THE KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

KCPE 2016

ENGLISH SECTION A
LANGUAGE

Time: 1 hour 40 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES (Please read these instructions carefully)

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

HOW TO USE THE ANSWER SHEET PROVIDED

3. Use an ordinary pencil.
4. Make sure you have written on the answer sheet:
   YOUR INDEX NUMBER
   YOUR NAME
   NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL
5. 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.
6. Do not make any marks outside the boxes.
7. Keep the sheet as clean as possible and do not fold it.
8. For each of the questions 1–50, four answers are given. The answers are lettered A, B, C and D. In each case, only **ONE** of the four answers is correct. Choose the correct answer.
9. On the answer sheet, the correct answer is to be shown by drawing a **dark line** inside the box in which the letter you have chosen is written.

   Example:
   For questions **23** *to* **25**, *choose the alternative that* **best** *completes the sentence.*

   23. She passed her exams very well, _____?
   A. is it
   B. did she
   C. didn't she
   D. isn't it

   The correct answer is C.

   On the answer sheet:

   [A] [B] [C] [D] [A] [B] [C] [D] [A] [B] [C] [D] [A] [B] [C] [D] [A] [B] [C] [D]

   In the set of boxes numbered **23**, the box with the letter C printed in it is marked.
10. Your **dark line MUST** be within the box.
11. For each question, **ONLY ONE** box is to be marked in each set of four boxes.

This question paper consists of 7 printed pages and 1 blank page.
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Read the passage below. It contains blank spaces numbered 1 to 15. For each blank space, choose the ***best*** *alternative from the choices given.*

I think that time has __1__ in our lives when we cannot do without the computer. With the computer, we __2__ do almost everything especially with regard __3__ typing.

One advantage of using the computer is that we can __4__ parts of typed work, such as paragraphs, from one section of __5__ document to another. When using a typewriter we would have to __6__ away with the unwanted sections, then type all over again.

Another advantage of using the computer is that we can preserve and store information. __7__ information can be retrieved more easily than when it is filed. Imagine being able to get your work at the touch of a __8__ without having to go through volumes __9__ volumes of books. With the computer, one can find work that was typed as long ago as ten years without much struggle.

The computer is also fun to work __10__ as it can provide many __11__ of entertainment. For example, it can be used to play music as well as a __12__ variety of games. We can also watch movies from a computer. In addition, a computer that is connected to the internet can provide __13__ to a lot of information. __14__, the computer has made life __15__ easy and interesting that I cannot imagine life without it.

1.	A. come	B. gone	C. reached	D. passed
2.	A. should	B. must	C. would	D. can
3.	A. about	B. for	C. at	D. to
4.	A. remove	B. take	C. move	D. send
5.	A. a	B. any	C. the	D. that
6.	A. make	B. do	C. get	D. put
7.	A. All	B. Some	C. Such	D. Any
8.	A. switch	B. key	C. letter	D. sign
9.	A. plus	B. with	C. over	D. and
10.	A. with	B. for	C. at	D. on
11.	A. things	B. styles	C. forms	D. ideas
12.	A. new	B. wide	C. good	D. full
13.	A. entry	B. admission	C. access	D. means
14.	A. Indeed	B. However	C. Besides	D. Moreover
15.	A. very	B. so	C. more	D. much

*For questions **16** and **17**, choose the alternative that best completes the statement given.*

16. They rarely come to school late, _____?
A. don't they
B. isn't it
C. do they
D. is it

17. You do not have to shout, _____?
A. do you
B. should you
C. don't you
D. shouldn't you

*For questions **18** and **19**, choose the alternative which means the **same as** the underlined words.*

18. The plaintiff was given a hearing by the magistrate.
A. accused
B. complainant
C. suspect.
D. witness

19. The noise made by the ducks was annoying.
A. quacking
B. squawking
C. cackling
D. clucking

*In questions **20** and **21**, choose the **best** alternative that is pronounced in the same way as the underlined word.*

20. One ewe was killed by the stray lion.
A. awe
B. you
C. woe
D. woo

21. He injured his toe.
A. too
B. two
C. to
D. tow

*For questions **22** and **23**, rearrange the given parts in order to form a sensible sentence.*

22. (i) although she had been in hospital for a week
(ii) my friend got a present
(iii) and passed the test
(iv) because she worked hard

A. ii, iii, i, iv
B. i, iv, ii, iii
C. ii, iv, iii, i
D. iv, i, ii, iii

23. (i) she was admitted
(ii) of her choice in the country
(iii) having finished her primary education
(iv) to a national school

A. iii, i, iv, ii
B. i, iii, iv, ii
C. iii, iv, ii, i
D. i, iv, iii, ii

*For questions **24** and **25**, choose the sentence which means the same as the underlined sentence.*

24. If he had money, he would buy the book.
A. Though he had money, he could not buy the book.
B. He had the money though he did not buy the book.
C. He wished he had bought the book with the money.
D. He did not have money so he did not buy the book.

25. Neither Tom nor Tanya was present at the music festival.
A. Both Tom and Tanya attended the music festival.
B. None of them attended the music festival.
C. Only Tom attended the music festival.
D. Tanya perhaps attended the music festival.

*Read the passage below and then answer questions **26** to **38**.*

I had never felt so nervous in my life. As I stood outside the hall waiting for my turn to go on stage and recite my poem, discouraging thoughts crossed my mind. I had been told that it was extremely difficult to win at this level of the competition. I had heard that adjudicators usually favoured participants from schools with a history of winning, and that it was almost impossible for a first-timer like me to emerge victorious. Indeed, it was rumoured that if the judge did not know you or your school, you stood little chance of winning.

Now here I was. Neither my school nor I had taken part in the festival before. I was representing my county in this competition, whose winner would proceed to the national level. My poem was entitled "Conquer the Monster". It was about the evils of corruption and favouritism.

"All those waiting to recite poems should now line up outside the entrance to the stage," came the emcee's voice over the loudspeaker. "If you fail to appear when your name is called, you will have yourself to blame."

Mr. Gali, my teacher, came to me, held me by the hand and led me to the entrance where I joined the queue. There were only three people in front of me.

"... And thereafter, Lydia shall present her poem 'Conquer the Monster'." When I heard my name I almost fainted. I felt weak in the knees, my eyes felt moist and then all of a sudden, I wanted to use the toilet. I looked around and saw a block of toilets nearby labelled "Staff Only." Luckily, the toilets were not locked.

No sooner was I inside one of the toilets than I heard the emcee announce that there was going to be a short break. Quick thinking told me that some staff members were likely to visit these toilets. Determined not to be found out, I firmly locked the door of the toilet in which I was. And sure enough, I soon heard two men talking as they approached the toilets.

"**I wonder what is happening in this festival,**" one of them said.

"Sure," said the other "I am yet to see a confident performer since the festival began. In fact, I have never adjudicated at a more boring festival." What? So these were the adjudicators! I now listened to them more keenly. "Most of the performers appear to lack confidence and are unsure of their lines," continued the second man. **That was music to my ears**. All the nervousness **melted away** in a second.

To my relief, these people did not stay in the toilets for long. As soon as they had left, I opened the door, rushed out and resumed my position on the queue. When I went on stage, I recited my poem as if my life depended on it. Needless to say, I got the first position.

26. Why was the writer feeling nervous?
A. She was eager to recite her poem.
B. She was not sure of herself.
C. Her turn to perform was yet to come.
D. Her thoughts made her feel discouraged.

27. What had the writer been told about adjudicators?
A. They hated boring performers.
B. They preferred past winners.
C. They knew most performers.
D. They were usually bribed.

28. Which of the following is **not true** about this festival?
A. Performers represented their counties.
B. The judges were fair.
C. It was very entertaining.
D. There were new performers.

29. Despite being a student, the writer went to the staff toilets because
A. the toilets were the nearest.
B. she was preparing to go on stage.
C. the toilets were not locked.
D. there were no other toilets available.

30. As soon as the writer was inside the toilets,
A. the adjudicators had a discussion.
B. the emcee made an announcement.
C. the festival stopped briefly.
D. the adjudicators took a short break.

31. Why did the writer firmly lock the door of the toilet?
A. She did not want to be found in the staff toilets.
B. She wanted to hear what the adjudicators would say.
C. She wanted to rehearse her lines as required.
D. She did not want anyone to disrupt her privacy.

32. The statement "I wonder what is happening in this festival," can also be written as
A. He wondered what is happening in this festival.
B. He wondered what is happening in that festival.
C. He wondered what was happening in that festival.
D. He wondered what was happening in this festival.

33. According to the second man,
A. most performers were absent-minded.
B. most performers had little confidence.
C. all performers were weak and confused.
D. all performers showed lack of boldness.

34. From their conversation, we can tell that the adjudicators
A. were interested in exciting performers.
B. were planning to favour some performers.
C. did not know what was happening.
D. had never seen interesting performances.

35. The expression "That was music to my ears" means that the writer
A. was pleased to hear that.
B. felt entertained by that.
C. got everything very clearly.
D. heard a familiar song.

36. The expression 'melted away' as used in the passage can be replaced by all the following except
A. evaporated.
B. decreased.
C. disappeared.
D. vanished.

37. The writer probably got the first position because
A. her poem was the most relevant.
B. her life depended on her performance.
C. she had been favoured by the adjudicators.
D. she knew what the adjudicators wanted.

38. What lesson do we learn from the passage?
A. Practice makes perfect.
B. We should listen to advice.
C. Confidence is key to success.
D. Competition is healthy.

*Read the following passage and then answer questions **39** to **50**.*

Population control has become a burning issue in developing countries. Most countries realise that if they became overpopulated, the consequences will be **grave**. It is obvious that even within the family set-up, having many children becomes more of a problem than a blessing. In Kenya, the government, the church and individuals have always stressed the need to have a population that we can easily manage. This is because the negative effects of overpopulation are far-reaching.

For a country that relies on agriculture for its economic growth, the issue of land is crucial. If there is overpopulation, there will not be enough land for people to cultivate. They will therefore start cultivating the marginal lands and this could lead to the spread of deserts. Lack of enough land for farming will also lead to shortage of food, resulting in starvation and illnesses like marasmus and kwashiorkor.

In addition, scarcity of land may force people to move from rural to urban areas in search of alternative means of earning a living. With these migrations, towns become so overcrowded that people are forced to live in slums. The conditions in these areas are a health hazard. When people fail to get jobs, they become frustrated and some may turn to crime.

Furthermore, overpopulation causes strain on resources in the education sector. When the number of children born every year continues to grow, classrooms become congested and there aren't enough teachers. This affects the academic performance of the pupils.

Moreover, a country with a high population finds it difficult to cope with the health problems of its people. The medical facilities will not be adequate. This means that the sick will not be attended to in time, infant mortality will be high, and the life expectancy will be low.

The problem of overpopulation also has a great effect on individuals even at the family level. A family that has many children often finds it difficult to feed, clothe and educate them. The parents usually blame each other for their problems and in the long run, this may lead to family breakup.

It is important, therefore, that people embrace family planning methods in order to **cut down on** the high rate of population growth.

39. From the first paragraph, why shouldn't countries allow themselves to become overpopulated?
A. Overpopulation is not a blessing.
B. Population control is a burning issue.
C. Overpopulation has serious negative effects.
D. Different bodies emphasize population control.

40. What causes the spread of deserts?
A. Springing up of slums.
B. Cultivation of marginal lands.
C. Lack of employment opportunities.
D. Having large families.

41. Which of the following can best replace the word 'grave' as used in the passage?
A. Many
B. Deadly
C. Obvious
D. Serious

42. The issue of land is crucial in Kenya because
A. the population is growing fast.
B. we need to control rural-urban migration.
C. our economy depends on agriculture.
D. we must not cultivate marginal lands.

43. Why, according to the passage, do slums develop?
A. To house the unemployed.
B. To provide housing for urban dwellers.
C. To provide housing to those without.
D. To house the rural-urban migrants.

44. Which of the following is an effect of inadequate medical facilities?
A. People will not live for long.
B. Most infants will die.
C. The sick will not be treated.
D. More hospitals will be built.

45. According to the passage, which of the following is **not** true about high population?
A. It leads to construction of more houses.
B. It causes strain on school resources.
C. It leads to lack of proper medical care.
D. It causes conflicts in the family.

46. The expression **cut down on** as used in the passage means
A. reduce.
B. restrain.
C. decline.
D. stop.

47. Having many children in a family is a problem because it
A. makes them perform poorly in school.
B. makes them become criminals.
C. causes health problems at home.
D. Lessens ability to provide basic needs.

48. Which of the following is **not** an effect of overpopulation according to the passage?
A. People have no land to cultivate.
B. People suffer unemployment.
C. Many people move to urban areas.
D. Many people may become criminals.

49. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
A. Population control is a big concern to the government.
B. The government wants a certain number of people.
C. Population control is the government's responsibility.
D. The government regulates the size of families.

50. Which one of the following is the **most** suitable title for the passage?
A. Overpopulation in developing countries.
B. Effects of overpopulation.
C. Causes of overpopulation.
D. Control of overpopulation.