

BECE JUNE 2017 – ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2 Q&A

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2

1 hour

This paper consists of three parts: A, B and C. Answer three questions in all; one question from Part A and all the questions in Part B and Part C.

PART A ESSAY WRITING [30 MARKS]

*Answer **one** question **only** from this part*

*Your composition should be about **250** words long.*

Credit will be given for clarity of expression and orderly presentation of material.

1. You have been installed a chief in your hometown. Write a letter to your friend in another school telling him, at least, two things you intend doing to develop the town.
2. Write an article for publication in one of the national newspapers on the topic:
The usefulness of the mobile phone.
3. Write a story that ends with the expression: So it pays to be kind to strangers.

PART B COMPREHENSION [30 marks]

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions which follow.

My desire to win gold and also see the sea drove me to a small coastal village. Though I had little food and drink, I covered a great distance. Towards dusk, I could sight the sea from a distance. I was really excited. Its immense size stretched as far as the eyes could see.

As the stars appeared in the sky, I ascended the hill and saw the village of my quest. I was dead with fatigue. To worsen my plight, there were blisters on my heel so I had to take a rest. But as I descended the hill, I was welcomed by the quietness of the place.

The villagers were enjoying the cool evening air. From the lagoon came the croaking of frogs. Children played and ran about excitedly. The village life was natural and simple. I sat on a bench close by. How good it was to rest!

I resolved to rest on the bench. As I lay there, a sheet of mist rolled from the sea and settled upon the village. In a few minutes, the village was filled with mist and everybody was running helter-skelter. I was drenched to the skin. I had decided to move to the next village when a woman suddenly walked up to me. For some time I had seen her gazing at me with pity. Now, as if she read my thoughts, she said, "If you would accept my hospitality, you will be sheltered till the morning. Just charity." She was about thirty years of age, dressed in black with a pale face and dark eyes.

Papaya hut held special appeal for me for its serene environment. For many days, I was well catered for and this enabled me to replenish my energy. It was with a heavy heart, when the time for departure arrived, that I bade farewell to my benefactress.

a) State why the writer went to the coast.

b) (i) How did the writer find life in the village?

(ii) Why did the writer decide to go to the next village?

c) (i) "... my plight." What does this refer to?

(ii) "... everybody was running helter-skelter." What do you think had happened?

- d) (i) What **two** adjectives would you use to describe the character of the woman?
(ii) What does the appearance of the woman suggest?
e) Explain the following expressions in your own words:
(i) drenched to the skin;
(ii) she read my thoughts;
(iii) with a heavy heart.

- f) For each of the following words, give another word or a phrase that means the same, and can fit into the passage:
(i) immense;
(ii) ascended;
(iii) resolved;
(iv) serene;
(v) replenish.

PART C
LITERATURE
[10 MARKS]

Answer all the questions in this part

SACKEY J. A. and DARMANI L. (COMP.): The Cockcrow

5. Questions 5(a) to 5(c) are based on one of the prescribed short stories for your study. Provide short answers to them.

MERRILL CORNEY: Debbie, Sandy and Pepe

- (a) What is referred to as *Poor little thing* in the story?
(b) What is the setting of the story?
(c) The attitude of the girls to the baby bird is that of
Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(d) and 5(e)

KAAKYIRE AKOSOMO NYANTAKYI: Tell My Son to Hold On to His Gun

“Be courageous, be courageous, Kwame, be courageous!”

“I will be, Father, I will be,” I answered,
and entered the thick forest ... **(Page 93)**

- (d) *Be courageous, be courageous, Kwame, be courageous* is an example of the use of a literary device termed
(e) How did Kwame show that he was courageous at the end of the story?

Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(f) and 5(g)

JEAN WATSON: The Old Man and His Children

Once there was an old man who had seven sons.
They should have been his pride and joy.
But they were not. **(Page 17)**

- (f) The above extract is a/anto a story.
(g) The idea expressed in the second sentence is that of

Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(h) and 5(j)

AMA ATA AIDOO: The Dilemma of a Ghost

Yes, my young woman, I shall remember you.
I shall remember you in the hours of the night –
In my sleep,
In my sleepless sleep. **(Page 62)**

- (h) “... young woman” refers to
(i) The ‘sleepless sleep’ of the speaker is caused by

(j) "... sleepless sleep" shows that the speaker is

END OF ESSAY TEST

**PART B – COMPREHENSION
ANSWERS**

1. You have been installed a chief in your hometown. Write a letter to your friend in another school telling him, at least, two things you intend doing to develop the town.

CONTENT: 10 marks

The candidate is expected to highlight and explain the two things he/she would do to develop the town.

Note: If a candidate writes on only one point, the Content is marked out of 5, instead of 10

ORGANISATION: 5 marks

This is a letter to a friend and the following features are mandatory:

- (i) The writer's address (without name)
- (ii) Date
- (iii) Salutation, e.g. Dear Kweku
- (iv) Subscription, e.g. Yours ever, Yours sincerely, etc
- (v) The writer's first name

Good paragraphing. Ideas should be well organized to show unity and coherence.

EXPRESSION: 10 marks

This is a letter to a friend. The language should be chatty and reflect the warm relationship between the candidate and his/her friend.

Contracted forms are acceptable and there should be a variety of sentence patterns.

