

## TOPSKILLS EXAMS

### FORM 1 TERM 1 ENGLISH EXAM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ ADM \_\_\_\_\_

#### **SECTION ONE**

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

Once it used to be said that “the sun never sets on the British Empire.” This meant that the British Empire covered all the time zones, so that when the sun was setting on one part of the Empire, it was rising on another.

The same thing can be said about the English language today. English is spoken as a first language in the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. It is also spoken in the Caribbean countries like Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana among others. In addition to this, English is used as a second language in over fifty countries spread across Africa and Asia. This means that when you have a good command of English you can enjoy the writings of people from all over the world, and you can communicate your ideas beyond the borders of this continent.

We in East Africa embraced the English language accidentally through the colonial experience. English came in as a welcome addition to our already rich language situation of over forty local languages and Kiswahili. In fact the majority of Kenyans today are multilingual. They use at least three languages: a local language, Kiswahili and English. A good number of others speak a fourth language which may be either French, Spanish, German, Japanese or Arabic among others.

The local or ethnic language bonds a person to the history, culture and religious traditions of his or her people. If you speak one of the ethnic languages, for example, you are able to enjoy the songs, dances, stories, proverbs and riddles in that language. It also helps you to communicate with the older folks who may not understand English or Kiswahili.

Kiswahili is the national language in Kenya and is used by people from all the ethnic groups. When one speaks and understands Kiswahili, one can communicate with people from all over Kenya. Kiswahili is in fact a “regional language”, because it is spoken in a number of countries in East and Central Africa. Lately, Kiswahili was indeed adopted as one of the working languages at African Union meetings. Kiswahili, therefore, opens opportunities beyond the borders of Kenya.

After Kenya attained Independence, English was retained as the official language because it was, and still is, a great advantage for many of our operations. Though the original speakers of English were the people living in the British Isles, English is now spoken as a first language in two other continents, North America and Australia. It is also the second language for millions of people living all over the world. Therefore with English you can be at home anywhere in the world. English provides us with a powerful link to the global village.

Recent developments in modern technology have enhanced our ability to speak, read, write and understand English well. Many of the computer programmes available, for example, are made to respond to instructions given in English.

English is also important for participation at the international level. Many reports and records on recent developments, science and other special research are in English. There is

much more written literature in English than there is in any other language. Therefore, a student who can read and write English well is at an advantage.

In international news broadcasting, users of English are greatly advantaged. The prominent international news networks broadcast in English. English thus enjoys a prestigious position in the communication of events taking place in the world.

For those who want to be part of what is happening in the world, English is a very important tool. What does this mean for those of us in Africa and Asia, where English is learned mainly in school? There is need to put a lot of effort in the teaching and learning of this language so that we can be part of the vast changes taking place in the world today.

**Qs.**

1. How many languages can the majority of Kenyans use?

2. Why is it important to keep the ethnic or local language?

3. What is the difference between the speakers of English in the United Kingdom and those in Kenya?

4. What advantages does English have over the other languages spoken in Kenya?

5. How is English useful in the modern Developments in technology?

6. What is the difference between the speakers of English in the United Kingdom and those in Kenya?

7. How did English spread to Africa and Asia?

- A. Asians and Africans wanted to trade with Britain.
- B. Asians and Africans went to study in England.
- C. Asia and Africa were part of the British Empire
- D. The world is a global village.

8. What advantages does English have over the other languages spoken in Kenya?

9. How is English useful in the modern developments in technology?

10. What can speakers of English in Africa and Asia do to avoid missing out in what is happening in the world today?

## **2. Grammar**

**(a) Complete the following sentences using the correct reflective pronoun.**

1. I cut \_\_\_\_\_ with a knife.
2. They sometimes allocate duties to \_\_\_\_\_
3. He shot \_\_\_\_\_ in the foot.
4. My little girl insists in washing \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes.
5. The teacher said to the naughty students, "Behave \_\_\_\_\_."

**(b) Complete the sentences below using the correct form of the verb.**

- (i) Akinyi always \_\_\_\_\_ to Anita. (talk)
- (ii) Did you \_\_\_\_\_ your hair this morning. (comb)
- (iii) The headteacher \_\_\_\_\_ to every argument before making a decision. (listen)
- (iv) She \_\_\_\_\_ the room daily. (clean)
- (v) The sun \_\_\_\_\_ in the East. (rise)

**(c) Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles.**

- (i) I came to town without \_\_\_\_\_ UMBRELLA.
- (ii) Honesty is \_\_\_\_\_ best policy.
- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ sun sets in the west.
- (iv) Friddah can play \_\_\_\_\_ guitar.
- (v) Tanya was \_\_\_\_\_ great singer.

**(d) Fill in the blanks with the past tense form of the verb in brackets.**

- (i) He \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) eloquently during the party.

(ii) Some \_\_\_\_\_ (say) they \_\_\_\_\_ (pay) fees by bankers cheque.

(iii) The chemicals \_\_\_\_\_ (use) in industries had \_\_\_\_\_ (pollute) the air, soil and water.

### **3, Oral Literature**

(a) Define Oral Literature. (2 mks)

(b) Give three short forms of Literature genres. (3 mks)

(c) Narratives are divided into several; sub-genres. Name at least four. (2 mks)

(d) Songs/Oral poems can be classified under which sub-genres? (3 mks)