

MERIT 002



TARGETER KCPE SECOND MERIT STANDARD EIGHT - YEAR 2021

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 past tense of the underlined word

17. They drink tea everyday.

A. drunk

B. drank

C. drank

D. drunken

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.

"I couldn't go on," Mary thought wearily. She had no idea 1 far they had walked, 2 for how long. It seemed like forever. She had 3 once or twice in the beginning that they 4 be wiser to 5 remain in the jeep or return to the cool shade of the trees 6 the oasis. Philip scolded her angrily.

She 7 and fell in the sand, twisting her ankle. 8 of her was Philip. He turned and 9 at her, coming back to pull her up. Mary 10 a cry as her full weight was put on her foot.

"Can't you try to keep up with me 11 " he said harshly. Mary knew 12 than to ask him where they were going. They seemed to have been following this sandy track for a lifetime. Her face felt as though it was on fire and her ankle throbbed agonizingly with every step she 13. Their water supply had finished hours ago. She thought 14 of the cool water of the oasis. Philip's outline wavered before her tired eyes 15 she felt herself slip into a world filled with hallucinations and mirages.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. | A. how | B. which | C. what | D. that |
| 2. | A. and | B. also | C. from | D. or |
| 3. | A. appealed | B. protested | C. informed | D. requested |
| 4. | A. can | B. will | C. would | D. may |
| 5. | A. neither | B. either | C. not only | D. decide |
| 6. | A. around | B. across | C. within | D. in |
| 7. | A. rolled | B. swerved | C. stumbled | D. slid |
| 8. | A. Infront | B. Behind | C. Close | D. Ahead |
| 9. | A. glanced | B. peeped | C. glared | D. stared |
| 10. | A. held in | B. held back | C. pulled back | D. pulled in |
| 11. | A. ? | B. . | C. , | D. ! |
| 12. | A. well | B. far | C. better | D. best |
| 13. | A. takes | B. took | C. had taken | D. would take |
| 14. | A. briefly | B. sadly | C. fearfully | D. longingly |
| 15. | A. as | B. when | C. after | D. then |

For questions 16 to 18 choose the phrase that best completes the given sentence.

16. I think the coach likes Musa best _____.
- A. of all the players in that team
 - B. than the other players
 - C. to those other players
 - D. of the two players
17. We shall eat rice and beans if _____.
- A. we would not be going out
 - B. we would not have found something else
 - C. we cannot find something else
 - D. mother prepared it
18. The vehicle was too old _____.
- A. that it could not go uphill
 - B. so it could not break
 - C. to go up hill
 - D. and it was driven carelessly

For questions 19 to 21, choose the word that best replaces the underlined word.

19. It is against the law to employ school going children.
- A. immoral
 - B. illegal
 - C. wicked
 - D. unacceptable
20. The circumcision ceremony in some communities takes place once every two years.
- A. annually
 - B. frequently
 - C. occasionally
 - D. biennially

21. The head of the republic is out of the country.
- A. president
 - B. dictator
 - C. Prime minister
 - D. consul

For questions 22 and 23, choose the word that cannot be formed from the given letters

RFONEZ

- 22.
- A. Zone
 - B. One
 - C. Free
 - D. Zero
- 23.
- A. zoner
 - B. frozen
 - C. froze
 - D. rose

For questions 24 and 25, choose the word that correctly fills in the blank space

24. The secretary and receptionist, _____ resigned.
- A. have
 - B. has
 - C. will
 - D. she has
25. We don't have _____ milk in the house.
- A. any
 - B. some
 - C. a lot of
 - D. most

Read the passage below then answer questions 26 to 28.

There are many reasons why people decide to keep a dog and find themselves faced with the question: which kind of dog shall I choose? They may be looking for a replacement for a lost, faithful and trusted housemate; they may need a companion because they live alone; they may care for other creatures; they may seek a pet to share the life of a childless home; or they may wish to acquire a status symbol to compete with the lady next door who attracts so much attention with her strikingly fashionable dog. Whatever the reason for wanting a pet, no one should rush into acquiring a dog. They should not only consider their own interests as prospective owners but, first and foremost, think of the happiness of their future companion.

