

3.0 ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

The English examination consisted of two sections:

Section A – Objective items; **Section B** – composition writing.

3.1 GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

Table 6 below shows the performance of candidates in English in the 2011 KCPE examination. Similar data for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 is also provided for comparison.

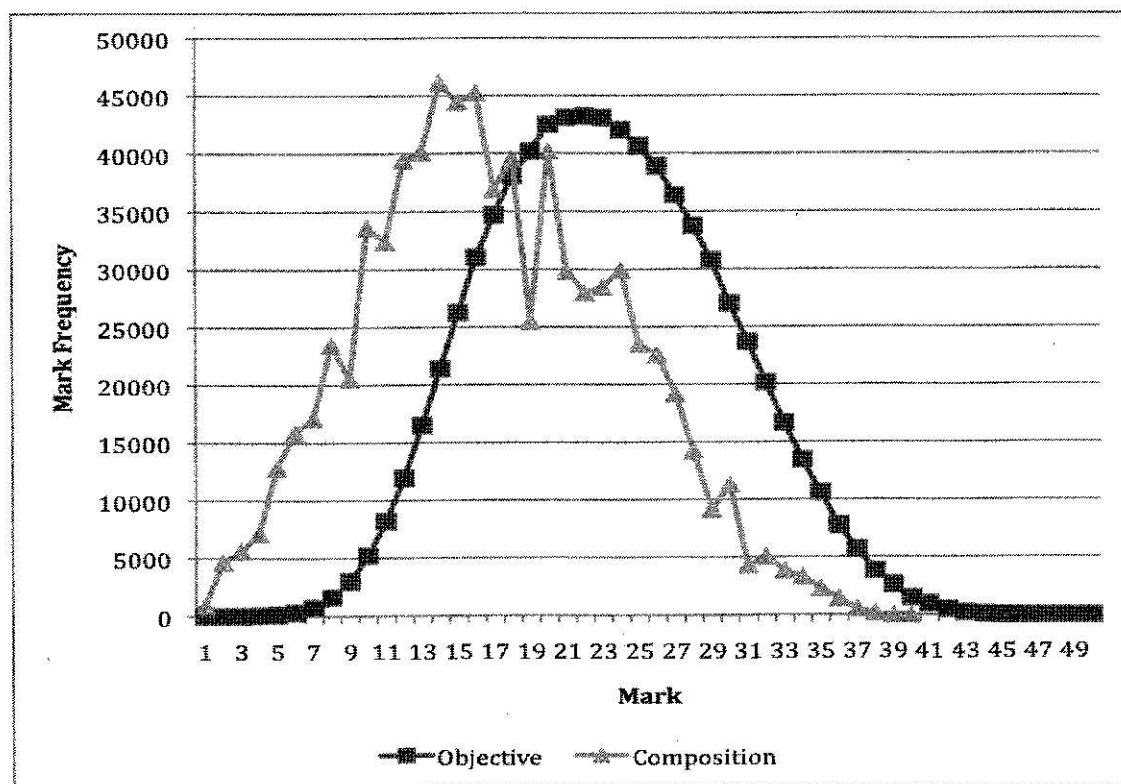
Table 6: General Performance in English for the last four years.

Year	2008		2009		2010		2011	
Paper	Obj	Comp	Obj	Comp	Obj	Comp	Obj	Comp
% Mean	41.58	40.48	45.76	32.40	49.12	42.70	46.24	42.47

From the **Table 6** above, the following can be deduced:

- That the percentage mean for the objective paper declined by **2.88** points from **49.12** in 2010 to **46.24** in 2011;
- That the percentage mean for the composition paper also declined slightly by **0.23** points from **42.70** in the year 2010 to **42.47** in 2011

Figure 1 below shows the performance pattern in the two papers graphically.

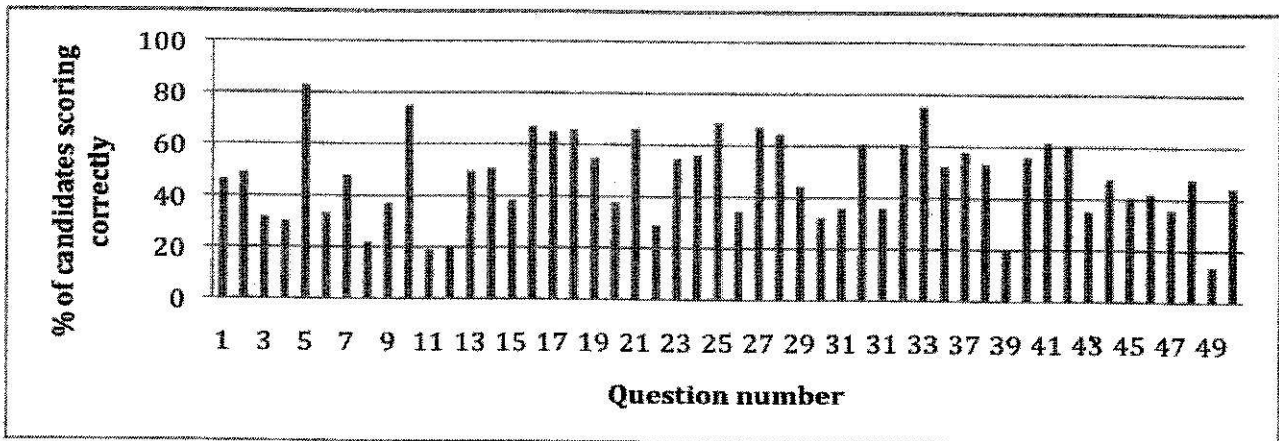


3.2 SECTION A: OBJECTIVE PAPER

The percentage mean for the paper declined to 46.24 and is comparable to the 2009 level when it was 45.76.

3.2.1 Analysis of selected items

Figure 2 below shows the pattern of performance per item in the objective paper for a sample of 768,606 candidates (nearly the entire) whose mean was 23.00/46.00 *per centage* with a standard deviation of 6.68.



