

BECE SEPTEMBER 2020 – ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2

PAPER 2 ESSAY

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. Answer all the questions in your answer booklet.

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

PART A ESSAY WRITING [30 marks]

Answer one question only from this part.

Your composition should be about 250 words long.

1. Write an article for publication in a national newspaper on the topic, The harmful effects of examination malpractice.
2. As the senior prefect of your school, write a letter to the headteacher, discussing two reasons why the school should instill moral values into the students.
3. Write a speech you would give to the people in your community on how to keep the environment clean.

PART B COMPREHENSION [30 marks]

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

The academic performance of students in the olden days was golden. Students knew the essence of education and made efforts to achieve excellence. Reading whatever material they came across not only helped in their mental development but also made them self-reliant and confident. Students burned the midnight oil in order to make good grades and to come out of school as better people.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of students today. Whatever students achieved in the past is considered archaic. The emergence of improved technology has bedevilled the society. Students prefer staying in touch with their friends and loved ones. The use of social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and Instagram, has taken over their entire being. Reading useful materials like dailies, storybooks and others is now a thing of the past.

The negative influence of social media has deprived students of achieving excellence. Examination malpractices, mass failure in examinations and bad language have become the order of the day.

Modern technology has its own benefits. In addition to serving as a great tool for businesses, it enables students to access information easily. What is more, it enables easy interaction between friends and loved ones. As much as these are important, students should realise that, without good moral practices, education and reading, the future remains blurred. Students can eradicate the negative effects modern technology has on them if only they remain focussed on their academic work.

4. (a) State **two** benefits of reading mentioned in the passage.
(b) For what **two** reasons did students study late into the night in the past?
(c) State **two** benefits of modern technology.
(d) How can students get rid of the harmful influence of social media?
(e) Explain, in your own words, the following expressions as used in the passage:
(i) burn the midnight oil;
(ii) taken over their entire being;
(iii) the order of the day.
(f) For each of the following words, give another word or a phrase that means the same and can fit into the passage:
(i) golden;
(ii) excellence;

- (iii) archaic;
- (iv) blurred;
- (v) eradicate

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 the abridged arid simplified version of Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist.

CHARLES DICKENS: Oliver Twist

"Oliver was given a slice of bread and a simple outfit with a brown cap to wear outside. He meekly followed him outside the workhouse to his new home. Once there, he was brought before a committee of ten men". (Page 103)

- (a) Write the name of the one referred to as "him" in the extract.
- (b) One thing Oliver learns from the "committee of ten men" is.....
- (c) How does Oliver react to the information he gets from the committee?

Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(d) and 5(e).

PETER PAUL ADOLINAMA: Ripples

"Abi. which of your sons died recently or was it your business which collapsed?
... You have not been yourself these few days." (Page 84)

- (d) Identify the speaker in the extract.
- (e) What is Abi worried about?

Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(f) to 5(h).

AMA ATA AIDOO: The Dilemma of a Ghost

1ST WOMAN: If her son gets goodly bag by the month
Why has Esi Kom still not... .

2ND WOMAN: They never ask "Why".
Is it not the young man's wife?

1ST WOMAN: What has she done now?

2ND WOMAN: Listen. I hear she swallows money
As a hen does corn.

(Act 4, Page 58-59)

(f) Who is referred to as "the young man's wife"?

- (g) State the literary device used in "Is it not the young man's wife?".
- (h) What is the meaning of "she swallows money as a hen does corn"?

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

A. A. AMOAKO: Sleep Without Wake

"You put me through my infant paces
On Gold Coast Ga Shikpog
Taa taa, tuu tuu, in your maternal steps,
Maame Tutuaa, condolences!"
(Page 158)

- (i) Identify the main literary device used in the title of the poem Sleep Without Wake.
- (j) The words Taa taa, tuu tuu appeal to the reader's sense of....

END OF ESSAY TEST