

3.0 ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

The English examination consisted of two sections:

Section A – objective question section B – composition writing

3.1 GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

Table 8 below shows the performance of candidates in English in the 2019 KCPE examination. Similar data for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 are also provided for comparison.

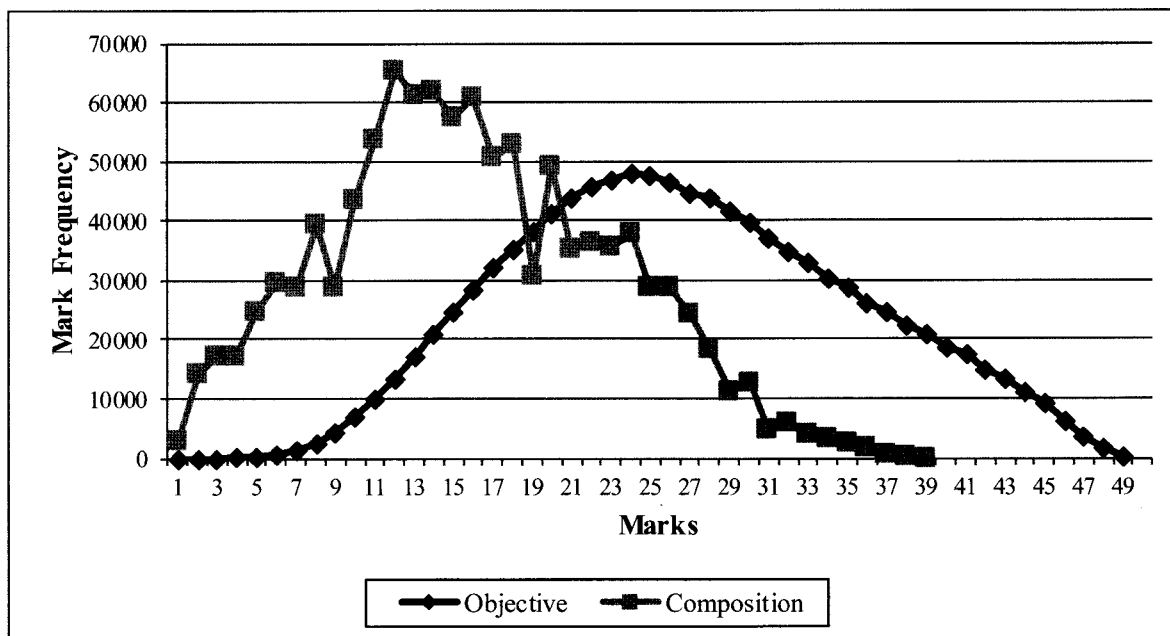
Table 8: General Performance in English for the Last Four Years

Year	2016		2017		2018		2019	
Paper	Obj	Comp	Obj	Comp	Obj	Comp	Obj	Comp
% mean	50.52	40.25	47.62	39.60	54.68	39.40	53.64	39.92

From the table above, the following observations can be made:

- i) That the percentage mean for the English objective paper declined by 1.04 points from 54.68 in 2018 to 53.64 in 2019.
- ii) That the percentage mean for the English composition increased by 0.52 points from 39.40 in 2018 to 39.92 in 2019.

Figure 2 below shows the performance pattern in the two papers graphically.

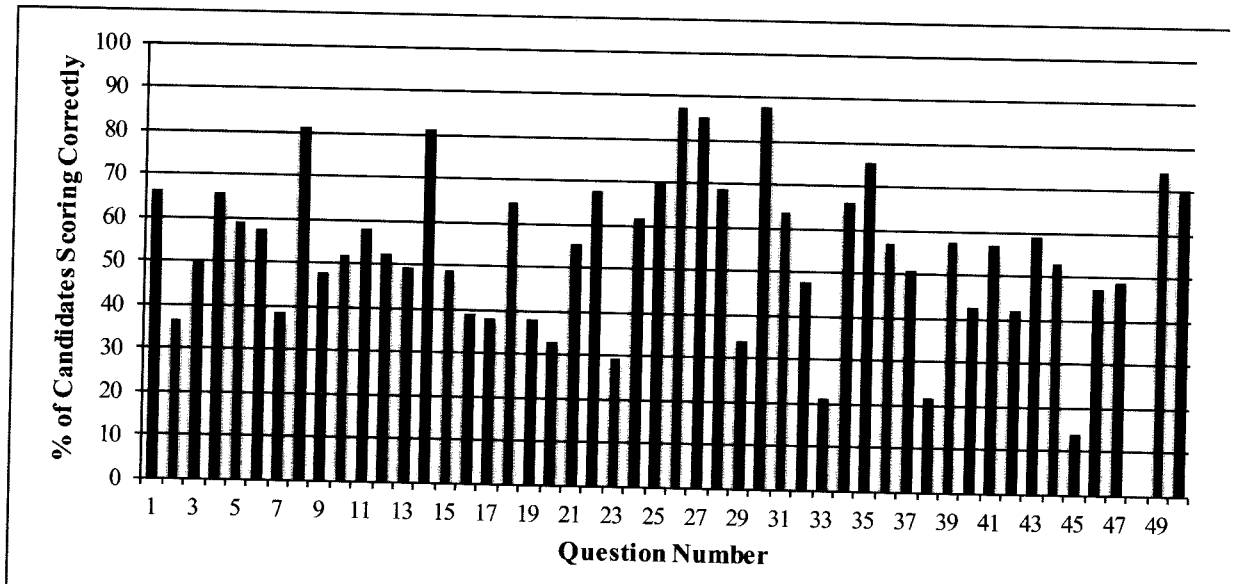


3.2 SECTION A: OBJECTIVE PAPER

The percentage mean for this year was 53.64.

