

MERIT 003



TARGETER KCPE THIRD MERIT STANDARD EIGHT - YEAR 2020

ENGLISH SECTION A: LANGUAGE

Time: 1 hour 40 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES (Read these instructions carefully.)

1. You have been given this question booklet and a separate answer sheet. The question booklet contains 50 questions.
2. Do any necessary rough work in this booklet.
3. When you have chosen your answer, mark it on the ANSWER SHEET, not in the question paper.

HOW TO USE THE ANSWER SHEET.

4. Use an ordinary pencil only.
5. Make sure that you have written on the answer sheet:
YOUR INDEX NUMBER
YOUR NAME
NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL
6. By drawing a **dark line** inside the correct numbered boxes, mark your full Index Number (i.e. School Code Number and the three-figure Candidate's Number) in the grid near the top of the answer sheet.
7. Do not make any marks outside the boxes.
8. Keep your answer sheet as clean as possible and **DO NOT FOLD IT**.
9. For each of the questions 1-50, four answers are given. The answers are lettered A, B, C, D. In each case, only **ONE** of the four answers is correct. Choose the correct answer.
10. On the answer sheet, show the correct answer by drawing a dark line inside the box in which the letter you have chosen is written.

Example:-

In the Question Booklet:

For questions 16 to 19, choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

17. Fresh milk is as harmless as _____
- A. honey.
 - B. sleep.
 - C. crystal.
 - D. ice

The correct answer is **B**.

On the Answer sheet:

16. [A] [B] [C] [D] 17. [A] [B] [C] [D] 18. [A] [B] [C] [D] 19. [A] [B] [C] [D]

In the set of boxes number 17, the box with letter **B** printed in it is marked.

11. Your dark line **MUST** be within the box.
12. For each question, **ONLY ONE** box is to be marked in each set of four boxes.

This question paper consists of 7 printed pages.



Read the passage below carefully. It contains blanks numbered 1 to 15. For each blank, choose the best answer

from the choices given.

When the music teacher announced that he wanted us to join the 1 Music Festival, there was great 2 and we spent 3 time after school 4 different songs. Some of them had complicated 5 and the words of the English songs were very strange. We also prepared some traditional dances. These were very energetic and 6 for a lot of concentration before the 7 became automatic.

8 the week of the festival came 9, we were brought to the Kenyatta International Conference Centre. We were not only excited because of leaving Kibarage 10 at the conference centre 11 we walked across a huge courtyard with fountains 12 water high up in the air and 13 of school children in 14 many different uniforms were moving about talking excitedly. When we got 15 the conference centre we were in the biggest building in the World.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. | A. schools | B. school's | C. school | D. schools' |
| 2. | A. enthusiasm | B. anxiety | C. worry | D. fight |
| 3. | A. a lot | B. much | C. a lot of | D. more |
| 4. | A. teaching | B. practising | C. rehearsing | D. playing |
| 5. | A. bits | B. harmonies | C. rhythm | D. tune |
| 6. | A. called | B. demanded | C. asked | D. desired |
| 7. | A. pace | B. dance | C. move | D. sequence |
| 8. | A. As | B. When | C. While | D. After |
| 9. | A. round | B. up | C. around | D. over |
| 10. | A. also | B. but | C. but also | D. and |
| 11. | A. where | B. which | C. as | D. wherever |
| 12. | A. sprinkling | B. oozing | C. flowing | D. gushing |
| 13. | A. crowds | B. throngs | C. mobs | D. congregations |
| 14. | A. so | B. very | C. too | D. quite |
| 15. | A. into | B. outside | C. inside | D. on |

For questions 16 to 18, choose the word that best fills in the blank space.

16. There is _____ hope left, is there?
A. a little
B. less
C. much
D. little
17. Our teachers try to _____ discipline in us.
A. insert
B. exert
C. instill
D. put
18. Both Mwende and Mulei _____ at the party yesterday.
A. were
B. are
C. was
D. is

In questions 19 and 20, choose the opposite of the underlined words.

19. She seldom comes to school late.
A. rarely
B. often
C. sometimes
D. always
20. The affluent politician paid school fees for all the needy children.
A. generous
B. mean
C. selfish
D. poor

For questions 21 to 23, choose the phrase that best completes the given sentence.

