

LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

MID TERM II EXAMS 2011
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

SENIOR THREE

1. The Self-reliance worker

In Africa, there has been an enormous influx of young people into artisan activities. This has been possible for a number of reasons, the chief of which has been the nearly insatiable demand for cheap artifacts of various kinds: braziers (jiko), fence post nails, ladies debes, buckets, hinges and bolts for doors, wood – working tools – the list is endless. However, the boom in artisan activity would not have been possible without the readiness of those artisans already in trade to accept trainees for “on the job” training they needed them to cope with the work; and the speed at which these trainee artisans very soon became masters themselves. Within a year, trainees might in his turn take on fresh trainees himself for the training process to continue.

Gacuiiri comes from a family of black smiths. From a very early age, Gacuiiri was familiar with metal, wood and bits of machines. He used to make wooden models; once he used to make wooden carts for children to play on, and to carry debes of water some of these carts he would sell, others he would rent out. Later, in school vacations, he began to construct jikos out of scrap-metal to supplement the family income.

On leaving primary school, Gacuiiri set about finding employment. His first venture, mending bicycles, was unsuccessful, and he got a job picking coffee on one of the estates. A vacancy occurred in the farm workshop, and he convinced the manager that he would carry out most of the metal – working practices.

Gacuiiri now had what many would regard as a great job; but he wanted to be independent – he wanted to be his own boss. Within a short time he moved nearer Nairobi where he proceeded to make, full time, and the jikos and water cans that he had previously made in his school holiday. He would purchase a scrap metal in Nairobi for a few shillings, and take it back to his place on a borrowed bicycle.

Unfortunately the bicycle was simply not strong enough to carry the scrap-metal he wanted, and this gave him an idea. Why not make bicycle carriers; not those expensive, light-weight imported ones, but carriers strong enough to manage the weight of an adult, or sacks of charcoal, or debes of water?

To make such a carrier, especially strong tools were necessary. Gacuiiri bought a drill and bits for about 6/=, improvised a handle for hacksaw blades, and made a small bellows from bits and pieces. With these implements he was able to make his first metal cutter. Within a short time he has made a sample bicycle which he carries round to the main Nairobi cycle stores to get orders. Very soon he had orders for dozens of these strong carriers. How did he manage it?

For one thing, his carriers were stronger and cheaper than those were factory-made. Secondly he made all the first ones personally, to ensure that they are of right quality, and so that his trainees could learn from his example.

There were other reasons for his success. He saw the need for an efficient, regular supply for good quality scrap metal. He also realized that his market is good enough to be marketed over a wider area. He did not rely only on the Nairobi firms. He also went personally to the main provincial towns of Kisumu, Eldoret, Nakuru, etc. Very soon he was provinces by road and rail, and getting a much better price for them than if he had sold them all in Nairobi. He even managed to arrange and order of 200 dozen in Arusha in Tanzania, and was only prevented from completing this by difficulty in fixing an export license.

Gacuiiri did rest on his laurels. He saw that there was a danger in putting all his eggs in one basket, and so he began to diversify into making fore guards. Many people consider these essential in strengthening the bicycle's front fork and shaft for local road conditions. They were made entirely out of 1cm round metal each pair linking the..... from axle and the shaft beneath the handle bars. Each length of metal had to be heated and then flattened at the extremity, and holes bored in for attaching to the axle.

Once these fore guards were established and popular, Gacuiiri turned to designing a bicycle stand for attaching to the back wheel.

Questions:

1. In what ways did Gacuiiri show himself to be self-reliant?
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2. What advantage did Gacuiiri have from birth? What disadvantages did he have?
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3. In what ways did Gacuiiri show enterprise while at school?
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4. Why did he stay in the good job on the coffee farm?
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5. How did he get the idea of making bicycle carrier? In what ways were his to be better than the imported ones?

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2. A. The Unfinished House

Sometime ago I visited a town not very far from Ibadan. As I was being taken round, I noticed quite a number of unfinished houses all over the town. It wasn't that the workmen had paused for a while in their task to resume work at a later time – perhaps after the rains. Rather, the houses had a deserted look about them as if they had been abandoned for years. I could not help wondering about those deserted houses. Why did they remain unfinished for so long?