From Figure 2 above, it can be observed that there were eight (8) *questions* in the year 2011KCPE English Objective Paper in which 30% or *less* of the candidates scored correctly. These questions, together with the percentage of candidates scoring on them correctly are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Questions with a facility index of 30% and below.

Question Number	4	8	11	12	22	35	39	49
% Scoring Correctly	29.93	21.97	19.11	20.60	28.82	29.86	20.05	13.74

Questions 4, 8, 11 and 12 were all based on the cloze passage below. Four out of **fifteen** items in the cloze passage gave candidates problems.

Questions 1 to 15

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

It is often 1 that all living things, plants and animals, have a 2 for existence. Each living organism plays an important role 3 it exists. However, there is one creature whose importance is 4 to see. This is the mosquito. What most people know 5 this tiny beast is that it is the major 6 by which Malaria is spread. It is therefore not 7 that some people have demanded the complete elimination of 8 species from the face of the earth.

It is interesting to note that the insect does not 9 to spread disease. It just wants to feed itself and to reproduce. Researchers have discovered that the female mosquito needs to feed on blood in order to lay eggs. As it moves from one source to another in 10 of blood, it ends up picking up and spreading the organisms that cause the disease. A common rule of nature is 11 at work here: the survival of one creature means the death of another.

Some scientists have argued that the insect is not 12 useless. It serves as food for some other creatures such as lizards, geckos and birds. The lives of these predators 13 be at risk if there were no mosquitoes, and this would 14 affect the population of animals that in turn feed on the predators. All this would finally affect the food chain, causing an imbalance 15 nature.

Question 4

- A. hard B. impossible C. easy D. clear

Response Pattern

Option	A*	B*	C	D
% choosing the option	29.93	32.79	25.45	11.06
Mean mark in other questions	26.86	21.97	20.68	19.56

The question tested the candidates' ability to select the appropriate adjective that collocates with the expression "to see". In the context of the passage the narrator finds it difficult to see any importance of the mosquito. The idiomatic expression used is "hard to see". This is given in option A. Majority of candidates choose option B ("impossible to see". This is so final and does not accord with what is later revealed about the mosquito. Option C and D present a situation contrary to that in A and B and hence wrong as it is not consistent with the flow of thought.

Question 8

- A. that B. those C. this D. these

Response Pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D
% choosing the option	6.27	27.00	21.97	44.04
Mean mark in other questions	18.39	20.26	24.33	24.94

This question tested the candidates' ability to select the demonstrative determiner before the noun "species". Candidates were misled by the seemingly plural form of the word "species" when in fact it is singular and has no plural form. The brightest candidates chose the wrong option **D**. Indeed, even the average candidates who chose option **B** relied on the same misconception. Together these two categories accounted for 71.04% of the candidature. These can only mean that teachers have not taught (std 5, std 8) such nouns in this class, as, 'series', 'genesis, news, politics, 'measles', 'rabies:

Question 11

- A. seen B. found C. noticed D. observed

Response Pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D*
% choosing the option	19.11	19.25	25.68	35.25
Mean mark in other questions	25.98	23.62	23.43	22.38

Like number 4, this question tested the candidates' ability to select the appropriate word that collocated with those in the context. Normally, the idiomatic expression goes: "seen at work" meaning in operation. Candidates chose 'observed' option D. Observed/noticed suggests a physical phenomena; seen implies a mental activity.

Question 12

- A. actually B. fully C. extremely D. completely

Response Pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*
% choosing the option	40.60	10.45	27.65	20.60
Mean mark in other questions	23.38	21.34	21.61	25.53

This question tested the candidates' ability to select the best adverb to fill the slot not only in terms of meaning, but also with regard to structure. Majority of the candidates went for option **A**. "Actually", has the meaning of "as a matter of fact". In this sense it can only fit in the initial sentence slot ie. at the beginning and would still require a modifier in slot 12. Otherwise it would not accord with the flow of the argument in the passage. Both "fully" option **B** and "extremely" option **C** are intensifiers but which are rather vague. This leaves us with option **D** 'completely', which was chosen by the very best candidates.

Question 22

- A. The doctor said, "Keep medicine out of children's reach."
- B. The doctor said, keep medicine out of childrens' reach."
- C. The doctor said, "keep medicine out of childrens' reach."
- D. The doctor said, "keep medicine out of children's reach."

Response Pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D
% choosing the option	28.82	4.43	32.05	33.89
Mean mark in other questions	24.62	18.08	23.24	22.39

This item tested punctuation. Candidates were required to select the sentence that was properly punctuated in direct speech. It may seem the contest was between options **C** and **D**. Average and above average candidates were misled. Those who chose **D** failed to realize that the doctor's utterance was quoted in its entirety in one stretch and so required a capital letter at the beginning. Those who chose option **C**, apart from failing to recognize the anomaly in option **D** mentioned above, also failed to notice that 'children' is already plural and does not require an 's' before the possessive marker. Option **B** was rightly dismissed by the majority as it lacked the opening speech marks. Only the poorest candidates who were presumably guessing chose it.

Question 35

Why do you think the old lady "let out a hearty laugh"?

- A. She was amused by the girls' ignorance.
- B. She wanted to surprise the girls.
- C. She wanted to show off that she knew English.
- D. She was proud about her community.

Response pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D
% Choosing the option	29.86	15.31	43.11	10.80
Mean mark in other questions	26.01	22.13	22.29	19.93

This question tested inference. The candidates were required to assign a reason for the old lady's action of 'letting out a hearty laugh' when the young ladies were surprised that she spoke English. Forty three percent of average candidates chose the wrong option **C**. The boasting comes later as she explains how she acquired the English from its owners. The 'surprise' option **B** had already taken place when the old lady switched to English on realising that one of the girls did not understand her language. Option **D** is vague. Furthermore it is not stated in the passage. This leaves us with the correct option **A**, which was chosen by the cleverest candidates scoring 26.01 on the test.