3.2.1 Analysis of Selected Items

Figure 3 below shows the pattern of performance per item in this paper for a total of 1081549 candidates whose average mean mark was 26.82 out of 50 (a percentage mean of 53.64), with standard deviation of 8.65.



From figure 3 above, it is observable that there were four questions in the year 2019 KCPE English objective paper in which only 30% or less of the candidates scored correctly. These questions, together with the percentage of candidates scoring on them correctly, are shown in Table 9.

Question Number	23	33	38	45
% Scoring Correctly	29.38	21.11	21.33	13.74

Question 23 was based on grammar.

Question 23

The words below can be re-arranged to make a correct sentence if one word is omitted.

LAY BUT EGGS PRODUCE NOT THEY COW DO HENS MILK

Which word should be omitted?

- A. BUT
- B. COW
- C. NOT
- D. EGGS

Response Pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D
% choosing the option	20.84	29.38	40.14	8.84
Mean mark in other questions	23.77	29.57	27.42	21.31

This question proved very difficult to many candidates. The correct option was B. It required that candidates follow the rules of present simple tense in re-arranging the words. They were also supposed to identify the plural subject "hens" and match it with the correct verb "lay". The subject "cow" being a singular noun cannot take any of the verbs provided.

Question 33 and 38 were based on the passage below.

Read the passage below and then answer questions 26 to 38.

In a small village lived a kind-hearted girl named Kayonga. She lived with her stepmother, who treated her cruelly and made her work like a servant. One day some of Kayonga's young friends went to the temple of their god, Imana, to ask for some teeth to replace those which had fallen out. Kayonga had the same wish but dared not join them because her stepmother had forbidden her to leave the house.

However, that night, when everyone was asleep, Kayonga decided to go to the temple. She walked till dawn before she reached the temple. Imana appeared before her, and she told him her wish. Imana knew that Kayonga was a kind girl, and he **granted her wish**. He also gave her new clothes and changed her into a very beautiful girl. Then he led her safely through the forest to her home. Before parting from Kayonga, Imana gave her a strange order: "Never smile at anyone, under any circumstances."

In the morning, all the villagers were surprised to see the great change in Kayonga. Her stepmother was jealous and said, "You stole the clothes and jewellery. How else could you have got them?" No one **took heed of** what the stepmother said. Instead, they were happy for Kayonga for her good fortune.

One day, a young man named Esiroma met Kayonga and fell in love with her. He asked for her hand in marriage. Kayonga agreed and went to live with Esiroma and his parents. They loved her but were **puzzled** when they discovered that she never smiled.

Everyone in the village rejoiced when Kayonga gave birth to a son. Even that happy event did not make Kayonga smile. When the son was about five years old, Kayonga's stepmother took him aside and said, "Do not eat any food that your mother gives you. Tell her that you will eat only when she smiles at you."

The frightened child did what his grandmother told him. But Kayonga took no notice, although her son cried for a long time. He died soon afterwards. Kayonga was heart-broken.

Later Kayonga gave birth to another son. The stepmother asked that child to do the same thing. Kayonga again refused to smile, and that son died too.

Then a little girl was born to Kayonga. Kayonga was afraid that she might die too. She took her daughter to the grave of her two sons and prayed to Imana.

"Please have mercy on me," she cried.

Imana appeared before her. "You have been very obedient," he said, "and I have decided to reward you. Life is restored to your sons! Smile at them, and be happy!"

At once Kayonga's sons appeared. Imana took all of them back to the village. He explained to Esiroma what had happened.

"You shall live happily together from this time onwards," Imana said. "However, the one who caused all your sorrows shall perish!"

After saying this, a dense black cloud covered the hut in which Kayonga's stepmother lived. Lightning came from the clouds and struck the hut, setting it on fire. The stepmother died in the flames.

Question 33

Each of the following words can be used to replace 'puzzled' except

- A. perplexed.
- B. baffled.
- C. confused.
- D. terrified.

Response Pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*
% choosing the option	17.36	20.13	40.58	21.11
Mean mark in other questions	25.13	25.58	25.91	30.80

This question required candidates to infer meaning of “**puzzled**” from the context given and then determine the word which does not mean the same among the choices given. The correct option was **D**.

Question 38

Which of the following would be the best title for this story?