I did not have to travel out of town to find out. Friends told me the reasons at great length, and, most interesting and saddest of all, I was able to watch the birth, growth and, as if it were, strangulation, of one of these houses right opposite my own home. A lot of houses, I discovered, remained unfinished because the owners were dead. A house which I referred to a moment ago, whose birth and strangulation I witnessed, falls into this category. I took a lot of interest in this house because my own house faces a stream and a stretch of bush and until this landlord came to build his in front of us, there had been no house for at least a kilometer.

Then one day a lorry came bringing and all sorts of building materials. First the landlord built a wooden bridge over the stream. Next he tried his small car on it. There was an ominous creaking and the bridge rocked dangerously. Quickly the man reversed and got back onto the grass. The bridge had proved too weak for the small car. The man had to abandon all thoughts of a heavily laden lorry crossing such a flimsy erection. He therefore contented himself with hiring workers who painstakingly crossed the stream with loads of stones and cement and sand. It was indeed tedious and the house progressed painfully. It was soon after the window and door frames had been put in that I noticed work had stopped on the house. First the path was covered with weeds and then the bush, lavishly watered by the stream, crept up to the house, ran up it and gradually swallowed it up. And now it is out of sight completely.

I asked a neighboring housewife what happened. Her answer was – “He is dead, they say, and there is nobody to finish the house.” I thought to myself, “So much wasted labour. A good life insurance policy would have made all the difference.” Sad, isn't it?

But most cases of unfinished houses do not arouse the sympathy which this dead man's case arouses. The reason is that the situations are man-made and a few are even laughable.

Take the case of the poor man who wins shs 60,000 with a lottery ticket. He has never seen so much money in all his life. To him, shs 60,000 is inexhaustible. He imagines he is now a millionaire. So what does he do with the money? First, he marries two or three

wives paying a handsome bride price for each. After all he can now afford the luxury. Then he thinks of building a house with the rest of the money. One imagines that, like the foolish man in the Bible, he is ready to say at the end, “Soul, take thou thy rest eat and be merry.”

But poor soul, there is no rest yet. Shs 60,000 minus three bride prices and marriage feasts will not cover the cost of thirty-two-roomed house. Unfortunately the foundation has been laid, part of the walls have been built, the window frames are ready to be put in; in short the point of no return has been reached when, suddenly, the money is exhausted. Panic-stricken, the poor fellow rushed around trying to borrow money. But no one is willing to lend him money; they would rather buy the house. How much? Let’s say – shs. 12,000 they suggest. That’s much too small, the poor chap protests. They shrug their shoulders unconcernedly. The poor fellow proceeds to buy another lottery ticket, and there you have another unfinished house – rambling ambitious, ill-conceived and doomed from the start.

It is not only lottery ticket winners or pools winners who behave in this overambitious way. For such people I have no sympathy.

Then there are the traditional causes of the unfinished house. Take the family house, for instance. It is owned by no particular member of the family. Anyone is free to live in it for as long as he likes. This was practicable when the extended family system had not yet broken down. Nowadays, children roam far and wide seeking new pastures, family houses is no longer as necessary as it is used to be. But there are diehards who cling to the old ways. They begin to build a family house, hoping the next generation will lend a helping hand – a substantial helping hand. But the younger generation is more economically minded. What is the use of a family house when you are always destined to earn your living far away from home? Two week’s leave every year does not justify the expense and the sacrifice. Those who have the money think of building a house in the city in which they work, for in such places there are many seeking accommodation and prepared to pay for it. So our young clerk turns a deaf ear to his people’s pleading at home, builds himself a nice house in the city, and collects the rent. And in his village one more unfinished house has been added to the landscape.

