

00103/2&1 BECE

June 2023

ENGLISH

LANGUAGE 2 & 1

Essay and Objective

1 hour 45 minutes

**2&1**

Name.....

Index Number.....

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL  
GHANA

Basic Education Certificate Examination

June 2023

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2 & 1  
Essay and Objective

1 hour 45 minutes

Do **not** open this booklet until you are told to do so. While you are waiting, read and observe the following instructions carefully. Write your **name** and **index number** in **ink** in the spaces provided above.

This booklet consists of two papers. Answer Paper 2 which comes first, in your answer booklet and Paper 1 on your Objective Test answer sheet. Paper 2 will last 1 hour 10 minutes after which the answer booklet will be collected. Do **not** start Paper 1 until you are told to do so. Paper 1 will last 35 minutes.

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

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

## PART A

## ESSAY WRITING

[30 marks]

Answer **one question only** from this part.

Your composition should be about **250 words** long.

1. Write a letter to the Director of Health of your district, discussing **two** ways in which the activities of some food sellers affect the health of people in your community and suggest **one** solution to the problem.
2. Narrate an interesting story that ends with the statement, *Indeed, it was a great achievement.*
3. Write an article for publication in a national newspaper on **two** effects of poor disposal of waste on the people and suggest **two** ways of solving the problem.

## PART B

## COMPREHENSION

[30 marks]

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

The new Headmistress of Beso Junior High School was impressed with the infrastructure and equipment in the school. She was also pleased with the staff and student population. However, one thing puzzled her. The students' performance was very poor, according to the records. She had a discussion with the staff who complained of student absenteeism due to ill health. A nurse in the community told her that the children were often under the weather.

They had malaria, although every family had been given insecticide-treated mosquito nets. It seemed however that the people did not use these nets as they should and therefore the numerous mosquitoes in the environment continued to bite them. While visiting some of the sick children in the community, the Headmistress noticed that there were several pits filled with water. At a general PTA meeting, she explained how mosquitoes could breed in the stagnant water in the pits. She also pointed out the effects of the poor health of the children on their academic performance. She then appealed for help to destroy the breeding places of the mosquitoes so that the children would become healthier and perform better in school.

Although some of the parents did not understand the connection between the water in the pits and the performance of the students, they agreed to help her. During the next dry season, work started. All hands were on deck. The people worked very hard and the pits were filled. Trees and flowers were planted on the reclaimed land. The community now looked more beautiful than before. Soon, the children's health improved and, later, their performance in the final examinations became better.

- (a) Mention **two** things the Headmistress liked about the school.
- (b) In which **two** ways did the children's poor health affect them?
- (c) Why did the Headmistress involve the parents in solving the problem?
- (d) (i) What made the community succeed in filling the pits?  
(ii) What **two** benefits did the filling of the pits bring to the community?
- (e) Explain, in your own words, the following expressions as used in the passage:  
(i) ... *one thing puzzled her*;  
(ii) ... *often under the weather*;  
(iii) *All hands were on deck*.
- (f) For **each** of the following words, give another word or a phrase that means **the same** and can fit into the passage:  
(i) noticed;  
(ii) pits;  
(iii) appealed;  
(iv) perform;  
(v) connection.

Turn over

PART C  
LITERATURE  
[10 marks]

Answer **all** the questions in this part.

SACEY J.A. and DARMANI L.(COMP.): *The Cockcrow*

5. Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(a) to 5(c)

KEN SARO-WIWA: *Home Sweet Home*

“My friend, Sira, was Waale’s only daughter. As I said, we had grown up together, and had attended school together. She had not been able to complete her elementary schooling, although she was a brilliant girl.”

(Page 181)

- (a) Who is Waale?  
(b) Sira could not complete her elementary schooling because .....  
(c) Sira was not among the people who came to welcome the writer because .....

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

AMA ATA AIDOO : *The Girl Who Can*

“They say that I was born in Hasodzi; and it is a very big village in the Central Region of our country, Ghana .....

(Page 142)

- (d) The extract is the ..... of the story.  
(e) “They say that I was born ....” shows that .....

Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 5(f) to 5(h).

AMA ATA AIDOO: *The Dilemma of a Ghost*

MONKA [To herself]: I remember the time he was preparing to go to the white man’s land ....  
The money .... the money .... This is something which no one should hear anything about.

(Act 3 , Page 56)

- (f) According to Monka, one of the things *no one should hear anything about* is .....  
(g) The extract is an example of a/an .....  
(h) *The money .... the money ....* is an example of a literary device called .....

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

EVELYN TOOLEY HUNT: *Mama Is a Sunrise*

When she comes slip-footing through the door,  
she kindles us  
like lump coal lighted  
and we wake up glowing.

(Page 184)

- (i) The extract brings out the theme of .....
- (j) ... *she kindles us*  
*like lump coal lighted* ....  
The dominant figure of speech in the lines above is .....

**END OF ESSAY TEST**

Answer **all** the questions.

Each question is followed by **four** options lettered A to D. Find the correct option for **each** question and shade **in pencil** on your answer sheet the space which bears the same letter as the option you have chosen. Give only **one** answer to each question. An example is given below.

