

Candidate's Name		Assessment No.	
School Name		School Code	
Candidate's Sign		Date	



# JUNIOR SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

## GRADE 8

**JESMA**  
**003**

### - ENGLISH -

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

For official use only

SECTION	A		B			
	Task 1 Question 1	Task 2 Question 2	Task 3 Question 3	Task 4 Question 4	Task 5 Question 5	Task 5 Qn. 7
Maximum Score	14	5	5	16	6	12
Candidates Score						

This paper consists of 8 printed pages.

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

Read the following passage and then answer the questions 1 to 8.

In the past, studying overseas was only for the very rich or the smartest students with scholarships. Today, more students go abroad for higher education because it can help them get good jobs. Parents are willing to spend their hard-earned money to send their children to study in other countries, especially if they cannot get into local universities.

Many students choose to study in Western countries like the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand because these countries have well-known universities. Graduating from these universities can give students an advantage when looking for jobs since some employers prefer candidates with overseas education.

One benefit of studying overseas is the different learning style. In many Western universities, students are encouraged to work in teams, do projects and share their ideas openly. Teachers act more like guides rather than strict authority figures, making learning more interactive and creative.

Another benefit is that students become more independent. They must take care of themselves, cook meals, manage money and organise their time. This helps them become responsible and disciplined.

However, studying overseas also has disadvantages. It is very expensive and some families struggle to afford it. Students may also feel lonely and stressed because they are far from home. Being away from family support can make it harder to cope with challenges.

Some students may also make poor choices. Without parental guidance, they might spend too much money, neglect their studies or get involved in bad habits like partying and taking drugs. The freedom of Western culture can lead some students to make unwise decisions.

In conclusion, studying overseas has both advantages and disadvantages. It gives students more freedom and a different learning experience, but it can also be costly and difficult. In the end, success depends on how well students manage their independence and responsibilities.

1. Who could afford to study overseas in the past?
  - A. Only students who had part-time jobs
  - B. Only the very rich or the smartest students with scholarships
  - C. Students who wanted adventure
  - D. Parents who wanted to travel with their children
2. How is learning conducted in Western universities?
  - A. Teachers give lectures and students memorise facts
  - B. Students study alone without teacher guidance
  - C. Teachers maintain strict authority and students follow orders
  - D. Students are encouraged to work in teams, do projects and share ideas openly
3. Which of the following is a responsibility students must handle when studying overseas?
  - A. Cooking meals or managing money.
  - B. Cooking meals and managing money
  - C. Learning new language.
  - D. Making new friends
4. What is **one** advantage of studying overseas?
  - A. It is very affordable
  - B. Students become more dependent on their teachers

- C. It gives students more freedom and a different learning experience
  - D. Students are guaranteed job opportunities abroad.
5. How can studying overseas help students become more independent?
- A. By engaging in income generating activities.
  - B. By learning to manage their time, money and responsibilities
  - C. By spending all their time on social activities
  - D. By learning varied cultures of different countries.
6. What is one disadvantage of studying overseas?
- A. It is very affordable
  - B. Students may feel lonely and stressed being far from home

- C. It offers no educational benefits
  - D. Students have too much support from family
7. Why do some employers prefer candidates with overseas education?
- A. They are more disciplined
  - B. They demand less salaries
  - C. They work better alone
  - D. They are more creative and independent thinkers
8. Why do many students choose to study in Western countries?
- A. They like the weather
  - B. They want to travel
  - C. Because of the prestige attached to it
  - D. It is cheaper than studying locally

*Read the following story and then answer the questions 9 to 14.*

A man had two daughters from different wives. One of his daughters, Awino, lost her mother when she was a baby. The other girl, Akoko, lived with her mother, who was jealous because her daughter loved Awino more than her.

The jealous stepmother planned to get rid of Awino. She made a deal with a hyena, asking it to wait in the bush. She tied a band on Awino's left arm and one on Akoko's right arm. She told the hyena to eat the girl with the band on the left arm.

