

Candidate's Name	
School Name	
Candidate's Signature	

Assessment Number	
School Code	
Date	



**THE KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
KENYA JUNIOR SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT**

KJSEA

901/2

ENGLISH (*Composition and Literary Analysis*)

Paper 2

SAMPLE PAPER

January 2025

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Write your name and assessment number in the spaces provided.
2. Write the name and code of your school in the spaces provided.
3. Write the date of the assessment and sign in the spaces provided.
4. This question paper consists of two sections: **A** and **B**.
5. Answer **ALL** questions in this paper.
6. Write **ALL** the answers in the spaces provided in this question paper.
7. Do **NOT** remove any page from this question paper.
8. Answer the questions in **English**.

For official use only

SECTION	A	B			
TASK	Task 1 Question 1	Task 2 Question 2	Task 3 Question 3	Task 4 Question 4	Task 5 Question 5
Maximum Score	15	10	5	10	10
Candidate's Score					

This paper consists of 8 printed pages.

Candidates should check the question paper to ascertain that all the pages are printed as indicated and that no questions are missing.

© 2025, The Kenya National Examinations Council

Turn over

Blank lined paper with horizontal ruling lines.

SAMPLE PAPER

Turn over

SECTION B: LITERARY ANALYSIS (35 MARKS)

Answer *ALL* questions in this section.

TASK 2: ORAL LITERATURE

2. Read the story below and then answer the questions that follow. (10 marks)

Long time ago, Hare and Hyena were great friends. They did many things together. They often danced and sang together. One day, Hare said, “My friend Hyena, let us start farming together and we will be rich.”

“Oh yes, we can plant a lot of food, harvest it, and sell it to others,” Hyena said.

“But what shall we plant?” asked Hare.

Hyena suggested that they plant maize and Hare agreed. Hare then suggested that they share duties in the farm.

“My work will be guarding the maize from the birds,” said Hare, “and you will do the planting and weeding.”

Hyena complained that he had been given more work. But Hare said that the work of chasing birds was the most difficult and most important. When weeds grew in the field, Hyena weeded as they had agreed. It was a lot of work; however, Hare just sat on a rock singing:

My friend is a worker; I am his adviser.

He works like a tractor; I am his manager.

The soil he toils, the hill he tills.

The seeds he plants, the weeds he cuts.

The maize we harvest.

Finally, the maize was ready for harvesting. Hare told Hyena that they would share the harvest. Hare said, “I will harvest everything that grows above the soil. You will harvest what grows below the soil.” Hyena thought that it was a good idea. He went to harvest things that grew below the soil, but only found roots. On the other hand, Hare harvested all the maize in the field and put it in his store.

Hyena realised that he had been cheated. He was very angry. The next morning, Hyena went to Hare’s home for revenge. However, Hare managed to escape. Since that day, Hare and Hyena have not been friends. This is the end of my story.

- (a) Identify the following in this story. (2 marks)
- i. Opening formula

ii. Closing formula

- (b) Imagine you are to tell this story to your friends. Give **two** ways you would make it more interesting. (2 marks)

- (c) What does Hare say in the story that shows that he is cunning? (2 marks)

- (d) Give an example of each of the following features of style in this story.
i. Simile (1 mark)

- ii. Dialogue (1 mark)

- (e) What moral lesson do we learn from this story? (2 marks)

TASK 3: POETRY

3. Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow. (5 marks)

A friend's greeting

I'd like to be the sort of a friend
that you have been to me;
I'd like to be the help that you have been
always glad to be;
I'd like to mean as much to you
each minute of the day
As you have meant, old friend of mine
to me along the way.

(By Edgar Guest)

Turn over

(a) How many lines are in this poem?

(1 mark)

(b) The words “**dear**” and “**hear**” are rhyming words. Identify **two** pairs of rhyming words in the poem. (2 marks)

(c) What do you learn about friendship from the lines “**I’d like to be the help that you have been always glad to be**” as used in the poem? (2 marks)

TASK 4: PLAY

4. Below is a section of a play. Read it and then answer the questions that follow. (10 marks)

Act One

Scene One

Early morning. The magistrate is positioned at an elevated height. He demands the whole attention of the audience as he carefully observes the room, his penetrating look cutting through the sea of anxious faces. At the centre of the room, the accused, Mr. Lazaro, sits. As the trial begins, the room falls into a hushed silence, broken only by the occasional shuffling of papers or the clearing of a throat. The magistrate bangs the table with a gavel to signal the case to start.

PROSECUTOR: Mr. Lazaro, can you tell this court where you were on the night of the robbery?

LAZARO: Your honour, I was in my house.

SAIDI: (*Shouting*) That is a pure lie! He was in my compound.

MAGISTRATE: Do not shout in this court. You shall only speak when given permission to do so. Is that clear, Mr. Saidi?

SAIDI: Yes, your honour.

PROSECUTOR: (*to the police officer*) Inspector, bring in the cap that was found at the scene of crime.

LAZARO: That cannot be my cap!

PROSECUTOR: Hold your horses, Mr. Lazaro. Let's wait and see it. (*The police officer comes back holding a black cap. Saidi giggles loudly.*)

LAZARO: Your honour, please stop this man from giggling like a tickled hyena.

MAGISTRATE: (*Looking angry*) I shall not allow you to use such impolite language in this court. Can you apologise?

LAZARO: I am sorry, your honour.

PROSECUTOR: (*to Lazaro*) Now tell us, is that your cap? (*Fade lights*)

(a) Where do the events in this scene of the play take place? (2 marks)

(b) What is the main issue in this scene of the play? (2 marks)

(c) With examples, identify **two** character traits of Lazaro. (4 marks)

(d) What shows that the society in this scene practises justice? (2 marks)

TASK 5: NOVELLA

5. Below is a section of a novella. Read it and then answer the questions that follow. (10 marks)

The noise outside grew louder. Mzee Mambo gathered courage to peep through his bedroom window. He wanted to find out the direction the noise was coming from. He could not see anything. It was pitch dark.

Mzee Mambo remembered his torch which he always kept under his pillow. He picked the torch and flung the bedroom door open.

Turn over

“Weche,” he called out to his grandson, “wake up and join me outside here! Can’t you hear the noise?” he asked.

“Grandpa, I am already awake,” replied Weche. “I have also heard the noise. I don’t think it is anything serious. Just go back to bed, Grandpa. Can I have the torch?”

The old man gave Weche the torch and followed him closely with a panga, ready to strike in case of any danger. Weche walked to the gate. Weche and his grandfather were shocked to find the gate open. Could the animals have broken loose? Weche wondered. He then walked fast towards the cowshed. To his relief, all the animals were there peacefully chewing cud. But still he heard some noise behind the store. He walked there and what he saw shocked him. He came face to face with, the bull his father had sold in the market two days ago.

(a) What is the setting of the story? (2 marks)

(b) Describe **two** character traits of Weche. (4 marks)

(c) Apart from Weche, name **two** other characters in this story. (2 marks)

(d) What is the purpose of the dialogue in this story? (2 marks)

THIS IS THE LAST PRINTED PAGE.