

# KENYAPLEX EXAMS

## KENYA CERTIFICATE OF BASIC EDUCATION

### SENIOR SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

#### TERM 2: ENDTERM ASSESSMENT 2026

#### GRADE 10 – LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Time: 2 Hours

#### LEARNER'S DETAILS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ . School: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessment Number: \_\_\_\_\_ . Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Code: \_\_\_\_\_ . Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Fill in your name in the space provided above.
2. Write your school name and stream clearly.
3. Indicate your admission number and date.
4. The paper consists of **two sections: A and B**.
5. Attempt **all questions** in every section.
6. Use **English** to answer all questions.
7. Write your responses in the spaces provided in the paper.
8. Do not detach or remove any page from this paper.

#### FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SECTION	SECTION A	SECTION B	% SCORE	EE1	EE2	ME1	ME2	AE1	AE2	BE1	BE2
SCORE RANGE	30 MARKS	30 MARKS		90-100	75-89	58-74	41-57	31-40	21-30	11-20	1-10
	POINTS			8 POINTS	7 POINTS	6 POINTS	5 POINTS	4 POINTS	3 POINTS	2 POINTS	1 POINT
LEARNER'S TOTAL SCORE											

#### SECTION A (30 MARKS)

Answer ALL questions in this section.

#### TASK 1: ORAL LITERATURE [20 MARKS]

*Read the story below and answer the questions that follow.*

#### The Hare and the Elephant's Well

In a time of great drought, the animals of the savanna gathered to dig a well. "We must all work together," the Lion decreed. Every animal toiled under the hot sun except for the Hare. He sat under a baobab tree, grooming his whiskers. "I am too delicate for such dusty work," he smirked.

When the well was finished and filled with cool, sweet water, the Lion made a law: "Only those who dug shall drink." But every night, when the moon was high, the Hare would sneak to the well, drink his fill, and then stir up the mud so the water was foul for the others.

The animals were furious. The Elephant offered to stand guard. As the Elephant waited, the Hare approached carrying a calabash of wild honey. "Greetings, Great One," the Hare whispered. "I have no need for your muddy well water. I drink only this heavenly nectar." He gave the Elephant a taste. The honey was so delicious the Elephant begged for more. "I will give you all of it," the Hare promised, "but this nectar is so powerful that it makes your limbs shake. I must tie your legs to this tree so you do not fall over while drinking." The greedy Elephant agreed. Once the Elephant was bound, the Hare drank the water, bathed in it, and danced around the helpless giant, singing, "Big body, small wit!"

(a) **Identify** the genre of the narrative above and give **two** reasons for your answer. (3 marks)

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) **Analyse** two features of Oral Literature evident in this story. (4 marks)

i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Based on the story, **describe** two character traits of the Hare. (4 marks)

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

iv. \_\_\_\_\_

(d) **Explain** the moral lesson of this trickster narrative and how it applies to real-life situations in Kenya today. (4 marks)

i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

(e) If you were to perform this story to a live audience, state **three** non-verbal cues you would use to make the performance effective. (3 marks)

i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

(f) **State** two functions of oral narratives in the society. (2 marks)

i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

**TASK 2: POETRY [10 MARKS]**

Read the poem below from *Voices from the Woods* by Christopher Okemwa and answer the questions.

**THE AXE IN THE WOODS**

*I heard the iron biting the wood,  
A rhythmic thud against the heart of the glade,  
Each stroke a scream of the sap,  
A silver blade flashing in the filtered light.*

*The giant fell with a sigh that shook the soil,  
Sending the birds into a frantic, spiralling flight,  
Their nests—cradles of life—shattered on the forest floor.*

*Where the green canopy once kissed the sky,  
There is now a gaping wound of blue,  
The shadows have fled, the cool breath of the earth  
Is replaced by the stinging heat of the noon-day sun.*

*Man stands there, leaning on his tool of steel,  
Counting the rings of a century he ended in an hour,  
While the streams run dry, weeping silt into the valleys.*

(a) **Identify** the subject matter of the poem. (2 marks)

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(b) **Identify** and **Explain** the effectiveness of any **two** sound patterns used in the poem. (4 marks)

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_

(c) **Explain** the meaning of the metaphor: "There is now a gaping wound of blue." (2 marks)

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(d) How does this poem relate to the theme of **environmental conservation**? (2 marks)

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**SECTION B (30 MARKS)**  
**Answer ALL questions in this section.**

**TASK 3: THE NOVEL [10 MARKS]**

Read the following excerpt from *The Parting Clouds* by Ken Kamoche and answer the questions.

The village of Githiga was no longer the place of his childhood. The shadows of the colonial administration hung heavy over the ridges. Migwi stood at the edge of the clearing, watching the white smoke rise from the District Commissioner's office. His father had told him stories of the land—how the soil was the blood of their ancestors. But now, the lines on the maps drawn by strangers were cutting through those ancestral ties. Migwi felt the weight of the two worlds: the traditions that called him home, and the education that pulled him toward the city. The clouds were indeed parting, but he did not know if the sun that followed would warm his people or scorch them.

(a) **Explain** the historical context of the novel as revealed in this excerpt. (3 marks)

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_

(b) **Identify** one theme addressed in this passage and show how it is developed. (3 marks)

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(c) **Describe** the character of Migwi based on his feelings in this excerpt. (2 marks)

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_

(d) **What** is the significance of the title *The Parting Clouds* as hinted in the text? (2 marks)

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_

**TASK 4: AUTOBIOGRAPHY [10 MARKS]**

Read the excerpt from *Dear Mama* by Kinyanjui Kombani and answer the questions.

"Mama did not have much, but she had a spine made of iron and a heart made of gold. Every morning, at 4:00 AM, the sound of her pounding grains would be our alarm clock. She lived for us. I remember the day I received my admission letter to the university. She sat on her wooden stool, her hands rough from years of tilling other people's

land, and she cried. They were not tears of sadness, but the overflow of a dream she had carried in silence for twenty years. 'Kinyanjui,' she said, 'this letter is my certificate of victory.'

(a) **List** two features of non-fiction (specifically an autobiography) found in this text. (2 marks)

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_

(b) **Analyse** the character of 'Mama' as portrayed by the author. (3 marks)

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_

(c) **Explain** the value of life-writing/autobiographies in personal growth. (2 marks)

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_

(d) From the excerpt, **identify** one stylistic device used by the author and explain its effect. (3 marks)

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### TASK 5: THE PLAY [10 MARKS]

Read the excerpt from *Dreams Denied* by James Karuga and answer the questions.

**SETTING:** A dilapidated living room in an urban slum. **LEO** is sitting on a crate, staring at a heap of rejection letters. **SARAH** enters, carrying a small bag of groceries.

**SARAH:** (*Sighing*) Is that all you've done today, Leo? Staring at those papers won't put unga on the table.

**LEO:** (*Bitterly*) I have a degree in Engineering, Sarah. A degree! And yet, the only thing I'm building is a pile of waste paper. Every office I go to, they ask for "connection" or "kitu kidogo." My brains aren't enough.

**SARAH:** (*Softly, placing a hand on his shoulder*) The system is broken, not you. But we can't eat your pride. Mr. Maina said he has a opening at the construction site... for a casual labourer.

**LEO:** (*Jumping up*) A mason? You want me to carry stones? After four years in the university?

**SARAH:** I want you to survive! A dream denied doesn't have to be a life ended.

(a) **Describe** the setting of the play and explain its significance to the themes. (3 marks)

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(b) **Contrast** the attitudes of Leo and Sarah in this scene. (4 marks)

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(c) **Identify** one major societal concern highlighted in this excerpt. (1 mark)

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(d) If you were to **role-play** Leo, what tone of voice would you use for his second speech? (2 marks)

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