

KENYA JUNIOR SCHOOL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT**2026****ENGLISH LANGUAGE****Prediction 3**

Reading Comprehension, Oral Skills and Grammar

901/1 Paper 1**Time 1 hour 40 minutes 50 marks**

Name

Assessment number

School

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. This paper contains 50 multiple-choice questions. Answer all the questions.
2. Each question carries 1 mark. For each question, choose only one answer from A, B, C and D.
3. Record your answers on the answer sheet provided. Use an ordinary HB pencil to shade the circle containing the letter of your choice.
4. Keep the answer sheet clean and do not fold it. Do not make marks outside the circles.
5. Confirm that your name, assessment number and school are entered on the answer sheet.
6. Do any necessary rough work in this question paper.

Read the following passage and then answer questions 1 to 5.

The courtyard at Karima School used to be almost empty at lunchtime. Its benches stood in the sun, and learners preferred the narrow shade beside the classrooms. When the environmental club proposed planting trees there, some members wanted whichever seedlings would grow fastest. Their patron asked them to consider more than speed.

The club visited a nearby nursery. The attendant explained that a tree which suited one place might be unsuitable for another. Some needed more space than the courtyard offered; others would require frequent watering. The learners chose varieties that could grow in the available space and tolerate the local conditions. They also checked how far the trees should stand from buildings.

Planting day attracted many volunteers, but caring for the seedlings proved less exciting. During the first holiday, several plants began to wilt. The club then arranged a watering rota with the caretaker and placed a layer of dry grass around each seedling to slow the loss of moisture from the soil.

Months later, the trees were still too small to shade every bench. Nevertheless, the club kept tending them. The learners had discovered that improving a shared place involved patient work long after the photographs of planting day had been taken.

1. Why did the patron ask learners to consider more than growth speed?

- A. All seedlings would eventually look the same.
- B. The courtyard already had enough trees.
- C. The trees also needed to suit the place.
- D. The nursery did not sell fast-growing trees.

2. What weakness did the first holiday reveal?

- A. The nursery had sent the wrong plants.
- B. Care after planting had not been adequately arranged.
- C. Learners had planted the trees too close together.
- D. The caretaker had removed every seedling.

3. The word “**tending**” in the passage means

- A. caring for.
- B. counting.
- C. photographing.
- D. replacing.

4. What can be inferred about the club by the end of the passage?

- A. It expected the trees to shade the benches immediately.
- B. It regretted consulting the nursery attendant.
- C. It valued photographs more than the courtyard.
- D. It understood that worthwhile results could take time.

5. Which saying best expresses the lesson of the passage?

- A. Out of sight, out of mind.
- B. Rome was not built in a day.
- C. Too many cooks spoil the broth.
- D. A rolling stone gathers no moss.

Read the following passage and then answer questions 6 to 10.

A pause in a conversation can make people uncomfortable. They may hurry to fill it, assuming that nobody has anything useful to say. Yet silence has several meanings. A listener may be weighing an unfamiliar idea, searching for a suitable word or allowing a speaker to finish a difficult account.

Interrupting such a pause can be like closing a door just as someone is about to enter. During a community interview, for example, an older person may need time to recall a name. If the interviewer immediately asks another question, an important detail may never be shared. Waiting briefly can therefore be an active part of listening.

This does not mean that every silence should continue indefinitely. A puzzled expression may suggest that a question was unclear. A gentle request for clarification can help. In a discussion, the chairperson may invite someone to contribute without insisting on an immediate answer.

Good listeners pay attention to the situation instead of applying one rule to every pause. They do not measure a conversation only by the number of words spoken. Sometimes, giving another person room to think is more helpful than offering a quick reply.

- 6.** According to the passage, a silent listener may be
- A. refusing to hear any new idea.
 - B. waiting for the meeting to end.
 - C. thinking carefully about what has been said.
 - D. trying to change the subject.
- 7.** Why does the writer compare interrupting a pause to closing a door?
- A. Both actions prevent people from attending interviews.
 - B. An interruption can prevent a thought from being shared.
 - C. A listener should leave the room during a pause.
 - D. Conversations should take place behind closed doors.
- 8.** Which action is most appropriate when a listener appears puzzled?
- A. Allowing the meeting to continue without explanation.
 - B. Repeating every question more loudly.
 - C. Insisting that the listener answer immediately.
 - D. Checking gently whether the question was understood.
- 9.** The word “**indefinitely**” means
- A. for an unlimited length of time.
 - B. with careful planning.
 - C. at regular intervals.
 - D. for a very short moment.
- 10.** What is the writer’s main purpose?
- A. To show that questions are unnecessary in interviews.
 - B. To prove that quiet people always understand more.
 - C. To explain why pauses should be understood in context.
 - D. To discourage chairpersons from inviting contributions.

