THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
GHANA

Basic Education Certificate Examination

February 2018

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2
[70 marks]

1 hour 10 minutes

DIRECTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. In the spaces provided above, insert your Name, Full Index Number, normal Signature and the Date of Examination.

2. Write on both sides of the paper unless otherwise instructed on the question paper.

3. Begin each answer to a question on a fresh page. Leave two lines between answers where these are sub-sections to the same question.

4. The questions are in three parts; A, B and C. Answer three questions in all; one question from part A and all the questions in parts B and C.

5. Write the number of each question at the top of each page.

6. Under no circumstance should you work on any other paper or tear any part of the question paper. The whole question paper will be collected at the end of the test.

7. Write in the space provided below, the NUMBERS OF THE QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ANSWERED in the order in which you have answered them.

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PAPER 2
Essay

This paper consists of three parts: A, B and C. Answer three questions in all: one question from Part A and all the questions in Part B and Part C. Answer all the questions in your answer booklet.

Credit will be given for clarity of expression and orderly presentation of material.

PART A
Essay Writing
[30 marks]

Answer one question only from this part.

Your composition should be about 250 words long.

1. Describe how one traditional ceremony was held recently in your community and explain its importance to the people.

2. Write a letter to the chief of your area suggesting, at least, two ways of helping the youth in their formal education.

3. Write a speech you would give to the people of your community on how to prevent the outbreak of a disease of your choice.

PART B
Comprehension
[30 marks]

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions which follow.

Ampe was the favourite game of Nyamalor and Nyonator. The twins would jump as high as they dared to, flinging their limbs back and forth, left and right, up and down and in any direction. They were adept at ampe, and were quite certain that they would win all the prizes in the impending local competition. They particularly hoped to win the grand doubles’ prize of two sets of ‘school things’.

Practising feverishly, the twins became more and more noisy, restless and negligent at home. Their aunt, Hagar, with whom they lived, heard them clapping in their room at odd hours. They returned late from the stream and delayed preparing supper on occasion. However, Hagar took little notice of the girls’ changed behaviour.

As Nyamalor was rehearsing alone one afternoon in the provision store that Hagar kept, she kicked one shelf with the swing of the left leg. The shelf tumbled down. Nyamalor was stunned. What had she done now?

The full import of the accident hit Nyamalor as her aunt appeared on the scene. Hagar was calm and smiling. Nyamalor fell onto her knees in front of her aunt, clearly regretting the accident. Her posture completely disarmed Hagar, who never punished her nieces. You should have seen Nyama on her knees. Nyonator burst into laughter when she rushed in moments later and saw her sister kneeling.

“Don’t worry, Auntie,” Nyonator said. “We shall bring home enough in two days to repair the damage Nyamalor has caused.”

“Don’t you worry, Nyon,” Hagar replied.

(a) Mention two of the things a player of ampe does while playing the game.

(b) In what three ways was the change in the behaviour of the girls displayed?
(c) What did Nyamalor do when her aunt came to the scene of the accident?

(d) Why was Nyonator not worried about the damage?

(e) Explain, in your own words, the following expressions as used in the passage:
(i) on occasion;
(ii) completely disarmed;
(iii) to repair the damage.

(f) For each of the following words, give another word or a phrase that means the same, and can fit into the passage:
(i) adept;
(ii) restless;
(iii) rehearsing;
(iv) tumbled;
(v) import.

PART C
LITERATURE
[10 marks]

Answer all the questions in this part.

SACKEY J.A. and DARIMAN L. (COMP.): The Cockcrow

5. Questions 5(a) to 5(c) are based on the abridged and simplified version of Charles Dickens’ Oliver Twist.

CHARLES DICKENS: Oliver Twist

“A child was born in the workhouse of a parish in England. Nobody remembers when, but it was a day that a baby was born an orphan.”

(Page 102)

(a) What is the name of the baby?

(b) ... “the workhouse of a parish in England” refers to the .................. of the story.

(c) The literary term that can be used for this part of a story is ........................

Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(d) and 5(e).

DARIMAN L.: Sosu and the Bukari Boys

“Sosu saw his friend Bukari standing in front too. His face looked very sad. Sosu saw that Bukari had been crying. Why? What happened? ... he saw someone else and knew there was trouble.”

(Pages 153 – 154)

(d) “someone else” in the extract refers to ........................

(e) Bukari’s face looked very sad because ........................
Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(f) to 5(h).

AMA ATA AIDOO: The Dilemma of a Ghost

Esi: ... And we must be careful with your wife. You tell us the mother is dead. If she had any tenderness, her ghost must be keeping watch over all which happens to her ... Come, my child.

(PAGE 77)

(f) Who is referred to as "my child"?

(g) "her ghost must be keeping watch over all which happens to her"
The above statement shows that Esi ...............

(h) "Come, my child."
What does the above statement reveal about the theme of conflict of cultures?

Read the extract below carefully and answer Questions 5(i) and 5(j).

AAKYE, V.B. : The Colour of God

Whoever painted God white
He must be black, says the black man
Of course not! He's got to be green,
quipped the green man

5 But that cannot be. He must
be red, assured the red one
How wrong you all are
He sure is blue, vows the blue one
How silly man is, laughs the rose

10 Why should He be black or white

(PAGE 14)

(i) Line 9 of the poem is an example of ...............

(j) The rhyme scheme of the poem is ...............

END OF ESSAY TEST