21. It was not until it started raining _____
A. when we stopped playing
B. so we left for home
C. that we ran back to class
D. and we bid them goodbye
22. His hard work finally bore fruits, _____?
A. didn't it
B. hasn't it
C. did it
D. had it
23. Had he shared his problems, _____
A. he would be helped.
B. he will be helped.
C. he would have been helped.
D. he could be helped.

For questions 24 and 25, choose the meaning of the given expression.

24. Sitting on the fence.
A. Suffering great discomfort.
B. Not taking sides.
C. Being the judge of other people's conduct.
D. Afraid of the future.
25. To lead a dog's life.
A. To be greedy and lazy.
B. To quarrel with everyone you meet.
C. To always follow behind the rest.
D. To have a miserable existence.

Read the following passage then answer questions 26 to 38.

He could think no more. He had spent the whole night thinking. Sleep had evaded him like a bad disease. He wished he could just catch some sleep.

Bongomaji had lost his job two years earlier. The government had announced that it would lay off redundant staff. This was commonly known as retrenchment. At first the employees did not know whether to accept the lump sum money that was being offered or not. As usual, the mention of three hundred thousand shillings made people think. Some got over seven hundred thousand. "What could not a man do with such a large sum of money?" They were heard asking.

"We are going to start a poultry project. We will buy two hundred one-day old chicks. Feed them well and in two to three months, sell the broilers to one of the many big hotels in town." said Bongomaji.

"Oh, yes," responded the wife. "I cannot wait to start the project."

The following day, Bongomaji and his wife ordered for two hundred one-day old chicks. They put them in the chicken house they had previously prepared. They started feeding them enthusiastically.

"These small things eat too much. From dawn to dusk, they are still pecking. The chicken feed I bought the other day is finished. I am feeling so exhausted," lamented Bongo's wife. "Take heart my wife, it will pay some day."

So husband and wife worked day-in-day-out. It was now time to sell the broilers.

"What? One hundred per head? I cannot believe my ears."

"Oh yes, you see when you were retrenched, you were not alone. So many of you went into chicken farming business. The market is overflowing with poultry products. You are lucky. You did not keep layers. One egg is going for two shillings," the hotel manager explained.

Bongo who by now not listening-left the hotel, furious. I will go to another hotel. Even if it means going to another town, I will. He swore. And so he went.

By the third day of his market search, there was so much supply that the highest price had gone down to eighty shillings and he could only sell half his stock.

26. Which of the following statements is true according to the first paragraph?

- A. Bongomaji could not sleep.
- B. He slept late that night.
- C. He had a bad disease.
- D. He had little sleep.

27. The word 'evaded' as used in the passage means

- A. although he wished to, he could not fall asleep.
- B. Bongomaji's sleep had escaped from him.
- C. he could not close his eyes.
- D. he avoided sleep.

28. Why couldn't Bongomaji sleep?
 A. He had lost his job.
 B. He had projects to think about.
 C. He had been thinking the whole night.
 D. Retrenchment plan had found him unaware.
29. The phrase 'lay off' as used in the passage means to
 A. punish lazy workers.
 B. stop employing somebody because there is no work.
 C. dismiss employees from work.
 D. reduce the number of workers in a company.
30. According to the second paragraph, we can say that
 A. the workers who were laid off had nothing to do with the money.
 B. each one of them was paid at least seven hundred thousand.
 C. the workers wanted to know what they would do with the money.
 D. the workers were satisfied with the amount the government was offering on the retrenchment.
31. Why were workers retrenched?
 A. The government could not pay them.
 B. There was no much work to be done.
 C. They were incompetent.
 D. They lacked sufficient skills.
32. How long does it take a chick to mature?
 A. About three months.
 B. Two or three months.
 C. Three months.
 D. Several months.
33. What was Bongomaji's target market?
 A. Western hotels.
 B. The neighbourhood.
 C. Big hotels in town.
 D. The meat commission.
34. The words 'dawn to dusk' could be replaced by
 A. all day long.
 B. every passing minute.
 C. day in day out.
 D. morning to evening.
35. What was the motivation behind feeding the chicken?
 A. They would sell them and get money.
 B. They would have plenty of meat to eat.
 C. It kept them busy.
 D. They fed continuously.
36. Why was Bongomaji dismayed by the market price of the broilers?
 A. It was unbelievable.
 B. It was twice the cost of a one-day-old chick.
 C. He had a lot of chicken to sell.
 D. It was extremely low and he would run at a loss.
37. Why was the market overflowing with poultry products?
 A. Many people had been retrenched.
 B. Many people had invested in poultry farming.
 C. Capital required to start the business was affordable.
 D. Most people in the area were vegans.
38. From the last paragraph we can conclude that
 A. Bongomaji incurred a huge loss.
 B. He did not sell his broilers.
 C. The chicken died.
 D. Bongomaji did not live long.

