

# LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

MID TERM III EXAMS 2010  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

***Answer all the questions.***

1. Summary

***Read the following passage very carefully, and then answer the two questions below it.***

Recently, a young woman found some young weeds that resembled a familiar and edible vegetable. She collected the leaves and cooked them for the family. Soon after eating the meal, those members of the family who had eaten the vegetable started to laugh hysterically. Only one person was not yet laughing: he was the only one who had not eaten the vegetable.

The weed that had been mistakenly cooked and consumed as a vegetable was *Datura stramonium*, one of the most poisonous of all plants. It is found growing among crops. *Datura stramonium* has a pale green stem and a large white flower. It belongs to the potato family. It is juicy, rapidly growing herb with conspicuous trumpet-shaped flowers and round fruit covered in spikes. The leaves are large and have deeply indented edges. The seeds are contained in a round fruit, which is covered with a lot of spikes. The seeds are only about 3 mm long, and vary in colour from brown to black.

Human poisoning by datura has been quite common in the past. Although some people are beginning to understand the poisonous nature of the weed, many others, especially children, many not know that it is dangerous. In the case of children, poisoning occurs most commonly after they have eaten the weeds accidentally. What must be realized is that although the seeds contain the greatest concentration of the poisonous substances called alkaloids, all parts of the plant are highly poisonous.

For example, a five year old child was one day playing in the garden, collecting various flowers, leaves and strips of bark with which to feed her dolls. This collection included pieces of the stem from datura plant. The child had handled the stem and then accidentally rubbed some of the juice on her fingers into her right eye. Few hours later her mother noticed that the pupil in her right eye was very much larger than the other one. This effect on the eyes is one of the symptoms of datura poisoning. It is associated with the traditional belief that the dew of datura leads to blindness.

Datura has been used as a traditional herb if prepared and applied appropriately by experienced herbalists. It has traditionally been used as an intoxicant, inducing excitement, drunkenness and boisterousness in groups of people for good and evil purposes. It is also some times used today to relieve asthma in many parts of the world, including highly developed countries. Great care must however be taken to ensure that it

is properly used under strictly controlled conditions. In some communities, too, the leaf is bound round the head to relieve headaches.

The symptoms of datura poisoning start with dryness of the throat, and mouth, nausea and vomiting. With higher doses this is followed by dilation of the pupils of the eye. This is then followed by excitement and disturbances of vision (hallucinations) and an increasing heart rate. As poisoning becomes more serious there is fever, depression, coma and finally death. As well as hallucinations, victims can also experience disorientation of the sense of time. The drinking of one cup of 'tea' made from datura seed and taken for the relief of asthma as resulted in immediate intoxication and marked thirst.

Datura is spread throughout the world. It is commonly found growing among wheat and when found should be immediately uprooted. The uprooted plants should be collected in heaps to dry, and then burnt. Children should be taught to identify the plant so as to avoid it. Any one who has handled the plant should of course immediately wash their hands thoroughly.

Datura the Second World War (1939 – 45) many hundreds of cases of datura poisoning occurred in East Africa. Most of them were among young African soldiers. It was found out that the flour they had been eating had been contaminated with seeds of datura. In 1943 – 4 there was a famine caused by the failure of the maize crop, and wheat, rye and cassava were given to the soldiers mixed with the maize flour. It was later discovered that the wheat had been contaminated with datura seeds.

***Questions:***

1. (a) In a paragraph of not more than 60 words, summarize the symptoms of datura stramonium poisoning.
- (b) What are the uses of datura? Answer in not more than 20 words.

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Qn. 2 Comprehension

***Read the following passage***

Africa is anxious for peace in Southern Africa. But the possibility of this depends upon the possibility of ending the present injustice without war. Neither free Africa nor the Western world has the right to ask the peoples of Southern Africa to accept indefinitely the present humiliation, oppression and foreign domination; and in any case they would not pay heed to any such demands. The only chance for peace in Southern Africa is if change can be secured without violence. If this is possible, no one will be happier than the people of Africa.

But we have tried peaceful methods and have failed. The people of southern Africa are therefore resorting to war, and the free African states are supporting them. The only chance for peace now is if the allies of the southern African states are willing and able to exert the kind of pressure which brings change with the minimum of violence.

Do the western powers have the ability to exert such pressure? I believe they have a great deal of power if they are willing to use it for this purpose. South Africa benefits greatly from its association with the western nations; it will not wish to lose that benefit.

