THE 47 COUNTIES C1 SCHOOLS' JOINT NATIONAL SBA ASSESSEMENT

KENYA CERTIFICATE OF BASIC EDUCATION

SENIOR SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

TERM 2: JUNE MIDTERM 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 (EXAMINER'S USE)

SECTION	SECTION A	SECTION B	% SCORE	EE1	EE2	ME1	ME2	AE1	AE2	BE1	BE2
SCORE RANGE	30 MARKS	50 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.

1. (a) Define **Oral Literature**. (1 mark)

_____

_____

(b) Identify three **functions of Oral Literature** in **Kenyan society**. (3 marks)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

2. (a) **Match** the following **genres** of **Oral Literature** to their correct descriptions: (3 marks)

Genre	Description
(i) Riddle	(a) A short, wise saying used to advise or warn.
(ii) Proverb	(b) A play on words for humor or testing pronunciation.
(iii) Tongue Twister	(c) A word puzzle where an image is used to describe an object.

(b) List three **features** of **short forms** of oral **literature**. (3 marks)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

3. (a) State two main differences between a poem and a prose narrative. (2 marks)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(b) **Identify** the **poetical device** in the following line:

"The buzzing bee busy in the bush." (2 marks)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(b) Why is **recording** an essential step in Oral Literature fieldwork? (2 marks)

_____

_____

5. Based on *Dear Mama* by **Kinyanjui Kombani**:

(a) What is the main difference between an **autobiography** and a **biography**? (2 marks)

_____

_____

(b) Identify four **structural elements** of a **personal journal**. (4 marks)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

(iv) _____

6. Define the following terms as used in Kenyan Fiction (Novels and Plays):

(a) **Persona:**

_____

_____

(b) **Setting:**

_____

_____

(c) **Onomatopoeia:**

_____

_____

SECTION B: (50 MARKS)

7. Read the following narrative carefully and answer the questions that follow.



The Clever Hare and the Greedy Hyena

Long ago, in the dry plains of the Rift Valley, there was a great famine. Hare and Hyena were friends, though everyone knew Hyena was as greedy as a bottomless pit. One day, Hare found a secret garden belonging to the Chief's wife, full of sweet potatoes. Hare told Hyena, "Friend, I found food, but you must promise to eat only three potatoes and leave the rest for tomorrow."

Hyena's mouth watered. When they reached the garden, Hare ate his three and sat by the fence. Hyena, seeing the mounds of food, forgot the promise. He ate until his stomach was as round as a water pot. He tried to squeeze through the fence to leave, but he was stuck! Hare laughed and shouted, "The Chief is coming! The Chief is coming!" Hyena panicked, struggled, and tore his skin against the thorns. Hare skipped away singing, "Wisdom is better than a big stomach!"

(a) Classify this narrative. Give a reason for your answer. (2 marks)

_____

_____

(b) Identify two character traits of the Hare as brought out in the story. (4 marks)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(c) State three features of Oral Narratives evident in this story. (3 marks)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

(d) What is the moral lesson of this story in the context of modern Kenyan values? (3 marks)

(e) Explain the use of ideophones or similes in the narrative (3 marks)

_____

_____

_____

POETRY APPRECIATION (10 MARKS)

8. Read the poem below from *Voices from the Woods* by **Christopher Okemwa**:



The Nairobi Traffic

The metal monsters groan and hoot,
Choking the air with greyish soot,
A river of steel that does not flow,
Where the sun beats down on the dash below.

Matatus weave like needles through thread,
While drivers dream of the loaf of bread,
A siren wails, a lonely cry,
Underneath the dusty, Kenyan sky.

(a) Who is the persona in this poem? (2 marks)

_____

(b) Identify the rhyme scheme of the first stanza. (2 marks)

_____

_____

(c) Identify and explain one figurative language device used. (3 marks)

_____

_____

(d) What is the mood of the poem? (3 marks)

_____

_____

THE NOVEL (EXCERPT) (15 MARKS)

9. Read this excerpt from *The Parting Clouds* by **Ken Kamoche**:

"The clouds over the ridges did not just bring rain; they brought a heavy silence that sat on the village of Gikindi. Mzee Munene looked at his grandson, Kariuki, and sighed. 'The times are changing, boy. The white man's road is cutting through our ancestral grazing lands like a cold blade.' Kariuki looked at the red soil of the road. To him, it wasn't a blade; it was a path to the city he had only seen in his dreams."

(a) Identify the author and the setting of this excerpt. (2 marks)

_____

_____

(b) Discuss the thematic concern of **Change vs. Tradition**. (4 marks)

_____

_____

_____

_____

(c) Contrast the views of Mzee Munene and Kariuki. (4 marks)

_____

_____

_____

_____

(d) Explain the use of imagery in describing the road. (3 marks)

(e) What cultural value is being protected? (2 marks)

_____

_____

_____

_____

THE PLAY (EXCERPT) (10 MARKS)

10. Read the excerpt from *Dreams Denied* by **James Karuga**:

MUTUA: (Pacing the stage, clutching a tattered certificate)
Ten years, Sarah! Ten years of schooling, and all I have to show for it is this paper that can't even buy a kilo of sugar!

SARAH: (Softly, wiping her hands on her apron)
The Chief said there are no vacancies at the County office. He says we wait.

MUTUA: Wait? Hunger does not wait! The system is a broken pot that holds no water. My dreams were written in sand.

