KCSE REVISION SAMPLES ESSAYS AND IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 1

1. Imaginative Composition (Compulsory)

Either

a) Write a composition to illustrate the saying, " When the deal is too good, think twice.

Or

b) Write a composition beginning with the following words, " I knew it was going to be a promising day when..."

2.The Compulsory Set Text (20 marks)

Using illustrations from the play, A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen, show how lies and deceit are exposed in the play.

3. The Optional Set Texts (20 marks)

Either

a)Despite colonisation, the Kino's strongly hold onto their traditional faith. Validate this statement with reference to 'The Pearl' by John Steinbeck.

Or

b)" War is ugly." Drawing illustrations from the short story, The President by Mariatu Kamara in the anthology Memories We Lost and Other Stories, validate this statement.

Or

c) " What goes around comes around." Using illustrations from the play, Inheritance by David Mulwa, justify this statement.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 2

1. Imaginative Composition (Compulsory)

Either

a) Write a composition to illustrate the saying, " Honesty is the best policy.

Or

b) Write a composition explaining how young Kenyans can overcome corruption.

2. the Compulsory Set Text

" Money is the source of all evil." Support this statement with illustrations from the play, A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen.

3. The Optional Set Texts

Either

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a) " Determination is the driving force that helps Kino and Juana overcome misfortunes. Write an essay to support this statement with close reference to 7he Pearl by John Steinbeck.

Or

b) " Religious hypocrisy leads to exploitation of the vulnerable." Justify this statement with illustrations from the short story, the Folded Leafing the anthology Memories We Lost and Other Stories.

Or

c) " Close relationship with leaders can make one to commit a crime with impunity. Drawing illustrations from the play, Inheritance by David Mulwa, support this statement.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 3

Imaginative Composition (Compulsory)

Either

a) Write a composition illustrating the saying, " As you sow so you shall reap.

Or

b) Write a composition ending with the following words, " As prison warders led me out of court, I cursed myself silently."

The Compulsory Set Text

" Never judge a book by its cover." Using illustrations from the play, A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen, support this statement.

The Optional Set Texts

Either

Human beings are naturally opportunistic." Justify this statement with close reference to The Pearl by John Steinbeck.

Or

b) Drawing illustrations from the short story Hitting Budapest by No Violet Bulawayo, in the anthology, Memories We Lost and Other Stories, write an essay on the devastating effects of poverty.

Or

c) " Greed is an inherent trait of most Africans in absolute power." With reference to the play Inheritance by David Mulwa, validate this statement.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 4

1.Imaginative Composition (Compulsory)

Write a story illustrating the saying, " When the deal is too good, think twice.

Or

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Write a composition explaining how young Kenyans can help eradicate poverty.

2. The Compulsory Set Text

" Blood is thicker than water." Drawing illustrations from the novel, Blossoms of the Savannah by Henry Ole Kulet, support the above statement.

3. The Optional Set Texts

a) " Choices have consequences." Justify this statement with reference to The Pearl by John Steinbeck.

Or

b) Drawing illustrations from the short story Light by Lesley Nneka in the anthology, Memories We Lost and Other Stories write an essay on the challenges that single male parents face when bringing up their daughters.

Or

c) " The more things change, the more they remain the same." Using illustrations from the play Inheritance by David Mulwa, write a composition to support this statement.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 5

1. Imaginative Composition (Compulsory)

Either

a) Write a story illustrating the saying, " All that glitters are not gold."

Or

b) Write a composition with the title, " A miserable journey."

2. The Compulsory Set Text

" Change is inevitable in any society." Validate this statement with illustrations from the novel, Blossoms of the Savannah by Henry Ole Kulet.

The Optional Set Texts

a) Drawing illustrations from the story, Memories We Lost by Lidudumalingani Mqomboti in the anthology Memories We Lost and Other Stories, write an essay on the effects of mental illness.

Or

b) " Kutula republic is a reflection of African states that are ruled by an iron fist." Support this statement basing your argument on the play, Inheritance by David Mulwa.

Or

c) " Family members play a pivotal role in one's life." Basing your argument on Kino in the novel, The Pearl by John Steinbeck, validate this statement.

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KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 6

I. Imaginative Composition (Compulsory)

a) write a story to illustrate the proverb, " Hurry has no blessing.