- A. Kayonga’s evil stepmother
- B. Kayonga’s happy life
- C. Kayonga smiles again
- D. Kayonga marries Esiroma

Response Pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D
% choosing the option	53.36	20.28	21.33	3.79
Mean mark in other questions	25.76	26.32	31.13	18.35

This question proved difficult to many candidates. They were required to select among the choices, the best title of the story. The candidates were expected to analyse the story and then put together (synthesise) the various aspects to come up with the best title. Many candidates could not tell whether the main character is the “**stepmother**” or “**Kayonga**”. Therefore they missed the correct answer which was **C**.

Question 45 was based on the passage below.

Read the following passage and then answer questions 39 to 50.

Accidents happen every day. A family’s house catches fire and burns to the ground. Cars and buses collide or overturn. These unfortunate events bring losses to those involved. But the losses can be reduced if people think about these risks in advance and prepare for them. This can be done by means of insurance.

Insurance refers to an agreement in which a person pays a company regular amounts of money and the company agrees to pay for losses that may occur. The document which contains the agreement is called an insurance policy. A person who wants to insure his house against fire, for example, approaches an insurance company. He says how much money his house is worth. If the company agrees that this is the correct value, it will insure the house against fire, provided that the person pays a certain sum of money every year. This payment is called a **premium**. If the house does not burn, that money remains with the company. But if a fire breaks out and destroys the house, the company pays the owner a sum of money equal to the value of the house.

Another common type of insurance is motor vehicle insurance. According to the law, every vehicle in Kenya has to be insured. The law, however, only insists on the kind of insurance that covers other people who may be involved in accidents with the insured vehicle. This is called third-party insurance. If a vehicle owner so wishes, he may also insure the vehicle itself, so that if it is stolen or destroyed in an accident, he will be paid by the insurance company some money to buy a new one. This is known as comprehensive insurance.

Apart from insuring property, one can also insure his or her health. This means the insurance company agrees to pay the person's medical bills in case of illness. Because of the high cost of medical care today, this kind of insurance has become quite popular. Many employers now insure the health of their workers because they know how important it is to have a healthy workforce.

Not all kinds of insurance are aimed at protecting us from **unforeseen** losses. There are some types of insurance that are purely meant to make it easier to manage some responsibilities. For example, there is education insurance. This involves an agreement in which a person pays a regular amount of money over a period of time. After some time, the company pays the agreed amount to cater for the education of the person's dependant. This has been found to be a less burdensome way of paying for education which would otherwise be quite expensive.

There is also life insurance. Here, the company pays an agreed amount of money to the family of the insured person upon his death. This money is meant to take care of the people left behind since it is assumed that the death results in loss of financial support. Nowadays, there are even insurance policies meant to cover funeral expenses upon the death of an insured person.

The whole idea behind insurance is to reduce the impact of financial loss or to make expenses easier to bear. It is not meant to enrich the person insured; nor is it meant to stop people from facing unfortunate events or going through the pain of loss. For property insurance, the cause of the loss or destruction should be beyond the control of the property owner. One cannot be compensated for destroying their own property. Due to its many benefits, more and more people are embracing insurance today.

Question 45

If a car with third-party insurance accidentally hits a pedestrian and gets damaged, who will the insurance company compensate?

- A. The pedestrian only.
- B. The owner of the car only.
- C. The one who sold the car.
- D. The car owner and the pedestrian.

Option	A*	B	C	D
% choosing the option	13.74	38.18	7.24	40.07
Mean mark in other questions	30.81	25.07	20.75	28.03

This question required candidates to infer who stands to benefit if a car with third-party insurance accidentally hits a pedestrian and gets damaged. The correct option was A. They needed to go through paragraph three to get the answer. Which states: *"The law, however, only insists on the kind of insurance that covers other people who may be involved in accidents with the insured vehicle. This is called third-party insurance"*.

SECTION B: COMPOSITION

English composition registered an increase of 0.52 points from 39.40 in 2018 to 39.92 in 2019. The paper tested the ability of a candidate to compose a personal and convincing account. The candidate was required to write a story that was grammatically accurate, fluent, interesting and original. Mastery of plot development as well as proficiency in the use of variety of structures and vocabulary was expected. In this case, a candidate was required to narrate an account in which the candidate woke up sweating because of a bad dream.

GROUP 1 (01-10 MARKS)

Composition A

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story making it as interesting as possible.

I woke up sweating. I had just had a strange dream. I was dreaming.

a strange dream. I was coming home
I was coming from the garden to put
a flowers and trees. when I see home
I see my friends. I call them my
friends. my friends. oh cock maina let
ran for maina. maina thank you my friend.
maina let go to the bed. yes let go.
we go tokin with them about story
of bailots. never bailot there mathemat
shen. oh

after there I feel the home.
tomorrow is another day. I go
home direct to 1st class I start
sleeping. I end there. I stop to the
set. I start dreaming my friend who want
to kill my friend. I was
a boy glove. maina, maina she wanted
eat my hands and fingers and head.
I was looking him maina don't
kill my maina. sorry I woke up sweating
I had just had a strange dream that day.