Question 39 and 49 were based on the passage below.

Read the passage below and then answer questions 39 to 50.

One of the most amazing things about the discovery of a 2,000 year old cemetery in the Bahariyah Oasis in Egypt was that no one was looking for it. No one even knew it existed. It had been completely buried by sand.

In 1996, a donkey belonging to a guard at the nearby temple stumbled into a hole in the sand a mile from the temple. When the guard peered into the hole, he saw something shining brightly. He reported the discovery to Egyptian archaeologists right away.

However, the archaeologists did not begin serious digging immediately. They did not have the workers or the money. So they made a quick survey of the site, and then covered everything up again. They wanted to hide it from thieves and protect it from exposure to the sun and weather. Finally, in 1999, they had enough money to begin exploring the site.

On their very first day of work, after digging only several feet into the sand, they found a lot of mummies. Mummies are dead bodies that have been preserved for a long time. They are mostly found in Egypt. One of them had an especially beautiful mask. It was not a pharaoh's mummy, though. It turned out that none of the tombs in this cemetery belonged to royalty. Most of the people buried here came from families that grew rich by trading in wine.

The most spectacular of these mummies have masks made of plaster covered with a thin layer of gold. Many are in wonderful condition. And because grave robbers never found these tombs, everything that was buried with them is still there. Most of the mummies have been left where they were found, but a few of the best preserved ones are on display in the Bahariyah Museum, where the public can take a look at them.

Two mummies were found lying side by side and were probably a husband and a wife. His mask and chest plate were decorated with religious figures. Her head was turned in his direction, indicating that the husband had died first.

Two other mummies are of children. Archaeologists think they were brother and sister because they were found together. The boy was probably about five years old. His mask with its painted eyes and features are so real - he almost seems alive!

Did archaeologists find treasures in these tombs? It depends on what you mean by "treasures." They have not found any solid gold, but they have discovered all sorts of objects. The people buried in the cemetery may have thought some of these items would be useful in the afterlife. Or some may have been intended as gifts to the gods. For example, archaeologists have unearthed small statues of various gods. They have found many pieces of jewelry - necklaces, bracelets and anklets - made of copper, glass, ivory and semi-precious stones.

They have also discovered many pottery pieces used for storing, cooking or serving food. There were some bronze Greek and Roman coins too. And in the children's tombs, they found toys - carved animals for the children to play with in the afterlife.

Archaeologists will be able to learn more about these people and their way of life by further studying their mummies and the things buried with them. And so many mummies were buried in the Valley of the Golden Mummies that excavation and learning will continue at the site for years to come.

*(Adapted from *Secrets of the Past* by World Book, Inc. 2002)*

Question 39

The discovery of the 2,000 year-old cemetery in Bahariyah was

- A. very sudden
- B. really surprising
- C. quite accidental
- D. extremely important.

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C	D
% choosing the option	13.99	48.71	20.05	16.29
Mean mark in the questions	22.49	23.77	24.85	19.65

The occurrence of the word 'amazing' in the opening sentence of the passage misled the candidates into choosing option B. Forty Eight point Seven One of above average candidates went for this option. What was amazing/surprising was in fact the fact that the discovery was quite accidental, option C. No one was looking for it, nor did anyone know it existed. But option B and D are there as far as the passage is concerned, but come later in the passage. Candidates should be taught to use elimination method in approaching comprehension questions. It does not pay jumping at answers before other alternatives have been considered.

Question 49

The word **unearthed** means

- A. removed
- B. discovered
- C. exposed
- D. recovered.

Response pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D
% Choosing the option	16.41	59.17	13.73	9.53
Mean mark in other questions	23.12	23.71	22.79	20.06

This was a vocabulary test. Candidates were expected to select the verb that appropriately replaces the highlighted word as used in the passage. Majority of the candidates went for option B. The argument in the passage is that these statues are presumed to be 'gods'. The discovery of the tombs is already made. What is happening is that several of these statues are being brought out of the earth where they had been buried and so being 'exposed'. 'Removed' and 'recovered' have meanings of take 'out of position' or being 'repossessed' respectively and hence cannot be what was meant.

3.0 SECTION B: COMPOSITION

The paper declined slightly in the percentage mean by 0.23 points from 42.70 in the year 2010 to 42.47 in the 2011. This may be attributed to the fact that the candidates could not relate to the topic as readily as in 2010.

As always, the paper tested the candidates' ability to compose a personal and convincing account. Candidates had to write an account that is accurate grammatically and fluent in that it reads well, is interesting and original. Mastery of plot development as well; as proficiency in the use of a variety of structures and vocabulary was expected. To do justice to the topic, the candidates had to show the preparations done ("...we were ready") towards the day; the expectations of the pupils, staff and administration; the arrival and receipt of guest of honour (M.P) and parents and community; the events of the day, including the award of prizes to those who excelled in various areas, and the role the narrator (candidate) played and the conclusion of the day.

GROUP 1: (01 – 10 Marks)

Composition A

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day ...

we go to the ~~area~~ ~~ati~~ to go and take our
Mp that mp was comi to give prize giving
the pupie that have bou were in exam
so awa hestecha for the Sibet to go
and take awa Mp in the red wen wis
the that cali Mp.

hi set sin and basini
and far and sikingn and wen wilichi in the
school iwei awa hestecha and awa techas
set teb sin and basini and afula techas
sop basin the subet sita basini and sikingn
and afula one mini Mp san soti wi par
Ged so that wi can siab.

and Mp saw that
hi wi was onnili two mint so thos hu wa
on bac ont cam in fort and hi givi mda
one and twas onnili and the techas sab eveni
naba theer and Mp saw no the subet sated
Making nos and the teches sat sikingn

So ro the pupus sal faitini and the
hed techa san this is our school and wi
Masri givi our school goob Name our e MP
Sad that hii will not cam;

agin and Sam
Meibas sit thuro Salen and the hed ticha.

