

K.C.P.E EXCEL SERIES

STD. 8 TERM 3 - 2014

ENGLISH: LANGUAGE

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

- 1 Use an ordinary pencil only.
- 2 Make sure that you have written on the answer sheet.

Time: 1 Hr 40 Min.

I. YOUR NAME

II. NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL

Read the passage below. It contains blank spaces 1 - 15. For each blank space, choose the BEST alternative from the choices given.

1 was 2 a man who bought a car. He knew that his car 3 not run 4 petrol; so 5 the tank was empty he 6 it with petrol. Thus he 7 on driving for many 8. After 9 there were such terrible noises 10 the engine that he had to take the car to the garage. The mechanic 11 it, shook his head and told him that it was 12 badly damaged that it 13 never again run 14 without 15 repairs.

	A.	B.	C.	D.
1.	Their	The	There	Then
2.	ones'	one's	ones	once
3.	could	can	might	may
4.	with	without	within	with out
5.	when ever	when	whenever	wherever
6.	fills	felled	feeled	filled
7.	went	go	come	gone
8.	kilometers	kilometres	kirometres	kirometers
9.	anytime	some time	sometime	anytime
10.	over	besides	on	in
11.	looked at	looked up	looked for	looked of
12.	quite	so	very	too
13.	should	could	would	shall
14.	slow	smooth	slowly	smoothly
15.	major	senior	minor	smoothly

Choose the opposite of the underlined words in questions 16 - 18.

16. My father was so surprised when my brother failed the test.
A. missed B. past C. fell D. passed
17. Dennis Oliech plays football very well.
A. roughly B. stylishly C. badly D. nicely
18. Our class prefect denied abusing the class monitor.
A. admitted B. agreed
C. refused D. rejected

Choose the correct alternative to fill the blanks.

19. Njeri's aunt bought a _____ bag.
A. small beautiful expensive
B. beautiful small expensive
C. small expensive beautiful
D. beautiful expensive small
20. When Mr. Tanui collapsed he took a long time before coming _____ oneself.

21. Justus was offered a job but he turned it _____.
A. away B. down C. back D. off
- Choose a sentence meaning the same as the one given.*
22. Had we used a car, we would not have arrived late.
A. We used a car and arrived late.
B. We arrived late and used a car.
C. We arrived late because we did not use a car.
D. We used a car because we arrived late.
 23. Not only did they come late, but they were also untidy.
A. They were either late or untidy.
B. They were late and untidy too.
C. They were untidy because they were late.
D. They were neither punctual nor untidy.
- For questions 24 - 25, choose the opposite of the underlined.*
24. Life in the rural areas is becoming fast nowadays.

A. city
C. urban

B. village
D. up-country

25. This mango juice is quite bitter.

A. sweet B. sour C. strong D. salty

Read the following passage and answer questions 26 - 39.

“The Headteacher, Deputy headteacher, senior teacher, our lovely classteacher, the rest of the teaching staff, support staff, parents and my fellow pupils’ today I am a very happy person. However I am equally sad, I am happy because I have completed my primary education and very sad because I am leaving this great institution. Now as I have never stood to face such a gathering before, you will forgive me if I appear a bit tensed up. I beg that you excuse me in case my tongue becomes as slippery as an eel.

When my class teacher made his intentions clear that I would be the one taking up this challenge, I tried with might and main to resist, but my classmates and I know Mr. Alex very well; once he has made up his mind you can strive every nerve to make him change it, but in most cases you would be talking to yourself!

Still I want to thank him from the bottom of my heart for the confidence he has shown in me. I must openly confess to you that we all love him with all the marrow in our bones. It can be said without any contradiction that even his colleagues have a soft spot for him. Teacher Alex, thank you for being such a wonderful teacher to us. Because of you we know how to choose friends and how to avoid bad company. God bless you.

This day marks the end of more than eight years since we began school. It has not been a bed of roses. I think about it and I say people really come from far. The other day when I looked at the photo when I had a running nose, I shed tears of joy. I remembered teacher Elizabeth who took care of me at the tender age. I remember vividly how she would clean me up even after I helped myself in my pants. She never shouted at me, never beat me, never twisted her mouth, but in absolute love washed me up like her son and washed my dirt. To me, she is like an angel!

Teacher Elizabeth, your heart is made of gold. I am not only thanking you on my own behalf, but also on behalf of the rest of the class, including the pupils we are leaving behind. God in heaven will bless you!

The teachers have all been good to me. At this school, leaving is pleasurable. I must mention Miss Juma, the Mathematics teacher. When she started with us, she made me believe in myself. Today I can assure everybody here that I shall pass with an ‘A’, just as I believe most of my classmates, if not all would.

As we leave this school, rest assured, teachers, that we love you for your dedication and commitment towards teaching. Continue in the same spirit. Our headteacher has been exceptional. We are generally disciplined all because of the good leadership qualities of Mrs. Wekesa. We say thank you.

Last but not least, I want to thank our parents. Thank you for working hard to feed, dress and shelter us. Above all, bringing us to this school where you had to save to pay our fees. You will not regret. We are going to pay you back with excellent performance.

I will repeat before you all; our class is ready for the exams! They should have brought it yesterday! Just put us in the hands of God in your prayers. We shall have a Christmas full of joy. Thank you and God bless you.”

26. According to the first sentence of the first paragraph, how many members of the school administration has been mentioned?
A. Two B. Four C. Three D. Six
27. The writer says that he is very sad. This is because _____
A. he is leaving the school
B. the classteacher is leaving
C. fellow pupils are leaving
D. he has finished primary school
28. According to the first paragraph it is not true to say one of the following. Which one is it?
A. Parents as well as fellow pupils were present
B. The writer had addressed such a gathering before
C. The writer was probably an out going candidate
D. None-teaching staff were also present in the meeting
29. The phrase 'taking up this challenge' has been used in the passage to mean one of the following. Which one is it?
A. Talking to the class teacher about the challenge
B. Changing the mind of Mr. Alex
C. Representing the other pupils in addressing the gathering
D. Talking to himself
30. Which one of the following persons was the first one to be thanked by the writer?
A. The support staff B. Tr. Elizabeth
C. Mr. Alex D. Mrs. Wekesa
31. The word 'confess' has been underlined in the passage. Which one among the four choices given can mean the same as the word?
A. Deny B. Admit C. Accept D. Agree
32. In the speech, the writer has really praised their class teacher, whose name is one of the following. Which one?
A. Mrs. Wekesa B. Tr. Elizabeth
C. Mr. Alex D. None
33. 'Because of you we know how to choose friends and how to avoid bad company ...' who is being addressed in this statement?
A. The parents
B. The senior teacher
C. The class teacher
D. The headteacher
34. What made the writer shed tears of joy according to the passage?
A. The photo he saw
B. The memory of love and care by Tr. Elizabeth
C. He was a son to a teacher
D. He saw an angel
35. What would have made teacher Elizabeth to twist her nose according to the writer?
A. The running nose
B. Helping himself in his pants
C. Washing the dirt
D. The bad smell from his mouth
36. According to the fourth last paragraph it is true to say that _____
A. Tr. Alex was the classteacher to the writer
B. Mrs. Wekesa was the headteacher in the school
C. Miss Juma taught the writer Mathematics
D. Only the writer expected to score an 'A' in Maths
37. The exceptional leadership qualities of Mrs. Wekesa had one impact on the pupils. Which one is it?
A. Discipline
B. Scoring 'A' in Mathematics
C. Focus
D. Being confident
38. The writer thanked their parents for _____
A. providing them with basic needs
B. bringing them to the school
C. paying their fees
D. saving their money
39. Which one of the following would be a title to the passage?
A. A farewell poem
B. A farewell speech
C. A letter to my classteacher
D. A memorable story

Read the following passage and answer questions 40 - 50.

The next day I set out on my lonely journey. The climb was torture, every bit as difficult as it had been on the first occasion, and this time I had to depend on my own skill and wit. After more than one desperate attempt, I reached the top of the bluff, bruised and bleeding from cuts and scratches; but I had done it! In weary elation, I rested there until my energy revived. I found nothing to eat until I reached the forest belt where giant cedar trees towered above me in majestic splendour. Here the colobus, the chimpanzee and the blue monkey created a happy chattering atmosphere. Here also I came upon the carcass of a mountain goat left over from a recent kill. There was no fire to cook the meat, but it was still fresh and succulent, and to my thirsty tongue it tasted sweet.

