

**Question 1 to 15**

Read the passage below. It contains blank spaces numbered 1 to 15. For each blank space, choose the best alternative from the choices given.

Police officers raided a home on 1 outskirts of town yesterday and seized an assortment of electronic goods. The men 2 the police found during the early evening raid were arrested and 3 in police cells. 4 suspects are being sought.

The police spokesperson told the press that the goods 5 suspected to have been 6 from a neighbouring country. Investigations have 7 started in order to establish the nationalities of the suspects as they have no identification 8.

It is not clear 9 the goods were destined for another country, or were to be sold locally. On the local 10 the goods are estimated 11 ten million shillings. The head of the area Criminal Investigation Unit said that the suspects would soon be 12 in a court of law but declined to give further details.

The police 13 the home following a tip off from 14 caller who had been suspicious of the people living in the home. He told the police that the men stayed indoors 15 daytime and only went out late in the night.

**Question 5:**

- A. are being      B. were being      C. were      D. are

**Response Pattern**

Option	A	B	C	D*
% Choosing option	17.81	33.53	32.26	15.46
Mean mark in other questions	19.68	20.62	23.59	23.75

Candidates were required to choose the correct auxiliary verb to use in the sentence given. Those who chose options *A (are being)* and *B (were being)* were probably thinking about the aspect of the main verb -whether the suspicion was situated in the past, at the time of the arrest/seizing of the goods or ongoing in the present, at the time of the press conference. The concerns with time whether past or present informed the choice in option *C (were)*. Only option *D (are)* carries the tense aspect and time that holds for then, now and into the future until the suspicion is cleared.

**Question 11:**

- A. for      B. about      C. to      D. at

**Response Pattern**

Option	A	B	C	D*
% Choosing option	30.80	42.64	9.56	16.14
Mean mark in other questions	20.61	21.19	23.74	25.18

Candidates were required to choose the best particle to collocate with the verb in the given context. The majority went for option **B (about)** and quite a large number of candidates went for option **A (for)**, both of which were wrong. A smaller percentage of candidates went for option **C (to)**. Let it be said that all the three are ungrammatical. Option **A (for)** is worse. Option **B (about)** would need "to be" in which case the word class of 'about' would change from the intended particle (adverb particle) to a quantifier (determiner). Option **C (to)** would need 'be' to form the phrase 'to be' introducing and pointing to the sum (linking verb). This leaves us the only correct answer as option **D (at)**. Notice that the best candidates got it right as attested by their mean mark of 25.18 in other questions.

**Question 12:**

- A. sentenced      B. sued      C. charged      D. judged

**Response Pattern**

Option	A	B	C*	D
% Choosing option	16.03	13.38	20.68	49.15
Mean mark in other questions	20.98	22.93	25.17	20.55

The question required candidates to select the best vocabulary to use in the context. It is not clear whether the option **D (judged)** that was overwhelmingly chosen by nearly half the population was due to the association with 'court' where judges preside over cases or whether it was a case of how some people pronounce "charged" which was the correct option. Option **A (sentenced)** could not be correct because the trial has not started. Similarly 'judged' cannot be the correct response as the case is yet to be heard. Option **B (sued)** is also wrong because only individuals sue in civil cases. The police 'charge' suspects in criminal cases. The newspapers are teeming with such stories.

**Question 13:**

- A. inspected      B. stormed      C. invaded      D. visited

**Response Pattern**

Option	A	B*	C	D
% Choosing option	34.82	9.69	33.19	21.43
Mean mark in other questions	21.67	23.40	24.08	18.28

Candidates were required to choose the best vocabulary item to suit the slot given the context. A conscientious candidate would have taken cue from the opening sentences of the cloze passage. The word 'raided' should have pointed to the correct word about the operation. It can't have been 'invaded'. They didn't have an enemy nor did they intend to occupy. 'Visited' is too mild. 'Inspected' which lured the majority is too neutral, just 'searching', just incase in this case the police had been tipped off. The speed and snap, unexpected manner of the operation suggests 'stormed', which is the correct answer.

**Question 17:**

Have they been forbidden

- A. to go to town?
- B. from going to town?
- C. not to go to town?
- D. against going to town?

**Response Pattern**

Option	A*	B	C	D
% Choosing option	26.88	46.08	13.50	12.69
Mean mark in other questions	20.96	24.14	19.19	18.72

Candidates were required to choose the option that best completes the sentence. – i.e the word that collocates with “*forbidden*”. This word in whatever form only takes ‘*to*’. You forbid someone **to** do something or **to** go somewhere or to participate in something. Unfortunately even the best candidates got it wrong. Perhaps these forms have not been taught.

**Question 20:**

Children should not wander in the streets.

- A. walk
- B. stroll
- C. loiter
- D. roam

**Response Pattern**

Option	A	B	C	D*
% Choosing option	17.72	9.34	46.53	25.60
Mean mark in other questions	17.21	18.24	22.78	24.93

Candidates were required to make a distinction between words and select the synonym for the word given. ‘*Wander*’ evokes ‘*aimlessness*’. *Walk* is the neutral one. *Stroll* implies leisurely walk and may not quite capture the spirit of wander. ‘*Loiter*’ implies ‘*hesitation*’ and ‘*stoppages*’ but ‘*aimlessness*’ is lacking. This leaves the correct answer, chosen by the very best candidates.