Cob the polis to cam and are thos pupus that
thurnin san asila the polis cam or the pupus
ran awa so our MP go withi banda Neme
of our School.

Candidate hardly communicates. Candidate has learnt a few English words and can spell some correctly, "the", "to", "go", "take", "one", "two", "this". Other words sound English but they are not English words. Such words as, "awa", "hedtecha", "afuta", "onili", "faitini", "polis", "cam", "neme". The candidate has some concept of paragraphing (indenting) though exaggerated. Letters are mostly well shaped and there is juncture and some punctuation.

Mark awarded 02

Composition B

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

APRIZE GIVING DAY

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day...

It was Tuesday morning at 10:00 o'clock when we were waiting for our member of Parliament from South ~~Muranga~~^{West} Borabu Constituency.

Everybody was with hope that we shall have a red letter day in our school. Since we have prepared our school compound we had a noise from far away we seemed that there is a safari rari in the town lane.

But this sign has come more than a half an hour so we lined up very fast as a deer knows a stretch in time saves nine, on both sides of the road waiting to welcome our visitors.

And it was a prize giving in our school everybody was choiced anger of that day. So asooner as we waited for visitor to arrive their another jam taken in the road and make me to a bit sober.

Oh! What a wonderful day? our visitor have been arrived very early as we could not believe it. He is on time we were happy as a king, we jumped up and down, we sang and danced like a calf who is born from mother's womb. The day went on and on with calm of peace. Nobody can make any mistake to broke the rule.

Now our Honourable ~~Omings~~^{M.P} ~~Magar~~ thanks for us for well prepared to welcome him. The day was starting well and it could end well.

Our Programme was started 12:00 O'clock in the afternoon. Nobody would allowed to murmuring in the room everybody quite well.

The Prize has now starting to be given when the headteacher stand and start to call those who turn well in exam, trembling like a Chameleon in a fall twig, my heart was thumbling like it was ever pushed out on my body. Soon the teacher start to call names.

I was happy when I hear my name to reading on the first with high fly Colours Score. My Parents were very happy too, Even my relatives very happy so.

I was happy as a king who is chosen in a new year ^{to be a king} when I walk I walk like a person who is a king in this word.

The day was red letter for me and I saw that everything was with me. The day went on and on until it finished.

It was the day I could never forget in my life until end of the world.

(Green) J.B

This candidate communicates with difficulty. The sentence structures are strained and tenses are mostly incorrect. Candidate uses some expressions and sayings that are inapt and which cause difficulty in understanding. Candidate has a problem with forming letter 'r', which mostly appears as an x at first causing problems reading the words where it occurs. In addition, the small letters 'f', 'j' and 'c' are written as capital 'F' on 'J' and 'C' on every occasion even when they are in the middle of a sentence or word. But the candidate has generally learnt letter formation, juncture, 'paragraphing' and 'punctuation'. Spellings are good.

Mark awarded

06

THE DAY I WILL NEVER FORGET

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day ...

Every body was very happy that day. Some of them were jumping up and down as we were waiting for our member of parliament William Ato. We were very many people there. Some were tall and others were as short as a dwarfs.

In a spur of the moment from a far distance we saw a very bright car with it was coming very fast. Peoples think that he is coming but that all fell on the day cars. At that place no body be able to walk because each and every person was overload on both road sides. The thing which made me to surprise it was that one of the man who was try to to attract other people without a permission.

It was now the ^{time} ~~time~~ that they came and tells us that our member of parliament is in the way. Coming at that time it was the time people to be seat ready. That day day I was very happy like a quine in the palace because that was going to be my first day to see him with my two eyes.

We waited as ^{much} ~~much~~ as we could until it reached the time when we started get bored. Every body was now starting to go to our classes because it came the time that loose hope. I myself I was so desperet people on the road were laghing at us as they jump up and down like a ball. Our headteacher took the phone

so that she can communicate with them but there was
no answer at all we think that maybe something
had just happen to him that is why the dont came.
At that moment we saw a big man who
was put him self in a motor's mask with a
a shaggy hair came and up to our officeroom without
talking anybody. but we continued to removed those thing
at that. Since that day I came to realized that
dont be happy without the reason why your are happy
and a bad biginning make a good ending.

The candidate opens with an error of spelling, separating the indefinite pronoun into two separate words, "everybody" rendered as "every body". In fact, one may look at the error as grammatical involving word classes rather than spelling. Whichever way one looks at it, it causes difficulty in understanding the sentence. Other grammatical errors involve noun - verb agreement e.g ("as a dwarfs", "they came and tells us"), number agreement "a permission". The candidate confuses 'with' for 'which', 'loose', for 'lose', 'peoples' for 'people', misspells elementary words such as 'both' and 'member' (even when they are before their eyes), 'queen', 'waited', 'until', 'laughing', 'desperate', 'beginning', 'seated', 'bad'. Otherwise this composition communicates better than the previous one.

Mark awarded

08

Composition D

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day...

Everybody was very eager to see him. He had an expensive car which was white in colour as snow. He had worn a tuxedo. He was warmly welcomed by everybody. We were filled with electrical excitement. No sooner had he arrived than we started. He was given a chance so as to address and for more recognised by other people who had not seen him before. We had sat under a fig tree which provided us with a good shade. We had been waiting for this day vigorously.

It was the turn up the headteacher's turn to guide us. We started by making a word of prayer led by our school captain. However, we started from the lower classes going upper classes. Those who had done well were to be mentioned out. Many schools had come from many parts. It was elephant's day to feed on its calf. Many pupils thought they could be the winners but all was to be determined by the result. The winners were mentioned their names out. In the whole district a pupil from our school was mentioned being the winner. Top! Everybody tried to look from where she was coming from. Everybody began chatting with Joy say Cynthia. She was very happy as a king daughter walking in the Palace. She walked out majestically, there was a lot of clapping and shoutings for Joy. Tears of joy rolled down her mother's cheeks. Her mother carried her and walked up and down to show that she was very happy as a sandboy for what her daughter had done. The cameramen and women were not.

not left behind. They took cameras as much as they could. She was given a prize by the P.M. which we live to remember. Not only her but there were more other pupils from many schools who had won. They were gifted in different gift depending on your position. It was a wonderful day that everybody enjoyed it.

