

# THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA



When you visit Serengeti National Park, you \_\_\_\_\_ many animals.

- A were seeing                      B are seeing                      C have seen  
D will see                      E seeing

## **CANDIDATES' ITEMS RESPONSE ANALYSIS REPORT FOR THE PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION (PSLE) 2017**

The fire that \_\_\_\_\_ the whole village started from here.

- A destroys                      B destroyed                      C destroying  
D will destroy                      E have destroyed

I \_\_\_\_\_ need to go to town.

- A rarely    B nearly                      C near                      D am rarely                      E rare

The girl who picked flowers started with the \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful to the least beautiful one.

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

- A more    B most                      C less                      D not very                      E a little

The door was open \_\_\_\_\_ there was nobody in the house.

- A in spite    B even                      C despite                      D besides                      E although

**THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA**



**CANDIDATES' ITEMS RESPONSE ANALYSIS  
REPORT FOR THE 2017 PRIMARY SCHOOL  
LEAVING EXAMINATION (PSLE)**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

*Published by*

The National Examinations Council of Tanzania,  
P.O. Box 2624,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

**© The National Examinations Council of Tanzania, 2017**

All rights reserved

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	iv
1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	1
2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE ITEMS .....	2
2.1 Section A: Grammar .....	2
2.2 Section B: Vocabulary .....	43
2.3 Section D: Comprehension .....	52
3.0 PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES IN EACH TOPIC .....	65
4.0 CONCLUSION .....	66
5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS .....	67
Appendix A .....	68
Appendix B .....	69

## **FOREWORD**

The National Examinations Council of Tanzania provides an evaluation of the seven years of primary education in Tanzania. The results of the Primary School Leaving Certificate (PSLE) Examination are used as a basis for the selection of pupils who join secondary education.

The analysis of the candidates' responses to the items in the English Language Examination for 2017 highlights the challenges faced by the candidates in answering questions correctly. These includes: the lack of knowledge of tenses and grammar, inadequate basic vocabulary for use in different situations and the inability to interpret and combine concepts in a comprehension passage. Contrarily, the analysis indicates that some of the candidates scored high marks because they were able to identify the tasks of the questions, they had sufficient knowledge of grammatical rules, they had adequate basic vocabulary for use in different situations and they were able to interpret and combine concepts in a comprehension passage.

The candidates' responses to the items in the English Language examination paper provide a clear picture of the problems that the candidates faced during the teaching and learning process at the primary school level. The National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) expects that the feedback provided in this report will enable teachers and other stakeholders to take appropriate measures to improve the teaching and learning of the English Language in primary schools. This will eventually lead to better performance in the subject. In addition, the Council hopes that the skills which pupils will acquire from this analysis will improve the performances, not only in the Primary School Leaving Examination but also in other NECTA examinations at higher levels.

Finally, the Council would like to thank the examinations officers, examiners and all people who participated in preparing and analysing the data used in this report. The Council equally thanks all who participated in the printing of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. E. Msonde', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Charles E. Msonde  
**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The English Language Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination (PSLE) was done on 06<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. The candidates who were registered for the examination were 916,885, among these, 909,841 (99.23%) sat for the examination and 366,654 (40.30%) passed. There was an increase in this year's performance by 4.25 percent, when compared to the 2016 English Language Examination, where a total of 795,739 candidates were registered for the examination, among these, 789,423 (99.21%) sat for the examination and 284,491 (36.05%) passed.

The English Language paper had four sections A, B, C and D, with a total of fifty objective type of questions. Different language areas were examined in each section as follows: section A, thirty (30) grammar items; section B, six (6) vocabulary items; section C, four (4) composition items; and section D, ten (10) comprehension items.

The candidates' performance analysis in each item and its attendant topic has been done to show areas where the candidates were able or unable to answer question correctly. The analysis is presented by indicating the number and the percentage of the candidates who correctly answered the items and who selected incorrect answers.

The candidates' performance has been grouped into three categories. The performance from 60 to 100 percent is categorised as *good*, from 40 to 59 percent is *average*, and from 0 to 39 percent is *weak*. Three basic colours have been used to represent the performances: *green* indicates good performance, *yellow* shows *average* performance and *red* denotes weak performance.



A star (\*) in the tables marks a correct response and the term “others” has been used to show the number and percentage of candidates who did not respond to the questions and those who responded without following the given instructions.

## 2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE ITEMS

### 2.1 Section A: Grammar

The grammar section tested the candidates’ ability to identify and use correct grammatical sentence constructions.

**Question 1:** We \_\_\_\_\_ to meet our visitors at the bus stand next week.

- A would
- B are going
- C shall going
- D have gone
- E had gone

The candidates were supposed to demonstrate correct use of the present progressive (be + -ing verb form) to describe the things that people have planned to do in the future. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 1**

OPTION	A	B*	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	87149	350091	365276	81196	23776	9599
% of Candidates	9.50	38.17	39.83	8.85	2.59	1.05

The data presented indicate that the candidates had weak performance in this question, because those who chose the correct option B, *are going* were only 350091 (38.17%). These candidates realised that the given sentence expresses an event scheduled to take place in the future, as hinted by the adverb “next week.” They also knew that planned future events can be expressed using the present progressive (am/is/are + -ing form). Therefore, the correct ‘be + -ing’ form that agrees with the subject “We” is “are going.”

On the other hand, 557,397 (60.77%) candidates selected incorrect responses A, C, D and E. The candidates who selected the incorrect option C, *shall going* did not realise that “shall” cannot be followed by the verb in “-ing” form, but the verb “be” (is, am, or are). Moreover, the candidates who selected the incorrect option A, *Would* did not realise that “would” can be used to talk about intentions but cannot be followed by the word “to”.

Furthermore, the candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *have gone* did not know that the present perfect aspect is not used to express future plans, but can be used to describe an action that has just been completed. Similarly, the candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *had gone* did not know that the past perfect aspect is used to indicate that an action was completed or perfected at some point in the past, before something else happened.

**Question 2:** We shall not come to the match if it \_\_\_\_\_.

- A rains
- B raining
- C has rained

D had rained

E rain

The question required the candidates to use the correct verb form in “if-clause” conditional sentence type 1. The candidates’ performance in the question is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 2**

OPTION	A*	B	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	245698	241639	135342	76224	206938	11246
% of Candidates	26.80	26.30	14.80	8.30	22.60	1.20

The data presented indicate that the candidates’ performance in this question was weak, since only 245,698 (26.80%) candidates chose the correct response A, *rains*. These candidates knew that the correct pattern used in the conditional sentence type 1 is “if-clause” + simple present tense + future (will/can/may) + infinitive verb form. They also knew that the subject “it” (if it) which is in third person singular should be used with a verb in “-s” form. They, therefore, realised that the correct verb form in the context given in the sentence is “rains.”

However, 660,143 (72%) candidates who selected incorrect options B, C, D and E. Those who chose the incorrect option B, *raining* did not know a correct verb pattern which should be used in the “if-clause” conditional sentence type 1. Besides, they did not know that a verb in “-ing” form must be used after a verb “be” (is/am/are + -ing). Moreover, the candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *rain* did not know that the subject “it”, which is in the third person singular should go with the verb “rains”. Furthermore, those who chose the

incorrect option C, has *rained* were attracted by the auxiliary verb “has” which goes with the subject “it” without realising that “if-clause” in the conditional sentence type 1 is used to talk about possible situations but cannot be used to talk about a situation that has just been completed. The candidates who selected the incorrect option D, *had rained* did not know that the future time which is expressed using the simple present tense in the conditional sentence type 1 cannot be expressed using the past perfect pattern “had rained.”

**Question 3:** Ashura \_\_\_\_\_ to town every Friday.

- A going
- B goes
- C go
- D are going
- E is going

The candidates were required to use the simple present tense. The performance of the candidates in this question is shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 3**

OPTION	A	B*	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	102633	370480	179833	71096	181773	11272
% of Candidates	11.19	40.40	19.61	7.75	19.82	1.23

The candidates’ performance in this question was average, as those who selected the correct response B, *goes* were 370,480 (40.40%). These candidates recognised that the given sentence required a verb form in the simple present tense because of the adverb of time “every Friday.” They also knew that the subject, “Ashura”, which is in the

third person singular required a verb in “-s” form. Therefore, the verb that agrees with the subject, “Ashura” is “goes.”

On the other hand, 535,335 (58.37%) candidates chose incorrect options A, C, D and E. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *is going* did not know that present progressive aspect is used to describe an action that is unfinished or an action occurring exactly at the time of speaking. Moreover, those who selected the incorrect option C, *go* did not know that the subject “Ashura” which is in the third person singular, requires a verb in “-es” form which is “goes.” Furthermore, the candidates who selected the incorrect option A, *going* did not realise that a verb in “-ing” form must be used after a verb “be” (is/am/are + -ing). They even did not know that the present progressive aspect (be + -ing form) is not used to describe the habitual actions. Similarly, the candidates who selected the incorrect option D, *are going* did not know that the subject “Ashura” which is in the third person singular cannot be used with the auxiliary verb “are” which shows plural. Besides, they did not know that the tense used to express habitual action is the simple present tense, not the present progressive “are going.”

**Question 4:** Musa \_\_\_\_\_ his grandfather on the way to town.

- A was met
- B is met
- C met
- D meeting
- E was meeting

The question tested the candidates' ability to use the simple past tense. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 4.

**Table 4: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 4**

OPTION	A	B	C*	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	181270	202114	219632	80219	221749	12103
% of Candidates	19.77	22.04	23.95	8.75	24.18	1.32

As seen in Table 4, the candidates' performance in this question was weak. This owes to the fact that the candidates who chose the correct response C, *met* were only 219,632 (23.94%). These candidates realised that a verb form required in the given context is the simple past tense "met". This means that they had sufficient knowledge of forming simple past tense verb forms.

