

KENYA JUNIOR SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

2026

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1

901/1 1 hour 40 minutes

Name _____

Assessment number _____

School _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Reading Comprehension, Oral Skills and Grammar

Answer all 50 questions. Each question carries 1 mark.

Answer all multiple choice questions on the answer sheet provided. Use an HB pencil to shade the circle for the correct answer.

For each question, choose only one answer from A, B, C and D.

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Read the passage below and answer questions 1 to 5.

When families in Duma village needed a saw or a watering can, many bought one even if they would use it only a few times. Others postponed small repairs because they could not afford the right equipment. At a village meeting, a carpenter proposed a tool library. Each member would pay a small annual fee and borrow equipment from a shared shed.

The project began with twelve donated tools. At first, the borrowing system was informal. Some tools came back late, and two were returned damaged. The committee discovered that several borrowers had not been shown how to use them. It introduced a record book, a return date for every loan, and a short demonstration before unfamiliar equipment was issued.

Members were asked to clean tools before returning them and to report damage promptly. Fees paid for repairs and replacements. Soon, residents began lending their skills as well as borrowing equipment. One woman demonstrated safe pruning, while a young builder helped repair benches. The library made useful tools accessible, but its success depended on cooperation rather than on the shed alone.

1. Why were some borrowed tools returned damaged?

- A. The shed had no roof.
- B. Only children borrowed them.
- C. Users had not received instructions.
- D. The tools were already broken.

2. The purpose of the record book was mainly to

- A. make borrowers responsible for shared property.
- B. list tools that nobody wanted.
- C. advertise expensive equipment.
- D. select the strongest residents.

3. What does the passage suggest about sharing tools?

- A. It removes the need for maintenance.
- B. It should be limited to one family.
- C. It works best when users follow agreed rules.
- D. It prevents residents from learning skills.

4. The word 'accessible' means

- A. hidden from view.
- B. owned by strangers.
- C. difficult to repair.
- D. easy to obtain or use.

5. Which title best suits the passage?

- A. The Price of a New House
- B. A Village Tool Library
- C. A Competition among Builders
- D. The Last Farmer in the Village

Read the passage below and answer questions 6 to 10.

After heavy rain, several residents of Kivuli estate noticed that their tap water was brown. Some blamed a family that had recently built a house near the storage tank. Others said that every pipe should be replaced. The residents' committee asked everyone to record when and where the discoloured water appeared.

Reports came from homes on three different streets. A plumber inspected the tank and the pipes serving them. He found a cracked cover that allowed soil to wash into the tank. The new house was not connected to the damaged section. The committee arranged for the tank to be emptied, cleaned and repaired before it was put back into use. It also asked a qualified technician to check the water quality.

At the next meeting, the chairperson reminded residents not to jump to conclusions. Listening to complaints was necessary, but deciding who was responsible required evidence. The investigation avoided an unfair accusation and directed the repair money to the actual fault.

6. What first caused residents to question the water supply?

- A. The river stopped flowing.
- B. A bridge was closed.
- C. The tank had been stolen.
- D. Water appeared brown after rain.

7. Why did the committee compare reports from several homes?

- A. To choose who would pay the largest fee.
- B. To find the oldest resident.
- C. To check whether the problem affected more than one household.
- D. To stop residents speaking to the plumber.

8. The phrase 'jump to conclusions' means

- A. repeat an agreed instruction.
- B. make a judgement before checking enough evidence.
- C. ask a question at a meeting.
- D. move quickly over an obstacle.

9. Which action showed that the committee valued evidence?

- A. Inspecting the supply before deciding on repairs.
- B. Replacing every pipe immediately.
- C. Ignoring the reports.
- D. Blaming the nearest household.

10. What is the writer's main message?

- A. Rain is always harmful to villages.
- B. Water pipes never need repair.
- C. Careful investigation can lead to a fair and effective solution.
- D. Meetings should be avoided.

Read the story below and answer questions 11 to 16.

Zawadi was helping to organise the school's science exhibition. During lunch, she collected the club's letters from the office. An envelope slipped beneath a cupboard as she walked into the laboratory. She pulled it out hurriedly, tearing a corner from the invitation inside. The missing piece showed the date of a demonstration at a nearby college.