Read the following passage then answer questions 39 to 50.

Vast grasslands and farmlands in the Eastern and North Eastern regions have suffered the wrath of new invaders-the desert locust. The impact and implication of the flying dragons devouring plantations on the human population could be related to Biblical teachings. From the ancient times, a plague of desert locusts can result in natural disasters like famine. In prehistoric times, Egyptians carved them in their habitats - stories well captured in the Holy Books.

A nymph is the stage at which locusts grow into drifting swarms in definite conditions. Locusts are known to thrive in selected African countries, the middle East and parts of Asia. How did they choose Kenya? Well, climate can - and, it is believed, has - modified the distribution pattern of desert locusts. Kenya has, of late, experienced heavy rains. These conditions are interestingly, substituted by extreme temperatures within short spans.

Science has established that the extremes favour the two sub-species of desert locusts. One has for a long time colonised areas north of the Equator as the other oscillates in Southern Africa. The two are climate sensitive but their migration paths could easily be dictated by climate variations.

It is, therefore, necessary to study the weather and climate variations and appreciate locust species that Kenya could attract and how to rebuff the same. The government should declare the locust problem a national disaster. Having been discovered in Wajir, Marsabit and Garissa the other day, they have already been sighted in Isiolo and Meru.

The locusts could spread further, causing more destruction of crops that could lead to famine and human displacement. People can cultivate the soils where the locusts lay eggs to destroy the insects as the government uses insecticides and biological methods against them.

There is a huge health risk in the aerial spraying of locusts as there is no clear information on the chemicals being used. The residents of these areas need to know whether and when it is safe to graze their livestock. Also, how long should one stay away from sprayed areas to avoid inhaling these chemicals?

39. What is the impact of the invasion of locusts on human population?

- A. Death caused by diseases.
- B. Displacement and migration.
- C. Starvation and famine.
- D. Uncertainty.

40. Which word has been used to describe the destructive nature of locusts?

- A. Impact.
- B. Natural.
- C. Devouring.
- D. Implications.

41. The writer says, locust invasions were experienced
- only in Northern Kenya.
 - around the world.
 - South of the Sahara.
 - even in the days of yore
42. Locusts thrive best in
- any African country.
 - wet and hot climate.
 - green leafy areas.
 - Asia and Africa.
43. The word drifting means
- flying.
 - spreading.
 - moving.
 - going.
44. What has led to locust invasion in Kenya?
- Laxity on the side of the government.
 - Poor farming methods.
 - Climate change.
 - The position of Kenya on the globe.
45. To fight the locust menace, we must first of all
- declare the problem a national disaster.
 - identify affected areas.
 - acquire enough air craft.
 - study the weather and climate variations and determine the specific species that thrive here.
46. Where were the locusts first sighted this year?
- North Eastern.
 - Wajir, Marsabit and Garissa.
 - Isiolo and Meru.
 - In South Africa.
47. Why should the locust problem be declared a national disaster?
- Their effects affect a large population.
 - They are dangerous.
 - First time invasion.
 - They are only heard of in holy books
48. Which of the following cannot control further spreading of the locusts?
- Spraying them using insecticides.
 - Cultivating the soil to destroy the eggs.
 - Scaring them away.
 - Using biological methods.
49. The word 'risk' as used in the passage could be replaced by
- harm.
 - state.
 - condition.
 - danger.
50. The best title for the passage could be
- Effects of climate change.
 - Locust invasion in Kenya.
 - The flying dragon.
 - How to control spread of locusts.