If you choose your dog with care, your life will be enriched for years by a friend who will give much love and satisfaction and cause little annoyance. If, on the other hand, a dog is acquired without forethought or only because of its looks, you will risk being bitterly disappointed.

A dog placed in unsuitable surroundings will feel unhappy and will not show his true character. It may become sullen and start growling and misbehaving, perhaps even becoming so undisciplined and aggressive that it proves unacceptable to his new owner who will blame the failure on the animal or its breed instead of admitting that the fault lay in his ill-considered choice. In keeping a pet the owner is taking on a considerable responsibility, and if, for instance, the pet is only wanted as a status symbol, it would be best to think again.

The first question to ask yourself is whether your way of life and personal circumstances allow you to keep a dog. The time which you can make available for the dog is very important. It is necessary to be able to give it sufficient attention because no dog can do without it. You need time to prepare his meals, to give it its daily brush, to take it for a walk for at least an hour a day and moreover to let it out two or three times a day, which means going with him and not letting him loose on the street.

A second, no less important question concerns the attitudes of all the members of the family. Is everybody happy with the idea of having a dog? Its arrival may give rise to friction. Children so easily promise to look after and take out their new companion, but as soon as the novelty wears off they forget the responsibilities they have to undertake. It is vital that the mistress of the house wants to have a dog, for it is she who, during the absence of her husband and children, will probably have most to do with the new house pet. She may have to cope with the less agreeable jobs such as cleaning up the mud which will be brought into the house in bad weather, removing dog hairs from carpets and furniture and coping with those other little mishaps which occur. The main burden of house-training the dog will fall on her if the dog is a young one. She will also have to look after it if it is ill.

If all the family have agreed that they want a dog there is another problem to consider. What is to be done with the dog during holidays? Can it always be taken along? If not, are there friends able and ready to offer hospitality, or will it have to go to a boarding kennel? In the latter case you should not wait until the day before leaving to look around for a good kennel. As you might expect, boarding out your dog may prove quite expensive; expenses that must be added to the dog licences, the unavoidable vet's bills and the cost of food which you should not economize on the quantity. Remember that any possession that brings joy also involves care and responsibility and the dog is no exception. If, after considering all these points, you still have an unquenchable desire to own a dog, you may then decide what kind of dog to choose.

26. What should one consider when acquiring a pet?
 A. Their own interests and pet's comfort.
 B. The level of the pet's faithfulness.
 C. The size of the family.
 D. Available funds.
27. Which of the following is not mentioned as a reason for keeping a dog?
 A. For companionship.
 B. To fill up the gap in a childless home.
 C. To be like other people with pets.
 D. To be fashionable.
28. To avoid disappointment, one should,
 A. show the dog a lot of love
 B. choose their dog carefully
 C. look for a friend
 D. show their pet their true colours right from the beginning.
29. When does a dog become uncontrollable by its new owner?
 A. When it can no longer hide its character.
 B. When it is angry.
 C. When it is exposed to inappropriate environment.
 D. When it is not given enough love and comfort.
30. According to the third paragraph, it is true to say that
 A. pets are a symbol of wealth.
 B. it is expensive to own pets.
 C. some breeds of pets don't accept new owners.
 D. a pet comes with extra responsibilities and therefore, one ought to have a good reason for owning it.
31. How frequently should a dog be allowed to go out?
 A. Once in an hour.
 B. Two or three times a day.
 C. Once every day.
 D. At least two times a day.
32. Why does somebody need time with the pet?
 A. To learn the likes and dislikes of the dog.
 B. To train and familiarize with the pet.
 C. So that the pet can get used to staying indoors.
 D. To find out if the family members like the dog.
33. The word 'novelty' as used in the passage means
 A. desire B. interest
 C. newness D. curiosity.
34. What could cause disagreements in a family where there is a pet?
 A. Responsibilities that come with the pet.
 B. The pet's ownership.
 C. Competition to take the pet out.
 D. The novelty of the pet.
35. Which kind of pet dog requires indoor-training?
 A. A new dog in the house.
 B. An ill one.
 C. Any dog.
 D. A young one.
36. Why can't a dog be left on its own?
 A. It will feel lonely.
 B. It could destroy property.
 C. It depends on people for survival.
 D. It might be stolen.
37. To get the joy that is deserved from a pet, one should
 A. choose the best type
 B. take good care of it
 C. always give the dog company
 D. take the dog along on holidays.
38. What is the best title for the passage?
 A. Types of pets.
 B. Why people don't keep dogs.
 C. Care given to dogs.
 D. Factors to consider when choosing a dog for a pet.

Read the passage below then answer questions 39 to 50.

There once lived a gardener who worked on the farm of a rich notable citizen who was highly regarded in his community. The gardener was always at loggerheads with his employer because he thought the employer was a cruel and heartless person as he always found fault in everything the gardener did. For this reason the gardener loathed him and instead of improving his work, he discharged his duties in an even more slothful manner and many are the times when his employer made him to repeat his tasks.

One day, the gardener was entrusted with seeds from a leguminous plant the employer wanted planted in his garden. After giving instructions on how to sow the seeds, the employer left to attend to other matters in the vast estate. The gardener was dispirited. He already had a lot of work which he considered backbreaking. As he walked away in a foul mood, in his absentmindedness, he spilt a large quantity of the seeds on the ground. Since he was too lazy to pick up the seeds, he decided to cover the seeds where they lay, with dried leaves. After all who would know? He then walked away. He planted the few remaining seeds and was relieved to see that his work was reduced by half. When he finished, he realized that he had a problem. His boss would definitely realize something was wrong because a large section of the land he was supposed to work on was uncultivated. He decided to pour mounds of soil on the grass in the uncultivated area to create the impression that he had worked on the whole field.

That evening, his employer went to check on the section where his worker had planted seeds. He was surprised to note that there were many mounds of soil in the grassy areas. "Did my worker actually plant without clearing the ground first?" He asked himself. Suspicious about what was buried under the mounds, the employer took a stick and poked about and was astonished at what he saw. He realized that the mounds of soil had been placed to conceal the fact that nothing had been planted in some areas. Closer scrutiny revealed that the garden was halfway done with dummy holes covered up with soil. The employer was very furious and fired the gardener.

39. Why didn't the gardener get along with his employer?
 A. The employer was cruel and heartless.
 B. The gardener was not thorough in his duties
 C. The gardener was being exploited
 D. The employer overworked him.
40. The word 'loathed' as used in the passage could be replaced by
 A. feared
 B. avoided
 C. liked
 D. hated.
41. Whenever the gardener's work failed to impress his employer,
 A. he was compelled to do it again
 B. they quarreled
 C. he did the work at a snail's pace
 D. his salary was withheld.
42. The word 'vast' as used in the passage could be replaced by all the following **except**
 A. huge
 B. large
 C. tiny
 D. king-size.
43. How did the gardener feel when he was told to plant seeds?
 A. Angry.
 B. Weak.
 C. Lazy.
 D. Demoralized.
44. Why did the gardener spill the seeds?
 A. He wanted to reduce the amount of seeds.
 B. His was not paying attention to what he was doing.
 C. He was already deadbeat.
 D. He was in a foul mood.
45. To blindfold his employer about what he had done with the seeds, the gardener,
 A. covered the uncultivated area with soil.
 B. cut the grass.
 C. covered the seeds with dried leaves.
 D. buried the seeds in shallow holes.
46. The gardener could be described as,
 A. hardworking and bold
 B. lazy and humble
 C. patient and weak
 D. intolerant and unreasonable.
47. What made the employer suspicious?
 A. The size of the cultivated area.
 B. Mounds of soil.
 C. His instincts.
 D. A little bird whispered to him.
48. Why do you think the employer checked on the work that had been done?
 A. He knew the gardener was not good at taking instructions.
 B. He was looking for a reason to fire his servant.
 C. He wanted to confirm that the work had been done.
 D. He was just bossy.
49. The word 'conceal' has been used in the passage. Its opposite could be
 A. disguise
 B. hide
 C. show
 D. betray.
50. From the last paragraph, we can conclude that
 A. the gardener saw it coming
 B. the sacking was a blessing in disguise
 C. the gardener begged the employer to change his decision.
 D. the employer made the right decision.