She pushed the envelope into her bag. Perhaps the secretary would find the date somewhere else, she thought. Yet when the club met that afternoon, members began arranging transport. Zawadi sat with cold fingers pressed together while the secretary asked when the demonstration would take place.

'There is something I need to explain,' she said at last. She described the accident and placed the damaged invitation on the table. The secretary listened without interrupting. 'Thank you for telling us now,' he replied. 'We can still contact the organiser.'

He telephoned the college using the number printed on the unbroken part of the invitation. The organiser confirmed the date and sent a fresh copy. Zawadi helped update the club's noticeboard. On her way home, she realised that hiding the damage had made her worry far more than explaining it.

11. Why did Zawadi hide the torn envelope at first?

- A. She thought the club had closed.
- B. She wanted to keep the invitation.
- C. She had been told to throw it away.
- D. She feared that she would be blamed.

12. What does the description of her 'cold fingers' suggest?

- A. She was anxious.
- B. She had been playing in snow.
- C. The room was being painted.
- D. She had washed her hands.

13. Why was the torn corner important?

- A. It listed all the visitors.
- B. It showed the date of the event.
- C. It gave the cost of the bus fare.
- D. It contained the venue of the event.

14. How did the club recover the missing information?

- A. A teacher cancelled the visit.
- B. They copied last year's invitation.
- C. The secretary contacted the organiser.
- D. Zawadi guessed the date.

15. Which quality did Zawadi show when she spoke to the secretary?

- A. Impatience
- B. Carelessness
- C. Jealousy
- D. Honesty

16. Which statement is supported by the story?

- A. Every member had already read the date.
- B. Admitting the mistake helped the club solve the problem.
- C. The invitation was never repaired.
- D. The secretary had sent the invitation.

Read the information below and answer questions 17 to 20.

Four learners are preparing a display about household waste. Kito is imaginative and confident when speaking, but does not enjoy organising records. Asha is accurate with measurements and patient when testing equipment. Baraka is skilled at explaining findings and organising records. Rehema enjoys arranging records and checking measurements, but prefers to work away from the visitors. The learners divide their tasks according to these strengths.

17. Who should check that the weighing scale gives consistent readings?

- A. Asha
- B. Rehema
- C. Kito
- D. Baraka

18. Who can design the labels and explain the results to visitors?

- A. Asha
- B. Rehema
- C. Kito
- D. Baraka

19. Who can maintain records and check measurements?

- A. Baraka
- B. Rehema
- C. Asha
- D. Kito

20. What can be concluded about the team?

- A. All members have identical strengths.
- B. Only one member can be useful.
- C. Different strengths can contribute to one project.
- D. The task cannot be completed.

Read the dialogue and answer questions 21 to 23.

Chairperson: We have heard the proposal for collecting rainwater. Each member will have a turn to comment.

Nuru: May I add an example from the garden project?

Chairperson: Certainly. Please explain it, then we shall hear from Musa.

Nuru: A covered container kept leaves out of the stored water.

Musa: We should compare the cost of covered containers before choosing one.

Chairperson: Agreed. Reporter, please read back our decision.

Reporter: We shall compare prices and present the results at Friday's meeting.

21. Why does Nuru ask whether she may add an example?

- A. To make the reporter leave.
- B. To end the discussion immediately.
- C. To refuse the chairperson's request.
- D. To enter the discussion politely.

22. What is the chairperson's main role in the dialogue?
- A. Helping members contribute in an orderly way
 - B. Writing every speech
 - C. Choosing the youngest member
 - D. Buying equipment
23. Which response shows that the reporter understood the decision?
- A. Speaking over Nuru
 - B. Asking everyone to leave
 - C. Changing the topic
 - D. Repeating the task and deadline
24. A visitor has given a talk. Which response is most appropriate when requesting clarification?
- A. Your explanation makes no sense.
 - B. Please could you explain how the filter is cleaned?
 - C. That was completely wrong.
 - D. You must start again now.
25. Which behaviour best shows attentive listening during a group report?
- A. Preparing an unrelated joke
 - B. Interrupting after every sentence
 - C. Reading a different textbook
 - D. Facing the speaker and noting key points

Choose the best word for each gap in the passage. Answer questions 26 to 35.

