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(Comprehension, Literary Appreciation Oral Narrative and Grammar)

101/2

PRE-MOCK

Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education

K.C.S.E

ENGLISH PAPER 2

TIME: 2 ½ HOURS

For Examiner's use only

Question	Maximum Score	Candidates Score
1	20	
2	25	
3	20	
4	15	
Total Score	80	

1. Comprehension (20 marks)

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Growing up as I did in the country, I learned much about life from observing the ways of nature. What others might have seen as just a field of wheat, I saw as a lesson to be learnt. True, at first, I was **awe-struck** by the sheer grandeur of an expansive field of wheat, golden in the sunshine, softly waving heads heavy with ripeness. I was happy just to relax, taking it all in. But then my eyes were drawn to a sickly stalk of wheat on the edge of the field. It seemed somehow wrong that such weakness could exist in the same arena as the beauty I had just seen; I reached out to pluck the withered, sickly stalk from among the golden goodness. Immediately, I pulled my hand back, feeling ashamed of my own self-righteousness. I thought of my elderly neighbor who was frail; even sickly herself, but who was also my friend; my confidant. The thought that someone might **pluck her from me** because she was not as a **robust** as others was sobering. I looked again to the withering stalk of grain and was suddenly aware of many likenesses between the world of the wheat field and my own world of people.

A wheat field is composed of millions of individual stalks of grain just as our world is composed of millions of individual people. The individual stalk of grain grows to maturity surrounded by other stalks, taking shelter and comfort in the safety of numbers. Yet still it is alone, left to live or die depending upon the strengths and qualities it has within itself. People also gather in numbers. Naturally people are more complex than stalks of wheat, though we too must ultimately rely upon ourselves for the strength, the will to survive and succeed as individuals. At harvest time, the farmer mows the field, judging the quality of the yield by the weight of the crop. He does not sort through the field, picking only the healthiest stalks of wheat to fill his grain bins, but instead gathers the crop in its entirety. The farmer knows that even an undeveloped stalk has some value to add to the yield. This knowledge cannot be **taken lightly**. Keeping this truth in our minds and close to our hearts will help us realize the full potential of the world of people. Certainly 'superstars' do much to enrich their societies. But so do the mentally retarded, the physically handicapped, the elderly and the sick. In fact every person has worth. As the farmer collects the entire field to gain a bumper crop, so too must we accept others and all that they have to offer, no matter how small or how hidden their gift to society may appear to us.

(Adapted from *An Insight to living* by Karen Paulik)

a) What was the difference between the author and other observers of the ways of nature? (2 marks)

b) What do you think the author means by 'I was happy just to relax, taking it all in?' (3 marks)

c) Why did the author want to pluck the sickly stalk? (2 marks)

d) How did the remembrance of her elderly neighbor change the author's attitude towards the sickly stalk? (3 marks)

e) The author says that there is really no safety in numbers. What reason does she give to support this view? (2 marks)

f) State briefly the author's main argument in this passage.

g) Explain the meaning of the following words and expressions as they are used in the passage. (4 marks)

i) awe – struck

ii) pluck her from me

iii) robust

iv) taken lightly

2. Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow (25 marks)

“She means everything to me.” She looked at him steadily for a little while. “so do you – though I am beginning to think it’s a waste of time. When are you going to propose if at all? We’ve known each other for six years. Six years!?” what I don’t have by now I’ll never get. I am twenty six years old and you’ are looking at the finished product. And I am tired of being asked when I ll bring home the man from *Ruguru* – meaning the man from the west as my relatives refer to you”

You do mean it, don’t you? It is not brain fever due to overwork and lack of sleep, is it?
“He said it half in jest, half in earnest.

“You really are too much,” she said getting up.

“Come on! Do have a sense of humour. It isn’t every day a girl proposes to me. As a matter of fact this is the first time – so forgive me if I don’t quite know what to say. But you know there’s never been anyone else since I met you. To hell with it, since we are in the age of equality, why don’t I just say that there’s never been anyone else?”