Or

b) Write a story beginning, " Screams of sirens rented the air...

2. The Compulsory Set Text

" Determination is the key to success." With reference to Resian in the novel, Blossoms of the Savannah by Henry Ole Kulet, write an essay to support this statement.

3. The Optional Set Texts

a) " The pearl is the source of evil to Kino's family." Discuss this statement with reference to John Steinbeck's novel, The Pearl.

Or

b) Almost Home is a story about the dangers of illegal immigration. With reference to the story in the anthology Memories We Lost and Other Stories, discuss the validity of this statement.

Or

c) " The plight of Kutula citizens is as a result of poor governance." Drawing illustrations from the play, Inheritance by David Mulwa, validate this statement.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 7

1. **IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION (20MKS)**
   a) Write a composition ending with the following statement.

   .....a final look at her made me realize that choices have consequences.

   OR

   b) Write a composition to illustrate the proverb, "once beaten twice shy".
2. **COMPULSORY TEXT BLOSSOMS OF THE SAVANNAH H.R OLE KULET (20MKS)**

   Parenting should build an environment of trust and peace in a family. Write an essay that explores how this statement applies to the Ole Kaelo family in Blossoms of the Savannah
3. **OPTIONAL SET BOOKS**
   a) **Drama: David Mulwa: The Inheritance**

   Inheriting a top seat without merit only invites ridicule from subjects. Write an essay showing how satire has been used in The Inheritance by David Mulwa.

   b) **Short stories: Moran (ED) memories we lost.**

   Discuss the major issues highlighted by the writer in the story window seat by Benjamin Branoff.

   c) **John Steinbeck. The Pearl**

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The Pearl portrays humans as beings inherently greedy. Show the validity of this statement with reference to The Pearl.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 8

1. Imaginative Composition

EITHER

a) Write a composition that has the following: *explosion, crowd, siren and hospital*

OR

b) Write a composition on the following statement*: "Technological advancement has impacted negatively on the society, especially the youth."*

2. The Compulsory Set Text.

"Self-interest is a vice that whoever engages in it is bound to fail." Using Blossoms of the Savannah, write an essay to support this assertion. (20 marks)

3. The Optional Set Texts. (20 marks)

Answer any one of the following two questions.

EITHER

a) The Short Story:

Poverty creates deep social contrast in the way people live in the society. Write an essay in support of the above statement drawing illustrations from NoViolet Bulawayo's story, Hitting Budapest.

OR

b) drama: inheritance

In what ways is Judah zen Melo's struggle symbolic of the struggle of all workers in Kutula Republic?

c) The novel

"Failure to positively respond to wise counsel often leads to suffering and frustrations." Show the validity of this statement focusing on characters in the novel The Pearl

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 9

1. Creative composition

Either

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(a) Write a composition beginning with: (20 marks)

Visiting a children's home was not my idea of spending my birthday, but I was determined to make the day interesting.

Or

(b) Write a story to illustrate the proverb: A bird in hand is worth two in the bush. (20 marks)

2. The compulsory set text

Henrik Ibsen: A Doll's House

'Women are portrayed as loving and self-sacrificing in Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House, ' Write an essay to show the truth of this statement.

3. The optional set texts

Either

(a) **'the short story:** We Lost and other stories (20 marks)

'Ignorance often leads to unnecessary suffering.' Using illustrations from Lidudumalingani Mqombothi's

short story, memories we Lost, write an essay to justify this statement.

Or

(b) Drama David Mulwa: Inheritance

'Colonial rule sets the stage for African dictatorship.' Using David Mulwa's Inheritance, justify this statement.

Or

(c) The novel John Steinbeck: The Pearl

' " Things are not always what they seem.' Using evidence from The Pearl by John Steinbeck, show the truth of this statement.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 10

1. Creative composition (Compulsory)

Either

(a) Write a composition beginning with the following: (20 marks)

As I got closer to my home that night, I realized that the commotion and noise I had heard on getting off the bus came from my elder brother's house.

Or

(b) Write a composition to illustrate the saying: ***Love is blind.***

2. The compulsory set text Henrik Ibsen: A Doll's House (20 marks)

Write an essay to show that appearances can be misleading. Draw your illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House.