Read the following passage and then answer questions 11 to 16.

Benta had practised for the leading role in the school play, but the cast list assigned her to sound effects. She folded her audition notes and watched the others celebrate without joining them.

At rehearsal, the director gave her two coconut shells and a thin metal sheet. Benta wondered whether anyone would notice her work. Still, she listened carefully to the cues, learning to make footsteps with the shells and thunder by shaking the metal.

During the performance, wind blew through an open window. The curtain caught on a hook and stopped halfway across the stage. The actors froze. The director signalled to a caretaker as the audience began to whisper.

The next scene was set during a storm. Benta shook the metal softly, then loudly. Following the familiar sound, the leading actor began his lines behind the curtain. The others joined in while the caretaker freed the fabric. When the stage became visible, the story was moving again.

Afterwards, Benta carefully packed away the shells. She no longer wished for a different place on the cast list.

11. Why did Benta initially say little?

- A. She did not understand the cast list.
- B. She was disappointed with her assigned role.
- C. She wanted the others to stop rehearsing.
- D. She had forgotten her audition notes.

12. Which action shows that Benta took her duty seriously?

- A. Reading the cast list twice.
- B. Folding her audition notes.
- C. Watching the audience whisper.
- D. Listening carefully to the explanation of the cues.

13. The word “cues” means

- A. signals for an action to begin.
- B. prizes given after a performance.
- C. mistakes made during a rehearsal.
- D. objects used to fasten curtains.

14. How did Benta help when the curtain became stuck?

- A. She brought the performance to a complete stop.
- B. She asked the audience to leave the hall.
- C. She gave a familiar sound signal that enabled the actors to continue.
- D. She pulled the curtain free of the hook.

15. How did Benta feel about her role at the end?

- A. Ashamed
- B. Satisfied
- C. Confused
- D. Resentful

16. Which statement is supported by the story?

- A. The caretaker had rehearsed the storm scene.
- B. The leading actor repaired the curtain.
- C. The director replaced Benta during the show.
- D. A less visible role can make an important contribution.

Read the information below and answer questions 17 to 20.

Four learners, Nali, Kenga, Rashid and Tesi, are preparing a school exhibition. All four are punctual. Nali and Rashid are patient and observant, while Kenga and Tesi are confident speakers. Nali and Tesi keep orderly records. Rashid enjoys sketching, and Kenga is the only one who enjoys answering unexpected questions from visitors. The learners agree to divide the duties according to these qualities.

- 17.** Which pair is best suited to watching a demonstration patiently and noticing small details?
- A. Kenga and Tesi
 - B. Nali and Rashid
 - C. Nali and Kenga
 - D. Rashid and Tesi
- 18.** Who combines confidence in speaking with orderly record-keeping?
- A. Tesi
 - B. Rashid
 - C. Kenga
 - D. Nali
- 19.** Who would most enjoy dealing with an unplanned question from a visitor?
- A. Nali
 - B. Tesi
 - C. Rashid
 - D. Kenga
- 20.** Which quality do all four learners share?
- A. Being skilled at sketching
 - B. Keeping orderly records
 - C. Being punctual
 - D. Speaking confidently

Read the dialogue below and then answer questions 21 to 23.

Chairperson: We shall discuss how to make the reading room quieter. Please raise your hand before speaking.

Melo: Madam Chairperson, may I suggest putting rubber pads under the chairs?

Chairperson: Please explain how that would help.

Melo: The chairs would make less noise when moved.

Sana: That suggestion is rubbish!

Chairperson: Sana, you may disagree, but please avoid insulting language.

Sana: I apologise. I meant that we should first find out whether the pads are affordable.

Chairperson: Thank you. Let us compare the costs before we decide.

- 21.** What is the chairperson's main role in the dialogue?
- A. Choosing a winner between Melo and Sana.
 - B. Preventing members from asking questions.
 - C. Helping the discussion proceed respectfully.
 - D. Setting the price of the rubber pads.
- 22.** Which of Sana's statements shows an effort to repair her mistake?
- A. "I apologise."
 - B. "That suggestion is rubbish!"
 - C. "Please raise your hand before speaking."
 - D. "Please explain how that would help."
- 23.** Why does Melo say "**may I suggest**"?
- A. To show that the discussion has ended.
 - B. To demand that the pads be bought immediately.
 - C. To ask the chairperson to leave.
 - D. To seek permission to contribute politely.
- 24.** You have not heard a visitor's last sentence clearly. Which response is most appropriate?
- A. Speak properly; nobody heard you.
 - B. Could you please repeat your last sentence?
 - C. Your voice is not useful to us.
 - D. You must begin your entire talk again.
- 25.** A classmate is explaining an idea you disagree with. What should you do first?
- A. Raise your voice to stop the explanation.
 - B. Laugh so that others reject the idea.
 - C. Allow the classmate to finish before responding.
 - D. Begin a separate conversation with a friend.