The answer is – yes I'll marry you. Any day you want. Today, if we can get anyone to marry us. “

“ You are really a comedian, you know . What are you still doing here – an underpaid intern? You should be out there earning your millions with Bill Cosby and the rest.” This was how their conversation always ended. Two strong wills pitted against each other. She wondered if she was taking on more than she could manage. But he had a power over her- which even he did not know. There was no one else. There could be no one else. Still she was piqued by him.

“Point taken. But I am dead serious. You can tell your mum that I' ll be over to pay my courtesy call as soon as this internship business is over. My intentions towards her daughter have always been good even if I am not a son of Mumbi and Gikuyu - the founders of your great tribe.”

The alarm rang and cut him short.

“Yak! I've got to run, honey. I have gallonfuls of bloodletting yet to be done. I'll just walk you to the bus stop and then get on with the job at hand.” He grabbed his coat and opened the door. She understood. After all, she herself was an intern and at the mercy of the clock and the beck and call of others. It was one hell of a life and one hell of a courtship. Why couldn't she fall in love with an ordinary guy who worked ordinary hours? One doctor in the house was more than enough. She wondered if the marriage would service the onslaught of medicine. Time would tell.

a) Explain what happens immediately after this excerpt. (2 marks)

b) Identify and illustrate any one theme evident in this excerpt. (2 marks)

c) i) “She means everything to me” who is referred to as “she” in this sentence?. (1 mark)

ii) What makes the 'she' age faster than she should have later in the story? (1 mark)

iii) "I am twenty six years old and you are looking at the finished product".
Explain the meaning of the underlined phrased. (1 mark)

d) In Note form highlight the challenges faced by both Wandia and Aoro as interns. (5 marks)

e) Identify and explain any two character traits of Wandia revealed in this excerpt. (4 marks)

f) Illustrate any three features of style used in the excerpt. (6 marks)

g) Explain where Aoro and Wandia meet for the first time in the story? (2 marks)

h) "There's never been anyone else since I met you" (Begin: Never.....). (1 mark)

3. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

They no longer sleep
Dissonant machine – gun cracks
And the wails of their dying
Have drowned their dancing drums.
And tomorrow
Will there be a tomorrow?
They no longer sleep.

A wind of a waking blowing from the north
To dispel the despair of life's mockery
So that by death their children may live once again as men-
Has called them to resist.
They are not alone:
Their moans find echoes in the torn continent
And the oppressors shall never again
Till the envied blood – clogged earth
In peace
They shall no longer sleep

Joseph Kariuki

a) Briefly explain what the poem is about. (3 marks)

b) Who are "they" who no longer sleep and why? (3 marks)

c) Give the meaning of the following expressions as used in the poem. (3 marks)

i) "..... Have drowned their dancing drums....."

ii) ... Their moans find echoes in the torn continent.....

iii) " Blood clogged earth"

d) Identify and explain any three stylistic devices employed by the poet. (6 marks)

e) What is the attitude of the persona towards the 'They' in the poem. (2 marks)

f) What is the mood of this poem? (3 marks)

Q4 GRAMMAR (15 MARKS)

A) Insert the correct preposition in the blanks to complete the sentences. (3 marks)

i) _____ preparing all the exercises for first form, we had to mark all the test papers for the second term.

ii) The whole class was absorbed _____ the new exciting novel by Peter Abrahams.

iii) All ministers are responsible _____ all matters relating to their different ministries.

B) Replace each of the underlined words with a **phrasal verb** (3 marks)

i) The demonstrators always disturbed the tranquility in the land.

ii) To repair the machine, the mechanic had to dismantle it.

iii) The thief disappeared into the dark night

C) Use the correct form of the word given in brackets . (3 marks)

i) It was impossible to _____ the two warring clans (peace)

ii) Their play was criticized for _____ (decent) and was discontinued.

iii) Voter registration must be done systematically to avoid _____ (regular) during elections.

D) Answer the following questions according to the instructions after each.(3 marks)

i) The thief was arrested
(change the sentence into the active voice)

ii) For (who, whom) _____ are you carrying that luggage?

iii) Moses set out for Canaan His brother accompanied him (Begin: Setting.....)

E) Explain the meaning of the underlined expressions. (3 marks)

i) She will tidy up the room when pigs begin to fly.

ii) Mugo is a bit of a loose cannon.

iii) My mother has green fingers.