As the two girls walked, Akoko became curious. "Why is your band on the left arm? Everyone wears it on the right." she said. Without knowing the danger, she switched their bands.

When they reached the bush, the hyena attacked and ate Akoko, thinking she was Awino. Awino was heartbroken. She cried and refused to leave her sister's side. Some travellers found her and convinced her to go home and tell her father.

When Awino told her father what had happened, he was furious. The village elders gathered and they all agreed—the wicked stepmother must leave the village. Full of shame and regret, she was banished forever.

9. Why was Akoko's mother jealous of Awino? Because
- A. Awino was more talented
  - B. Awino's father loved her more
  - C. Akoko loved Awino more than her own mother
  - D. Awino had more friends
10. What plan did the stepmother make with the hyena?
- A. To take both girls for a walk
  - B. To wait in the bush and eat the girl with the band on the left arm
  - C. To eat the girl with the band on her right hand.
  - D. To make Akoko to flee from Awino before she is attached by the hyena.
11. How did Akoko unknowingly save Awino's life?
- A. By switching their bands without knowing the danger

- B. By fighting off the hyena
  - C. By running away and calling for help
  - D. By warning Awino about the hyena and her mother's plan.
12. Who found Awino crying in the bush?
- A. Her father
  - B. Village elders
  - C. Some travellers
  - D. Her stepmother
13. What is the meaning of the word "banished" as used in the story?
- A. Welcomed with open arms
  - B. Sent away from the village forever

- C. Given a second chance
  - D. Praised for good behaviour
14. What moral lesson can we learn from this story?
- A. Jealousy and wickedness lead to punishment
  - B. It's important to trust everyone
  - C. Bravery always wins
  - D. Parents should never correct their children

*Read the following passage and then answer questions 15 to 19.*

Friends are important in our lives. They give us help and comfort, sometimes even more than our parents do. However, keeping a friend takes effort.

First, always stay in touch with your friends. No matter how busy you are, do not forget them. Today, it is easy to connect through phones and the internet. Try to spend time together doing fun activities. You can plan to meet once a week. Also, remember their birthdays and special days.

Second, be a good listener. Friends like to share their problems but some do not listen well. Do not judge them. Just listen and give advice only if they ask for it.

Sometimes, friends argue. It is normal to feel hurt or angry, but it is important to handle the situation well. Do not shout or blame each other. Let your friend talk and listen patiently. If needed, take time to cool down before solving the problem. Be honest and respect each other's opinions. Even if you are not wrong, saying sorry can help fix the friendship. If it is hard to talk, you can write a note or send a message.

Also, never break your friend's trust. If a friend shares a secret, do not tell others without permission. Many friendships end because of broken trust.

Lastly, be supportive. Help your friends when they need you. Celebrate their happy moments and stand by them during tough times.

Making friends is easy, but keeping them requires kindness, patience and love. A true friend is a special treasure.

15. Why is it important to stay in touch with friends?
- A. To share our problems
  - B. To have a good company
  - C. To learn from each other
  - D. To keep the friendship strong.
16. What should you do when your friend shares their problems?
- A. Encourage them to share with others too
  - B. Listen well and not judge them

- C. Share others about their problems
  - D. Ensure you give them advice even if they don't ask for it.
17. How can you handle an argument with a friend?
- A. You can talk together about it at the same time.
  - B. Stop talking to them until they apologise.
  - C. Listen patiently and stay calm
  - D. Ask them to apologise.

18. What can end a friendship quickly according to the passage?
- Breaking their trust.
  - Failing to remember their special days such as birthdays.
  - Arguments and misunderstandings.
  - Ignoring them during arguments
19. What makes a true friend special?
- Their money and gifts
  - The likes they share.
  - Their ability to solve problems successfully
  - Their kindness, patience and love.