This is a poor script. The candidate fails to develop a story and he/she struggles to write words which are not correct e.g. "cameng" (coming), "gadein" (garden), "flawars" (flowers), "wen" (when), "fends" (friends) among others. The examiner has to guess what the candidate intends to write. The candidates made all kinds of tense errors; e.g. "I see" (I saw), "I go" (I went), "I sit" (I sat). In addition, the script had many errors of punctuations, commas, full stops, and capital letters. However, a number of words were correctly written by the candidate but were not connected to make any meaningful sentences (them, home, start, want, there).

Mark awarded

03

Composition B

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story making it as interesting as possible.

I woke up sweating. I had just had a strange dream. I when down
the steering room to join the others in
tooken they breakfast. I took my break-
fast and I went in the bedroom
and took my game shoe we were to
go to the field for there was a bus
waiting for us on way I came
across a man who was full of blood that
that it was nothing I could with
my journey. Half way I got my friends
so they help in the way to the field in the
forest. we had a loud cry I was
the smart one we had to go to go
to look what was happening we
we in very fast and got it was a
a zipper bag what is wren with you"
I asked.

My friend asked the bag.
"Why are you in the forest alone?" "It was
since my parents died when I started
living with my uncle in his home
my uncle as been good and generous
to me. I was like his child any-
thing I need I was given. Like with my
uncle was like my real father.
It was not until he met his

~~was~~ called salame, When salame came
 in to my uncl. like my life started
 chending stody by stody as when dog
 went my life became hadly and hadly
 when salame give hard to his first
 born son I even stoped going to
 school I was treated like a servant
 I was given hard labour and been
 beaten like a boy. Yesterday I gorgob
 to give they small boy milk when
 they came home I was beaten even
 I felt like I was going to die.
 After that I was taken outside and
 told to go. The boy I felt sorry
 for him we took the boy to
 the police station and later we
 taken to the children home. I never
 ligated that day to miss my
 first game for I came to now.

This script is an improvement from the previous one. The candidate attempts to write a story about going to play a game but on the way to the field through a forest, he hears a cry of a boy mistreated by the uncle's wife. However, the flow of the story is hampered by many errors of spelling:

Steaing room	sitting room
Athas	others
Token	taken
Dblood	blood
Fered	field
Weiting	waiting

There are also many sentences which were wrongly constructed; e.g. "...in the way to the field..." (on the way to the field), "...look what was happening..." (see what was happening), "it was since my parents died..." (when my parents died). Despite the errors cited above, the candidate demonstrates that he/she has an idea about paragraphing though the paragraphs are not well developed. There are also instances of good use of capital letters at the beginning of sentences. In addition, the candidate has the following words spelt correctly (though some of these words do not help in the development of the story): journey, forest, child, beaten, labour, outside, home, son and bus.

Mark awarded

06

Composition C

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story making it as interesting as possible.

I woke up sweating. I had just had a strange dream. When I woke up sweating I go to the bath room and I shower. When I finish to shower I heard strange thing in the house walking and I did not know what was it. I decided to go and look what was it when I rich there slowly by slowly I was a big wolf which I dream that I sleep that wolf I dream when I was sleeping in my room. I dream that he was catching food some body to eat at night but he could not find some one to eat that time. That's what I dream at my dream. When I see it my body get shocked so I decided to go to my father's room to tell him that there is a wolf down stairs in the kitchen. When I told my father that there is a wolf down stairs my father walks slowly to go and that wolf in the kitchen when he rich there her body shocked and he say owl my God. he told me go and bring for me my gun to the bird room which I see ran when I rich I took her gun and bring it there then he told me go to your bed room and sleep and don't open it. my father took that gun and shot

it in the stomach. and he told "when I was in

This script is better than the previous script. The candidate attempts to write a story about an attack by a wolf in a dream. However, the flow of the story is hampered by numerous errors which include tense ("I finish" instead of "I finished", "I dream" instead of "I dreamt", "walk" instead of "walked", "he say" instead of "he said"). There are also spelling errors as follows:

Shawa	shower
No	know
Deased	decided
Saching	searching
Rich	reach
Nahit	night

In this script, punctuation marks are not correctly used and there are no paragraphs. However, the candidate spells some words correctly (e.g. walking, sleeping, body, slowly, room, bring, God, father). The candidate is also able to write certain English phrases correctly (e.g. slowly by slowly, to go to my father's room, to your bedroom and do not open it). It is notable that the candidate is able to develop the story though with limited ability in the use of English language.

Mark awarded 08

GROUP II (11-20 MARKS)

Composition D

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story making it as interesting as possible.

I woke up sweating. I had just had a strange dream. I had dreamed

when some creatures following me very fast, when I was running I fell inside a big hole. When I feel there was a big rock there, I went I fell over the rock, when I opened my eyes it wasn't a rock it was a big sponge. I woke up and started walking. It was a dark place even you could not see in front or back or anywhere there. I was very scared, when I was still walking I saw a door I started running so that I can reach the door when I was about to catch it. Again I fell inside a hole, I fell over water I didn't know how to swim, so I was screaming at loud help! help!, I was drinking so many water, I had a sound calling me very loudly I wanted to answer the call but I was sinking and the water was full in my mouth when I was about to close my eyes I found my self laying over the grass.