3. The optional set texts

Either

(a) The short story Wanjala Chris (Ed): Memories We Lost and other stories (20 marks)

'Majdy's stay in London makes him indifferent to his people.' Drawing from Leila Aboulela's *Missing Out,* write an essay showing the truth of this statement.

Or

(b) Drama David Mulwa: Inheritance

'Lacuna Kasoo is a callous man devoid of any moral values.' Discuss this statement using illustrations from Inheritance by David Mulwa.

(c) the novel

John Steinbeck: The Pearl

'The natives presented to us in *The Pearl* are considered primitive and ignorant by the foreigners.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use illustrations from the text.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 11

1. Creative composition (Compulsory)

Either

(a) Write a composition ending: *It was by the grace of God that I survived.*

Or

(b) Write a composition to illustrate the saying*: Every dog has its day.*

2. The compulsory set text

Henrik Ibsen, A Doll's House (20 marks)

Drawing illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House, write an essay to justify the statement: All her life, Nora has been treated like a doll to be petted and shown off.

3. The optional set texts

Either

(a) The short story

Wanjala Chris (Ed), Memories We Lost and other stories (20 marks)

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Basing your answer on Leo Tolsoy's *How Much Land Does Man Need?* show how lack of contentment with what one has leads to destruction.

(b) Drama

David Mulwa, Inheritance

'It is possible to achieve positive change without violence'. Using David Mulwa's Inheritance, justify this statement.

(c) The novel

John Steinbeck, Ike Pearl

The pearl of the world arouses the destructive power of greed.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Base your arguments on The Pearl by John Steinbeck.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 12

1.Creative composition

Either

(a) Write a composition with the ending: *This experience taught me that to give is more blessed than to receive.*

Or

(b) Write an argumentative composition in *support of herbal medicine.*

The compulsory set text

H.R. Ole Kulet: Blossoms of the Savannah (20 marks)

'Retrogressive cultural practices can lead to disorientation among members in the society.' Discuss this statement in the light of Ole Kulet's *Blossoms of the Savannah'.*

The optional set texts

Either

The short story

Wanjala Chris (Ed): Memories We Lost and other stories.

'Education is key in transforming individuals in a society.' Drawing illustrations from *NoViolet*

Bulawayo's Hitting Budapest, justify this statement.

Drama

David Mulwa: Inheritance

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'Nothing good comes easy.' Using illustrations from David Mulwa's Inheritance, show how true this is.

The novel

John Steinbeck: Ike Pearl

'The pursuit of wealth can make one blind to the things that really matter'. With close reference to Kino in The Pearl, show the truth of this statement.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 13

I. Creative composition

Either

(a) write a composition to illustrate the saying: *'Patience pays.*

Or

(b) Write an expository composition explaining *the role of student leaders in a secondary school,*

2. The compulsory set text

Henrik Ibsen: A Doll's House

'Relationships are bound to disintegrate where one party feels superior,' Using examples from Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House, justify this statement.

3. The optional set texts

Either

(a) The short story

Wanjala Chris (Ed): Memories We Lost and other stories. (20 marks)

'Do not judge a book by its cover.' Using illustrations from The Folded Leaf, show the truth of this statement.

Or

(b) Drama David Mulwa: Inheritance

Life has a way of paying back our actions, good or bad, in full measure. Using illustrations from Inheritance, discuss this statement.

Or

(c) The novel John Steinbeck: The Pearl

'All that glitters are not gold.' Write an essay to show the truth of this statement. Base your answers

on John Steinbeck's The Pearl.

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KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 14

I. Creative composition

Either

(a) Write a composition ending or starting with the following sentence: *'No one will ever know who killed him and why.'*

Or

(b) Write a composition expressing the validity of the saying: *'Think twice when the deal is too good.'*

2. The compulsory set text

H.R. Ole Kulet: Blossoms of the Savannah (20 marks)

'Women should be given a voice for society to be more cohesive.' Justify this statement using illustrations from Blossoms of the Savannah.

3. The optional set texts

Either

The short story (20 marks)

a. Wanjala Chris (Ed): Memories We Lost and other stories.