However, 685,352 (74.74%) candidates chose incorrect options. The candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *was meeting* did not know that the simple past tense cannot be formed by using the auxiliary verb "was" and a verb in the "-ing" form. Moreover, the candidates who chose option B, *is met* did not know that the auxiliary verb "is" and the verb in the past participle "met" cannot go together. This is because "met" is an intransitive verb. Furthermore, the candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *was met* did not know that the verb to be "was" cannot be used with the verb 'met' which is intransitive. The candidates who chose the incorrect option option D, *meeting* did not realise that a verb in "-ing" form must be used after a verb "be" (is/am/are + -ing). Besides, they did not know that simple past tense cannot be formed by using a verb in the "-ing" form.

**Question 5:** This is the dog \_\_\_\_\_ bit Mary last week.

- A where
- B whom
- C whose
- D which
- E who

The question tested the candidates' ability to use relative pronouns. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 5.

**Table 5: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 5**

OPTION	A	B	C	D*	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	112437	118072	247287	274357	152991	11943
% of Candidates	12.26	12.87	26.96	29.92	16.68	1.30

The general performance of the candidates in this question was weak, since those who selected the correct response D, *which* were only 274,357 (29.92%). These candidates realised that the relative pronoun "which" is used to refer to animals or things.

In addition, the analysis shows that 630,787 (68.78%) candidates did not choose the correct response. Those who chose the incorrect option C, *whose* did not realise that the relative pronoun "whose" is used to show possession. Therefore, it cannot be used in the context given in the sentence. Moreover, the candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *who* did not know that a relative pronoun "who" is not used to give more information about animals, rather, it is used to give more information about a person when used as a subject. Therefore, the word "who" cannot be used in the context given in the

sentence. Furthermore, the candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *whom* did not know that a relative pronoun “whom” is used to give more information about a person, not animals. The candidates who selected the incorrect option A, *where* did not know that “where” is used to give more information about a place, not animals.

**Question 6:** Jane \_\_\_\_\_ drinking milk to juice.

- A preferring
- B are prefer
- C is prefer
- D prefer
- E prefers

This question tested the candidates` ability to use the simple present tense, third person singular. The performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 6.

**Table 6: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 6**

OPTION	A	B	C	D	E*	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	101684	133565	347779	175041	146905	12113
% of Candidates	11.9	14.56	37.92	19.09	16.02	1.32

The data presented indicate the candidates’ performance in this question was weak. This owes to the fact that the candidates who chose the correct response E, *prefers* were only 146,905 (16.02%) candidates. These few candidates had sufficient knowledge about the use of the simple present tense, third person singular (-s form).

However, 758,069 (37.92%) candidates chose incorrect options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *is prefer* did not realise



that the auxiliary verb “is” cannot be used with the verb “prefer” which is in the infinitive to form simple present tense, third person singular. The candidates who selected the incorrect option D, *prefer* did not realise that the subject “Jane” which is in the third person singular can be used with the verb in “-s” form, to form the simple present tense, third person singular and also it cannot be used with the verb “prefer” which is in the infinitive form. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *are prefer* did not know that the auxiliary verb “are” cannot be used with the verb in the infinitive form, but it is used with the verb in the “-ing” form. The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *preferring* did not understand that the verb “preferring” cannot be used to form simple present tense.

**Question 7:** My brother is a hero\_\_\_\_\_ he is very young.

- A so as
- B every
- C although
- D too
- E so that

The candidates were supposed to use a correct conjunction to express concession (contrast). The overall performance of the candidates in this question is shown in Table 7.

**Table 7: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 7**

OPTION	A	B	C*	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	67578	131759	425463	102228	178112	11947
% of Candidates	7.37	14.37	46.39	11.15	19.42	1.30

The candidates' performance in this question was average, considering that the candidates who selected the correct option C, *although* were 425,463 (46.39%). These candidates realised that the word "although" is often used to introduce a subordinate clause which contains a statement which contradicts the main clause. That is, it introduces a situation in a subordinate clause that makes a situation in the main statement appear to be unlikely.

On the other hand, 479,677 (52.31%) candidates chose incorrect responses. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *so that* did not realise that the conjunction "so that" is used to express a purpose, not a contrast. Similarly, the candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *so as* did not know that this phrase is used to introduce a purpose clause, not a concession. Moreover, the candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *every* did not know that "every" is used to express to "include each person or a thing in a group or series". As such, it cannot be used to show contrast. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *too* did not know that the word "too" is a synonym of "in addition" or "also". Hence, it cannot be used to express the same meaning as "in spite of", "despite", "even though" or the conjunction "although."

**Question 8:** Nyangeta plays netball and so \_\_\_\_\_ Asha.

- A do
- B does
- C did
- D are
- E is

This question required the candidates to use the adverb “so” with an auxiliary verb to express the meaning “in the same way”, “as well as” or “too” in order to avoid repeating a verb. The overall performance in this question is summarised in Table 8.

**Table 8: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 8**

OPTION	A	B*	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	77723	345565	170347	92804	217856	12792
% of Candidates	8.47	37.68	18.57	10.12	23.76	1.39

The candidates’ performance in this question was weak, since only 345,565 (37.68%) candidates chose the correct option B, *does* were. These candidates realised that the sentence required a verb in the simple present tense that agrees with the subject “Asha” which is in the third person singular form. Therefore, the verb “does” which is in the simple present should be used with the adverb “so” in order to show that “Nyangeta plays netball and Asha plays netball too.

However, 558,730 (60.92%) candidates selected incorrect options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *do* did not understand that a verb in infinitive “do” cannot be used with the subject “Asha” which is in third person singular form. Rather, it should be used with a subject which is in the first person singular form “I” (e.g., “so do I”), second person “you” (e.g., “so do you”) and third person plural “you” (e.g., “so do they”) or all nouns in plural form. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *did* could not realise that the verb “did” does not agree with the verb “plays”. The candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *is* did not understand that the auxiliary verb “is” is not in agreement with the verb “plays”. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *are*

did not realise that the verb to be “are” cannot be used with the subject “Asha” which is in the third person singular form.

**Question 9:** Ali does not \_\_\_\_\_ here very often.

- A comes
- B have come
- C came
- D coming
- E come

This question tested the candidates’ ability to use the simple present tense. The overall performance in this question is shown in Table 8.

**Table 8: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 9**

OPTION	A	B	C	D	E*	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	172003	126468	182722	120717	302668	12509
% of Candidates	18.76	13.79	19.92	13.16	33.00	1.36

The performance of the candidates in this question was weak, since those who selected the correct response E, *come* were only 302,668 (33.00%). These candidates knew the correct use of verb patterns in forming negative sentences in the simple present tense which are “subject + do/does not” + verb in present form or infinitive. They, therefore, identified the correct verb form, which is “come”.

Contrarily, 601,910 (65.63%) candidates chose incorrect options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *comes* did not know that when you use “does not”, which is in the third person singular form, you are not supposed to add “s” in the main verb. The candidates

who chose the incorrect option B *have come* did not realise that the verb pattern “have come” is used to form the present perfect aspect and it cannot thus be used to express a negation in the simple present tense. That is, the pattern “does not” cannot be used with the verb phrases “have come” since there is no grammatical agreement. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *came* did not realise that a verb “does” which is in the simple present tense cannot be used together with the verb “came” which is in the past tense. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *coming* did not know that the pattern “does not” cannot be used with a verb “coming” to form a negative sentence in the simple present tense. Instead, the “-ing” form of the verb can be used with auxiliary verbs to form the progressive or continuous tenses, not the simple present tense.

**Question 10:** That is \_\_\_\_\_ book.

- A his teacher’s
- B his teacher
- C teachers’s
- D the teacher
- E the teachers

This question tested the candidates’ ability to show possession by using “-’s” (apostrophe + s). Their performance is shown in Table 9.

**Table 9: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 10**

OPTION	A*	B	C	D	E	OTHER S
No. of Candidates	20183 8	77555	23171 6	25372 6	14025 1	12001
% of Candidates	22.01	8.46	25.27	27.67	15.29	1.31

The performance of the candidates in this question was weak, considering that the candidates who chose the correct response A, *his teacher's* were only 201,838 (22.01%). These candidates knew that in order to show possession with a singular or plural noun, the “-’s” (apostrophe + s) should be put after the noun in a singular or plural form depending on the nature of the noun.

However, 703,248 (76.69%) candidates chose incorrect responses. The candidates who selected the incorrect option D, *the teacher* could not realise that possession of nouns cannot be shown by using a noun without “apostrophe + s”. Moreover, the candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *teachers* did not know that “apostrophe + s” cannot be used with plural nouns which end with “s”. Thus, bare apostrophe is supposed to be used with plural nouns which end with “s”, for example *teachers’*. Furthermore, the candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *the teachers* were attracted by the use of “s” in the noun “teachers” which has the same pronunciation with the correct response “teacher’s”. They might have thought that plural nouns which end with “s” can be used to show possession without using apostrophe, which is incorrect. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *his teacher* did not realise that “-’s” should be put immediately after the noun.

**Question 11:** They will be \_\_\_\_\_ to Moshi next week.

- A travel
- B travelled
- C travelling
- D have travelled
- E has travelled

This question required the candidates to express a continuing action in the future (future progressive) by using the pattern “will + be + verb-ing”. Their performance is presented in Table 11.