**Question 22:**

*For questions 22 and 23 choose the alternative that best completes the sentence.*

Since Rehema could not get a matatu she travelled home \_\_\_\_\_ a bus.

- A. by
- B. on
- C. in
- D. with

## Response pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D
% Choosing option	82.70	4.74	6.93	4.86
Mean mark in other questions	22.14	22.05	23.40	15.70

Candidates were required to choose the best preposition to fill the gap in the sentence. Majority of the candidates, **82.70** percent were aware of the construction '*travel by bus*'. This is correct. But they failed to notice that there was an article '*a*' before the word '*bus*' – which precluded the use of the predictable '*by*'. '*In*' a bus may sound correct but it is not what is the idiomatic way of putting it with regard to means of public/mass transport. We '*travel on* a plane, *on* a train, *on* a bus even when we are actually inside enclosed. Travelled "*with*" a bus is ridiculous'

## Question 25:

For questions 24 and 25, choose the sentence that is correctly punctuated.

- A. What long hair you have!
- B. He went home early, Didn't he?
- C. Our science teacher sent us to look for grasshoppers flowers frogs and green leaves.
- D. Its good to always drink clean water.

## Response Pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D
% Choosing option	20.03	58.44	6.55	14.15
Mean mark in other questions	26.71	21.53	15.83	19.47

This item tested knowledge of punctuation. Candidates were expected to read through the sentences given and select the one that has been correctly punctuated. Option **B** (*he went home early, Didn't he?*) was chosen by the majority of candidates. They did not realize that there was capitalization of the letter '**D**' in the middle of a sentence. The question tag is preceded by a comma and therefore the initial letter of the tag is not capitalized.

Option **C** (*our science teacher sent us to look for grasshoppers flowers frogs and green leaves*) lacks mandatory commas to mark off the items in the list given. Option **D** (*its good to always drink clean water*) has omitted the apostrophe that should have made the first word "It's the contraction form of "it is". This leaves only option **A** (*what a long hair you have!*) the one correctly punctuated. By elimination the candidates should have arrived at the correct answer.

Question 32, 33 and 38 were based on the comprehension passage reproduced below.

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

Murimi drove slowly down the Government Road eager to attend the celebration. Everyone in the car was quiet, thinking about the people who had sacrificed their lives so that Harry Thuku, the freedom fighter, could be set free. Little Naiku was **fascinated** by Nyanjiru, the woman who had led men, women and children in fighting for freedom, so long ago.

"Papa," she called her father, "when we gain independence tonight and the white men are gone, who shall lead us then?"

"Ah, a good question, my child," Murimi replied. "We shall have our own government. A government of Kenyans and by Kenyans. We shall elect our own leaders."

Naiku asked again, "Will 'mamas' lead us too?"

"NO!" Njoroge shouted. "This will be a government of black men. Our government".

"Why men?" Naiku cried angrily.

"When did you ever hear of a black 'mama' leading men?" Njoroge asked.

"Mama Nyanjiru was a leader of men," Naiku protested.

"You are right, Naiku," said Grandpa.

"Even in the forest where we fought the white man, women fought just as bravely. General Muthoni was one of the bravest warriors I ever met – braver than most men I know. Only a fool or a coward says that a woman cannot lead. Of course, they can and will lead."

At that moment a car with a white driver overtook them and Njoroge shouted, "Settler, settler go home!" Murimi was **furious**.

"Njoroge!" he said, "how dare you misbehave like that? You will have to answer for it when we get home!"

"Does independence day make you lose your manners? That man is a grown-up, older than even your father," added Grandpa.

"We did not fight the white men for our independence so that our children can behave like them. You were never brought up to abuse people," Murimi said angrily. Njoroge was quiet for a long time. He thought long and hard about his Grandpa's words. He was sorry for the way he had acted.

(Adapted from *A Big Struggle* by A. Amran and D. Mulwa. Oxford University Press)

### Question 32:

What in the passage shows that Grandpa supports women leadership?

- A. He tells Naiku the story of Nyanjiru.
- B. He praises General Muthoni.
- C. He fought alongside women in the forest.
- D. He says women have the ability to lead.

### Response Pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*
% Choosing option	11.30	50.76	17.42	19.60
Mean mark in other questions	17.62	23.06	19.38	23.66

Candidates were required to infer meaning and select the option that best captures the ultimate statement of the character's opinion. Option A (*He tells Naiku the story of Nyanjiru*) fails in that it came earlier in the story before the issue of women leadership. Options B (*He praises General Muthoni*) and C (*He fought alongside women in the forest*) capture events in the development of the

thesis. Option *D (He says women have the ability to lead)* states that conclusion that women “can and will lead”.

**Question 33:**

Which of the following can best replace the word *furios*?

- A. upset
- B. enraged
- C. annoyed
- D. irritated.

