

## S.2 ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

**Instructions:** *Attempt all the questions.*

### **The Importance of Trees**

Trees are the biggest and longest living plants on earth and they live longer than any others. Trees cannot survive in deserts or in High Mountain or at the north or south poles. They are found in every other kind of landscape. Of course, different kinds of trees grow in different places depending on how much heat or cold, dryness or wetness they can survive.

Most of us live in places where there are trees. We enjoy them for their beauty and because they provide shade on hot days and shelter on wet days. Animals use them for shade too, during the hottest time of the day.

Trees play an important role in preserving and protecting our environment on earth. They release oxygen into the air. Infact, they not only produce oxygen but also absorb carbon dioxide. In this way they help to reduce the amount of pollution in the Earth's atmosphere. They also play an important part in the water cycle as they release moisture into the atmosphere through their leaves. This helps the formation of clouds which bring rain. Loss of trees can therefore be a cause of drought. In addition, at times when there is a lot of rain, trees can soak up much of the extra water and so they help to prevent floods. Trees also benefit the soil where they grow. They prevent soil erosion as they work like nets trapping soil and stopping it from being washed away. In addition, fallen trees, branches and leaves decay on the ground, making the soil more fertile.

An individual tree is home to all kinds of animals: insects, birds, reptiles and mammals as well as other plants. In a forest millions of types of trees can be found. For example, tropical rainforests, which occupy less than 8% of the earth's land plants and animals.

In addition to these benefits, products from trees provide us with thousands of everyday items. Many fruits and seeds are eaten by humans and animals. Then there is wood. It is used in the construction of both traditional and modern buildings. Inside most buildings there is furniture like wardrobes, tables, chairs, beds and so on, all of which are made of wood. In the street there may be all kinds of structures made of wood: signboards and telegraph poles are just two. Wood is also an important source of fuel.

Then there are other less obvious tree products. Pulp, which consists of a mash of cooked wood chips, is used for making paper and cardboard, which in turn are used of newspapers, tickets, toilet paper and boxes. Cellulose is the material that makes up plant cell walls and it has many used. Clothes can be made from rayon o viscose, both of which come from cellulose. Other things made from cellulose are photographic film, video tape, cellophane (which is a kind of plastic film used to wrap things), toothbrushes, and spectacles. Wood oils are used in the manufacture of nail polish, hairspray and lipstick, chewing gum and many medicines. Rubber, which is manufactured from latex, a

sap or thick liquid taken from the trunk of the rubber tree, is used for car tyres and rubber mats.

The challenge for humans is not only to enjoy the products that trees give us but also to use trees carefully so that they don't disappear. Currently, many parts of East Africa are suffering from deforestation, that is, more trees are being cut down than are being replaced by new trees. With controlled cutting down of trees and replanting programmes we will be able to enjoy the benefits of trees forever.

1. Find words in the passage that mean the following:
  - (a) Small pieces of wood mixed with water and boiled into a kind of paste.
  - (b) A liquid taken from the trunk of a tree.
  - (c) The walls of plant cells.
  - (d) The loss of soil from the land caused by heavy rain or wind.
  - (e) When there is so much rain that water covers the land.
  - (f) When there is so little rain that rivers and wells dry up.
2. Choose the best answer to each of these questions. Draw a ring round the correct answer.
  - (i) Where are trees found?
    - a. In landscapes that are not too hot or dry
    - b. In places that are very hot and dry
    - c. at the North Pole
  - (ii) What do trees release into the air?
    - a. oxygen
    - b. Carbondioxide
    - d. pollution
3. How do trees make rain?
  - a. by soaking up water
  - b. by releasing water into the air
  - c. by releasing oxygen into the air
4. How do trees stop soil erosion?
  - a. by making the soil more fertile
  - b. by stopping it being washed away
  - c. by trees and branches falling on the ground
5. How many of the total number of species of plants and animals are found in tropical rainforests?
  - a. 8%
  - b. less than half
  - c. more than half

**3A. Rewrite according to instructions given without changing the meaning.**

3.1 Maria said that John had stolen her bag. (Begin: Maria accused .....)  
.....

3.2 Although the examination was difficult, most students felt they had passed.  
(Rewrite using but)  
.....  
.....

3.3 We have our science lessons in the lab. It was built last year.  
(Rewrite as one sentence)  
.....  
.....

3.4 Akii Bua could not take part in the Olympics because of the political problems in  
his country. (Begin: As a result of .....)  
.....  
.....

3.5 My brother is a strong athlete. He is good at football too.  
(Re-write as one sentence).  
.....  
.....

3.6 The young girl was very arrogant. Nobody could propose to her for marriage.  
(Re-write as one sentence)  
.....  
.....

3.7 Here are the tablets. The doctor prescribed them. (Re-write as one sentence)  
.....  
.....

3.8 He learnt to speak Kiswahili. It is the official language in Kenya.  
(Re-write as one sentence.)  
.....  
.....

3.9 Somebody told us a story about his new bride. (Begin: The story.....)  
 .....  
 .....

3.10 His father (drink) alcohol for twenty years and now (advise) by the doctor to stop.  
 (Re-write using the words in brackets correctly)  
 .....  
 .....

**3B. Choose the correct alternative to fill in the blank.**

- 3.11 She .....English for eight years.  
 A. learnt C. has been learning  
 B. learned D. is learning
- 3.12 Our visitors arrived after we .....supper.  
 A. eat B. eaten C. has been D. had eaten
- 3.13 Those .....be my shoes. Mine are brown not black.  
 A. can B. can't C. should D. will
- 3.14 I .....the house since I came home.  
 A. has cleaned C. have cleaned  
 B. have been cleaning D. had cleaned
- 3.15 The runner .....the race when he fell down in pain.  
 A. had finished C. finished  
 B. will finish D. is finishing
- 3.16 There is no known treatment .....that disease.  
 A. of B. for C. against D. to
- 3.17 I am worried .....my father's health.  
 A. with B. of C. about D. to
- 3.18 He joined the debating club as a means .....his fluency in English.  
 A. to increase C. to increased  
 B. to be increasing D. of increasing
- 3.19 Sarah had very little money but she agreed to .....some.  
 A. borrow B. offer C. lend D. avail
- 3.20 When the teacher on duty accused her of escaping from school, she .....  
 A. rejected B. denied C. avoided D. refused

**THE END**