MECHANICAL ACCURACY: 5 marks

Note: The candidate is penalised (half a mark deducted) for each of the following:

- (i) each grammatical error
- (ii) wrong spelling
- (iii) faulty construction
- (iv) punctuation error and the wrong use of the capital or small letter.

2. Write an article for publication in one of the national newspapers on the topic:

The usefulness of the mobile phone.

CONTENT: 10 marks

The candidate is expected to state at least two useful things the mobile phone does and discuss them well.

Note: If a candidate writes on only one point, the Content is marked out of 5, instead of 10

ORGANISATION: 5 marks

This is an article. It should have a heading and the name of the writer after the heading or at the bottom. Paragraphs should be well developed and the material should be logically presented.

Note: If the candidate writes a letter, the organization is marked out of 3.

EXPRESSION: 10 marks

The language should be formal. Slang, colloquialism and contracted forms are out of place here. The candidate is expected to use appropriate vocabulary and a blend of sentence patterns.

MECHANICAL ACCURACY: 5 marks

As in question one (1) above.

3. Write a story that ends with the expression: So it pays to be kind to strangers.

CONTENT: 10 marks

The story may be real or imaginary. Stories with animal characters are not acceptable.

Note: If a candidate writes a story that does not illustrate the expression but merely tags the expression at the end, no mark is awarded for content.

ORGANISATION: 5 marks

A well-organised story has a beginning, a climax and a conclusion. Paragraphs should be well developed and ideas properly linked. If dialogue is used properly, it is duly rewarded.

EXPRESSION: 10 marks

The candidate is expected to use vocabulary that is appropriate to the narrative. There should be a variety of sentence types. Paragraphs should be well linked.

MECHANICAL ACCURACY: 5 marks

As in question one (1) above.

4. COMPREHENSION

a) State why the writer went to the coast.

To win / To extract / To search for / To find gold and to see the sea

b) (i) How did the writer find life in the village?

The village life was natural and simple /

OR

He found it natural and simple.

(ii) Why did the writer decide to go to the next village?

S(he) had been left alone / S(he) felt deserted / S(he) felt abandoned

OR

To look for a place of rest / accomodation

c) (i) "... my plight." What does this refer to?

His/her tiredness / fatigue / exhaustion

(ii) "... everybody was running helter-skelter." What do you think had happened?

The village had been filled with mist.

Note: "It was raining" is not accepted

d) (i) What two adjectives would you use to describe the character of the woman?

(Write any two of the following)

Kind, generous, considerate, kind-hearted, hospitable, benevolent, caring, loving, sympathetic, compassionate, charitable

(ii) What does the appearance of the woman suggest?

She was bereaved / mourning

OR

She has lost a dear one

OR

She is sorrowful

Note: "She is a widow" is not accepted

e) Explain the following expressions in your own words:

(i) drenched to the skin;

very / completely / really wet.

OR

very / completely / really soaked.

Note: "wet" is not accepted

(ii) she read my thoughts;

she knew my mind

OR

she knew what was in/on my mind

OR

she knew what I was thinking about

OR

she could tell what was in/on my mind

OR

she could tell what I was thinking about

OR

she knew/could tell what I was about to say

OR

we thought alike

(iii) with a heavy heart.

a feeling of sadness/sorrow

OR

a feeling of much/great unhappiness/regret

OR

He was sad/ very unhappy/with sadness

f) For each of the following words, give another word or a phrase that means the same, and can fit into the passage:

(Write any one of the following words or phrases for each)

(i) **immense;**

expansive, vast, very large, very big, enormous, very wide

(ii) **ascended;**

climbed, climbed up, went up, moved up

Note: "moved" is not accepted

(iii) **resolved;**

decided, made up my mind

(iv) **serene;**

quiet, calm, cool, undisturbed, peaceful, tranquil

(v) **replenish.**

regain, renew, restore

PART C

LITERATURE

[10 MARKS]

5. Questions 5(a) to 5(c) are based on one of the prescribed short stories for your study. Provide short answers to them.

(Write any one of the following words or phrases for each)

(a) What is referred to as Poor little thing in the story?

Pepe / the baby bird / the little bird / the bird with the yellow beak / "the bird with the bright eyes" / the baby bird that fell from its nest.

(b) What is the setting of the story?

The immediate environment of Debbie and Sandy's house

OR

Countryside, Rural community, a village / the girls' mother's garden/ compound

(c) The attitude of the girls to the baby bird is that of

Admiration / Compassion / Care / Pity / Sympathy

(d) Be courageous, be courageous, Kwame, be courageous is an example of the use of a literary device termed

Repetition

(e) How did Kwame show that he was courageous at the end of the story?

He killed the killer beast

OR

By killing the killer beast

OR

He killed the monster

Note: "By killing a beast" is not accepted.

Once there was an old man who had seven sons.

They should have been his pride and joy.

But they were not.

(f) The above extract is a/anto a story.

Prologue / beginning of / introduction

(g) The idea expressed in the second sentence is that of

Contrast

Yes, my young woman, I shall remember you.

I shall remember you in the hours of the night –

In my sleep,

In my sleepless sleep.

(h) "... young woman" refers to

Eulalie / Eulalie Yawson / Eulalie Rush / Ato's wife

(i) The 'sleepless sleep' of the speaker is caused by

Her barrenness / Childlessness

(j) "... sleepless sleep" shows that the speaker is

Restless / worried / disturbed / cannot find peace