It was our turn. Everybody said that he was the winner. On my side I was as sure as an egg that I was the winner. Some of the pupils laughed at me and started cracking jokes on me. They wondered on how comes I was the winner whereas I had not performed well. I did not bother but they were shocked to hear my name being mentioned. I dumped out very excitedly. I could not believe it until I saw my self holding a prize. I was given a gift. Some of my fellow pupils wished they were the one but if all wishes were donkey beggars would ride.

The M.P. stood up for the last words. He gave us some advice and encouragement. He said that for us to pass we have to work harder for hard work pays. He told us the importance of education. For this days if you are not educated you seem to be a useless person. He said. He thanked all those who had done a good work. He gave us a free education until the end. I thanked God for I was lucky to continue with my studies. Tears of joy rolled down my cheeks. After the end, our school was the best of all. We were given a golden cup. We all went for the lunch where we drank and eat. Everybody went home feeling much.

The candidate communicates almost fully, but hampered by limited language resources. There are many errors of agreement and construction, spelling and phraseology. There is discernible plot and composition is mainly relevant.

Mark awarded 10

GROUP II: (11 – 20 marks)

Composition E

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

A RED LETTER DAY.

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day. Everybody at our school was well

prepared for that day. We waited that day with zeal and zeal. We were very happy to see him coming with other guests. The teachers also followed us back. I jumped with ecstasy. Every body was filled with joy. The school was decorated with every colour of flowers.

When we lead him to our school we went and showed him a place to sit with his friends. We were as joyous as a housefly. We settled down. Everything was arranged. He greeted us. The other guests also greeted us. He was welcomed to our school with a very high joy. Our headteacher told us to settle down and listen.

The member of parliament told us that as all of you know that each pupil who has performed in his or her exam will get a prize on that day. We started jumping up and down as confused sharks at the sea. But a few minutes later we sat down. Everybody clapped her hands.

The day was very interesting. The member of parliament started calling on the names of pupils who had done be-

ter on the past exam. I was as happy as a king waiting on his palace. I didn't think I was among the pupils who they had done better on the past exam. The teacher also were filled with joy.

The first was being called and given a prize. Parents, teachers and pupils clumbed their hands. As he was continueing reading the names my heart was beating thunderously like the tomtoms of west africa. We were sure that every pupil on that day would get a prize. Everybody was ready to be called.

As he was continueing reading I heard my name. I was mesmerized and astonished. I went and received my prize and went back to seat down. After a few minutes he finished reading the names. But a few of our classmates they had been left. The pupils who got the prizes were being told to continue working hard.

The rest of the pupils who got nothing they were told to put more efforts in their studies. He told us that without working hard no way you

Candidate still makes glaring errors of spelling ('clumbed' for 'clapped', 'continueity' for 'continuity'); breaks words without due regard for syllable boundaries (fo-lloved, be-tter) makes errors of agreement ('...teacher also were...'), misuses prepositions ('calling on the names...') and commits construction errors ('...pupils who got nothing they were told...'). Despite the many errors, communication is complete.

Mark awarded 13

THE MOST MEMORABLE DAY AT

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day. To those who have done well in their

Examination 14.6.11 last year, Guest of honour our MP, distinguished guests, parents, ladies and gentlemen. Good Afternoon. I am happy to see that you were all able to attend this ceremony. I hope you have enjoyed the presentation by the pupils. My Ahmed Harun our head teacher his face glistening with sweat as it was Saturday Afternoon.

This was both a speech and prize giving day at our top Achievers. Those invited had arrived early and the tents which had been pitched on the football field were all full to capacity. Various classes had entertained the guests in song, dance, poems and and plays. It was the head teacher ending his speech.

After the head teacher has finished Mrs Halima which was the wife MP stood to address the gathering. She looked around and when she realized everyone was ears she cleared her voice and continued.

As I was saying, I will allow the guest of honour our MP to give us his speech but first I would like to thank all those who took part in various entertainment activities. They were very good and interesting especially the two poem about the lazy boy. Thank you pupils. In the the same note I would like to thank all the teachers profusely.

For the good work done with pupils in preparing for them for those presentation thank you very much.

When calmness set in Mrs Halima continued "this is a great day for because our MP and his visitor joining us we are very happy. and also our Top Achievers Academy because its first prize giving day that has been attend by our MP and our Director Education none others.

The first pupil was 50 thousand Kenya shilling he was had 432 marks the second one was 30 thousands shilling and school uniform. We thank to our MP for what was he done to us in this year.

our head teacher thanked every body and invited guest. All said and done it was memorable day. It will linger in my mind for a long time to come. I only learnt to do my best.

Trully "Where the will their way"

Though this composition has a lot more errors and the plot not so developed, it has an edge over the previous composition because of better use of vocabulary and some rudimentary attempt at using direct speech. One can feel the candidate addressing an audience.

Mark awarded 15

Composition G

You have 30 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

A GOOD DAY TURN SOUR

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day...

The everybody seemed to be happy as a sandboy. We welcomed him and he was very happy indeed. You could easily tell from his face and teeth which were out. Maybe getting a fresh air.

The day was so enjoyable. Many people had been waiting eagerly for that day it had come to be true. Our headteacher Mr Joker seemed to be the most excited person in the room. What about teachers and pupils you could not even tell their happiness. The nursery pupils were jumping up and down like if Jesus christ the savior had raised somebody from death.

After the all excitement we sat down ready to hear what the headteacher wanted to tell us. "Was it about the Mercedes Benz or what?" the children said. "Good morning everybody! I hope you are going to listen to what the Member of parliament is going to talk about but be ready." the headteacher said. Afterward there was a total silent just like as silent as a grave.

