

LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

MID TERM II EXAMS 2011

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

SENIOR TWO

TIME: 2 HOURS

Instruction: *Answer all the questions.*

I. *Read the following passage and answer questions on it.*

Umaru's Narrow Escape

Umaru and the older man got out. The rest of the passengers, including the two men, climbed down from the back of the lorry. They all went aboard the ferry.

'Be careful Mahershal whispered to Umaru. 'It is easy to fall off a ferry, especially if someone pushes you.'

Umaru hastily left the side of the ferry, where he had been gazing into the river, and sat on the running-board of the lorry. He looked round him carefully, but for the moment could not see the two men he feared. He allowed himself to sink into a daydream. All seemed so safe, with the two ferry-men pulling on the ferry-chain and singing to keep in time. The rest of the passengers were talking and laughing, happy that their journey was nearly over.

Suddenly a man carrying a large bundle came walking unsteadily round the end of the lorry. His face and chest were quite hidden by his burden. It appeared that he wanted to pass Umaru.

The latter was a polite young boy. As he was in the way, he rose to his feet to let the man pass, without thinking of danger. The size of the bundle forced him to bend nearer and nearer to the edge of the ferry, which had no rail.

Just as the man passed, Umaru saw that there wasn't another smaller man behind him, with a stick. Somehow or other, Umaru never knew how, the stick became entangled with his legs, and he could not regain his balance.

Splash! Umaru had fallen in the river, and was being carried rapidly down stream by the current swollen by the first early rains.

As he sank below the surface of the water, Umaru thought with horror: 'Crocodiles! They will be coming upstream with this first flood water. I must go to the bank as soon as I can.

Fortunately he kept his head. He had learnt to swim at school, and without thinking began to move his arms and legs to keep himself afloat. He paused to get his breath

when he came up to the surface again, and noted which way the current was carrying him. Then he began to swim in that direction.

Mahershal saw with horror that his young companion was apparently being carried away by the flood water. He felt helpless, and very, very unhappy. It was his fault that poor Umaru stood in danger of death. He could do no good by jumping into the water himself, though he would willingly have done so.

The ferry neared the town shore, and Mahersal stared and stared despairingly at the water round Umaru's head. Ah! Alas! He saw the ripple as a watching crocodile dived beneath the surface of the water. A shout of alarm went up from the crowd. Who could help Umaru now?

By great good luck, however, there was a traveler whose little motor-boat was tied up to the river bank. When he saw what had happened, he seized his rifle, and kept guard over Umaru till he could reach the bank.

Questions:

1. Why did Umaru hastily leave the side of the ferry?
.....
.....
2. How can you tell from the passage which was older, Umaru or Mahersal?
.....
.....
3. What part did the man carrying the large bundle have to play in the 'accident'?
.....
.....
4. Was Umaru in danger of drowning? How do you know?
.....
.....
5. What real danger did Umaru face in the river?
.....
.....
6. What happened to make the crowd shout in alarm?

-
-
7. What was the traveler in the motor-boat ready to do?
-
-

II *Read the passage below and answer the question on it.*

Noma and Sucula

Noma drew back the curtain. Taking hold of the window late, she lifted it up and had to push hard before the window opened.

‘Oogh, I’m scared,’ cried Sucula.

‘Stop saying that!’ said Noma, irritated. ‘It doesn’t help.’

The roar of the water as it rushed past was so loud that she couldn’t hear the noise of the rain that was spraying her with the force of a hose-pipe. She had to stop a scream that was beginning deep in her throat.

She turned to see Sucula standing beside her. Sucula took one look outside and cried, ‘what are we going to do?’

‘The only way to escape is to climb on to the roof!’ replied Noma. She was shivering even mote and was barely able to control the fear in her voice as she added, ‘And there’s no time to waste.’

Still dazed, Sucula stared at her in horror and disbelief. Then she slowly nodded.

Fearfully the girls climbed on to the dressing-table. Noma carefully put her foot on the window-sill and held the top of the open window with both hands. Then, she reached up and took hold of the guttering, first with one hand and then with the other and pulled herself up so that she was able to stand on the top of the window.