**Table 11: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 11**

OPTION	A	B	C*	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	229656	154843	347489	112213	60993	11893
% of Candidates	25.04	16.88	37.89	12.24	6.65	1.30

The data presented show that the candidates’ performance in this question was weak, considering that those who selected the correct response C, *tavelling* were only 347,489 (37.89%). These candidates realised that the given sentence expresses an event scheduled to take place in the future, as hinted by the adverb “next week”. They also knew that the future progressive is formed by using an auxiliary verb “will” plus a main verb in progressive form.

On the other hand, 557,705 (60.81%) candidates selected the incorrect options A, B, D and E. The candidates who selected the incorrect option A, *travel* did not realise that the verb “be” cannot be used with the main verb in infinitive “travel” since there is no appropriate grammatical agreement. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *travelled* did not know that the verb pattern “will be” cannot be used with a verb in “-ed” form or the past participle “travelled” to indicate the future progressive aspect. Moreover, the candidates who selected the incorrect option D, *have travelled* did not know that the verb “be” cannot be used with the pattern “have travelled” since there is no grammatical agreement between “be” and “have”. Besides, they did not realise that the pattern “have

travelled” is used to express the present perfect aspect, with a subject which is in the first person singular “I”, second person “you” and third person plural “you” or all nouns in plural form. Similarly, the candidates who chose the incorrect option E, has *travelled* did recognise that the verb “be” does not have a grammatical agreement with “has travelled” if it occurs between “be” and “has”. Besides, they did not know that the pattern “has travelled” is used to express the present perfect aspect, with a subject in the third person singular.

**Question 12:** He asked the pupil, “How old are you?” The pupil answered, “\_\_\_\_\_.”

- A We are ten years old
- B They are ten years old
- C You are ten years old
- D I am ten years old
- E He is ten years old

The question tested the candidates’ ability to use direct speech. The candidates’ performance in this question is presented in Table 12.

**Table 12: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 12**

OPTION	A	B	C	D*	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	150153	153542	174663	334541	90820	13368
% of Candidates	16.37	16.74	19.05	36.48	9.90	1.46

The performance of the candidates in this question was weak, since the candidates who chose the correct response D, *I am ten years old* were only 334541 (36.48%). These candidates recognised that in direct speech, pronouns and verb patterns change. For example, the objective pronoun “you” in the question changes from the second



person singular form to the first person singular form “I”, whereas the auxiliary verb form “are” changes to “am”. Thus, it is the subject which determines the form of the verb to be used.

However, 569,178 (62.06%) candidates chose incorrect responses. The candidates who selected the incorrect option C *You are ten years old* could not realise that the objective pronoun “you” in the question should change to “I” when replying. The candidates who selected the incorrect option B, *They are ten years old* did not understand that the subject “The pupil” which is in singular form cannot be used with the pronoun “they” when replying because it is in the plural form. The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *We are ten years old* failed to realise that the subject “The pupil” is in the singular form and hence cannot be used with the pronoun “we”, which is in the plural form. Instead, it should be used with “I” which is also in the singular form. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *He is ten years old* supposed a relationship between “he” and the noun “pupil” which appears in the phrase “The pupil.”

**Question 13:** My friend saw \_\_\_\_\_ lion when he was driving to Arusha.

- A an
- B few
- C some
- D a few
- E a

The question tested the candidates’ ability to use the indefinite article “a”. The overall performance of the candidates is shown in Table 13.

**Table 13: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 13**

OPTION	A	B	C	D	E*	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	133713	104433	168125	134339	363406	13071
% of Candidates	14.58	11.39	18.33	14.65	39.63	1.43

The candidates' performance in this question was average, since those who selected the correct response E, were 363,406 (39.63%) candidates. These candidates realised that the indefinite article "a" is used to refer to a noun which is not known to the listener or reader. They also knew that "a" is used to refer to quantity that is one, as is the case with noun "lion" in the given sentence.

On the contrary, 540,610 (58.95%) candidates chose incorrect responses. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *some* did not know that the quantifier "some" cannot be used with nouns in the singular form, but countable nouns in the plural form; for example, "some lions". The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *a few* did not realise that the quantifier "a few" cannot be used with the noun "lion" because the noun is in the singular form while "a few" should only be used with countable nouns in the plural form. The candidates who selected the incorrect option B, *few* did not realise that the quantifier "few" cannot be used to refer to countable nouns in the singular form, rather it is used with countable nouns in the plural form. Therefore, the word "few" cannot be used with the noun "lion". Additionally, the candidates who chose A, *an* did not realise that the indefinite article "an" cannot be used to refer to the noun "lion" since it is used with a singular noun beginning with a vowel sound; for example, "an elephant", "an egg", "an animal",

“an apple”, “an orange”. Thus, the article “an” cannot be used with the noun “lion” which begins with a consonant sound /l/.

**Question 14:** Mr. Hassan \_\_\_\_\_ a new bus last month.

- A buy
- B bought
- C will buy
- D buying
- E buys

The question tested the candidates’ ability to express a past event using simple past tense. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 14.

**Table 14: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 14**

OPTION	A	B*	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	174689	410939	184190	64564	70618	12087
% of Candidates	19.05	44.81	20.08	7.04	7.70	1.32

The data presented show that the candidates’ performance in this question was average, since those who chose the correct response B, *bought* were 410,939 (44.81%) candidates. These candidates noted that the given sentence expresses an event or action which occurred in the past, as hinted by the adverb “last month”. They also realised that the past tense of the verb “buy” is “bought”.

However, 494,061 (53.87%) candidates selected incorrect options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *will buy* did not realise that the verb pattern “will buy” is used to form the simple future tense. Therefore, it cannot be used with the adverb “last month” which indicates a past event. In addition, the candidates who

chose the incorrect option A, *buy* did not realise that the simple past tense cannot be formed by using a verb in the infinitive form, but rather a verb in the past form. Moreover, the candidates who chose option E, *buys* did not know that “buys” can only be used to form the simple present tense which does not correspond with the simple past tense as is expressed in this sentence. Furthermore, the candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *buying* did not realise that a verb in the “-ing” form like “buying” cannot be used with the adverb “last month” to form the simple past tense.

**Question 15:** They are good boys, \_\_\_\_\_?

- A aren't they
- B don't they
- C didn't they
- D are they
- E haven't they

The candidates were supposed to demonstrate correct use of question tags in their everyday communication. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is shown in Table 15.

**Table 15: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 15**

OPTION	A*	B	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	509219	125358	110229	104274	55257	12750
% of Candidates	55.53	13.67	12.02	11.37	6.03	1.39

The data presented show that the candidates' performance in this question was average, since those who chose the correct option A, *aren't they* were 509,219 (55.53%). These candidates realised that

the question tag for the given statement is formed by changing the verb “are” into negative “aren’t” followed by the subject “they.”

On the other hand, 395,118 (43.09%) candidates were unable to choose the correct response. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *don't they* did not know that the pattern “don't they” is used to form a tag question if the verb used in the statement is in the simple present tense, not when a statement contains the verb “to be” as an ordinary verb, as is the case with the given statement. Moreover, the candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *didn't they* did not realise that the verb “didn’t” is used to form a question tag, if a statement contains a verb in the simple past tense, not when a given statement is in the present tense. Additionally, the candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *are they* did not know that the question tag must be negative if the statement is positive (affirmative), as is the case with the given statement. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *haven't they* did not realise that the verb “haven't” cannot be used to form a question tag, if a statement has the verb to be “are”. The verb is, however, used to form a question tag if a statement contains the verb “have” as an ordinary verb; for example, “They have two children, don’t they?”.

**Question 16:** Many living things are \_\_\_\_\_ animals or insects.

- A both
- B too
- C either
- D neither
- E as

The question tested the candidates' ability to use the coordinating conjunction "either.....or ..." to show a choice between two options or alternatives. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 16.

**Table 16: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 16**

OPTION	A	B	C*	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	71047	98557	603562	98963	34006	10952
% of Candidates	7.7	10.7	65.81	10.8	3.7	1.2

The data presented indicate that the performance of the candidates in this question was good. This owes to the fact that 603,562 (65.81%) candidates chose the correct response C, *either*. These candidates knew that the coordinating conjunction "either ..... or..." is used in making a positive choice between two options or alternatives, as required in the given sentence.

On the contrary, 302,573 (32.99%) candidates selected incorrect options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *neither* did not realise that "neither" is used to emphasise that the choice between two options or alternatives is negative or untrue. Therefore, it cannot be used with "or" to make a choice between two options or alternatives, as required in the given sentence. Moreover, the candidates who selected the incorrect option B, *too* could not realise that the adverb "too" is synonymous with "in addition", "also" or "as well". Therefore, it cannot be used with "or" to make a choice between two options or alternatives. Furthermore, the candidates who selected the incorrect option A, *both* failed to realise that the word "both" is used to refer to two people or things, regarded and

identified together. Thus, it cannot be used in a context given in this sentence. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, as did not realise that the word “as” denotes the same meaning as “similarly”, “equally” or “to the same degree, amount, or extent.” Hence, it cannot be used with “or” to make a choice between two options or alternatives, as required in the given sentence.

**Question 17:** You will not get better \_\_\_\_\_ you see a doctor.

- A so
- B whether
- C because
- D unless
- E that

The question tested the candidates’ ability to use “unless” in expressing the condition in type 1 conditional sentence. The performance of the candidates in this question is shown in Table 17.

**Table 17: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 17**

OPTION	A	B	C	D*	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	85959	72033	215215	433633	99299	10948
% of Candidates	9.37	7.85	23.47	47.28	10.83	1.19

The candidates’ performance in this question was average, since the candidates who chose the correct option D, *unless* were 433,633 (47.28%). These candidates realised that the given sentence states a condition for someone “to get better”, which is “to see a doctor”. They also realised that the given condition can be expressed by

using the conjunction “unless”, whose basic meaning is similar to “on condition that”, “if ...not”, “only if”, or “except if/that.”