The Member of parliament stood up being followed with his bodyguard. "Hail! how was it? It was enjoyable. He started first by greeting all people both old and young by saying good morning. He told us that he had been welcome by our good results in the precious exams. Neither was the headter nor the decoration of the compound welcomed him.

He encouraged us to do good like that. To continue with the same spirit. He was so happy that he could not stop showing out his toothless gum. I guess he might have been stealing when he was young. He told us that even him when he was young he use to dream of being a Member of parliament one day as the saying goes a dream comes true. But if one wish to succeed they must been discipline.

When he was steel talking we heard something like a bomb outside not far. We were shock with the screams that were loud enough to woke the dead. My hearth beat thurnderourly threathening to throped out of my skinny body. Everybody jumped out morder to save their lives. The Member of parliament was shot death. Again where we were become dark. You could not find anybody. For me it was just like looking for a cat in a total darkness.

I ran as first as if my feeble legs could carry me. When I reached home I found my parent worried about me. They were as happy as lark when they saw me. To me it was so painful. The beating of my hearth could be heard may be hundred mile. My legs could not support my body. After that I heard that the police arrived and the land was again in peace. But people were mering for the death body.

The candidate communicates still with difficulty because of scarce language resources. This is further aggravated by use of clichés, some even misused. Construction errors resulting in run-on sentences. For instance the candidate writes: 'what about teachers and pupils you could not even tell their happiness.' These structural problems cause the sense of the sentences to suffer. But the candidate shows involvement and some ambition.

Mark awarded 17

Composition H

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day ...

HARDWORK PAYS.

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (M.P.). It was our prize-giving day which was going to start after the Member of Parliament had arrived. There he arrived with his blue hammer. No sooner had he got settled than all the inattendance sat down.

Without any further ado the headteacher stood up and welcomed the guest of honour. He not only welcomed him but also he thank him for his arrival. As soon as the headteacher finished talking, the teacher who was responsible of games and sports stood and addressed himself to the people. In a fraction of a second, he called the nursery pupils to start the event with a word of prayer.

In addition to that, he called the runners of the nursery part of school. They all stood in a line and waited for the whistle from the headboy. No time to spare the boy whistled.

Barely! had he whistled when all the competitors started running. There was three groups: One with all shirt in blue in colour, the other one with a shirt in yellow and the last one in red in colour. Everyone was cheering his collic.

Furthermore, there were also presents for the winner. As soon as the nursery part finished their events, then the primary side started with the hundred metre runners then the exchanging of small sticks and lastly the jumping of tyres. I was one of the runners in hundred metre competition.

Nonetheless, we were called by the gamesmaster and lined up. I was in the team which had a shirt in blue in colour. I did not want to let them down and tried all the best and win the competition. In a split of an eye, all the events were finished and remained the important one which was giving out the gifts.

Probably, the Member of parliament was called to give out the presents to the winners. He started with the lower classes coming to the upper. Scarcely had he reached our class when we all started shivering.

The candidate makes an effort to communicate but the English idiom is not fully formed. There are errors which mainly emanate from vernacular modes of thought translated into English resulting in construction problems; misuse of prepositions and errors of noun-verb agreement. For instance, the candidate writes; "there he arrived with his blue **hammer**," causing problems of communication. The reader has to reconstruct the meaning. "there" might be the Kiswahili "punde" equivalent of "there and then" or "presently" The brand of car meant is "Hummer" which the candidate misspells.

Other wrongly used expressions attributable to mother tongue influence are; "parents for the winners" , "...addressed himself to the people" (addressed the people), "no time to spare" (without wasting time), "shirt in blue in colour..." (wearing blue/ in blue shirts). "...responsible of games..." There are expressions that have not been learnt but are used, for instance, "in a split of an eye" (in the twinkle of an eye? In a blink? Within no time?) "in attendance"(audience? all present?). Then there are misused words for example, "aghaat", "probably", "collic" (colleague?); "inattendance" (in attendance); tense errors for instance, "thank" (thanked)

The effect of these many language issues is to make the composition heavy and slow to read and communication suffers greatly. Nonetheless, the candidate makes quite an effort to use cohesive devices in the composition. With a little support from the teacher; the candidate could have presented a much better composition. As it is the candidates have been left on their own, to make the best they can from whatever they gather from whatever source.

Mark awarded 20

GROUP III (21 – 30 Marks)

Composition I

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

A SPEECH WHICH WAS DELIVERED BY MEMBER OF PARLIAM

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day and each of us was aware of what was

to happen that day. Actually it was a day like no other and no pupil would afford to miss this suspicious day. It was a bright clear morning without usual mist which normally envelopes this part of the new land. No premonitions. No signs, dream or bad omens. No pricking of thumbs. It was yet another morning unwinding itself beautiful. Pupils were eager to see the expectant Member of parliament who was Mr. Chakaya Kikwete.

Truly, everyone was dressed to kill and looked gorgeous. All only that but also everyone looked spick and span. No one would not walk tall. Where the guest of honour was to sit, was beautifully decorated with balloons and crepe papers of different colours. It is not false to say that everything seemed to be smart.

Yes! It was a promulgation where the Member of parliament was to attend our school prize-giving day. The road was filled to capacity. Everyone was anxiously waiting for the guest of honour. In a thrush of a lamb's tail, we could hear a screen of a vehicle. We were now aware that the long waited guest had arrived.

Truly, world cheered rent the atmosphere as the guest alighted at the vehicle. He was warmly welcomed by both pupils, teachers and who attended the function.

ENT

Immediately he was given a seat and the headteacher brought the function to an order. He narrated his speech while waiting the guest to be ready. After much preparation of the guest of honour, he was now ready to be given a chance.

The headteacher welcomed him to deliver his speech. Pupils were happy as a pregnant mother who had delivered when they saw him marching majestically in front of them. He finished his threads and began, "headteacher, teachers, parents and pupils good morning. It is another pleasant morning which God has given free and everyone must be happy as a sandboy. IS it? I know that each of us is aware of the function of this day.

