

ENGLISH Paper 3, 2026

Marking Scheme

1. Imaginative Composition

D- class

C- class

B- class

A- class

POINTS OF INTERPRETATION

a)

It must be a narrative composition. If not deduct 4 mks (AD)

The given words must appear at the end. If missing deduct 2 marks (AD)

The story must be related to the given words. If not, treat as irrelevant. Award linguistic mark and deduct upto 4 mks (AD)

If the ending words are only implied, deduct 2 mks AD

b)

It must be a story. If not deduct 4 marks (AD)

The story must emanate and link up with the saying given. If not, treat as irrelevant and deduct upto 4 mks (AD)

The saying need not be the title of the story.

The saying need not begin or end the essay, but the moral should clearly indicate it is implied

NB: For all the essays, length should not exceed 450 words. Deduct 2 marks if length is exceeded

2.

Points of interpretation

1. *Mossi*: (**Bad actions**) Ineptness, misallocation of funds, stealing (34) municipal capture, corruption, abuse of office (39) gang involvement, misuse of public funds (45-48) admission of guilt (60) bribery (61) inflating costs of projects, presiding over shoddy municipal works (62) abdication of duty (67) impuissant (68) under development (81) (**Suffering**) Runs a criminal gang responsible for lawlessness (7) citizens feel beaten, robbed, stripped and left for dead (51)
2. *Ted King*: (**Bad actions**) Supplying air (24) poor waste disposal (33) misallocation of funds (34) nepotism, favoritism (64) stealing public funds, shoddy work (64) alcoholism (65). (**Suffering**) Hospitals barely have medicine (9) No drugs in hospitals because of theft (91) serious health hazard (33) public outcry (24)
3. *Seymour*: (**Bad actions**) Corruption, approves improper buildings, runs a murderous gang (66) shootings, violence, selling drugs (66) supply of air (24) misallocation of funds 34 (**Suffering**) Possibility of disaster in case of an earthquake in the seismically active area, disappearance of people, murder, shootings, violence, ruined many lives (66) children drop out of school, become cabbages, roam aimlessly, lost their minds, died (67)

4. *Ramdaye*: (**Bad actions**) Broken drains (33) Greed (42) his companies, relatives win tenders for road construction (62) misappropriation of funds (63) poorly constructed and maintained secondary roads (62) fake title deeds, conman/swindling people (63) nepotism (69) (**Suffering**) Serious health hazard (33) impassable roads (62) ruined lives of countless people through his greed (42)

Introduction 2 marks

Any well illustrated points 12 points

Grammar 4 marks

Conclusion 2 marks

3(a)

Introduction

A good friend is he/she who walks in when everyone else walks out. This is clearly demonstrated in the novel *An Artist of the Floating World* by characters such as Ono Masuji, Shintaro and Matsuda. (Accept any other relevant introduction)

- Shintaro remains eternally grateful to Ono Masuji for enabling his brother, Yoshio, to get a job because such opportunities were hard to come by especially after the end of the war. “I will be grateful to you for the remainder of my life... I will never forget the man who enabled me to start on my career.” P 17
- While they were at the Takeda Firm and Moriyama’s Villa, Ono and the Tortoise struck a friendship. Ono and other artists were able to work at a very good speed to meet the set deadlines and work allocation. Tortoise on the other hand was somewhat slow and even clumsy. This earned him reprimands and taunts from fellow artists putting him under immense pressure. Ono steps in and asserts his authority to shield Tortoise from all these. This cements their friendship. “If an artist refuses to sacrifice quality for the sake of speed, then that’s something we should respect.” P77. Pb73-76, 79-80, 171, 181-1`83, 184-187.
- On the advice of his daughter, Setsuko, and being keen to avert anything that may mar the ongoing marriage negotiations with the Saitos, Ono Masuji sets out to seek his long-time

friend Matsuda. Even though they had held different views on the role of art and artists in the past, this did not diminish their friendship ties. The purpose of Ono's visit to Matsuda was to persuade him to put in a good word should the investigators from the Saito's side call on him. Matsuda gives him an assurance of his positive report. P 98-102, 106,107, 108, 109-110

- Ono Masuji comes to Shintaro's rescue when Mrs Kawakami openly takes offence with Shintaro for squeezing his cap out over the doormat. Shintaro had immersed himself in the camaraderie that prevailed in the post war period at Migi-Hidari only to be met by a hostile Mrs Kawakami. "Really, Shintaro-san!... "What terrible manners!" p20. His profuse apologies fall on deaf ears and only attracts virulent attacks. Apparently, this incident is triggered by an earlier misbehavior by Shintaro in his open expression of admiration for a general who had just been executed as a war criminal. Ono's intervention saves Shintaro the blushes by calming down Mrs Kawakami slightly. P19-22
- After the war, different sectors were poised for reconstruction due to its ravaging effects. This was a herculean task. Mrs Kawakami's Migi-Hidari was not spared this destruction. Ono Masuji marshals his friends who were majorly his former students- Shintaro, Kuroda, Murasaki, and Tanaka to patronize the joint in order to keep Mrs. Kawakami in business. Owing to Ono's perception and standing in society other patrons also joined in to be part of the post war conversation in the evenings. Ono also made a significant material contribution toward the re-establishment of the business. "I had played my own small part in the Migi-Hidari's coming to so dwarf its competitors, and in recognition of this, our group was provided with a table in one corner for our sole use." P22 p 18, 19,20-22