However, 472,506 (51.52%) candidates chose correct options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *because* could not realise that the conjunction “because” is used to express a reason or cause, not a condition, as required in the given sentence. Moreover, candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *that* failed to realise that the demonstrative pronoun “that” is used to point to a thing that is far away from the speaker, in space or time. Hence, it cannot be used to express a condition. In addition, the candidates who selected the incorrect option A, *so* could not realise that “so” is used to express a result of something, not a condition. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *whether* did not realise that the conjunction “whether” is used with “or” to express a doubt or choice between alternatives or two possibilities. Hence, it cannot be used to express a condition, as required in the given sentence.

**Question 18:** She \_\_\_\_\_ writing letters since last week.

- A have been
- B has been
- C is been
- D had been
- E be

The candidates were supposed to demonstrate correct use of the present perfect continuous tense in the pattern: “subject + auxiliary has + been + -ing verb form.” The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 18.



**Table 18: Number and Percentage of Candidates' the Choices in Each Option in Question 18**

OPTION	A	B*	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	256989	426875	89199	90339	43263	10422
% of Candidates	28.02	46.55	9.73	9.85	4.72	1.14

The candidates' performance in this question was average, since the candidates who chose the correct option B, *has been* were 426,875 (46.55%). These candidates realised that the given sentence is in the present perfect continuous tense, describing an action of "writing a letter" that started at some point "last week" and continued to present, as hinted by the preposition "since" which means from a particular time in the past until now. They also realised that the subject "She" which is the third person singular required the auxiliary verb "has"; hence, they chose the correct response "has been."

Contrarily, 479,790 (52.32%) candidates chose incorrect options. The candidates who selected the incorrect option A, *have been* could not realise that subject "She" which is the third person singular cannot be used with the auxiliary verb "have" which indicates plural. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *had been* did not realise that the given sentence is in the present perfect continuous tense, as hinted by the verb "writing", the adverb "last week" and the preposition "since". Besides, they did not know that the verb pattern "had been" is used with the past perfect continuous tense to talk about actions or events which started before a particular time in the past and were still in progress up to that time in the past. Hence, it cannot be used in the present perfect continuous tense. The candidates who selected the incorrect option C, *is been* could not know that the verb pattern "is been" is not grammatically correct in

the contemporary Standard English. The candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *be* could not realise that the given sentence is in the present perfect continuous tense, which requires the pattern: “subject + auxiliary has + been + -ing verb form.”

**Question 19:** I will cook the food \_\_\_\_\_ you allow me.

- A if
- B then
- C so
- D despite
- E although

This question tested the candidates’ ability to express a condition by using the conjunction “if” in the conditional sentence type 1. The performance of the candidates in this question is shown in Table 19.

**Table 19: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 19**

OPTION	A*	B	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	506209	88404	66757	113414	130223	12080
% of Candidates	55.20	9.64	7.28	12.37	14.20	1.32

The candidates’ performance in this question was average, as 506,209 (55.20%) candidates chose option A, *if* which was the correct response. These candidates realised that the given sentence was the conditional sentences type 1, whose verb pattern is “simple present tense + simple future.” They also realised that the given condition can be expressed by using the conjunction “if”, whose basic meaning is similar to “on condition that”, “in case that”, “granting that”, or “supposing that.”

On the contrary, 398,798 (43.49%) candidates chose incorrect options. The candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *although* could not realise that the concession “although” is used to express a contrast, not a condition. In addition, the candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *despite* did not realise that the word “despite” is not used to express a contrast; hence, it cannot be used in the given conditional sentence. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *then* failed to realise that the adverb “then” is used to express a meaning “after that”, “afterwards, or “next”. Hence, it cannot be used to express a condition. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *so* could not realise that the word “so” is used to denote a result of something, not a condition.

**Question 20:** The pen on the desk belongs to me, so it is

\_\_\_\_\_.

- A    hers
- B    his
- C    theirs
- D    mine
- E    my

The candidates were supposed to demonstrate correct use of possessive pronouns. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 20.

**Table 20: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 20**

OPTION	A	B	C	D*	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	61287	83707	135704	511947	111966	12476
% of Candidates	6.68	9.13	14.80	55.82	12.21	1.36

The data presented show that the candidates' performance in this question was average, since the candidates who chose the correct option D, *mine* were 511,947 (55.82%). These candidates realised that the possessive pronoun "mine" should appear at the end of the given sentence, as hinted by the use of the objective pronoun "me."

Conversely, 392,664 (42.82%) candidates failed to choose the correct answer. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *theirs* did not realise that the possessive pronoun "their" should appear after the objective pronoun "them" (e.g., "That book belongs to them, it is theirs"). In addition, the candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *my* could not realise that the possessive pronoun "my" is not an objective possessive pronoun and hence cannot appear at the end of the sentence. Moreover, the candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *his* failed to realise that the pronoun "his" cannot appear after "me", but after the pronoun "him" e.g., "That book belongs to him, it is his". The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *hers* failed to realise that the possessive pronoun "hers" is used after the objective pronouns "her" and not "me."

**Question 21:** Nyato was \_\_\_\_\_ in her house before she sold it.

- A lived
- B lives
- C live
- D leaving
- E living

The candidates were supposed to demonstrate correct use of the past progressive tense. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 21.

**Table 21: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 21**

OPTION	A	B	C	D	E*	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	147603	131675	168145	172716	283841	13107
% of Candidates	16.09	14.36	18.33	18.83	30.95.	1.43

The candidates' performance in this question was weak, since only 283,841 (30.95%) candidates chose the correct option E, *living*. These candidates realised that the given sentence was in the past progressive tense, describing an action which was going on at a particular time in the past before another action occurred. They also realised that the past progressive tense is formed by the verb "be" in the past tense and the "-ing" form of a verb.

However, 620,139 (67.61%) candidates selected incorrect options. The candidates who selected the incorrect option D, *leaving* failed to realise that the verb "leaving" does not mean "staying in a certain place", but "abandoning a place". The choice also suggests that they did not know the spelling of the verb "living". The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *live* could not realise that the auxiliary verb "was" cannot be used with the infinitive verb "live" in the past progressive tense. The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *live* failed to realise that the verb "lived" is not used in the past progressive tense. Similarly, the choice of incorrect option B, *lives*, indicates that the candidates failed to realise that the verb 'lives' is used in simple present tense, not in the past progressive tense.

**Question 22:** If it \_\_\_\_\_, we shall go to town by taxi.

- A    rained
- B    is rain
- C    rains
- D    rain
- E    had rained

This question required the candidates to use the correct verb form in the “if-clause” conditional sentence type 1. The performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 22.

**Table 22:    Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 22**

OPTION	A	B	C*	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	129607	227518	248993	208445	89185	13339
% of Candidates	14.13	24.81	27.15	22.73	9.72	1.45

The candidates’ performance in this question was weak, since only 248,993(27.15%) candidates chose the correct option C, *rains*. These candidates knew that in the conditional sentence type 1, where the subject is ‘it’ (if it), the verb form in the dependant clause should be in the simple present tense, whereas the verb in the independent clause should be in the simple future time form.

However, 654,755 (71.39%) candidates chose incorrect options. The choice of the incorrect option B, *is rain* by the candidates indicates that they did not realise that the verb pattern “is rain” is not grammatically correct in contemporary Standard English. Moreover, the candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *rain* did not realise that the subject “it” is in the third person singular, and hence cannot go with the verb “rain”. The candidates who chose the incorrect

option A, *rained* failed to realise that the verb in the dependent clause in the conditional sentence type 1 should be in the simple present tense, not in the simple past tense. The candidates who chose option E, *had rained* did not realise that the future time expressed by the simple present tense in the conditional sentence type 1 cannot be expressed using the past perfect “had rained.” This tense is, however, used in the conditional sentence type 3.

**Question 23:** Magambo is not only fat \_\_\_\_\_also strong.

- A but
- B so
- C as
- D and
- E that

This question tested the candidates’ ability to use the correlative conjunction “not only...but also” in a sentence. The performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 23.

**Table 23: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 23**

OPTION	A*	B	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	634229	62427	49434	91346	67507	12144
% of Candidates	69.16	6.81	5.39	9.96	7.36	1.32

The data presented indicate that the candidates’ performance in this question was good. This owes to the fact that the candidates who selected the correct response A, *but*, were 634,229 (69.16%). These candidates realised that the construction “not only...but

also” is used to say that both related statements are true. They also realised that the adverb “not only” is used with “but also.”

Conversely, 270,714 (29.52%) candidates chose incorrect options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *and* could not realise that the conjunction “and” is used to link two or more items in a sentence. Hence, it cannot be used in the given construction. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *that* failed to realise that the demonstrative pronoun “that” is used for pointing to a thing that is far away from the speaker, in space or time. Hence, it cannot be used to relate the idea of Magambo being both fat and strong. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *so* could not realise that the word “so” is synonymous with “therefore” or “to that reason.” Hence, it cannot be used in the given construction. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *as* could not realise that the word “as” is used to express a reason. Hence, it cannot be used in the context given in this sentence.

**Question 24:** He is suffering \_\_\_\_\_ headache.

- A with
- B for
- C by
- D of
- E from

The candidates were supposed to use the correct preposition that correlates with the verb “suffer”. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 24.



**Table 24: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 24**

OPTION	A	B	C	D	E*	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	116924	137644	118678	87297	443531	13013
% of Candidates	12.75	15.01	12.94	9.52	48.36	1.42

The candidates' performance in this question was average. This performance owes to the fact that the candidates who chose the correct response E, *from* were 443,531 (48.36%). These candidates knew that the verb *suffer* is often followed by the preposition "from" to indicate the cause of something.