When I woke up I was already dry and my clothes were changed. After some seconds, I heard something on the bush, I looked who is there the bush stopped, I kept silence and I took two steps forward, I saw a

a big creature, my heart was beating like East African drum. I ran very quickly searching for help, but there was nobody to help me. Then, I was running as fast as a cheetah, again I fell inside a big hole landed on a black place, then I saw the door with a bright light ran as fast as I can and I went I caught the door and then I went in that light, the light was affecting my eyes so I decided to close my eyes, when I reached somewhere, I opened my eyes the place was so amazing there was many green trees with fruits, but when I was walking I had people talking, I went to look their I found many people their but one of these people calling my name I tried to follow the call where it was running, soon but I didn't find it, every time I go near the people is just like when I was running I was going at back, until I got tired I decided to rest, when I was resting I saw a lion calling me, coming near to me, when it came near me it wanted to jump over me, my mom walk me up.

This is an improvement from the previous composition. The candidate attempts to write about an encounter with creatures attacking him in a dream. However, the flow is interfered with by numerous errors of spelling, tense, vocabulary, and punctuation. Spelling errors include the following:

Critures	creatures
Din't	didn't
Cought	caught
Afecting	affecting
Antill	until
Wantend	wanted

There were numerous errors of tense such as "...I can..." instead of "...I could...", "...I run..." instead of "...I ran...", "...there was..." instead of "...there were...", "...I go..." instead of "...I went..." In spite of the errors cited above, the candidate is able to spell some words correctly (e.g. screaming, scared, heard, amazing, and sinking). The candidate was also able to develop the story though with limited proficiency. However, there could be better scripts in this category.

Mark awarded 13

Composition E

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story making it as interesting as possible.

I woke up sweating. I had just had a strange dream. tears were rolling down

the thumps of my face. the dream was so strange. I had dreamed that I was with my friend going to school when we met a woman who was so beautiful. The woman was so strong and kind by the look. My friend and I were as cruel as we were in the other days.

As we were on our way to school, the woman greeted us. we told her that we were fine. we didn't add more words. of course the woman had a vehicle. I was shocked when I see the car coming on our way. we could believe our eyes. the woman told us that she wanted to take us to school. My friend because of fear ran away.

I was with the woman at the road. she started grabbing me. I tried to call for an help but they beared no fruit. she told me that if I was to call for an help she was going to kill me. I had nothing to do except to KEEP QUIET and sit on my seat. As we was in the vehicle, we reached at our school. I tried to tell the woman that I was at the destination, but the woman told me to shut up.

On our way, we reached at the bus park where we found some police men standing at the bus park. At the way forward, the police had already raised his hand. The woman stopped the vehicle. My eyes was already became as red as berries. The police men has already seen that I was in a trouble.

The woman was told to come out of the vehicle. the policemen found that she was a kidnapper. she was also carrying a lot of drugs in the vehicle inside the briefcase. The policemen told me to come out of the car. I came out anxiously. The woman was jailed for thirteen good years.

The policemen asked me the telephone number of my parents. I gave it to them and they called my mother. few minutes later, I saw my cruel mother coming toward where I was. I ran to her and gave her a warm hug. At last, I heard my father's voice calling me to prepare breakfast.

I was not believing that it was at my bed room. I thought that it was at bus park. "what a terrible dream I had?" after that I said a short prayer to my Almighty. I had a lot about my

dream to share with my kith and kin. At the next night I burn my midnight oil thinking about the dream I had last night. I will never forget that dream until I went to the land of no return meaning that the day will keep on lingering in my mind.

This script is an improvement from the previous one. The candidate has attempted to write a story about a woman who was a kidnapper. However, the narrator was rescued by the police. But still the flow of the story is hampered by numerous errors of spelling, tense, sentence structures, omissions and punctuations. For instance, wrong spelling include words such as "carring" (carrying), "greatech" (greeted), "grabling" (grabbing), "stoped" (stopped), "anciously" (anxiously) and "lingerling" (lingering). Examples of errors of tense include: "beared" (bore), "see" (saw), "burn" (burnt) and "went" (go). In spite of the numerous errors, the script has merits on certain spellings such as "beautiful", "quiet", "destination", "vehicle", "kidnapper" and "briefcase". In addition, the candidate is able to employ correct expressions such as "so strong and kind", "believe our eyes", "gave her a warm hug", "with my kith and kin" and "land of no return". The paragraphs are also indented and varied. This candidate communicated fairly well.

Mark awarded 18

Composition F

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story making it as interesting as possible.

I woke up sweating. I had just had a strange dream. My father rushed into the room responding to my screams. "What happened?" he asked. I kept quiet. Later on he returned to his room. When I was about to return to bed, I saw something. A big figure with red eyes approached my bed. I made a run for my parent's bedroom. He grabbed me at the shoulder.

I was scared to bits. Suddenly, under my bed, a hole formed. It glowed as screams followed. I folded my big fat hands into a ball and tried to hurt the figure. My efforts bore no fruit as my passed through his face. "Are you alive?" I asked. The room was filled with laughter. Later he let me go. I fell in the hole.

Soon after falling in the hole I saw numerous of people. They were all the same as the one before except for three of them. I went to take a closer look and it was my parents and my little sister. They were chained from top to

bottom. Suddenly, floating heads surrounded by giants came. Blood was all over them. When they saw me they threw me in a small hut.

After what seemed to be a decade, they came to me bringing my sister with them. Later, on the big figure I saw in my room came closer to me. His eyes were now flaming. All the creatures cheered ready to fist on my flesh. Eventually to make matters worse he took my sister and gave the other creatures to feast on her.

I could not believe it. My own dear sister killed in front of me. All I could do was to see her being eaten and her bones crushed to pieces. The figure that I saw before brought my parents. I closed my eyes. This was enough torture to make someone hang himself.

Later on, he stretched his hand and pointed at me. The chains used to hold me turned to worms and I ran for safety. I ran and hid under a small tree. The giants came one by

searching for me.
When I was sure I lost them,
a large snake came and swallowed me
whole. A shouted at the top of my voice
when I heard sister's sweet voice. She burst
into laughter. It was then I realised
that I was just dreaming.

This script is better than the previous one. The story revolves around a threatening figure that almost swallows the narrator in a dream. The candidate exhibits good effort in paragraphing and punctuation. For instance, indented paragraphs are evident, with most of the sentences beginning in capital letters and ending with full stops. Direct speech marks are also correctly used. The candidate also employed good language structures such as "my efforts bore no fruit", "except for the three of them", "after what seemed to be a decade", "this was enough torture" among others. Good display of vocabulary is noted (e.g. rushed, responding, bedroom, scared, screams, decade, and torture). However, the script has certain errors of spelling, tense, punctuation, and weak sentence structures. There are also ambiguous structures such as "He grab me" in which case it is not clear whether "He" refers to the father or the big creature. Omissions included "... as my ... past", "...one by...", "crushed to pieces" instead of "crushed into pieces".

Mark awarded 22

GROUP III (21-30 MARKS)

Composition G

A STRANGE DREAM

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story, making it as interesting as you can.

I woke up sweating. I had just had a strange dream. It was not only a strange dream but also a scary one. I had dreamt that I was living in a small house by the forest with my family. We were having our dinner when we heard a big footstep. The first time we ignored it but it came again. Curiously I went out to check what it was. Looking outside there was nothing. Immediately I closed the door the cracking of trees started. Quickly I took a flashlight and went outside. The stamping continued as I followed the sound. As I walked in to the forests the stamping came to a halt. And when I looked behind me I saw a huge mysterious creature. In the blink of an eye it was gone. I ran back home to report what I had seen. My brother suggested we follow that mysterious creature I saw. We rushed out the house and followed the footprints. I ran as fast as a deer not looking behind, trying to catch up to that mysterious creature. At a point we were so deep in the forest we hardly knew our way back home. However much

we were tired we never gave up.

Following the footprints for hours we decided to take a rest. The sun was rising and we had not gotten any sleep. After a few hours of sleep we continued our journey. In front of us was a cave and behind that cave it was a beautiful waterfall with sweet smelling flowers and delicious looking fruits. Just as we entered the cave we were seized by an army of cave men.

They were short and strong looking. They were holding stones and metals on their hands ready to hit us. All of a sudden everything went dark, then a huge arm grabbed me and my brother. It was the mysterious creature which saved us. If only we knew what was ahead of us. That mysterious creature was trying to eat us. He laid us on the ground and immediately we woke up and made a run for it. As we were running my brother got caught up in a branch. It was a golden opportunity to get away but I chose to save him.

As I was trying to save him it caught
up to as and grabbed me. It swunged
me over its mouth and thats when I
woke up screaming and sweating.

This script is an improvement from the previous one. The candidate narrates a story about an encounter with a mysterious creature in a dream. The candidate exhibits merit in vocabulary (e.g. scary, dinner, curiously, cracking, stamping, mysterious, suggested, opportunity, grabbed). Good sentence structures are displayed (e.g. ...not only a strange dream but also ..., huge mysterious creature..., ...cracking of trees..., ...all of a sudden..., golden opportunity...). Paragraphs are well developed and indented. The candidate also observes the use of full stops at the end of sentences and capital letters at the beginning of sentences. However, the story is still hampered by omissions, use of wrong words, weak sentences (e.g. ... the a huge..., trying to eat us..., made a run for it..., heard a big footstep..., ignored it but it came again...)

Mark awarded 26

Composition H

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story making it as interesting as possible.

I woke up sweating. I had just had a strange dream. I hurriedly stood up and went to check on my younger brother and my parents, who to my relief were sound asleep.