What I will like is total co-operation and I will like you to remain silent as a deserted cemetery. Last year, we had one hundred candidates who sat for these exams and out of these only two failed. I now want to tell the candidates of this year to double the effort so that they can come out with good results.

The first subject was mathematics followed by english and then Kiswahili. Let me call upon the teachers who taught these subjects and the first pupil in every subject. I wish you a good journey when you will departure to your various destinations. Thank you." At once there was world cheers from

Once again there are many errors- all kinds! But we shall focus on spelling in this composition. Apart from the misspelling of the word "guest" (which is actually a case of carelessness as the candidate clearly knows the correct spelling and has correctly spelt it thrice in the same composition). There are words, which the candidate has "misspelt". On the surface it may be seen that there are no spelling errors, but on close examination of the sense of the sentences where these occur, one finds that a

different word was called for. Take for example, the expression "...no pupil would afford to miss this **suspicious** day". The word the candidate had in mind was "auspicious." Another example is "we could hear the "screen" of a vehicle" the word the candidate had in mind was "siren" or "screech." Again consider "at once there was "world" cheers from every corner" obviously the word the candidate intended is "wild".

Such errors arise out of the situation where the candidate has heard these expressions used and actually understands their usage but has never met them in their written form and so has not internalized their orthography. Of course the result is that such a candidate will cause a lot of confusion and impair communication. They will definitely be penalized for misuse of words and vagueness. Teachers need to encourage the culture of reading to enable students meet the language in its written form to enhance their own writing.

Mark awarded 23

Composition J

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day and we were all as happy as a lark.

We were as eager as bridegrooms for him to arrive. In a fraction of a second a fancy car came into view and moved slowly towards our school gate. We started singing joyfully and cheerfully. It was a huge black Mercedes Benz registered KBN 692 K.

We all surrounded it as it entered the school gate. We followed it towards the school field where the ceremony was to take place. I was as happy as a sand boy for I was to see our Member of Parliament with my naked eyes in real life.

The car came to a stop and he stepped out. As soon as he got out of the car people cheered and gave him a warm welcome. We then headed on to our seats in order for the ceremony to set the ball rolling.

As soon as we were settled the host went on and welcomed all the guests. He presented himself as the senior teacher of our school and the teacher in charge of the examination. He started off by thanking all those who had availed themselves at the ceremony.

The host went on and welcomed the headteacher to pass on his greetings. No

Sooner had the teacher started than we heard a loud noise from far we saw a car coming towards the field at a super-sonic speed. We were all amazed as we thought that its driver had gone bananas.

It came to an abrupt stop as if it had hit an invisible wall. We all gazed at it and in a blink of an eye four men holding weapons came out of the vehicle. I pinched myself to ensure that I wasn't in slumber land. Alas! It dawned on me that I wasn't dreaming.

We heard gunshots and in a flash of light screams tore the airwaves almost setting my eardrums a sunder. People started running helter skelter to all directions. Other gunshots were heard and this time all hell broke loose when they started beating up people.

All the others laid prostrate on the ground when they saw this. At once it was as quiet as a graveyard as the men went to where the guests were and commanded them to take out everything they had.

For once I learnt that even people in power can be threatened. The MP gave out all what he had. As one of the men passed near me I shook and my heart pounded like a diesel post-mill.

The candidate has some facility in the use of language. Errors have now become fewer and far in between. There is definite plot and the language has improved greatly. Punctuation and paragraphing are appropriate.

Mark awarded

26

Composition K

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

NOSTALGIC MOMENTS

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day and everything looked pom and glory. We had arranged all the forms and chairs in place. The entire school social hall was bedecked with bunting decorated on 'Prize-giving day'. The hall was packed to its capacity. Now the grand hour came, the time everyone waited for with zeal and zest like a victor. The Member of Parliament was at the gate. A hum of vehicles pervaded the vicinity and cheers and glory rent the air. Although everyone was as happy as a king on my side I was haunted with the nasty things I had done the previous day. Instantly, I espied our headboy Monty, pass by. At first I smelt the rat. His presence had aroused a lot of suspicion in me.

No sooner had our eyes met than he called out my name. "Bahari, come near!" I felt the little energy left in me oozing literally like a deflating balloon running short of hydrogen. I moved near and lend him my ears. He dropped the bombshell, "You are needed in the deputy's office urgently, be quick about it dear." I was thunderstruck and left in the horns of dilemma. I vividly knew that the rat had been let out of the bag and the gospel truth had been exhumed. I flashbacked my heat-soaked mind and fully recalled how I had perpetrated in the assault of our Principal, Mr. Tembu. Truly, it was unbearable.

I was in two minds whether or not to go. I fidgetted and my adrenalin shot up giving a forth rise in my body temperature. I was sweating profusely. I made my slow, but sure steps as I ascended the spiral stairway. My heart was in my palms and I almost skipped out of my blotchy skin. At last I mustered courage

and got into the airy office. For sure, whoever has ever sat on the palatable spikes of a pineapple is --- I got seated adjacent the deputy principal, a man who scarcely smiled and frequently driven by his own convictions and principles. He glared at me and grinned his teeth. He reclined in his high-backed administrative swivel chair and sipped his squash on the desk. He looked at me directly into my eyes and said.

"Bahati, as you refer to yourself, you are a misfortune, I tell you. Your character and behaviour does not go hand in hand with the kind of naughty cases you are involved. You are leading yourself into a career that you will barely come out of. Your allies are blinding you. Bahati, I hope you can recall how your dad came here, not even a moon ago, pleading for a chance. The only appreciation you can grant us is casting us at such a grand score. I believed you were an African Gentleman, yet you were a fool! An idiot! You tend to imagine that if you are bright, you can do anything. You are not bright, your brain is no bigger than that of a hen. You are only but a cow in school uniform. You can surely aid and abet in beating up our principal an innocent fellow."