(a) Describe the conflict facing Mutua. (2 marks)

_____

_____

(b) What do the following props symbolize? (2 marks)
(i) Tattered Certificate: _____
(ii) Apron: _____

(c) Identify two themes in the dialogue. (4 marks)

_____

_____

(d) Explain how the stage direction contributes to characterization. (2 marks)

GRADE 10 INTER C1 SENIOR SCHOOLS END OF YEAR EXAMINATIONS

KENYA CERTIFICATE OF BASIC EDUCATION

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SECTION A (20 MARKS)

Answer ALL questions in this section.

1. Read the narrative below and answer the questions that follow.

Long, long ago, when animals could speak like people and trees whispered secrets to the wind, the animals of the Serengeti lived under the rule of King Simba the Lion.

During a great drought, the rivers shrank to cracked mud and the grass turned into pale dust. The animals gathered at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro to find a solution. King Simba stood tall on the highest rock and roared, **"We must di**

All the animals agreed and began working immediately. Elephant scooped heavy piles of dirt with his massive trunk. Zebra kicked away hard rocks with her hooves. Even the small Hare, named Sungura, pretended to dig while actually sleeping under the shade of an acacia tree.

When night fell, a deep, crystal-clear spring of water gushed from the ground. King Simba decreed, **"Only those who sweat to dig shall drink from this spring! Sungura did not dig, so Sungura shall not drink! He shall NOT drink!"**

But Sungura was clever, mischievous, and extremely, extremely stubborn. That very midnight, while Elephant was guarding the well, Sungura approached wearing a jar of sweet honey tied around his waist.

"Greetings, great uncle Elephant," Sungura called out smoothly. **"Would you like a taste of the sweetest nectar from the hills?"**

Elephant, being fond of sweet things, swallowed the honey greedily. **"Give me more! Give me more!"** Elephant begged.

Sungura smiled. **"I will give you all of it if you let me tie your feet to that tree so you don't fall over from pure delight."**

FOOLISH ELEPHANT! FOOLISH ELEPHANT! Elephant agreed and let Hare tie his legs firmly to a trunk. Once Elephant was bound, Sungura laughed, drank his fill of the cool water, swam in the pool, and spilled mud into the rest of the clean spring.

The next morning, the animals found Elephant tied to the tree and the spring ruined. King Simba roared with rage, **"Sungura has tricked us again! Tricked us again!"**

They set a trap using a wooden statue coated in sticky tree resin. When Sungura returned the following night, he greeted the wooden figure. Receiving no reply, he grew angry and struck it—first with his right paw, then his left, then both feet. Sungura was stuck fast!

The next day, the animals caught Sungura red-handed. Though he managed to plead for mercy and was banished to the thorny bushes, he learned that trickery and laziness eventually trap the trickster.

And that is where my story ends.

a) Which genre of narrative is this? **(1 mark)**

_____

_____

b) Give **two reasons** to support your answer in (a) above. **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

c) Identify the **opening formula** and the **closing formula** from the story. **(1 mark)**

_____

d) Name **two main characters** from the narrative. **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

e) Why was Sungura forbidden from drinking water from the well? **(1 mark)**

_____

_____

f) Describe Sungura's character traits and actions. How do they differ from those of Elephant? **(4 marks)**

_____

_____

_____

_____

g) Are the events in the narrative **realistic or imaginary**? Give **two reasons** for your answer. **(3 marks)**

_____

_____

_____

_____

h) Identify **two examples of repetition** in the narrative and explain their effect. **(4 marks)**

_____

_____

i) What moral lesson do we learn from this narrative? **(2 marks)**

_____

_____

SECTION B (35 MARKS)

Answer ALL questions in the spaces provided after each question.

2. Name any three main classifications/genres of oral literature. (3 marks)

3. List five types of oral poems/songs in oral literature. (5 marks)

4. Explain four key features/characteristics of oral literature. (8 marks)

5. State and explain five functions of oral literature in society. (10 marks)

6. Discuss the role of the digital space and modern media as a contemporary source and platform

_____

_____

_____

_____

SECTION C (15 MARKS)

Answer ALL questions in the spaces provided after each question.

7. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

VOICES IN THE WIND

By Amani Mwamba

The ancient tree upon the hill,
Stands quiet in the morning chill.
It saw our fathers plant the seed,
And work the land to meet our need.

It heard the songs of harvest night,
When fires burned so clear and bright.
It kept the tales of long ago,
Of river streams that used to flow.

Now iron machines come marching near,
To strike the bark with cold, hard fear.
They turn the green wood into grey,
And sweep the history away.

Listen, youth, before it falls,
Before the bird no longer calls!
Hold fast the words the elders spoke,
Before our heritage turns to smoke.

For trees can plant another root,
And branches bear a younger fruit,
But once the story leaves the tongue,
The song can never more be sung.

a) Who is the poet of the poem? **(1 mark)**

_____

_____

c) Identify **two pairs of rhyming words** in the poem. **(2 marks)**

d) What is the main message of the poem? **(1 mark)**

e) According to the poem, what threatens to destroy the forest and tradition? **(1 mark)**

f) What "tools" or elements from the past does the persona urge the youth to preserve? **(1 mark)**

g) How does the poet feel about the destruction of trees and cultural stories? Give a reason from the poem. **(2 marks)**

h) How can modern youth actively protect their cultural heritage and environment today? **(2 marks)**

i) If you could add one stanza to the poem, what would it say? **(3 marks)**