'Where there is a will, there is a way.' Justify this statement basing your arguments on Rolf Schmid's, *'No Need to Lie.*

b. Drama

David Mulwa: Inheritance

'Great things often come from small beginnings'. Discuss this saying in reference to Princess Sangoi

in David Mulwa's Inheritance.

c. The novel

John Steinbeck: The Pearl

'John Steinbeck uses songs to set the mood in The Pearl.' Discuss.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 15

1. Creative composition

Either

(a) Write a composition ending with the following sentence: *That is when I realized that the chickens had come*

home to roost.

Or

(b) Write a story starting with the following statement: *There is nothing as bad as being a drug addict.*

2. The compulsory set text

Henrik Ibsen: A Doll's House

Preserving the respect of the community preoccupies the characters in Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House. Drawing illustrations from the text, write an essay to show the truth of this statement.

3. The optional set texts

Either

(a) The short story

Wanjala Chris (Ed): Memories We Lost and other stories. (20 marks)

'A great man has the power to inspire others to greatness.' Using illustrations from The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World by G.G. Marquez, discuss this statement.

Or

(b) Drama David Mulwa: Inheritance

Write an essay to show how citizens suffer due to bad leadership. Base your arguments on David Mulwa's Inheritance.

Or

(c) The novel John Steinbeck: The Pearl

'Man is helpless in the hands of fate.' Write an essay showing the veracity of this statement. Base

your arguments on the Pearl by John Steinbeck.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 16

1.Creative composition

Write a composition beginning with: *We set off that afternoon, looking forward to a great time ... ,*

Or

Write a composition to illustrate the saying: *Once bitten, twice shy.*

2. Compulsory set text

e novel

H.R. Ole Kulet, Blossoms of the Savannah (20 marks)

'Determination leads to success.' Show the truth of this statement in reference to Resian in Ole Kulet's *Blossoms*

of the Savannah.

3. The optional set texts

Either

(a) The short story (20 marks)

Wanjala Chris (Ed): Memories We Lost and other stories.

Write an essay on how the narrator deals with her father's death in Okwiri Oduor's *My Father's Head*'.

(b) Drama

David Mulwa: Inheritance

'Benga is a true patriot who is key in bringing liberation in Kutula,' Show the truth of this statement basing your argument on David Mulwa's Inheritance.

(c) The novel

John Steinbeck, The Pearl

'Family plays an important role in a person's well-being.' Using John Steinbeck's, *The Pearl*, show how true this statement is.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 17

1.imaginative composition

either

Write a composition to illustrate the proverb: *All is well that ends well.*

or

(b) Write a composition on the topic: *Students in Kenya can play a key role in environmental awareness.*

2. The compulsory set text

H.R. Ole Kulet, Blossoms of the Savannah (20 marks)

Write an essay on the effects of gender discrimination in a society, basing your arguments on *Blossoms of the Savannah* by Ole Kulet.

3. The optional set texts

Either

(a) the short story

Wanjala Chris (Ed): Memories We Lost and other stories. (20 marks)

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'The grass is, deceptively, always greener on the other side.' Discuss this saying in the light of Barry McKinley's Almost Home.

Or

(b) Drama David Mulwa: Inheritance

Basing your arguments on Inheritance, show how citizens can influence their own governance.

Or

(c) The novel John Steinbeck, The Pearl

'Kino changes from a loving man to an unreasonable and violent person.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Support your arguments with evidence from 17ae Pearl.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 18

1.imaginative composition

Either

Write a composition ending in the words: *When I look back, I always count myself among the lucky few.*

or

Write a composition on the topic: *Gender discrimination contributes to underdevelopment.*

2. The compulsory set text

H.R. Ole Kulet: Blossoms of the Savannah (20 marks)

'Ole Kaelo's high-handedness leads to the disintegration of his family.' Show the truth of this statement basing your arguments on Ole Kulet's Blossoms of the Savannah.

3. The optional set texts

Either

a. The short story

Wanjala Chris (Ed): Memories We Lost and other stories.

'Civilians are the greatest losers where there is a civil war.' Drawing illustrations from Mariatu Kamara's *The President*, discuss the above statement.

b. Drama

David Mulwa: Inheritance

The play Inheritance satirizes leaders who thrive at the expense of their subjects. Discuss.

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c. The novel

John Steinbeck: The Pearl

Every man suddenly became related to Kino's pearl.' Write an essay to demonstrate how this becomes true, basing your answers on Steinbeck's the Pearl

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 19

1. **Imaginative composition (Compulsory).** **(20mks)**
   Either

a) **Write a story ending with the words...**
   " I turned round, faced him and realized that life will never be the same again"
   Or

b) Write an essay showing your views on how destruction or construction can be the result of the devolved governments.

