mks)

(i) They were cautiouspunishing the wrong doers.

(ii)It is likely that the principal will agree our proposal to visit Mt. Kenya this August.

c) Replace the underline words with one word. (2mks)

(i) During the short period of time between the events, music will be played.

(ii)The books in our library are so many that we cannot enumerate them.

d) Use the suitable form of the word in brackets to fill in the blank spaces. (2mks)

(i) Jane's assignment was the of the two assignments handed in this morning. (bad)

(ii)This is one of the many secular musicians who being investigated for hate speech. (be)

e) Rewrite the following sentences so as to show gender sensitivity. (2mks)

(i) The weatherman has predicted a period of heavy rains this August.

(ii)A newsman ensures he reports events as they are and not as he thinks they should be.

f) Replace the underlined words with a suitable phrasal verb. (2mks)

(i) He developed a liking for her immediately he saw her.

(ii)My friends came and I accommodated them in our small room.

g) The following sentence is ambiguous. Rewrite it to bring out the two meanings. (2mks)

Do not kill me with all this work; let somebody else do it.

i)

ii)