### SECTION B: GRAMMAR IN USE

Read the passage below. It contains blank spaces numbered 20 to 24. For each blank space, choose the **best** alternative from the choices given.

One evening, David's chauffeur did not 20 to take him home from school. David paced up and down 21 for half an hour. Just when he had decided to take a bus home by himself, a black saloon car drove up. Two burly men wearing dark sunglasses quickly got out of the car and came up to David.

"Hello, you 22 be David. Your chauffeur is sick today, so your father asked us to take you back home," one of the men said as he opened the car door for David.

David, 23, stood rooted to the spot. He was extremely 24 of the two strangers and had no intention of going with them.

- |                    |              |                 |                |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 20. A. turn around | B. turn over | C. turn up      | D. turn about  |
| 21. A. peacefully  | B. patiently | C. recklessly   | D. impatiently |
| 22. A. must        | B. could     | C. should       | D. might       |
| 23. A. though      | B. however   | C. nevertheless | D. although    |
| 24. A. observant   | B. careful   | C. anxious      | D. suspicious  |

For questions 25 and 26, choose the **correct** question tag.

25. It is wrong to mistreat orphans
- isn't it
  - is it
  - doesn't it
  - does it
26. They ought to be careful with their work, \_\_\_\_\_?
- shouldn't they
  - oughtn't they
  - don't they
  - do they

For questions 27 and 28, select the **best** alternative to fill in the blank.

27. The water in the tank is \_\_\_\_\_ to last three more weeks.
- much
  - more
  - plenty
  - enough
28. Mr. Munene, together with his wife, \_\_\_\_\_ coming to attend the thanksgiving ceremony.
- is
  - are
  - was
  - were

For questions 29 and 30, choose the word that **correctly** replaces the underlined word.

29. The extravagant businessman ruined his business.
- generous
  - wasteful
  - careful
  - thrifty
30. The soldiers finally gave in to the enemies.
- surrendered
  - retreated
  - attacked
  - resisted

For questions 31 and 32, complete the sentence with the correct order of adjectives.

31. Our team leader is a \_\_\_\_\_ man.
- huge, dark-skinned, handsome
  - dark-skinned, handsome, huge
  - handsome, huge, dark-skinned
  - dark-skinned, huge, handsome

32. The fisherman was carrying a \_\_\_\_\_ rod.

- A. brown long wooden fishing
- B. long wooden brown fishing
- C. wooden brown long fishing
- D. long brown wooden fishing

*For question 33, select the alternative that best completes the sentence.*

33. No sooner had we left the house \_\_\_\_\_

- A. when it started raining
- B. than we heard a loud bang
- C. and it started raining
- D. but we heard a loud bang

*For questions 34 and 35, complete the proverb.*

34. Every dark cloud

- A. brings heavy rain
- B. has a silver lining
- C. comes with thunder
- D. fades away eventually

35. Birds of a feather

- A. sing the loudest
- B. fly together
- C. enjoy their own company
- D. flock together

## **SECTION C: ORAL LITERATURE AND POETRY**

### **Task 1: Oral Literature**

*Read the following story and then answer the questions that follow.*

There once lived a poor orphan boy called Ahadi. One day Ahadi had nothing to eat, so he went to the forest to look for wild fruits. In the bush, he met Mzee Busara, an old shepherd. On seeing Ahadi, Mzee Busara asked, "Young man, why you are sad and what are you looking for?" Ahadi told him that he had not eaten for two days and he was looking for food.

Mzee Busara possessed magical powers and he was very sympathetic. He ordered one of his sheep to produce bread. No sooner had he spoken than a loaf of bread fell from the sheep's mouth. Ahadi could not believe his eyes. He thanked Mzee Busara and ate the bread which instantly silenced the pangs of hunger that was almost tearing his stomach. He went home still thanking Mzee Busara in his heart. The next day, he went to the forest again to thank the old shepherd. Mzee Busara was so impressed by the boy's good manners that he gave him an empty basket saying, "Take this basket home and place it in a corner in your house. Ask the basket for money three times. But don't forget to return the basket tomorrow."