It was sharp and bit hard into her feet. The rain stopped for a moment or so before coming down more heavily than before. Her clothing was soon drenched and felt cold and wet. She pressed her face against her arms as there was a flash of lightening followed by a crash of thunder. By this time, the water was coming down the roof so fast it overflowed the gutter and ran down her hands and arms. Taking a deep breath, her heart beating, she pulled herself on to the roof and sat down with her back against the metal chimney stack.

After pausing briefly to catch her breath she called out, ‘Come Sucula, come!’

She watched as Sucula reached up and first pulled herself on to the top of the window and then gripped the guttering with both hands. It loosened slightly and Sucula swayed dangerously.

‘Noma, help me, help me!’

Inspiration suddenly came to Noma and she caught hold of the chimney stack with one hand and reaching down with the other, took Sucula’s wrist. Drawing on to all her strength, she managed to pull the other girl onto the roof.

Breathless and shivering, the girls lay on the roof, not daring to move. There was a flash of lightening across the sky.

Noma closed her eyes, trying not to see the water as it rushed past a few metres below. Another flash quickly followed and she opened her eyes to see a large log and a bedstead hitting the side of the house as they rushed past. The thunder that followed was barely heard above the noise of the rain and the water.

Whoosh! The wind swept across the roof and the rain continued to fall down on them. Noma heard a loud crash as the doors gave in under the weight of the water. She felt the house move a little as the water poured in. Sucula let out a cry of fear. Then to Noma’s great relief, the house stopped moving, but, wet and numb from the cold and fear, the girls’ courage finally left them and they held each other desperaelly in the darkness, convinced that for them the dawn would never come.

Finally Noma lay down on the roof and, completely exhausted, fell asleep.
(From Then Came the Dawn by Phyllis Owen)

Choose the best answers for the questions:

8. Why was it difficult to open the bedroom window?
A. the window was stuck B. the curtain was stuck
C. the latch was stuck
9. What was the weather like?
A. it started to rain heavily B. a thunderstorm started
C. the heavy rain stopped.
10. What happened to the house when they go on to the roof?
A. It continued to slowly fill with water
B. The doors were broken by the flood
C. Heavy rain came in through the door ways.
11. How did the girls feel s they waited on the roof?
A. they were confident they would be alright
B. they thought they would die
C. they were very cold but still courageous.

(B) Find words in the text to match the definitions below:

12. A piece of furniture with a mirror in a bedroom where you can sit and do your hair.

13. Apart above the roof of a vertical pipe that carries smoke from fire out of the building and up into the air.
14. Shocked, unable to do anything.
15. 'To be completely wet'

III *For this section, choose the best option to complete the sentences. Circle the letter of your choice.*

16. My grandfather could read and write although he to school.
 A. never goes B. has never been
 C. was never going D. had never been
17. We all did well in the test because we very hard.
 A. were working B. had worked
 C. hadn't worked D. weren't working
18. Every year Juma's results are a little bit better than the year before. He is improving
 A. dramatically B. drastically
 C. steady D. steadily

IV *What can you say in these situations? Write a suitable phrase for each one:*

19. Your friend has passed her 'O' level exams. What do you say to her?

20. Your friend's mother invites you to a family party at their house. You are very pleased and want to go. What do you say to her?

V *Use the correct form of the given words to complete the sentences.*

21. There is a lot ofamong the youth in our village. (poor)
22. Lack of literacy causes someto the development of a country. (hinder)
23. The hunterspeared the lion and killed it. (courage)

24. Isingoma is a friend of (we)

VI *For this section, Re-write the sentences as instructed without changing the meaning.*

25. ‘You should prepare well for the exams’, said our teacher
(Re-write beginning: Our teacher)

.....
.....

26. She felt nervous and uncomfortable. She started to sing her song in front of the whole school. (Join the sentences usinging word)

.....
.....

27. Jesse is disciplined. He is a very hardworking boy.
(Join the sentences using: not onlybut also)

.....
.....

28. Although they were very different in age, they were very good friends.
(Use difference)

.....
.....

29. ‘Have you been bullied?’ asked the headmaster insistently.
(Re-write beginning: The Headmasteron)

.....
.....

30. By tomorrow the swelling (disappear)
(Rewrite and supply the correct tense of the verb in brackets).

.....
.....

-END-