However, 460,543 (50.22%) candidates chose distractors. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *for* did not realise that the preposition "for" is used to indicate the use or purpose of something (e.g., to run for exercise, a closet for dishes). The preposition "for" is also used to indicate a span of time or distance (e.g., "I have been working for two hours"). However, none of these meanings was required in the given sentence. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *by* did not realise that the preposition "by" is used to indicate who or what does something or how something is done or should be done. The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *with* did not realise that the preposition "with" is used to denote "accompanying", "accompanied by", "in the company of", or "possessing something". Hence, it cannot be used together with the verb "suffer" to indicate the cause of something. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *of* did not realise that the preposition "of" does not come after the verb "suffer", but can be used to indicate possession (e.g., "The house of my uncle").

**Question 25:** When you visit Serengeti National Park, you \_\_\_\_\_ many animals.

- A were seeing
- B are seeing
- C have seen
- D will see
- E seeing

This question required the candidates to use the correct verb form in the “if-clause” conditional sentence type 1. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 25.

**Table 25: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 25**

OPTION	A	B	C	D*	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	127660	191817	172444	347988	64551	12627
% of Candidates	13.92	20.92	18.80	37.94	7.04	1.38

The data presented indicates that the candidates’ performance in this question was weak, since only 347,988 (37.94%) candidates chose the correct option D, *will see*. These candidates realised that the given sentence is the conditional type 1, as hinted by the adverb of time “when” in the position of the “if-clause”. They also knew that the correct pattern used in the “if-clause” condition 1 is “if-clause” + simple present tense + future (will/can/may) + infinitive verb form. Hence, the correct verb pattern in the given sentence is “will + see”.

On the contrary, 556,472 (60.68%) candidates selected incorrect responses. The candidates who selected the incorrect option B, *are seeing* failed to realise that the auxiliary verb “are” cannot be used

with the verb “seeing”. The candidates who selected the incorrect option C, *have seen* could not realise that the present perfect tense cannot be used to form the conditional sentence type 1. Moreover, the candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *were seeing* did not realise that the auxiliary verb “will” cannot be used with the verb “seeing”. The choice of the incorrect response E, *seeing* by candidates is an indication that they did not know that the verb “seeing” cannot be used in the conditional sentence type 1.

**Question 26:** The doctor went \_\_\_\_\_ the room where the patient was resting.

- A by
- B on
- C into
- D at
- E along

The candidates were supposed to use the preposition of direction. The overall performance in this question is presented in Table 26.

**Table 26: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 26**

OPTION	A	B	C*	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	100367	166331	422656	125115	90123	12495
% of Candidates	10.94	18.14	46.09	13.64	9.83	1.36

The candidates’ performance in this question was average, as only 422,656 (46.09%) candidates chose the correct option C, *into*. These candidates recognised that the sentence required a preposition of direction denoting “to the inside of the room”, which agrees with the verb “went”.

On the other hand, 481,936 (52.55%) candidates selected incorrect responses. The candidates who selected the incorrect option B, *on* could not realise that the preposition “on” is used to indicate time or place; for example, “on Monday” and “on the table”, respectively. The preposition, therefore, cannot be used after the verb “went” to mean “inside the room”. The selection of the incorrect option D, *at* by candidates shows that the candidates did not know that the preposition “at” is used to indicate time and place; for example, “I will see you at 7.00 am” and “I met Jane at the airport”. The preposition, therefore, cannot be used after the verb “went” to denote “inside the room”. The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *by* did not realise that the preposition “by” is used to indicate that someone or something goes past a certain position; for example, “She walked right by me without saying a word” or “He drove by the new house.” Hence, the verb “went” cannot be followed by a preposition 'by' in the given context. The candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *along* did not realise that the preposition “along” means “moving forwards/from one part of a road, river, etc. to another”. Therefore, it cannot be used after the verb “went” to indicate “inside the room”.

**Question 27:** The fire that \_\_\_\_\_ the whole village started from here.

- A destroys
- B destroyed
- C destroying
- D will destroy
- E have destroyed

The candidates were supposed to use the simple past tense. The overall performance in this question is presented in Table 27.

**Table 27: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 27**

OPTION	A	B*	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	155302	330733	138533	167863	109987	14669
% of Candidates	16.93	36.06	15.11	18.30	11.99	1.60

The data indicate that the candidates' performance in this question was weak, as only 330733 (36.06%) candidates chose the correct option B, *destroyed*. These candidates realised that the given sentence is in the simple past tense, as hinted by the verb "started" in the second clause. They also realised that the correct verb form in the context given in this sentence is "destroyed", since it is in grammatical agreement with the verb "started" in the second clause.

Conversely, 571,685 (50.34%) candidates selected incorrect options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *will destroy* did not realise that the pattern "will destroy" refers to the simple future, not the simple past tense. The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *destroys* failed to realise that the verb "destroys" is in the simple present tense and hence does not establish a grammatical agreement with the verb "started" (simple past tense) in the second clause of the sentence. The candidates who selected option C, *destroying* did not realise that the verb "destroying" cannot be used to form the simple past tense in the given context. The candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *have destroyed* likely did not realise that the verb pattern "have destroyed" is in the present perfect tense and therefore cannot not be used to form simple past tense. They also failed to realise that

the noun “fire” is in the singular form and hence cannot be used with the auxiliary verb “have” which is in the plural form.

**Question 28:** I \_\_\_\_\_ need to go to town.

- A rarely
- B nearly
- C near
- D am rarely
- E rare

The candidates were supposed to use an adverb of indefinite frequency. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 28.

**Table 28: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 28**

OPTION	A*	B	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	118682	119602	120998	495849	48413	13543
% of Candidates	12.94	13.04	13.19	54.07	5.28	1.48

The candidates’ performance in this question was weak, as only 118,682 (12.94%) candidates chose the correct response A, *rarely*. These candidates realised that the adverb of indefinite frequency “rarely” was the correct response because it correlates with the verb “need” to mean “infrequently”, “not often” or “seldom”.

On the contrary, 784862 (85.58%) candidates chose incorrect options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *am rarely* did not realise that the adverb “rarely” does not come after the auxiliary verb “am”. The candidates who selected the incorrect

option C, *near* failed to realise that the adverb “near” means “close to”, “not far from”, or “not far away in distance.” Hence, it cannot be used as an adverb of indefinite frequency. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *nearly* did not realise that the adverb “nearly” means “almost”, “very close to”, or “near to a particular amount of time, money, people, or things.” Therefore, it cannot be used to indicate an indefinite frequency. The candidates who chose option E, *rare* failed to realise that the adjective “rare” means “unusual”, “uncommon”, or “not occurring very often.” As such, it cannot be used with the verb “need” to indicate indefinite frequency.

**Question 29:** The girl who picked flowers started with the \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful to the least beautiful ones.

- A more
- B most
- C less
- D not very
- E a little

The question tested the candidates’ ability to use the superlative form of an adjective. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 29.

**Table 29: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 29**

OPTION	A	B*	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	207693	450643	96766	102571	46752	12662
% of Candidates	22.65	49.14	10.55	11.18	5.10	1.38

The data presented indicate that the candidates’ performance in this question was average, considering that 450,643 (49.14%)

candidates chose the correct option B *most*. These candidates recognised that the definite article “the” and the phrase “to the least beautiful ones” used in the given sentences require the use of an adverb “most” to show the superlative degree.

Conversely, 453,782 (49.48%) candidates chose incorrect options. The choice of the incorrect option A, *more* by the candidates shows that they failed to realise that the adverb “more” is used in comparative degree not superlative degree; for example, “more beautiful.” Moreover, candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *not very* did not realise that the adverb “not very” cannot be used to indicate the superlative degree of adjectives. The candidates who selected option C, *less* failed to realise that the adverb “less” is used to form the comparative, not superlative degree. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *a little* did not realise that the quantifier “a little” is used with non-countable nouns to show the quantity, not the superlative degree of adjectives.

**Question 30:** The door was open \_\_\_\_\_ there was nobody in the house.

- A in spite
- B even
- C despite
- D besides
- E although

The candidates were supposed to use a correct conjunction to express concession (contrast). The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 30.



**Table 30: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 30**

OPTION	A	B	C	D	E*	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	151879	141579	222114	120502	266619	14394
% of Candidates	16.56	15.44	24.22	13.14	29.07	1.57

The candidates' performance in this question was weak, considering that only 266,619 (29.07%) candidates chose the correct option E, *although*. These candidates recognised that the conjunction "although" is often used to introduce a subordinate clause which contains a statement which contradicts the main clause. That is, it introduces a situation in a subordinate clause that makes a situation in the main statement appear to be unlikely.

On the other hand, 636,074 (69.36%) candidates chose incorrect responses. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *despite* failed to realise that the conjunction "despite" must be followed by the phrase "the fact that" in the pattern: "Despite + the fact that + clause + contrasting clause". Moreover, the candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *in spite* failed to realise that the conjunction "in spite" must be followed by the preposition "of". Hence, its use in the given sentence makes the sentence ungrammatical. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B *even* could not realise that the adverb "even" is used to emphasise something. Hence, it cannot be used to show contrast. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *besides* did not realise that the adverb "besides" is used to show addition, not contrast.

## 2.2 Section B: Vocabulary

**Question 31:** A group of birds flying together is called a \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A troop
- B flock
- C herd
- D fleet
- E bunch

This question tested the candidates' knowledge of collective nouns. The candidates' performance in this question is shown in Table 31.

**Table 31: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 31**

OPTION	A	B*	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	148350	305725	155827	125023	167403	14759
% of Candidates	16.18	33.34	16.99	13.63	18.25	1.61

The data presented indicate that the candidates' performance in this question was weak, considering that only 305,725 (33.34%) candidates chose the correct option B, *flock*. These candidates knew that the collective noun "flock" refers to a group of animals of one kind, especially sheep and birds.