He paused and fished out a file and scribbled down an expulsion letter. He signed and stamped "Bahati, I am very much upset and for your own good reveal the hide outs you were with during the incident. That was an abortive treason attempt. We have no business with you. You fool. Good for nothing fellow. Only able to conspire such. May the wrath of Lord fall upon you." I was very irritated. Temper rose like a column of mercury in a clinical thermometer. I espied a black board ruler under the desk and with

The candidate could have scored a better mark if he or she did not engage in phrase hurling and misuse of vocabulary. Besides the candidate digressed from the topic of the day- prize giving and concentrated on the private disciplinary problems that is a farce. This gives the impression the candidate may have had a prepared topic onto which is tagged the composition given.

Apart from a few spelling errors, such as "hole" (hall) "alot" (a lot) and tense errors "lend" (lent) "flashbacked" (flashed back) and numerous misuse of expressions ("on my side", "is smelt the rat", "left in the horns of dilemma", "gospel truth had been exhumed", "perpetrated in the assault...") that cause difficulty in understanding, the candidate has made an attempt that shows ambition and passion. He even fairly attempted direct speech.

Mark awarded 30

Composition L

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

IGNORANCE IS NOT AN EXCUSE

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day...

and each pupil had taken time to look impeccable in the school uniform. Our school was nothing special so a member of parliament honouring us with his presence was big news. Little did we know that our big day was not to be. A popular saying, my grandmother loved reciting to us day in day out, was shown perfectly on that day. The saying went a little bit like this, if I knew where I would die, I would not go there. If we knew what would befall us on that ill-fated day, I am certain none of us would be found within a ten-mile radius of the place we were currently standing.

Time ticked slowly by and the awaited guest had not yet arrived. Impatience was slowly building and the air was thick with anticipation coupled with tension. Some, or should I say most of us, were ready to throw in the towel and head back to our respective classrooms when disaster struck. All we heard was the deafening blast of an explosion followed by the sight of huge flames licking at the blue sky. Now, most pupils would have run away from the source of all the commotion, that was not the case. Curiosity held us by the scruffs of our necks and led us to find out what had caused the explosion. Well, curiosity killed the cat but satisfaction brought

him back.

Throwing caution to the wind, we ran towards the source of the fire all the while turning a deaf ear to the pleas of our teachers to turn back. It did not take long to reach the centre of everything and we soon found out that a gasoline station had exploded. The start was yet to be ascertained. As we stood around gaping at the flames leaping higher and higher into the air, there was another violent explosion and this one sent all of us flying. I guess we should have been smart enough to know that misfortunes seldom come singly but we were not and our ignorance cost us dearly.

I cannot exactly remember regaining consciousness. I just found myself crawling on the ground, pinching my nose shut as protection from the smoke-filled air. Location of my fellow pupils proved to be as difficult as looking for a needle in a hay-stack and equally futile. Snatches from conversations here and there confirmed my worst fears, casualties from the second explosion had been numerous, mainly consisting of young pupils.

Lady Luck had smiled upon me that day for I had escaped with but a few bruises. Most of my classmates were not as lucky and had suffered ill-fates. The member of parliament actually did show up that day, however his message was a somber one. All in all we had no one to blame but ourselves.

This candidate is almost at home with the language. Sentences are varied and apart from a few run-on sentences, structures and punctuation are alright.

Like the previous candidate, this one also avoids the set task preferring to twist the topic to suit his or her own preference. But this candidate blends the topic chosen with the goings on at the prize giving - at least in so far as the waiting of the guest of honour's arrival and diversion of boredom is concerned. The candidate remembers to tie the two by a comment about the message delivered by the guest of honour who apparently did arrive.

Mark awarded 34

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize-giving day ...

HARD WORK NEVER GOES UNREWARDED

We lined up on both sides of the road from the school gate ready to welcome our Member of Parliament (MP). It was our school prize giving day, which all and sundry had been eagerly waiting for. Sooner than later, the sleek metallic white, Mercedes Benz appeared, reflecting the bright rays of the sun. Following bumper to bumper, were three black cars perhaps which were for security.

Immense joy was written all over our visages as Mr Simba, the member of parliament was received with shouts of joy and ululations. Before one could utter Jack Robinson we had all settled down under the various tents, patiently waiting for the much anticipated ceremony to begin.

"Good morning, and welcome to Kanga Primary School's annual prize-giving day," boomed the baritone voice of the master of ceremonies from the speakers.

Without further ado, the ceremony began. First and foremost we had entertainment from the pupils. From plays to skits to dances. But the one which almost made the crowd die of

laughter, was the short play by the standard eight boys. Attired in worn out suits with protruding bellies they danced and walked in a manner that resembled that of a drunken grasshopper!

Not only that, some of them were dressed as ladies, and furthermore swirled their dresses in pride as they danced with their male counterparts. It was a sight to see! Ripples of laughter rent the air to a point that others cried. Soon, it was time for speeches.

The joyous and noisy atmosphere suddenly turned quiet. Pin-drop silence prevailed as the member of parliament who was also our chief guest sauntered to the podium to give his speech. By then, the savage noon day sun was high up the mellow blue sky, mercilessly showering the earth with its oppressive heat.

"Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon?" he questioned happily.

"Good afternoon," replied the crowd, in unison.

"Today, it is with much joy that I stand before you. As you all know hard work brings profit, therefore, without dilly dallying, we shall reward those who were outstanding in the different fields of education," he remarked jovially, an ear to ear smile swathing his face.

The composition reads well. The candidate has remained relevant and used language mostly aptly. There is variety in sentence structures and punctuation is okay. There is an attempt to use idiomatic English. Generally a clean and easy reading script.

Yet there are few errors. There are two glaring spelling errors ("atleast" and "proffessor"), one or two misuse of words ("unprofound bliss") and some vagueness "one by one went to the pupils..." and "questioned happily".

Mark awarded

36