(Expect 4 well developed points. Mark 3:3:3:3)

Conclusion (2mks)

In conclusion, Ono's acts of kindness as well as Matsuda's assurance serve a perfect example of good friendship. (Accept any other valid conclusion)

(b) Short Stories**Introduction (2mks)**

Parents play a critical role in shaping the future of their children. Their acts of commission and omission may have irreversible effects on their children. Rwafa in *'The Sins of the Fathers'* is a perfect example of a parent whose actions leave an indelible mark on the life of his son Rondo. (Accept any other relevant introduction)

- Rwafa causes the accident that claims the lives of Basil Mzamane and his granddaughters. This reckless act is precipitated by his unjustifiably strong feelings against Mzamane's ethnic group, the Ndebele. He had never approved of his son's marriage to Seline on account of her ethnicity. Selina's giving birth to two daughters only worsen the already bad situation. P 26,27,28,29,33,34
- Rwafa brings up his son with a lot of cruelty that makes him grow up with hatred and fear of his father. In fact, Rondo feels more comfortable around his father-in-law than he feels with his father. Given a choice, he would settle for Mzamane over his father. He cruelly flogs him for having strayed into a neighbor's compound and helping himself to some ripe mangoes. Rwafa also breaks the strings of Rondo's guitar and burns it. P 31, 34, 40

- Rwafa does not allow his son to grow up to be an independent thinker. He is so protective of him, being an only child that he does everything for him including getting a job he was not well suited for. “One morning, his father came into his room and said, slob, wake up. Time you earned your keep” p31,32
- Rondo’s most embarrassing moment comes when he brought Selina home for the first time. When his father learnt about Selin’s background, he walks out on them and stays away for the rest of the day. “Who are her people?” Rondo’s mother however embraced Selina and ended up becoming her best friend. P 32
- Rwafa does not only refrain from funding the couple’s wedding but fails to attend it all together. The burden for the occasion was borne by Mzamane and Rondo’s mother. Rwafa even feigns ignorance of the celebrants. “Who did you say is wedding?” p34 He further hates the fact that Selina gave birth to two daughters ‘poisoning the pure blood of the Rwafa clan’ p 34-35,40

(Expect 4 well developed points. Mark 3:3:3:3)

Conclusion (2mks)

In conclusion, a parent’s influence on a child’s life remains for a life time. Parents must therefore always act in the best interest of their children. (Accept any other valid conclusion)

(c) The Play

Introduction

In the play *Parliament of Owls*, the Parliament of Owls is overbearing and intransigent. They take so much for granted that they fail to read the signs of the end of their reign.

(Accept any other relevant introduction)

- The owls led by Money Bags forcefully come up with punitive bills and laws like the Moonlight Bill and the Law of the bird's protection. The Moonlight bill is meant to limit the number of hours the day birds and omnivores can move around, imposes a daily levy, the moonlight tax to enable the "great parliament" to perform their duty of protecting the kingdom. The law of Birds protection gives the Royal trees the power to search the nests without a warrant. The views of the day birds are not sought before passing such laws that would impact them negatively by limiting their freedom of movement and association. P 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 70.
- The owls have a dismissive attitude, always bragging about their unchallenged foothold onto the instrument of power. Because of this, the owls shamelessly "hoot and loot" with the impunity unmatched and use propaganda to not only tilt public opinion but also to keep the birds' anger and agitation in check. P 5, 6, 7, 11, 17-18, 14-15.
- The owls do not brook dissent or alternative opinion. The weaver birds are massacred in the infamous Weaver Birds Massacre for making noise beyond the stipulated hours. This plants the desire to get back at the owls by Osogo in order to avenge the death of his kins. He plays a pivotal role in the ouster of the parliament of owls and its replacement with the Flock of Birds. Arum Tidi meets his death in the most controversial of circumstances. He

is led to a bridge where he fights his image to death because of having been the owls' propagandist. They felt he knew too much and had to go. P 9, 36-37, 38, 40, 42, 81

- The skewed appointments and awards are a testament of the owls' insensitivity. All the plum positions are held by the owls. For instance, Money Bags, the Royal Owl's right hand owl, despite his holding a position of influence is appointed to other significant assignments. This makes him run roughshod on the other birds. P 78
- The owls adopt a use-and-dump approach with other birds. They shortchanged the vultures and grabbed the sacred tree from the crows and converted it into their secrets surveillance tower and put one-eyed owl in control. After Arum Tidi had kept his part of the bargain in spreading propaganda and mobilizing all the birds behind the Moonlight Bill, the owls get rid of him in one of the heartless styles. Their miscalculation sees them cede power to Oyundi without knowing. P 45, 46, 69.

(Expect 4 well developed points. Mark 3:3:3:3)

Conclusion (2mks)

In conclusion, the owls' demeanor demonstrates a leadership that is anchored on hubris and unbridled arrogance and completely out of touch with the reality on the ground.

(Accept any other valid conclusion)