On the contrary, 596,603 (65.05%) candidates selected incorrect responses. The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *troop* did not realise that the collective noun 'troop' refers to an assembly of armed forces. Moreover, those who selected the incorrect option C, *herd* failed to realise that "herd" refers to a large group of animals, especially cattle living and feeding together. The candidates who chose the incorrect response D, *fleet* failed to realise that "fleet"

refers to a number of aircraft, ships or busses. The candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *bunch* did not know that it refers to a number of things fastened or grouped together; for example, “a bunch of bananas”, “a bunch of keys”, or “a bunch of grapes.”

**Question 32:** A person who tests and treats people’s eyes is called

- \_\_\_\_\_.
- A an eye doctor
  - B a chemist
  - C an optician
  - D a surgeon
  - E a dentists

This question tested the candidates’ knowledge of nouns for different specialists/occupations. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 32.

**Table 32: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 32**

OPTION	A	B	C*	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	246131	155507	319588	81360	100494	14007
% of Candidates	26.84	16.96	34.85	8.87	10.96.	1.53

The candidates’ performance in this question was weak, since only 319,588 (34.85%) candidates selected the correct response C, *an optician*. These candidates knew the meaning and appropriate use of the given word.

However, 583,492 (52.67%) candidates selected incorrect responses. The candidates who selected the incorrect option A, *an eye doctor* did not know the term used to refer to a person who tests

and treats people's eyes. They were, probably, attracted by the phrase "eye doctor" because the word "eye" is used in the stem, while the word "doctor" refers to a person who treats patients in a hospital. The candidates who selected the incorrect option B, a *chemist* did not know that "a chemist" is a person who conducts chemical research or experiments. The candidates who selected the incorrect option D, *surgeon* did not realise that "a surgeon" is a medical practitioner specialised in surgery. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *dentist* did not realise that a "dentist" is a person specialised in treating teeth and gums.

**Question 33:** Gold, Diamond and Tanzanite are \_\_\_\_\_.

- A chemicals
- B medicines
- C liquids
- D minerals
- E mountain

This question tested the candidates' knowledge of the collective word for "gold", "diamond" and "Tanzanite". The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 33.

**Table 33: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 33**

OPTION	A	B	C	D*	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	126713	199471	121623	320383	135172	13725
% of Candidates	13.82	21.75	13.26	34.93	14.74	1.50

The candidates' performance in this question was weak, since only 320,383 (34.93%) candidates chose the correct response D,

*minerals*. These candidates were able to identify the right word for the given inorganic substances.

However, 582,979 (63.57%) candidates selected incorrect responses. The candidates who chose the incorrect response A, *chemicals* did not know that chemicals are the substances resulting from the reactions involving changes. Thus, the word cannot be used to refer to gold, diamond and Tanzanite. The candidates who selected the incorrect option B, *Medicines* did not know that medicines are the substances used for treating illness and that they are not solid materials like gold, diamond, and Tanzanite. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *mountains* could not realise that “mountains” refers to the landscape, and thus do not relate to gold, diamond and Tanzanite.

**Question 34:** A person whose job is cutting and selling meat is known as a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A butcher
- B butchery
- C shopkeeper
- D seller
- E butler

This question tested the candidates’ knowledge of different occupations. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 34.

**Table 34: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 34**

OPTION	A*	B	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	318686	229750	207718	84281	64129	12523
% of Candidates	34.75	25.05	22.65	9.19	6.99.	1.37

The data presented indicate that the candidates' performance in this question was weak, since only 318,686 (34.75%) candidates chose the correct response A, *butcher*. These candidates realised that the word "butcher" refers to a person who cuts and sells meat.

Conversely, 585,878 (56.89%) candidates chose incorrect options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *butchery* did not realise that "butchery" refers to the business of slaughtering animals. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *shopkeeper* could not realise that a "shopkeeper" owns or manages a shop, whereas a "butcher" deals with the business of selling meat. The candidates who chose the incorrect response D, *seller* did not realise that the term "seller" does not refer to specific business or activity. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *butler* did not know that the word "butler" refers to a male servant in charge of the wines. Generally, these incorrect responses suggest that the candidates did not know a specific term for a person who sells and cuts meat.

**Question 35:** A doctor works in a \_\_\_\_\_.

- A shop
- B court
- C church
- D hospital
- E farm

This question tested the candidates' knowledge of a place where a doctor works. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 35.

**Table 35: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 35**

OPTION	A	B	C	D*	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	62328	48765	41810	725606	28049	10529
% of Candidates	6.80	5.32	4.56	79.12	3.06	1.15

The general performance of the candidates in this question was good. This owes to the fact that the candidates who chose the correct response D, *hospital* were 725,606 (79.12%). These candidates knew that a medical doctor normally works in hospitals.

Conversely, 180,952 (19.73%) candidates chose incorrect options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *shop* did not realise that a "shop" is often a small building for retail sale of goods and services. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *court* could not realise that a "court" is a place where a lawyer or magistrate works. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *church* did not realise that it is a place where "pastors" and "padres" preach the word of God. The candidate who selected the incorrect option E, *farm* did not realise that a doctor does not work in a farm.

**Question 36:** Africa, Asia, America and Europe are \_\_\_\_\_.

- A regions
- B continents
- C countries
- D cities
- E towns

The candidates were supposed to identify the correct collective nouns of the given group of nouns. The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 36.

**Table 36: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 36**

OPTION	A	B*	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	138055	430081	176897	93403	65016	13635
% of Candidates	15.05	46.90	19.29	10.18	7.09	1.49

The candidates' performance in this question was average, since the candidates who selected the correct response B, *continents* were 430,081 (46.90%). These candidates realised that "continents" are the earth's large land masses such as Australia and North America.

Conversely, 473,371 (51.61%) candidates selected incorrect response. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *countries* did not know that "countries" means territories distinguished by their people, culture and geography like Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. Moreover, the candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *regions* did not realise that "regions" means an administrative division of the country such as Tanga, Mbeya and Morogoro. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *cities* did not know that "cities" refers to any large and populous places like Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Arusha. In addition, the candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *towns* did not know that "towns" means populated urban areas like Kibaha, Bunda or Bagamoyo.



## Section C: Composition

The candidates were instructed to re-arrange the four given jumbled sentences into a logical sequence by assigning them letter A to D.

**Question 37:** He normally arrives at work at seven o'clock every day.

**Question 38:** Although there are many buses in his area, he prefers walking to riding a bus.

**Question 39:** John is always punctual at work.

**Question 40:** Therefore he is a good example to others.

**Table 32: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 37, 38, 39 & 40.**

Item Number	Correct option	No. of candidates	% of candidates	% of Candidates who Chose Incorrect Options			% of Candidates who chose E
37	B	459,357	50.09	A 9.71	C 21.23	D 15.28	2.31
38	C	345,689	37.69	A 12.62	B 18.43	D 27.29	2.59
39	A	606,055	66.08	B 11.59	C 8.96	D 9.64	2.35
40	D	368,831	40.22	A 9.44	B 17.02	C 28.27	3.68

The candidates who were able to identify the sentence 39 as the first sentence were 606,055 (66.08%). These candidates realised that it contained the main topic of the composition 'punctuality at work'. Another marker of the first sentence was that it starts with a name of the person talked about in the composition, which is John. Conversely, 106,284 (11.59%) candidates picked the sentence number 39 as the second, 82,215 (8.96%) candidates identified it as the third while 88,426 (9.64%) considered it the fourth. These incorrect responses suggest that the candidates did not read all the sentences to identify the main idea of the composition. The data

further show that 21,522 (2.35%) candidates chose the letter E which was not instructed.

Moreover, 459,357 (50.09%) candidates picked the sentence number 37 as the second one. These candidates certainly realised that the idea of punctuality introduced in the first sentence is developed and explained in this sentence. They realised that the time at which John arrives at work which is seven o'clock. They also noticed that the sentence starts with the pronoun 'He' which refers back to John in the first sentence. On the contrary, 89,050 (9.71%) candidates selected the sentence number 37 as the first sentence, 194,737 (21.23%) candidates considered it the third and 140,159 (15.28%) candidates identified it as the fourth. These incorrect responses imply that the candidates did not realise that the pronoun 'He' and the time at which John arrives at work link the sentence to the sentence number 39. The data further indicate that 21,176 (2.31%) candidates chose the letter 'E', which was not the option.

Furthermore, the sentence number 38 was correctly identified by 3345,689 (37.69%) candidates as the third sentence seemingly because it states the means of transport that John uses when going to work. They also realised that the use of the word "although" at the beginning of the sentence does not make the sentence to be the last sentence; rather it makes it to be the third. On the contrary, 115,708 (12.62%) candidates selected the sentence as the first and 250,262 (27.29%) candidates regarded it as the fourth. The data further show that 23,790 (2.59%) candidates selected the letter 'E', which was not part of the instruction.

Lastly, the 368,831 (40.22%) candidates correctly recognised sentence number 40 as the fourth sentence because it begins with

the word 'therefore' which concludes the description. However, 86,549 (9.44%) candidates identified the sentence number 40 as the first, 156,107 (17.02%) candidates identified it as the second and 259,258 (28.27%) candidates as the third. These incorrect responses imply that the candidates did not read all the sentences in order to get the logical flow. The data also show that 33,779 (3.68%) candidates selected the letter 'E', which was not instructed.

### **2.3 Section D: Comprehension**

The composition section tested the candidates' ability to identify and interpret information from the given passage. The candidates were required to read the passage and thereafter answer ten questions that followed, using the information from the passage. The passage is presented below:

*A few years ago, there were terrible floods in the southern part of Tanzania. Kigata went to stay with his friends in a village called Mabatini.*

*When Kigata arrived at his friends' village, it was raining heavily. There was mud and pools of water everywhere. His friends lived near Mirongo River and they could see that the river was rising. "If the river rises much more, we will be in trouble" said one of his friends.*

*Every evening, they listened to the weather forecast on the radio. The news was bad as the river had begun to overflow. Some fields had flooded. If the rain continued, there would be serious floods. "What shall we do?" asked the villagers. "We must call a meeting" said Kigata. The villagers met and Kigata advised them to either stay in the village and hope that the rain stops or go to town where they would be much safe.*

*The following day, Kigata helped the villagers to leave the village. Some travelled by bus and others by lorry. They did not take a lot of luggage. They stored the remaining belongings on top of tables and chairs in their houses. They stayed with friends and relatives in town. That evening, it was announced*

*on the radio that the river bank at Serena was in danger of breaking. If it broke, there would be floods at the villages near the river. Kigata was very worried. He decided to go with some of the villagers to try and make the river bank stronger by putting logs and bags of earth around the bank of the river to prevent it from breaking. They were glad the dam did not break.*

**Question 41:** What happened because of the heavy rains?

- A The rain was falling
- B The river was flowing
- C The river was low
- D The water level rose
- E The river bank got broken.

The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 41.

**Table 41: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 41**

OPTION	A	B	C	D*	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	154917	262551	146114	129802	206475	17228
% of Candidates	16.89	28.63	15.93	14.15	22.51	1.88

The presented data indicate that candidates' performance in this question was weak, since only 129802 (14.15%) candidates selected the correct response D, *The water level rose*. These candidates seem to have read the passage carefully to realise that the heavy rains caused the water level in Mirongo River to rise, as mentioned in the second and third paragraphs of the passage.

On the other hand, 770,057 (83.97%) candidates chose distractors. The candidates who selected the incorrect option B, *The river was flowing* were probably attracted by the statement "the river was

rising” which is seen in the passage where the correct response is found. This response might also suggest that they were attracted by the statement “the river had begun to overflow” which is seen in the third paragraph of the passage. Moreover, the candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *The river bank got broken* might have been attracted by the word “broke” which is found in the passage. The candidates who selected the incorrect option A, *The rain was falling* were probably attracted by the word “rain” which is also mentioned in the passage. The choice of the incorrect option C, *The river was low* by some candidates suggests that they did not comprehend the information in the passage. This owes to the fact that this information is not present in the passage.

**Question 42:** What did the news reporter say about the floods?

- A That the town was flooded
- B That the villages were flooded
- C That some fields were flooded
- D That some houses were flooded
- E That there would be serious floods.

The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 42.

**Table 42: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 42**

OPTION	A	B	C	D	E*	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	86983	190808	323063	96529	205373	14331
% of Candidates	9.48	20.81	35.23	10.53	22.39	1.56

The data presented indicate that the candidates' performance in this question was weak, since only 205,373 (22.39%) candidates selected the correct response E, *There would be serious floods*. These candidates realised that the news reporter on the radio said that the river bank at Serena was in danger of breaking and that if it broke, there would be floods at the villages near the river.

Conversely, 697,383 (76.05%) candidates chose incorrect options. The candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *Some fields were flooded* did not comprehend the information in the passage. This owes to the fact that this information is not mentioned in the passage. Moreover, the choice of the incorrect option B, *The villages were flooded* suggests that the candidates did not understand the information in the passage. Thus, they did not understand the statement "If it broke, there would be floods at the villages near the river" which is in the last paragraph of the passage. The choice of the incorrect option D, *Some houses were flooded* shows that the candidates did not read the passage carefully. This owes to the fact that such information is not mentioned in the passage. Perhaps, they were attracted by the information that the villagers left the village. The choice of the incorrect option A, *That the town was flooded* shows that the candidates did not read the passage carefully, since the information that the town was flooded is not found anywhere in the passage. This response might also suggest that they were attracted by the word "flooded" which appears in the passage.

**Question 43:** What did the villagers decide to do after the weather forecast?

- A To stay in the village
- B To go to town

- C To go to the river
- D To take all their belongings
- E To stop the rain.

The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 43.

**Table 43: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 43**

OPTION	A	B*	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	175208	355425	175468	118607	77149	15230
% of Candidates	19.10	38.76	19.13	12.93	8.41	1.66

The general performance of the candidates in this question was weak, considering the fact that the candidates who selected the correct response B, *to go to town* were only 355,425 (38.76%). These candidates appear to have read and understood the passage because they were able to identify the correct response, which is found in the last paragraph of the passage.

On the contrary, 546,432 (59.57%) candidates chose distractors. The choice of the incorrect option A, *To stay in the village* by the candidates indicates that they were probably attracted by the statement 'Kigata advised them to either stay in the village and hope that the rain stops or go to town.' The choice of the incorrect option C, *To go to the river* by the candidates indicates that they were attracted by the statement in the last paragraph that Kigata went to the river with some villagers to strengthen the river bank. The choice of the incorrect option D, *To take their belonging* by the candidates suggests that they did not read the passage carefully because it is indicated in the last passage of the passage that before the villagers

left for town, they stored their belongings on top of tables and chairs in their houses. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *To stop the rain* were probably attracted by the statement in the last paragraph of the passage that Kigata went to the river with some of the villagers to strengthen the river bank “by putting logs and bags of earth around the bank to prevent it from breaking.”

**Question 44:** How did the villagers travel to town?

- A By car and others by bus
- B By bus and others by lorry
- C On foot
- D By train and others bus
- E By car and others by train.

The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 44

**Table 44: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 44**

OPTION	A	B*	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	100330	516814	147559	79614	59376	13394
% of Candidates	10.94	56.35	16.09	8.68	6.47	1.46

The general performance of the candidates in this question was average, since the candidates who selected the correct response B, *By bus and others by lorry* were 516,814 (56.35%). These candidates appear to have correctly interpreted the information in the last paragraph, which mentions clearly the means of means of transport used by villagers when leaving the village to town.

However, 386,879 (42.18%) candidates chose incorrect responses. The choice of the incorrect option C, *On foot* by the candidates



indicates that they did not understand the information in the passage, alternatively, they just guessed the answer. This owes to the fact that this means of transport is not mentioned in the passage. The choice of the incorrect response A, *By car and others by bus* by some candidates indicates that they did not understand the passage. This made them fail to identify the correct information in the last paragraph. The candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *By train and others bus* were seemingly attracted by the word 'bus' which is mentioned in the passage and in the correct response. The choice of the incorrect option E, *By car and others by train* by some candidates shows that they did not understand the information in the passage. Consequently, they just guessed the answer, since this means of transport is not mentioned in the passage.

**Question 45:** What did the Radio Reporter say about the river bank?

- A It is breaking
- B It has broken down
- C It would break
- D It might break
- E It had broken.

The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 45.

**Table 45: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 45**

OPTION	A	B	C	D*	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	317087	165368	191452	115054	112727	15399
% of Candidates	34.58	18.03	20.88	12.55	12.29	1.68

The candidates' performance in this question was weak, since the candidates who selected the correct response D, *it might break* were only 115, 054 (12.55%). These candidates were able to read the passage and interpret the meaning of the expression "was in danger of breaking", which is synonymous with "It might break".

On the other hand, 786,634 (85.78%) candidates chose distractors. The candidates who chose the incorrect response A, *It is breaking* were attracted by the word "breaking" which is also used in the passage: "...the river bank at Serena was in danger of breaking". The candidates who chose the incorrect C, *It would break* could not realise that the verb pattern "would break" does not indicate the possibility of the river bank to break, but indicates that the river bank's breaking is inevitable. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *It has broken down* failed to realise that the present perfect tense cannot be used to show a possibility; rather, it is used to describe an action that has just been completed. The candidates who chose the incorrect option E, *It had broken* did not realise that the past perfect tense is used to describe an action that happened before a specific time in the present. Therefore, it cannot be used to show a possibility, as required in the given sentence.

**Question 46:** Who did the villagers stay with in town?

- A The radio announcer
- B The neighbours
- C Kigata
- D Kigata and villagers
- E Relatives and friends.

The overall performance of the candidates in this question is presented in Table 46.

**Table 46: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 46**

OPTION	A	B	C	D	E*	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	108694	66963	346052	221977	159312	14089
% of Candidates	11.85	7.30	37.73	24.20	17.37	1.54

The candidates' performance in this question was weak, considering that the candidates who selected the correct response E, *relatives and friends* were only 159,312 (17.37%). These candidates read and understood the passage. As a result, they identified the correct answer in the sixth sentence of the last paragraph.

Conversely, 743,686 (81.09%) candidates chose incorrect options. The choice of the incorrect option C, *Kigata* by some candidates suggests that they were confused by the fact that Kigata was in the forefront in advising the villagers what to do and helped them to move to town. The candidates who selected the incorrect option D, *Kigata and villagers* were attracted by the word "stay" which is used in the passage: "The villagers met and Kigata advised them to either stay in the village and hope that the rain stops....". The candidates who chose the incorrect options A, *The radio announcer* and B, *The neighbours* did not understand the passage. Consequently, they were unable to locate the answer in the last paragraph.

**Question 47:** Which of the following sentences is not true?

- A Kigata was staying in town
- B There were puddles everywhere
- C The river bank was in danger of breaking
- D Kigata helped the villagers to leave the village
- E The villagers left some of their belongings.

The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 47.

**Table 47: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 47**

OPTION	A*	B	C	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	246390	167569	127675	277495	83220	14738
% of Candidates	26.87	18.27	13.92	30.26	9.07	1.61

The data presented show that the candidates' performance in this question was weak. This owes to the fact that the candidates who chose the correct response A, *Kigata was staying in town* were only 246,390 (26.87%). These candidates appear to have read the passage carefully to realise that Kigata was staying in a village called Mabatini, as mentioned in the first paragraph of the passage.