Another type of unfinished house is caused by land dispute. Someone buys a piece of land, thinking the title is genuine. He begins to build on it. Along comes a fellow who says “Heh, that’s my piece of land.” “It can’t be,” says our man, “I bought it from so and so.” “So and so doesn’t own it,” the other fellow says “I do.” “Prove it!” Says our man. And one of those marathon land cases so common in this country has begun. It takes years. Meanwhile the building has been stopped half-way, and the weeds are crawling all around it. Yet one more unfinished house becomes an eyesore on the landscape.

Lastly, there is the rare case of the house that is struck by lightening while it is being built. The horror-stricken villagers take this as a sign that the gods do not want them to build in that particular place – and the house is abandoned permanently

Questions:

1. According to the writer, the main mistake of the person who started to build opposite her house was
 - A. building a bridge that was not strong enough
 - B. building his house on a dangerous site
 - C. failing to take out a life insurance policy
 - D. sitting his house in a place where the bush was too thick.
 2. The poor man who won shs 60,000 was at fault because
 - A. he married two or three women
 - B. he wanted to “take his ease, eat and be merry”.
 - C. he wanted to borrow some money.
 - D. he did not understand the value of money
 3. According to the writer, family houses are often unfinished because the younger generation
 - A. cannot afford to build
 - B. do not think they are worthwhile
 - C. never visit their home villages
 - D. have no respect for the family
 4. The writer seems to think that, in Nigeria, the extended family system
 - A. has broken down
 - B. has not yet broken down
 - C. never really existed
 - D. is responsible for a great many half-finished houses
 5. Diehards in line 116 probably means
 - A. people who leave to a great age
 - B. people who are very healthy
 - C. people who are very obstinate
 - D. uneducated people
- 2 B The writer gives a number of reasons for unfinished houses in Nigeria. Summarise these reasons in a paragraph of about 120 words. Do not include any unnecessary information.

Rough copy

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Fair copy

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Answer the following questions below.

- 3.1 A terrible problem croppedthis morning in the Maths lesson.
A. over B. with C. up D. up with
- 3.2 It is quite wrong to.....anyone on the grounds of race, colour or creed.
A. discriminate on B. discriminate against
C. discrimination on D. discriminate over
- 3.3 “I’m sorry I didn’t recognize you,” he said. “I took you.....someone else.”
A. like B. as C. for D. to
- 3.4 The terrible drought resultedgreat loss of life among cattle.
A. on B. to C. in D. into
- 3.5 Ali was told to make sure hethe projector every night.
A. locked B. locked in
C. locked against D. locked up

- 3.6 The supervisor.....his application for employment because he was not satisfied with his testimonials.
 A. turned B. turned down
 C. turned off D. turned way
- 3.7 “I should like tothat the last speaker is not even a member of this society.
 A. point out B. point it out
 C. point D. point forward
- 3.8 If you want to apply for this job, you’d better take home this form and.....
 A. fill it B. fulfill it C. fill in it D. fill it in
- 3.9 Heat the traffic lights and drove her home.
 A. Picked her B. picked her out
 C. picked up her D. picked her up
- 3.10 The policeman shouted at the woman, but she didn’t.....
 A. take no notice of him B. take notice of him
 C. take notice D. take any notice

Join the following pairs of sentences using the best relative clause

- 4.1 Tato was greatly relieved to find her invitation card. She thought she had lost it.

- 4.2 At the wedding reception there were a lot of people. Many of them had not been invited.

- 4.3 The official wanted a bribe. He was arrested by the police.

- 4.4 Renjo is quite interested in reggae. This is music that originates from Jamaica.

- 4.5 Amina was furious when she found the baby had abset to food. She had prepared it early.

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Rewrite the following sentences as instructed.

- 4.6 That kind of film attracts more women than it does men.
(Re-write beginning: Women)

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- 4.7 Children aren't nearly as polite as they used to be. (Rewrite usingthan.....)

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- 4.8 "Where is my luggage? "The angry passenger demanded.
(Re-write in reported speech, beginning: The angry passenger demanded.....)

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- 4.9 "I really don't know what he has done with the key." Said Mary.
(Re-write in reported speech, beginning: Mary said.....)

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10. "I am sorry, I don't know where the key is," he said.
(Re-write in reported speech, beginning: He apologized.....)

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-END-