**Response Pattern**

Option	A	B*	C	D
% Choosing option	12.85	15.48	58.38	12.31
Mean mark in other questions	21.42	24.70	21.76	19.68

This was a clear case of vocabulary. The synonym that best replaces the word ‘*furios*’ in the passage. Options *A (upset)* and *D (irritated)* are mild relaxations and therefore do not capture the mood of furious. Option *C (annoyed)* is the neutral form and so doesn’t come anywhere near ‘furious’. Only ‘*enraged*’, Option *B* says it!

**Question 38:**

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

- A. Women in the struggle for Independence
- B. Naiku and her family
- C. Njoroge and the white man
- D. Celebrating Independence.

Option	A*	B	C	D
% Choosing option	19.07	12.50	3.83	63.74
Mean mark in other questions	22.10	23.81	17.33	21.76

The item required candidates to provide the alternative that best summarizes the passage. Titles are supposed to be headlines of some sort and must cover the essence of the passage. A whopping **63.74** percent of candidates went for Option *D (celebrating independence)* which merely captures the occasion and not the content of the passage. In fact by the end of passage, the celebration has not started. At least the characters in the story have not reached the venue! Option *B (Naiku and her family)* cannot be the correct response because not much is said about them, apart from the fact that Grandpa had fought in the freedom war. Option *C (Njoroge and the white man)* is a small incident. The whiteman does not even become part of the story! That leaves us with option *A (women in the struggle for independence)*. There is the story of Nyanjiru. Then that of General Muthoni interwoven with the story of Grandpa. There is the Murimi statement “*We fought the whiteman*” which implies women fought beside the men for independence.

Questions 41, 42 and 48 were based on the passage below.

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

Many people all over the world still smoke although it is common knowledge that smoking is dangerous to health. This is because the nicotine found in cigarettes has been proved to be addictive. Many young people get introduced to this habit through peer pressure, by aping their parents or the celebrities they watch on TV advertisements.

Today, smokers give various reasons for maintaining this habit. They say cigarettes are useful stimulants and that they give the smokers something to do with their hands. Perhaps the most important cause for the increase in smoking is that it provides shared experience among the peer group and this continues even after it becomes a settled habit. At what point it actually becomes a habit difficult to shake off, is not possible to tell.

The **aggressive** campaign through advertisements and advocacy by manufacturers has made things worse. Manufacturers argue that smoking provides employment through tobacco farming, manufacturing industries and contributes directly to the economy through payment of taxes. However, the government spends three times as much for the treatment of smoking related ailments and on rehabilitation of smokers.

The arguments against smoking are very valid. It can at times be very expensive for smokers and has no social advantage. The smoke from smokers is harmful and offensive to those around them (secondary smokers). It also interferes with teamwork since those who smoke keep excusing themselves to go and smoke. We know that tobacco stains the hands of smokers and makes the smokers have bad breath. In addition, it shortens one's breath, making it difficult for one to participate in activities which demand a lot of energy, such as athletics. But these are minor objections when we consider the damage it can do to one's health. There is enough evidence that smoking causes bronchitis and heart diseases, both of which can be **fatal**. It is, therefore, advisable for the young people to distance themselves from this habit if they want to live a healthy life.

#### Question 41:

Which of the following can best replace the word 'aggressive'?

- A. tough
- B. strict
- C. offensive
- D. serious

#### Response Pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*
% Choosing option	16.83	17.76	38.26	26.06
Mean mark in other questions	23.26	20.91	21.50	22.32

Once again this was an item of vocabulary in use requiring candidates to select the choice that best replaces the word as used in the passage. The majority of candidates went for option **C (offensive)** which implies initiative (as opposed to defensive). Option **A (tough)** though it can be applied to election campaign is not appropriate. **Strict (option B)** does not quite fit. This leaves us with option **D (serious)** which captures the mood of 'aggressive'.

**Question 42:**

The word 'fatal' as used in the passage means

- A. dangerous
- B. bad
- C. painful
- D. deadly.

**Response Pattern**

Option	A	B	C	D*
% Choosing option	59.13	4.88	5.87	29.19
Mean mark in other questions	20.83	16.61	16.24	26.13

This question tested inference. Candidates were required to infer the meaning of a word that may not be familiar from the foregoing discussion. Majority of the candidates chose option *A (dangerous)* which is an understatement of the probable results of the diseases mentioned. The ultimate is captured in option *D* and that is '*deadly*' - that which can result in death. Option *B (bad)* is vague. Option *C (painful)* states the obvious. *Pain* is caused by many other diseases that are not even dangerous, let alone deadly.

**Question 48:**

How does the writer feel about smoking?

- A. He hates it.
- B. He considers it expensive.
- C. He thinks it is harmful.
- D. He dislikes it.

**Response Pattern**

Option	A*	B	C	D
% Choosing option	18.11	9.28	44.09	27.58
Mean mark in other questions	20.84	19.19	23.29	21.32

This was an evaluation question requiring the candidates to make a judgment about the writer, based on what he has said so far. A number of options are given which are all correct. There is however one that sums up all the rest and that is option *A (He hates it)*.