"It was just a dream, it was just a dream," I repeatedly said these words as I took heavy and deep breaths which I hoped would calm me down.

As I was pacing back and fourth, my heavy footsteps woke up my mother. One look is all it took for her to realise the worried look on my face. I fell into her arms and explained to her the terrible dream about the Mutonda people, our enemies, who raided our entire village, killing everything in sight which I had just dreamt.

With a chuckle, she explained to me that it was nothing but a dream and reassured me that everything was okay. I took her word for it and for a minute I forgot all about my strange dream. With that being said, we went to the Lusa river to continue with our chores.

As we had arrived we found women busy at work washing their clothes or bathing their children. My mother and I went ahead and joined them. Although my mother had told me to forget about my dream, I could not help but think about the

terrible events that occurred. The pictures of people and cattle dying kept replaying over and over in my mind. Why would I dream such a terrible thing? Unanswered questions brewed a storm in my mind leaving my mind clouded with not even a single answer.

I was switched back into reality by an ear-deafening scream. From a far I could see thousands of men running towards our direction. Oh no! It could not be.

"It is the Mutondo, run for your...," one woman's words were cut short by an arrow that flew straight into her chest which was for the Mutondo people.

Without thinking, my mother took my hand and we began running to the village, just like it happened in my dream. I was left in a web of confusion but I was so afraid that I did not even share my thoughts with my mother.

On arriving at the village, my heart dropped to my stomach and skipped a beat if not two. The Mutondo were setting huts on fire while others were driving the cattle towards the Sorreto hills. They were armed to the teeth and were killing everything in sight.

With the agility of a cobra, my mother took

hand and ran towards our house. To our utter shock and surprise we found Gibo, my younger brother luckily alive and kicking. On turning we were met by the horrifying look of my father, dead.

Tears began welling up in my eyes. This is exactly what happened in my dream. My mother went in a room and came out with a dusty, old box. She gave me a map and an old ring.

"My daughter take this and head to the Musa Forest. I did not want to tell you this now but you are the chosen one of the Lemuro people. You can see the future through dreams. There you will find your grandfather who will teach you everything you need to know...," an arrow went through her chest and she fell down.

I took my brother and ran hoping that my mother told me the truth, now my future was in her words.

The script is better than the previous one. The candidate developed a story about a village attacked by an enemy. A number of merits are evident in the script. For instance, paragraphs are well indented and varied from the beginning to the end. Appropriate sentence structures are also evident (e.g. "to my relief", "unanswered questions brewed a storm in my mind", "Oh no! It could not be", "my mother and I"). The candidate uses capital letters, full stops commas, speech marks and exclamation marks appropriately. Vocabulary use is apt (e.g. chuckle, calm, brewed, agility, horrifying, letter, welling up, switched). Despite the merits cited, the script has notable slips of omissions and spellings (e.g. fourth (forth), cattled (cattle), a far (afar)). There are also errors of tense, wrong use of prepositions and weak structures. Nevertheless, the demerits do not outweigh the merits and therefore the story is good.

Mark awarded

29

GROUP IV (31-40 MARKS)

Composition I

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story making it as interesting as possible.

I woke up sweating. I had just had a strange dream. It was one of the most frightening dream I had ever had. It was during the August holiday. That day still lingers in my mind. When I woke up early in the morning from the arms of Morpheus, I went down the tiring flight of stairs.

There, I met my dotting father who seemed unusually sad and quite angry. I greeted him and tried to consult him so as to find the source of his disappointment but my efforts were as futile as flogging a dead horse if not trying to dig a Gibraltar stone with a wooden spoon.

After what seemed like an eternity of silence, my father articulated to me that he had to be somewhere urgently so I should start getting ready for I was to accompany him. Being dog-obedient, I dashed quickly from corner to corner preparing myself.

Afterwards, I linked my dotting father in the vintage Chevrolet and before one could utter Jack Robinson, we departed leaving a thick cloud of dust behind us. He drove at a super-sonic speed that would leave

a cheetah in shame. I was not able to make the head or tail of where we were headed to until we arrived at our destination.

We pulled over in front of a tall building that read in block, 'THE CHIEF JUSTICE COURT OF LAW'. On seeing this, myriads of questions tossed through my already entangled mind. He then alighted, banging the door. I followed him out of the car as if it was his shadow.

We entered the court, bowed down as a sign of respect, then took our seats.

Suddenly, the noisy atmosphere came to an abrupt silence. The grave-silent crowd gave a vivid indication that the judge was making her way to her seat.

We all stood erect until she sat down at the front. We then sat down. She hit her gavel then urged the plaintiff and the accused to take their positions. What I saw was unbelievable. I thought my eyes were deceiving me.

I saw my father working towards the accused position. A sudden pathological chill ran down my spine. I was as scared as

a broody hen trapping in the talons of a famished hawk.

"Is it true that you, Mr. John Kamau murdered your wife Mrs. Mary Kamau?" the judge asked as the crowd was eagerly waiting for an answer.