When Ahadi went home, he did as the old man instructed and in the blink of an eye, the basket was full of money. The boy was so excited that he forgot to return the basket the following day. He kept counting the money again and again. He could not believe that it was his. Two days later, Ahadi gave the basket to his neighbour, the one who never bothered to help him when he was in need. A few days later, Ahadi was passing by the forest when he heard Mzee Busara's voice. "Where is my basket?" the old man asked. Ahadi had nothing to say. Mzee Busara sensed that Ahadi had done something wrong with the basket. Mzee Busara decided to punish him.

He gave him a cane and told him to tell it to beat the drum when he got home. Ahadi happily ran home, he quickly told the cane to hit the drum as he had been instructed. To his dismay, the cane turned against him and hit him hard, three times. Thinking that he gave the wrong instruction, he repeated Mzee Busara's instructions. The stick hit him again thrice. He rushed to Mzee Busara to tell him about the disobedient stick. Mzee Busara said to him, "Yes, that was your punishment."

- a) Describe the time and the location where the story took place. (2marks)
- 
- b) How would you describe the personality traits of these characters? (2marks)
- i) Ahadi \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) Mzee Busara \_\_\_\_\_
- iii) Ahadi's neighbour \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What moral lessons can we learned from the story? (1mark)
- 
- d) Why did Mzee Busara ask Ahadi instruction to give the care at home? (2mks)
- 
- e) Ahadi went back to the forest on the second day because (3mks)
- 
- 
- 

**TASK 2: POETRY**

*Read the following poem and then answer the questions that follow.*

Be true to yourself, let your heart shine,  
 Stay kind and respectful, always be fine.  
 Face every challenge, rise and stay strong,  
 Learn from the journey, it won't take long.

Hold on to dreams, let them soar high,  
 Reach for the stars, don't be shy.  
 In friendship and love, find joy each day,  
 Believe in yourself, you'll find the way.

- a) What is the **main** message of the poem? (2mks)
- 
- b) Give **three** examples of a rhyming pair from the poem. (6mks)
- 
- 
- c) Who is the poem addressing? (2mks)
- 
- d) How many stanzas does the poem have? (2mks)
- 
- e) How many lines are in each stanza? (2mks)
- 
- f) Which word means the same as 'face challenge' as used in the passage? (2mks)
-

**SECTION D: CLASS READERS**

*Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow*

I bid my time until Saturday afternoon, when I knew mother could not escape from talking to me. I waited until all the house chores were done so that she could not head me off with another tedious job.

“Mother, I need to confirm the trip with you.”

Mother sighed and lowered the volume on the television. She had been about to start watching her favourite soap opera. “I have been thinking about it, Shani and I do not think it is a good idea.”

“But why? It is such a good chance for me to travel abroad. And it is free! Jackie’s stepfather is paying for everything.”

“I do not know, Shani,” Mother looked worried.

“I even have a passport. Remember when we were supposed to go to Zambia for volleyball?” I wheeled. Mother had clearly forgotten about the last planned school trip that I did not make due to lack of funds, as usual.

Mother looked at me in silence for a moment.

“When is this trip supposed to be?”

“We plan to go during the first week of August holiday.” I held my breath. Surely she would not say no to this. She could not, could she?

*(Except from Shani’s choice)*

- a) Where does the conversation between Shani and her mother take place? (2mks)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) Identify one instance of flashback in the excerpt. (2mks)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) Why does Shani want to go on the trip? (2mks)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d) Describe the family’s economic situation according to the excerpt. (2mks)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e) Explain why Shani held her breathe at some point in time. (2mks)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f) By saying it is her choice to travel abroad, Shani meant (2mks)  
\_\_\_\_\_