2. **The Compulsory Set Text**
   Gender inequality is tantamount to violation of human rights. Write an essay in support of the assertion drawing your illustrations from ***Blossoms of the Savannah***.

3. **The Optional Set Texts**
   Answer only **one of** the following **two** questions.
   Either

a) **The Short Story**
   Mariatu Kamara, Memories We Lost and Other Stories
   "Painful experiences need not lead one to hopelessness." With illustrations from the story, "Mr. President," by Mariatu Kamara, show the validity of this statements.
   Or

b) **The Novel**
   John Steinbeck, The Pearl.
   "Colonialism is dehumanizing." Drawing illustrations from John Steinbeck's, "The Pearl," write an essay in support of this statement.

c) **Drama: David mulwa, inheritance**

   Drawing your illustrations from the play, write an essay on the saying: where there is a will there is a way.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 20

1. **IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION**
   EITHER

a) Write a story ending with:
   ..... when tears began to well up in her eyes, I turned and walked away.
   OR

b) "Technological advancement has impacted negatively on the society, especially the youth." Discuss.

2. **COMPULSORY SET TEXT: BLOSSOMS OF THE SAVANNAH**
   Bad decisions can adversely affect our lives. Write an essay in support of the statement with illustrations from the novel

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3 . OPTIONAL SET TEXT

EITHER

a) Short stories.

Memories we lost and other stories by Chris Wanjala.

Courage in the face of adversity helps the narrator to overcome cancer. Write an essay to illustrate this statement with reference to the short story. "No Need To lie" Rolf Schmid.

OR

b) The Novel

John Steinbeck's The Pearl

The society in John Steinbeck's, The Pearl is made of individuals who are materialistic and out to enrich themselves at all cost. Write a composition to justify this statement.

c) **Drama: David mulwa, inheritance**

Illustrating your answer with examples from the play, write an essay entitled: 'Misuse of power

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 21

1. **Imaginative composition.** *(Compulsory)* (20 marks)

Either

(a) Write a story ending in the following:

Looking at their grateful faces, I realized that all the trouble I had gone through was worth it.

Or

(b) Write a composition on the impact of tribalism on our nation and explain how the youth can help overcome it.

2. **The Compulsory Set Texts.**

Blossoms of the savannah by Henry Ole Kulet (20 marks)

"The strong bond between Resian and Taiyo contributes significantly to their triumph." Write an essay in support of the statement

3. **The Optional Set Texts.** (20 marks)

Answer any **one** of the following three questions

Either

(a) The Short Story

Wanjala Chris, Memories we Lost and other Stories.

Using Leila Aboulela's story "Missing Out", write an essay on how Majdy's stay in London alienates him from his people.

Or

(b) John Steinbeck, The Pearl

Write an essay to show the truth of the saying 'What you see is not always what you get'.

Use illustrations from John Steinbeck's 'The Pearl'.

(c) Drama: David mulwa, inheritance

Describe how Rev. Sango's character traits contribute to the development of the plot.

KCSE REVISION SAMPLE 22

1. **Imaginative composition**

Either,

a) Write a story beginning with the words: *I had not thought it was a big problem until I got involved*

Or

b) Discuss the measures you would take to curb flooding in our Kenyan urban areas.

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2. **THE COMPULSORY SET TEXT: THE BLOSSOMS OF THE SAVANNAH. (20 MARKS)**
   Help can come when least expected. Discuss.

3. **THE OPTIONAL SET TEXTS. 20 MARKS**
   Either,

The Short Story
Wanjala Chris, Memories we Lost and other Stories.
When a teenage girl is brought up by an absentee mother, she is bound to face countless challenges. Justify this assertion basing your answer on Lesley Nneka's story 'Light' in 'Memories we Lost and Other Stories' by Chris Wanjala.

Or

John Steinbeck, The Pearl
The greed exposed in various sectors in today's society is the same one seen in the 'The Pearl' by John Steinbeck. Using illustrations from the text show the truth of this statement.

Drama: David mulwa, inheritance
Write a composition on the effects of colonization. Draw your examples from Inheritance.

End

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