It is possible that South Africa would refuse to make any concessions to the democratic sensibilities of its allies, even at the cost of complete international isolation. I say this is possible because many people in South Africa believe in apartheid as a religion and will defend their faith until death. But there are other South Africans who rejoice in, and who support the segregationist policies of that government because of the material benefit and the position of privilege it gives them. I believe this is the majority. Such people give a support which is conditional to the extent that it is not based on fear; there is a limit to the degree of international isolation they would be willing to accept rather than accept an organized move towards individual human equality. At the very least, therefore, strong

western pressure on South Africa could introduce a new uncertainty among the dormant group. The police state machine would thus lose the virtually total white support which at present it enjoys. In that case, the violence may not be of such long duration or of such bitterness.

Thus it is the west which makes the choice between peace and war in South Africa. The question is not whether the Western powers are able to exert pressure on South Africa, but whether they are willing to do so. It is the implications of that question which I hope the people of this and other countries will carefully consider.

Select the best answer to the following questions. Draw a ring round correct answer.

1. According to the writer, peace in southern Africa can only be achieved
  - A. If security can be achieved without violence.
  - B. If the people of Southern Africa pay heed to the just demands of Africa and the Western powers.
  - C. At the cost of complete international isolation.
  - D. If the present injustice is ended without violence
2. The writer thinks that the people of South Africa have begun to fight because
  - A. peaceful methods have been tried without success.
  - B. the free African states are supporting them.
  - C. they are resorting to war against their oppressors
  - D. they would not pay heed to the demands for peace in South Africa.
3. The writer seems to think that the Western powers
  - A. are able but not willing to exert pressure on Southern Africa.
  - B. are willing but not able to exert pressure on Southern Africa.
  - C. are both ready and willing to exert pressure despite South Africa's refusal to make any concessions.
  - D. are neither able nor willing to exert pressure on Southern Africa.
4. The writer believes that if Western pressure were applied to South Africa,
  - A. most people in the country to the death
  - B. some of the whites at least would cease to support their government.
  - C. the widespread white support for the police state machine would vanish.
  - D. Most South African whites would make demands for individual human equality.
5. The people in South Africa who are most likely to be influenced by pressure from the Western powers are
  - A. the majority of the population of the country
  - B. those who support the government's policies for religious reasons.
  - C. Those who support the government's policies for financial reasons.
  - D. those who can no longer accept humiliation, oppression and foreign domination.

**Qn. 3A. Select the best of the four choices given to complete the following sentences:**

- 3.1. If Maria had got married when she was in form 4, she .....at school.  
 A. would never have stayed      B. never had stayed  
 C. Never have stayed              D. will never have stayed
- 3.2. All the old woman had to give her new granddaughter some  
 A. cotton torn old baby clothes    B. torn old baby cotton clothes  
 C. Torn old cotton baby clothes    D. Torn cotton old baby clothes
- 3.3. They had.....much luggage that they had to leave some of it behind.  
 A. Such                                  B. very                                  C. too                                  D. so
- 3.4. Watching a film is .....than watching a play  
 A. more better                          B. best  
 C. good                                   D. much better
- 3.5. I insisted on wanting to know .....the dress looked like.  
 A. which                                  B. what                                  C. how                                  D. of how
- 3.6. They cannot carry those boxes, .....?  
 A. can't they                              B. do they  
 C. can they                                D. should they
- 3.7. It gets .....cold have that we often need at least two blankets.  
 A. so                                        B. very                                   C. too                                  D. extremely
- 3.8. The landlord .....his tenants unfairly.  
 A. excluded                                B. prevented                            C. dismissed                            D. evicted
- 3.9 They said they didn't feel .....just yet.  
 A. for eating                                B. like to eat                            C. like eating                            D. for food
- 3.10. If Juma .....to this school, he would probably be married by now.  
 A. have not come                        B. had not come  
 C. has not come                          D. would not have come

**3B Re-write according to instructions after each.**

- 3.11. Ngugi has had three articles published in "Rupiny"  
 Begin: Three .....

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- 3.12. No one could explain the disappearance of the school bell.  
 Begin: No explanation

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- 3.13. Did you give me this book or was it somebody else?  
Begin: Was .....  
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- 3.14. Okello's father would not let him go to Zanzibar.  
Begin: Okello's father prevented.....  
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- 3.15. Okello said she was behaving badly towards his parents.  
Use: Okello complained of.....  
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- 3.16. Jane offered to lend me her phone.  
Re-write using Direct speech  
"Would .....?" said Jane.  
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- 3.17. We need not come tomorrow.  
Use: no need.....  
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- 3.18. It was very hot, but we worked on the farm throughout the day.  
Begin: Hot.....  
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- 3.19. Everyone has forgotten the old man. He used to own that shop  
Re-write as one sentence  
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- 3.20. The second meal she cooked was less tasty than the first.  
Use: as the first.....  
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-END-