From the list of words lettered A to D choose the one which is **closest in meaning** to the underlined word in the sentence.

The pupils laughed at the story because they thought it was incredible.

- A. strange
- B. interesting
- C. unbelievable
- D. funny

The correct answer is unbelievable, which is lettered C and therefore answer space C would be shaded.

A  B  C  D  E

Be sure you understand the instructions at the beginning of each section before you try to answer any of the questions that follow them.

Do **not** spend too much time on a question. If you find a question difficult, leave it and go on and try it again later.

Use **pencil** throughout. If you wish to change an answer, erase your first answer completely and shade the appropriate space for the new answer.

Do all rough work on this question paper.

Now answer the following questions.

PART A  
LEXIS AND STRUCTURE

SECTION A

From the alternatives lettered A to D, choose the **one** which most suitably completes each sentence.

1. Some of the pineapples are ..... sour to be eaten.
  - A. more so
  - B. much too
  - C. much so
  - D. more too
2. The messenger did not ..... anyone in the house.
  - A. meeting
  - B. meet
  - C. meets
  - D. met

3. It was ..... late to go out alone.  
A. so  
B. much  
C. too  
D. very
4. Neither the parents nor the child ..... at home yesterday.  
A. is  
B. are  
C. were  
D. was
5. This is the boy ..... rescued us.  
A. whom  
B. who  
C. which  
D. whose
6. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. ....?  
A. can't it  
B. isn't it  
C. tshan't it  
D. doesn't it
7. Their sister wore a ..... to the party.  
A. silk pink beautiful dress  
B. beautiful pink silk dress  
C. beautiful silk pink dress  
D. pink beautiful silk dress
8. The nurse made me ..... a lot of water.  
A. drink  
B. drunk  
C. to drink  
D. drank
9. Where ..... Asana and Betty spending their next holidays?  
A. is  
B. was  
C. were  
D. are
10. Her clothes would look better if she ..... them.  
A. washes  
B. would wash  
C. will wash  
D. washed
11. ...., learners must behave well.  
A. Last but not the least  
B. The last but not least  
C. The last but not the least  
D. Last but not least

12. It is not easy to identify ..... voice it was.  
A. whom  
B. whose  
C. who  
D. who's
13. It is no use ..... over spilt milk.  
A. crying  
B. of crying  
C. cry  
D. to cry
14. You cannot swim in the sea, ..... you?  
A. don't  
B. couldn't  
C. can  
D. did
15. She lives in her ..... house.  
A. father -in- law's  
B. father -in-laws'  
C. fathers -in- laws'  
D. father's -in- law's

## SECTION B

Choose from the alternatives lettered **A** to **D** the one which is nearest in meaning to the underlined word in **each** sentence.

16. What transpired between them remains a secret.  
A. existed  
B. happened  
C. translated  
D. manifested
17. The robbers ransacked the house.  
A. invaded  
B. destroyed  
C. looted  
D. torched
18. The commotion at the stadium was avoidable.  
A. confusion  
B. trouble  
C. issue  
D. violence
19. Lance only talks about trivial matters.  
A. unexciting  
B. unacceptable  
C. unpleasant  
D. unimportant



20. We will not allow him to dampen our spirits.
- A. suppress
  - B. destroy
  - C. break
  - D. lower

## SECTION C

*In each of the following sentences a group of words has been underlined. Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one that best explains the underlined group of words.*

21. We tried all we could to amuse her but she kept a straight face. This means that she
- A. refused to laugh.
  - B. cried all the more.
  - C. did not listen to us.
  - D. looked straight ahead.
22. When we went to Nina's house, we were told that she had gone away bag and baggage. This means that Nina had gone away
- A. without informing anyone.
  - B. leaving all her belongings.
  - C. with all her belongings.
  - D. leaving all her children.
23. I was informed at the eleventh hour about his decision to leave town. This means that I heard it
- A. at eleven o'clock.
  - B. very late.
  - C. immediately.
  - D. in good time.
24. When he lost his job, Yaro was left to sink or swim. This means that Yaro
- A. had to find another job.
  - B. was depressed.
  - C. had to survive on his own.
  - D. shouted for help.
25. Samantha's main problem is that she can see no further than her nose. This means that Samantha
- A. lacks foresight.
  - B. cannot think.
  - C. is easily deceived.
  - D. has a long nose.

## SECTION D

From the list of words lettered A to D, choose the one that is **most nearly opposite in meaning** to the word **underlined in each sentence**.

26. The arrogant storekeeper lost all his customers.  
A. modest  
B. respectful  
C. obedient  
D. sympathetic
27. We finished several projects last year.  
A. concluded  
B. stopped  
C. organized  
D. initiated
28. The unfavourable weather affected their health.  
A. beautiful  
B. cool  
C. pleasant  
D. promising
29. She accidentally tore her dress.  
A. foolishly  
B. carelessly  
C. willingly  
D. intentionally
30. The story was written in simple language.  
A. foreign  
B. local  
C. complex  
D. strange

**END OF PAPER**