Day after day I travelled, covering only a short distance in many hours. With every step I took up the mountain side, the air became colder and more unfriendly. This, coupled with the misery of having lost Nekoye, made life harsh. The leather cape which had served me so well on the lower slopes of the mountain

and during most of the time I had stayed with the Tondo, now seemed to succeed only in collecting beads of frozen water. My condition was made worse by the gnawing hunger that accompanied me all the time.

The slopes of the mountain were covered with more bamboo trees than I had ever seen. Mile after mile I pressed through the thickly interwoven mountain growth, barren of any fruit, guided only by the trail left behind by the Tondo traders.

One bright afternoon, after a long lonely journey, I followed a track that skirted a hill. There before my gaze stretched the land I had so much longed to see - my own country - opening before me in a panorama of magnificent African beauty. I was deeply moved and felt great relief that the danger from Tondo was now over, having been left behind with each dragging step I had made up to this mountain. The beautiful scenery and sense of freedom increased my hope and determination to press on towards my goal. No amount of hunger would make me despair now. No physical obstacles would stop me from reaching my people. Spurred by this renewed inspiration, I hurried on down the mountain; not knowing what tests of endurance lay ahead of me.

When I reached the thick bamboo forest again, I noticed fresh elephant dung and the trail that the elephants had made, but as nothing could now cloud the vision that carried me down the mountain, the spoor did not strike me as being a sign of danger at all.

I passed through the bamboo forest and was just cresting a small hill when I came upon a whole herd of elephants; great big elephants and small baby ones, fathers, mothers and children, all mixed up in a trumpeting herd. I was terrified, and crept away in fear.

The next moment, I heard a blood-curdling roar behind me. I was being followed by a lion. I swung round to face the animal, and his hair-rising roar seemed to draw me towards him. This surprised him, and he turned away and started down the hill.

(adapted from *Captured by Raiders* - B.N. Wegesa)

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| <p>40. From the first paragraph we learn one of the following about the writer when he started the journey. He was _____</p> <p>A. alone B. bored
C. very happy D. energetic</p> <p>41. Which one of the following statements is true according to the passage?</p> <p>A. The writer had tried to climb the bluff before
B. The climb was not torture nor difficult
C. The writer did not reach the top of the bluff
D. The writer found something to eat at the top of the bluff</p> <p>42. In spite of the fact that the writer did not have fire to cook the meat, _____</p> <p>A. he came upon the carcass of a mountain goat
B. the meat was still fresh and succulent
C. he ate the meat uncooked
D. he tasted not the meat</p> <p>43. Which one of the following words can replace the word <u>sweet</u> as used in the passage?</p> <p>A. Sugary B. Nice
C. Good D. Delicious</p> <p>44. The writer covered only a short distance during the travel probably because of _____</p> <p>A. fatigue B. fear
C. darkness D. joy</p> <p>45. The misery of losing the companion made the writer's life _____</p> <p>A. good B. simpler
C. harsh D. promising</p> | <p>46. According to the passage, what increased the writer's hope?</p> <p>A. The death of Nekoye
B. The great relief from danger
C. The beautiful scenery and sense of freedom
D. The amount of hunger</p> <p>47. When the writer reached the thick bamboo forest again _____</p> <p>A. he saw elephants
B. he saw fresh elephant dung
C. the writer collapsed
D. he started running</p> <p>48. '..... when I came upon a whole <u>herd</u> of elephants' in which part of speech is the underlined word?</p> <p>A. pronoun B. verb C. noun D. adjective</p> <p>49. The phrases 'blood-curdling' and 'hair-rising' as used in the passage suggests that the roar was _____</p> <p>A. amusing
B. frightening
C. pleasing
D. delighting</p> <p>50. "This surprised 'him' and he turned away and started down the hill." The word him as used in the passage refers to _____</p> <p>A. Nekoye
B. the writer
C. the male elephant
D. the lion</p> |
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