On the contrary, 655,959 (71.52%) candidates selected distractors. The choice of the incorrect option B *There were puddles everywhere* by candidates suggests that they read the passage but failed to interpret information from the passage. It seems that the word 'puddles' which has the same meaning as "pools of water" confused them. The fact is that the word does not appear anywhere in the passage. The candidates who chose the incorrect options D, *Kigata helped the villagers to leave the village*, C, *The river bank was in danger of breaking* and E, *The villagers left some of their belongings* did not understand the content of the passage. Consequently, they were unable to locate the answer in the first paragraph.

**Question 48:** How did the people help to strengthen the river bank?

A With mud and logs

- B With logs and branches
- C With earth and mud
- D With logs and bags with soil
- E With mud and tree branches.

The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 48.

**Table 48: Number and Percentage of the Candidates' Choices in Each Option in Question 48**

OPTION	A	B	C	D*	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	128114	169667	167260	328624	108532	14890
% of Candidates	13.97	18.50	18.24	35.83	11.83	1.62

The data presented indicate that the candidates' performance in this question was weak. This owes to the fact that the candidates who selected the correct response D, *With logs and bags with soil* were only 328,624 (35.83%). These candidates were able to read and interpret the information found in the last paragraph of the passage.

On the contrary, 573,573 (62.54%) candidates chose distractors. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *With logs and branches* did not read the passage carefully to realise that "branches" were not used to strengthen the river bank. This response might also suggest that they were attracted by the word "logs" which is seen in the fourth paragraph of the passage. Similarly, the candidates who chose the incorrect option C, *With earth and mud* and A, *With mud and logs* did not read the passage carefully to realise that "mud" was not used to prevent the river bank from breaking. It seems that the choice of these incorrect responses was motivated by the presence of words "earth" and "logs" in the

fourth paragraph of the passage. Moreover, the candidates who selected the incorrect option E, *With mud and tree branches* did not read the passage carefully to realise that neither “mud” nor “tree branches” were used to strengthen the river bank.

**Question 49:** Where was the news heard about the weather announced?

- A On the internet
- B On the newspaper
- C On the phone
- D On the radio
- E On television.

The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 49.

**Table 49: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 49**

OPTION	A	B	C	D*	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	59863	98244	82346	604820	59245	12569
	6.53	10.71	8.98	65.95	6.46	1.37

The candidates’ performance in this question was good, considering that the candidates who selected the correct response D, *On the radio* were 604,820 (65.95%). These candidates successfully interpreted the information in the passage. As a result, they identified the correct response in the third paragraph of the passage: “Every evening, they listened to the weather forecast on the radio.”

On the contrary, 299,698 (32.68%) candidates chose distractors. The candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *On the newspaper*

failed to identify the correct response, which is clearly stated in the third paragraph of the passage: “Every evening, they listened to the weather forecast on the radio”; not in the newspaper. The candidates who chose the option C, *On the phone* failed to identify the media which was used to announce the news about the weather forecast in the third paragraph of the passage. The choice of the incorrect option E, *On television* by the candidates suggests that they just guessed the answer. This owes to the fact that there is nowhere in the passage where it is indicated that the news about the weather forecast was announced on television. Similarly, the candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *On the internet* did not read the passage carefully to realise that the news about the weather forecast was announced on the radio, not on the internet.

**Question 50:** Where did the villagers store their food?

- A On the roof in sacks
- B In the boxes in the shelves
- C On the tables and chairs
- D In the cupboards in boxes
- E At their neighbours’ place.

The overall performance of the candidates in this question is summarised in Table 50.

**Table 50: Number and Percentage of the Candidates’ Choices in Each Option in Question 50**

OPTION	A	B	C*	D	E	OTHERS
No. of Candidates	113956	124013	430146	92064	144125	12783
% of Candidates	12.43	13.52	46.90	10.04	15.72	1.39

The candidates' performance in this question was average. This owes to the fact that the candidates who selected the correct response C, *On the tables and chairs* were 430,146 (46.90%). These candidates read and understood the passage. As a result, they identified the correct answer in the last paragraph.

On the other hand, 474,158(51.71%) candidates chose distractors. The candidates who chose the incorrect option A, *On the roof in sacks* did not read the passage carefully to realise that this information is not in the passage. Moreover, the candidates who chose the incorrect option B, *In the boxes in the shelves* did not have adequate comprehend skills to comprehend the information in the last paragraph of the passage. The choice of the incorrect option E, *At their neighbours place* by some candidates indicates that they failed to understand the information given in the passage. This is evident because they failed to identify the correct answer which is clearly stated in the last paragraph of the passage. Similarly, the candidates who chose the incorrect option D, *In the cupboards in boxes* failed to locate the information written in the last paragraph.

### **3.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE CANDIDATES IN EACH TOPIC**

The analysis of the candidates' performance in each topic in 02 English Language in the PSLE for 2017 indicates that the performance in *Tenses* has decreased by 3.36 percent, from 38.8 percent in 2016 to 34.95 percent in 2017. In *Other Forms of Grammar*, the performance has increased by 4.1 percent, from 37.74 percent in 2016 to 41.84 percent in 2017. Similarly, the performance in *Vocabulary* has increased by 2.05 percent, from 49.9 percent in 2016 to 43.95 percent in 2017. In *Composition*, the



performance has also increased by 7.05 percent, from 42.3 percent in 2016 to 48.53 percent in 2017. Finally, the performance in *Comprehension* has decreased by 1.57 percent, from 35.3 percent in 2016 to 33.73 percent in 2017. The candidates' performance in each topic is summarised in the Appendices.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The general performance of the candidates in 02 English Language subject in the PSLE for 2017 was average, since many candidates scored from 40 to 59 marks in the examined topics. The analysis of the performance in each topic shows that the candidates had average performance in *Composition* (48.53%), *Vocabulary* (43.95%) and *Other forms of Grammar* (41.84%). However, they had weak performance in *Tenses* (34.94%) and *Comprehension* (33.73%). Moreover, the analysis of the performance in each question shows that the candidates had good performance in question number 16 (65.8%), 23 (69.2%), 35 (79.1%), 39 (66.1%) and 49 (66%). The poorly performed questions were 28 in total, with questions number 28 (12.8%) and 45 (12.5%) being the most poorly performed questions.

The analysis shows that the candidates failed to choose correct responses due to poor knowledge of tenses and grammatical rules, the inadequate mastery of basic vocabularies for different situations. They also encountered problems in answering *Composition* and *Comprehension* questions due to the lack of composition and comprehension skills. Despite these weaknesses, a few candidates scored high marks in the examination. These successfully identified tasks of the questions and had sufficient knowledge of tenses and

grammatical rules. They also had adequate mastery of the basic vocabularies in different situations and had adequate comprehension skills.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

In order to improve performance of the prospective candidates in 02 English Language subject, the following are recommended:

- (a) Pupils should be encouraged to use English Language in their day to day conversation. They should also be encouraged to read short story books to expand their vocabulary stock and to improve their grammar and comprehension competencies.
- (b) Teachers should give pupils enough exercises related to all topics taught and give them feedback on their performance so as to enable them improve in the topics. This will eventually enable them identify the requirements of the questions.
- (c) The Government should provide in-service training for teachers of English Language subject to equip them with new skills and methodologies needed in the teaching of the English Language subject.

S/N.	TOPIC	PSLE 2016				PSLE 2017			
		Performance in each Question		(% Average	Remarks	Performance in each Question		(% Average	Remarks
		Qn. Number	(%) Performance			Qn. Number	(%) Performance		
1.	Tenses	1	27.35	38.8	Weak	1	38.2	34.94	Weak
		2	39.34			3	40.39		
		3	36.5			4	23.94		
		4	44.86			6	16.01		
		5	49.83			8	37.68		
		6	56.41			9	33.0		
		7	44.01			11	37.9		
		8	18.09			14	44.8		
		9	34.94			18	46.5		
		10	36.76			21	31.0		
2.	Other Forms of Grammar	11	32.97	37.74	Weak	2	26.8	41.84	Average
		12	15.01			5	29.91		
		13	47.43			7	46.39		
		14	43.54			10	22.0		
		15	45.04			12	36.5		
		16	48.69			13	39.6		
		17	45.48			15	55.5		
		18	38.69			16	65.8		
		19	27.67			17	47.3		
		20	51.35			19	55.2		
		21	27.41			20	55.8		
		22	39.34			22	27.2		
		23	64.51			23	69.2		
		24	35.92			24	48.4		
		25	39.71			25	37.9		
		26	17.12			26	46.1		
		27	29.07			27	36.1		
		28	31.44			28	12.9		
		29	29.96			29	49.1		
		30	44.5			30	29.1		
3.	Vocabulary	31	42.38	41.9	Average	31	33.3	43.95	Average
		32	42.86			32	34.8		
		33	31.22			33	34.9		
		34	25.43			34	34.7		
		35	52.59			35	79.1		
4.	Composition	36	56.97	42.3	Average	36	46.9	48.53	Average
		37	39.35			37	50.1		
		38	36.37			38	37.7		
		39	51.4			39	66.1		
5.	Comprehension	40	42.25	35.3	Weak	40	40.2	33.73	Weak
		41	37.8			41	14.2		
		42	36.45			42	22.4		
		43	44.63			43	38.8		
		44	38.65			44	56.4		
		45	29.19			45	12.5		
		46	49.78			46	17.4		
		47	27.69			47	26.9		
		48	45.37			48	35.8		
		49	18.7			49	66.0		
		50	24.54			50	46.9		