Read the passage below and answer questions 26 to 35. Choose the best word for each gap.

On Saturday, our class visited a railway museum. We arrived **__26__** the gates opened, so we waited outside. A guide, **__27__** uniform bore the museum's badge, welcomed us. She asked us to walk **__28__** because another group was recording an interview. Neither the driver nor his assistant **__29__** allowed to move the old engine without permission. The guide showed us the tools **__30__** the workers had used. Some were heavier **__31__** they appeared in photographs. We were advised to keep our hands **__32__** from moving parts. By noon, each learner **__33__** completed a page of notes. **__34__** we left, we thanked the guide for **__35__** patience.

- 26.** A. before B. until C. since D. although
- 27.** A. who B. whom C. whose D. which
- 28.** A. quiet B. quietly C. quieten D. quietness
- 29.** A. were B. are C. have D. was

For questions 30 to 35, choose the best word for each gap in the passage on the previous page.

30. A. that B. who C. where D. whose
31. A. then B. as C. than D. that
32. A. out B. off C. ahead D. away
33. A. have B. had C. has D. having
34. A. Until B. Whether C. As D. Despite
35. A. her B. our C. their D. she

For questions 36 to 42, select the best alternative to complete the sentence.

36. The two _____ helped the cyclist move the bicycle off the road.
A. passer-bys B. passers-bys C. passer-by D. passers-by
37. _____ the path was steep, the group reached the summit before noon.
A. Because
B. Although
C. Unless
D. During
38. The school employed an _____ to repair the faulty wiring.
A. electricity
B. electrical
C. electrician
D. electric
39. Please _____ the volume; the baby is asleep.
A. turn down
B. turn out
C. turn over
D. turn into
40. You may _____ borrow a costume _____ buy one for the play.
A. neither, or
B. both, nor
C. either, nor
D. either, or
41. The coach _____ we met at the stadium will visit our school.
A. whose
B. whom
C. which
D. where
42. Of the four routes, this is the _____.
A. safer B. more safe C. safest D. most safest

43. The volunteers were reluctant to stop working. The opposite of the underlined word is
A. willing. B. uncertain. C. unable. D. afraid.

Choose the alternative that best replaces the underlined words.

44. The guides told the visitors that the guides would carry the visitors' bags.
A. they, our
B. we, their
C. we, our
D. they, their

For questions 45 to 48, choose the alternative that means the same as the given sentence.

45. The volunteers had cleared the path before dawn.
A. The path was being cleared by the volunteers before dawn.
B. The path had been cleared by the volunteers before dawn.
C. The path has been cleared by the volunteers before dawn.
D. The path will have been cleared by the volunteers before dawn.
46. The athletes said, "We will return tomorrow." Two days later, a reporter correctly reported their words as
A. The athletes said that we will return tomorrow.
B. The athletes said that they had returned the previous day.
C. The athletes said that they would return the following day.
D. The athletes said that they return tomorrow.
47. Her suggestion fell on deaf ears.
A. Her suggestion was ignored.
B. Her suggestion was explained in detail.
C. Her suggestion was welcomed by everyone.
D. Her suggestion was repeated more loudly.
48. If you do not tighten the cap, the juice will spill.
A. Unless you tighten the cap, the juice will not spill.
B. Unless you do not tighten the cap, the juice will spill.
C. Unless the juice spills, you will not tighten the cap.
D. Unless you tighten the cap, the juice will spill.
49. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?
A. What a remarkable performance?
B. What a remarkable performance!
C. What! a remarkable performance.
D. What a remarkable, performance!
50. Linet **kept her head** when the lights went out. This means that she
A. hid from the others.
B. held her head with both hands.
C. remained calm.
D. forgot her instructions.

THIS IS THE LAST PAGE OF THE QUESTION PAPER

ENGLISH LANGUAGE Prediction 3**MULTIPLE-CHOICE ANSWER SHEET**

Name Assessment number

School

Shade one circle for each question using an HB pencil.

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |