

# LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

S.4 MID TERM I TEST 2009  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE P.I

TIME: 2 HRS

*Attempt all questions.*

## Passage I

When Kunjuga entered the trustees Bank, he felt suddenly lost like a man lifted from the ground without any warning or explanation. The confidence and composure which he had had on the way seemed to have deserted him. May be it was the sight of the policeman with a face that could easily make one's blood curdle that was making him so nervous. Or it was the cold stare of a white woman who seemed to be assessing the cost of his clothes; he could not tell. All he knew was that he had suddenly felt empty; the way a young woman feels when her skirt unexpectedly falls in the middle of a busy street.

Somebody tapped his shoulder. He turned to meet the hard cold eyes of another policeman glaring at him.

"What do you want?" The voice reminded one of a lion's roars. As Kunjuga later commented, it was a perfect voice with which to wake a dead man!

He managed to answer: "I want to see the manager of this bank. I have an appointment with him." By this time he was already sweating; little beads of sweat were flowing down his cheeks.

"Go to the third counter," the policeman said through closed teeth. "Over there!" he pointed with a finger that seemed capable of drilling a rock when Kunjuga hesitated.

The receptionist was sitting comfortably on a low chair. She had a magazine in her hands and was obviously very pleased with what she was reading. Regarding her age, Kunjuga deduced that she would never see thirty again, but through the use of buckets of cosmetics she looked much younger. The early shrivelled skin around her eyes gave her away. Otherwise she could deceive a hasty young man that she was eighteen.

She put the magazine on her knees and observed Kunjuga as he approached her counter. He eyes fell on the one-eye old shoes and saw them bulging with pressure from the inside, the big toes pressing as if they wanted some fresh air. Her eyes momentarily lingered on the second hand trousers which she labelled as the type that accurately measures the direction of the wind. The trousers ad once been green but now, due to wear, they were half-green, half-grey. She then observed the stained white skirt and the wrinkled cloth around the neck which Kunjuga took for his best tie. Her eye narrowed as she watched the cheeks jutting through underfed flesh, the half hopeful, half confused face and the somewhat grey hair. As a reaction, she frowned and let out a sigh to indicate her disgust. She was bored, bored with this badly dressed school-leavers who entered every firm as if they were God Almighty! She did not have to be told that Kunjuga was a school leaver. She knew.

“What do you want?” she asked.

**Questions:**

1. How did Kunjuga feel as he entered the bank?
  - A. he was so elated he felt as though he was walking on air
  - B. he suddenly felt extremely nervous
  - C. he had to ask the way because he was lost
  - D. he was brimful of confidence and composure.
2. Why was Kunjuga sweating?
  - A. he thought the policeman might guess why he was there
  - B. he was frightened that the policeman would know he was lying
  - C. for reasons that are not all together clear
  - D. because his clothes were so thin he felt almost naked
3. According to the writer, the receptionist was
  - A. a sophisticated and sensitive observer of her fellow human beings
  - B. a hard working career woman who is used to making swift decisions
  - C. mutton dressed as lamb
  - D. an unsympathetic woman, no longer young, but still trying to be Attractive
4. The writer of this passage probably intends the reader to feel
  - A. amused
  - B. frightened by the policeman
  - C. sympathy for Kunjuga’s plight
  - D. disgust at kunjuga’s arrogance
5. Say in your own words why you think Kunjuga went into the bank.  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Passage II**

There are three basic types of interviews. The most common is the one where the interviewee is interrogated by just one interviewer (a *one-to-one interview*). Here a person can feel better at ease, and the interviewer and interviewee can gain a quicker report, than when there are more people involved, such as in the board interview.

In a *board interview*, there is a group of interviewers who sit around a table and ask questions usually one at a time (but sometimes interrupting one another). Instead of just one person having to get to know the interviewee, there can be anything up to eight or even more. Research has shown that the more people involve in an interview, the more difficult and confused it becomes for a chairman of a selection panel to handle.

For example, it has been known for interviewers to argue among themselves and leave the applicant almost unquestioned. If you are forced with this sort of situation, it is best to remain diplomatically quiet. Often quite a favourable impression is given of applicants if they are diplomatic, because interviewers remember, and rue, the disagreement they had.

Another popular method of interviewing is the *group interview*. In this situation, a group of interviewees are placed together in a room and given a problem to solve. The interviewers' role is not so much asking questions, as making notes on the behaviour of the people while they are solving the problem. Until recently this has not been a very popular method of selecting young people for their first jobs.

What advice can be given to young people facing their first interview? First of all, they should be prepared for every eventuality by being aware of what can happen: it is most important that they should know what form their interview might take.

Secondly, they should be well-informed about current events. They should also have read any available material on the company or organisation that they wish to join. For if the applicants can show evidence of his interest in the interviewer's organisation, then the interviewer is much more likely to be interested in the applicant.

Probably the most important piece of advice for an applicant is to make sure that he or she goes to the selection interview to assess the organisation the interviewer representation, and not just to be assessed. So often in interviews the interviewer asks candidates "Have you any question?" and the only reply is a weak "No, not really." Applicants should before the interview, draw up a list of questions. This should not of course be learnt off by heart and thoughtlessly regurgitated. Applicants should only ask those questions which have not already been answered in advance during the interview. Having a list of questions also gives the person to be interviewed confidence and encourages him or her to think constructively about the interview.

One last point is worth mentioning: although it is possible that many interviewers give too much emphasis in their assessments to the physical appearance of the applicant, it often pays to dress reasonably conventionally. It would be foolish to jeopardise one's chances for a job merely for change of clothes.

### ***Questions:***

1. from the point of view of the interviewee, which kind of interview does the writer favour, and why?
2. What is the writer's most important piece of advice to an interviewee, and how should it be acted on?
3. Explain when, and why, it may be to an interviewee's advantage to remain quiet in an interview.
4. What does an interviewer do during a group interview?
5. In your own words, explain two of the following expressions as they are used in the passage:  
(a) rapport (b) jeopardise

Summary question selecting material from passage 2, write a paragraph of about 85 words, stating what young people facing their first interview for a job should do.

***Qn. 2 Rewrite the following according to the instructions. Do not change the meaning.***

1. On the way to Malindi National Park we called at the house of an expert in tropical fish. He taught us how to recognise the different species easily. Combine into one sentence without using and.
2. In the bush, it is very important to extinguish a fire when you have finished with it. Begin: Putting out .....
3. There are few animals more alert than leopards. Rewrite beginning: The leopard.....
4. When cows get foot rot, they become severely lame. They refuse to put weight on the affected limb. You have to force them to move. Rewrite as one sentence, using so.....unless.....
5. The farmer said that he would do nothing to help them in their predicament. Rewrite using the verb refuse.
6. We shall act the play even if they don't want us to.
7. The animal recovered from foot rot very quickly. There was no need for us to have called the vet. Rewrite using so and needn't.
8. You may be a very good singer, but you still need to study music. Rewrite, beginning: No matter how.....
9. The police wanted to find out who had caused the accident. They asked all the bystanders. The by-standers refused to help. Combine into one sentence, without using but or and.
10. I am going to the cinema this evening. You can come as well. You must finish your homework first. Rewrite as one sentence, beginning: If.....

***Qn. 3 Choose the best alternative for each of the following:***

1. The little girl was.....happier than she thought she would be at her new school.  
A. more B. much C. so D. too
2. Because of the preparations she had made. Anna was not quite as nervous .... the other candidates.  
A. than B. as like C. like D. as
3. If Clementine.....to this school, she would probably have got married by now.
4. Neither Mazigo nor his brother.....Arabic.  
A. speaks B. have been speaking  
C. have spoken D. speak

5. They erected a fence to.....the cattle from straying.  
A. protect B. forbid  
C. prevent D. deny
6. When they heard the sad news they decided to put.....the performance until later.  
A. off B. down C. away D. up
7. When he was younger, Onyango.....chop wood for the fire.  
A. have to B. used to C. must D. use to
8. The scholarship.....for another year.  
A. enabled him study B. enabled him to study  
C. enabled his studies D. enabled him studying
9. The old woman,.....was quite harmless.  
A. whom all the children were afraid of  
B. who all the children were afraid of him  
C. whom all the children were afraid of him  
D. whom all the children were afraid.
10. They said they didn't feel.....just yet.  
A. for eating B. like to eat  
C. like eating D. for food

**-END-**