My father remained silent for sometime as if thinking of a concrete lie. Hair on my body stood erect.

"Sadly, yes. Yes I did murder my wife." My father said, breaking into tears.

I could not believe that answer. Tears ran down my rosy-cheeks like a river that had broken its banks. I then heard footsteps coming towards me. It was my father waking me up from my sleep.

Without hesitating, I started calling him a murderer while tears flooded my eyes. He then joined the dots and explained to me that he had nothing to do with my mother's death. After his sensible explanation, I believed him and apologized.

What a horrific dream!

The candidate narrates a story about the father who is accused of murdering the narrator's mother. The reader is kept in suspense with regard to who the actual killer is until the end. The candidate uses vocabulary, English idioms and expressions creatively and excellently. For instance, there are notable well-used vocabulary (e.g. lingers, consult, futile, flogging, eternity, articulated, dashed, utter, entangled, plaintiff, vivid and flooded). English idioms include "from the arms of Morpheus", "tiring flight of stairs", "efforts were futile", "flogging a dead horse", "seems like an eternity", dashed quickly, "a sudden pathological chill". Paragraphs are indented and meaningful. However, there are some misspelt words, wrong structure and omissions.

Mark awarded 32

Composition J

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story making it as interesting as possible.

I woke up sweating. I had just had a strange dream. Over and above, it was terrorising, leaving me on the verge of tears. My word! Perplexed, I struggled mightily to comprehend what had just taken place. My poor heart was beating faster than pistons in a locomotive engine. Sweat cascaded down my armpits in torrents. Contrary to the norm, my tiny bedroom was stuffy, as well as thick with tension. Still trapped in a miasma of bewilderment, I relived the events of my dream, which was more or less a nightmare.

The mood was somber. The ambience tense. As my family and I shuffled into the designated room, no Tom, Dick or Harry took heed to our arrival. Everybody seemed to be drowned in their own sorrows, anguishing in the demise of my grandmother. As such, close family and friends had come from far and wide to pay their final respects to Mrs. Malaba (grandmother). The scene in the room conveyed a depressingly sad

atmosphere.

The news of grandmother's death had hit me like a bombshell. Well and truly, she had been the apple of my eye. My comforter. My shoulder to lean on. When the news broke out, I felt like my life had hit the end of the tether. How would I cope? Who could fill the deep cavity which grandmother's demise had created?

The priest's loud, baritone voice snapped me right out of my reverie. "Take your seats, everyone," he said, softly. The funeral service was nigh. Stiff, deafening silence loomed the room, save for muffled sobs from a few mourners, whose visages portrayed raw emotions.

No sooner had the crowd fallen silent than the priest proceeded to utter a brief, passionate prayer bound with mixed emotions. When he concluded, awkward silence prevailed for a moment. There and then, the priest announced, "Now let us sing praises to the Lord, who gives and takes away." In a trice,

the elderly women broke into a mournful song. Their angel-like voices, however saddening, resonated throughout the room. Meanwhile, I stole a glance at grandmother's coffin, which lay motionlessly beside me.

Suddenly, a soft knock emanated from the very same coffin. To say the least, I was baffled. Were my ears playing cat and mouse with me? Yet another knock silenced the room, lock, stock and barrel. The crowd, from which somber songs had once rippled, fell dead-silent.

Out of the blue, the coffin creaked open, and out stepped my grandmother. Impossible! This was too far-fetched. On the spur of the moment, all hell broke loose. Having lost all form of composure, people scrambled to get out of the room. As much as I tried to follow suit, my lanky legs stayed rooted to the spot. "My son! Give me a hug," bubbled grandmother. I nearly spring out of my blotchy skin. Grandmother crept closer, opening her arms wide for a bear-hug. Fear gripped me like never before, and held me captive. It was then that I suddenly awoke from my restless slumber, terrified beyond description. Dreams. An incredible fabricator of deceit and falsehood.

The candidate connects to the rubric with a definite spark. There is a well-developed story about the passing on of a grandmother who unexpectedly comes back to life during her funeral service—all this is done vividly and creatively in a dream. Mastery of English is excellent as demonstrated in the apt use of vocabulary (e.g. perplexed, bewilderment, designated, anguishing, cascading, ambience, shuffled, deafening, passionate, resonated, emanated, rippled, scrambled, blotchy, fabricator). English idioms and expressions included “on the verge of tears”, “sweat cascaded down”, “trapped in a miasma”, “drowned in their sorrow”, “end of a tether”, “fill the deep cavity”, “service was nigh”, “muffled sobs”, “stole a glance”, “fabricator of deceit and falsehood”, “on the spur of the moment”. There are varied sentence structures (e.g. over and above, my word, contrary, I struggled, snapped me out of my reverie, no sooner had... than, there and then, meanwhile, having lost, rooted to the spot, fear gripped me). There is good use of punctuation marks, and paragraphs are well indented and logically developed. Despite the numerous items of merit and excellent command of language, the script has a few misspelt words, omissions and wrong word order.

Mark awarded

37