The learners ___26___ cared for the orchard worked ___27___ their teacher to organise a fruit sale. Several baskets ___28___ already full when the first buyers arrived. ___29___ the fruit had been sorted, customers could compare its size ___30___ quality easily. Each basket was ___31___ with a price. The work was shared ___32___ the members, and everyone checked the money ___33___. At the end of the morning, the learners entered ___34___ earnings in a book. They agreed to use ___35___ money to buy watering equipment.

26. Choose the best word for gap 26.

- A. who
- B. whose
- C. which
- D. whom

27. Choose the best word for gap 27.

- A. with
- B. at
- C. by
- D. for

28. Choose the best word for gap 28.

- A. was
- B. is
- C. has
- D. were

29. Choose the best word for gap 29.

- A. Because
- B. Although
- C. Before
- D. Unless

30. Choose the best word for gap 30.

- A. and
- B. but
- C. nor
- D. or

31. Choose the best word for gap 31.

- A. labels
- B. labelling
- C. label
- D. labelled

32. Choose the best word for gap 32.

- A. above
- B. among
- C. into
- D. beside

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33. Choose the best word for gap 33.

- A. careless
- B. carefully
- C. care
- D. careful

34. Choose the best word for gap 34.

- A. they're
- B. theirs
- C. there
- D. their

35. Choose the best word for gap 35.

- A. an
- B. the
- C. a
- D. some

36. Neither the captain nor the players _____ absent yesterday.

- A. is
- B. were
- C. has been
- D. was

37. The seamstress packed three _____ in the box.

- A. pairs of scissors
- B. pair of scissor
- C. pairs of scissor
- D. pair of scissors

38. We stayed indoors _____ the storm had passed.

- A. unless
- B. during
- C. despite
- D. until

39. The learner _____ bicycle was missing reported to the teacher.

- A. which
- B. who
- C. whom
- D. whose

40. By the time the guests arrived, the cooks _____ the meal.

- A. had prepared
- B. will prepare
- C. have prepared
- D. prepare

41. The storekeeper asked us to _____ the lights before leaving.

- A. switch off
- B. put up
- C. take in
- D. break down

42. This is the _____ of the three routes.

- A. most short
- B. shorter
- C. short
- D. shortest

43. If Halima studies the map, she _____ the campsite easily.

- A. would found
- B. had found
- C. found
- D. will find

44. Choose the opposite of 'scarce' in 'Fresh water was scarce during the drought.'

- A. distant
- B. limited
- C. clean
- D. abundant

45. Choose the pronouns that replace the named person and the pupils in 'Ms Sifa gave the pupils a guide.'

- A. She, they
- B. Her, they
- C. Her, them
- D. She, them

46. Choose the correct passive form of 'The pupils have painted the mural.'

- A. The mural has been painted by the pupils.
- B. The mural was being paint by the pupils.
- C. The mural is painting the pupils.
- D. The mural had paint by the pupils.

47. Juma said, 'I am preparing my display.' Choose the correct reported form.

- A. Juma said that he has prepare his display.
- B. Juma said that I am preparing my display.
- C. Juma said that he was preparing his display.
- D. Juma said that he is prepare my display.

48. 'The announcement took us by surprise' means it

- A. was unexpected.
- B. was repeated loudly.
- C. made us leave quickly.
- D. was difficult to hear.

49. Choose the correctly punctuated sentence.

- A. 'Where, is the register?' asked Amina.
- B. 'Where is the register' asked Amina!
- C. 'Where is the register?' asked Amina.
- D. 'Where is the register.' asked Amina?

50. Choose the sentence with the same meaning as 'Despite the delay, we completed the project.'

- A. We completed the project because it was delayed.
- B. We completed the project before it began.
- C. The delay prevented us from completing the project.
- D. Although we were delayed, we completed the project.

MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWER SHEET

Name _____ Assessment number _____

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 26. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 2. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 27. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 3. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 28. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 4. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 29. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 5. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 30. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 6. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 31. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 7. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 32. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 8. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 33. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 9. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 34. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 10. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 35. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 11. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 36. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 12. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 37. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 13. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 38. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 14. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 39. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 15. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 40. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 16. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 41. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 17. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 42. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 18. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 43. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 19. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 44. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 20. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 45. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 21. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 46. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 22. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 47. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 23. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 48. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 24. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 49. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 25. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 50. | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |