

THE ELITES JET



101/2

ENGLISH

Paper 2

(Comprehension, Literary Appreciation and Grammar)

PRE-MOCK

March 2025 – Time: 2½ hours

Name Adm No..... Class.....

School..... Date.....Sign.....

Instructions to Candidates

- Write your name, school and Admission Number in the spaces provided above.
- Write your class, date of examination and sign in the spaces provided above.
- Answer ALL questions in the spaces provided in the question paper.
- All answers must be written in the **Blue ink**.
- This paper consists of **12** printed pages.
- Candidate should check the question paper to ascertain that all the pages are printed as indicated and that no questions are missing.
- Candidates must answer the questions in English.

FOR EXAMINER'S USE ONLY

QUESTION	MAXIMUM SCORE	CANDIDATE'S SCORE
1. COMPREHENSION	20	
2. EXCERPT	25	
3. ORAL LITERATURE.	20	
4. GRAMMAR	15	
TOTAL	80	

1. Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

It is so easy to overestimate the importance of one defining moment and underestimate the value of making small improvements on a daily basis. Too often, we convince ourselves that massive success requires massive action. Whether it is losing weight, building a business, writing a book, winning a championship, or achieving any other goal, we put pressure on ourselves to make some earth-shattering improvement that everyone will talk about.

Meanwhile, improving by 1 per cent isn't particularly notable – sometimes it isn't even noticeable—but it can be far more meaningful, especially in the long run. The difference a tiny improvement can make over time is **astounding**. Here's how the math works out: if you can get 1 per cent better each day for one year, you'll end up thirty-seven times better by the time you're done. Conversely, if you get 1 per cent worse each day for one year, you'll decline nearly down to zero. What starts as a small win or a minor setback accumulates into something much more.

Habits are the compound interest of self-improvement. The same way that money multiplies through compound interest, the effects of your habits multiply as you repeat them. They seem to make little difference on any given day and yet the impact they deliver over the months and years can be **enormous**. It is only when looking back two, five, or perhaps ten years later that the value of good habits and the cost of bad ones becomes strikingly apparent.

This can be a difficult concept to appreciate in daily life. We often dismiss small changes because they don't seem to matter very much in the moment. If you save a little money now, you're still not a millionaire. If you go to the gym three days in a row, you're still out of shape. If you study English for an hour tonight, you still haven't learned the language. We make a few changes, but the results never seem to come quickly and so we slide back into our previous routines.

Unfortunately, the slow pace of transformation also makes it easy to let a bad habit slide. If you eat an unhealthy meal today, the scale doesn't move much. If you work late tonight and ignore your family, they will forgive you. If you procrastinate and put your project off until tomorrow, there will usually be time to finish it later. A single decision is easy to dismiss.

But when we repeat 1 per cent errors, day after day, by replicating poor decisions, duplicating tiny mistakes, and rationalizing little excuses, our small choices compound into toxic results. It's the accumulation of many missteps—a 1 per cent decline here and there—that eventually leads to a problem.

Similarly, a slight change in your daily habits can guide your life to a very different destination. Making a choice that is 1 per cent better or 1 per cent worse seems insignificant in the moment, but over the span of moments that make up a lifetime these choices determine the difference between who you are and who you could be. Success is the product of daily habits- not once-in-a-lifetime transformations.

That said, it doesn't matter how successful or unsuccessful you are right now. What matters is whether your habits are putting you on the path toward success. You should be far more concerned with your current trajectory than with your current results. If you're a millionaire but you spend more than you earn each month, then you're on a bad trajectory. If your spending habits don't change, it's not going to end well. Conversely, if you're broke, but you save a little bit every month, then you're on the path toward financial freedom- even if you're moving slower than you'd like.

Your outcomes are a lagging measure of your habits. Your net worth is a lagging measure of your financial habits. Your weight is a lagging measure of your eating habits. Your knowledge is a lagging measure of your learning habits. Your **clutter** is a lagging measure of your cleaning habits. You get what you repeat. Habits are a double-edged sword.

Adapted from *Atomic Habits* by James Clear



Questions.

- a) What does the writer mean by the first statement of the first paragraph? (2 marks)
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- b) What are we told about habits in the second paragraph of the passage? (2 marks)
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- c) Show the relationship between habits and compound interest? (2 marks)
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- d) Cite examples from the passage to show that habits are a double-edged sword. (2 marks)
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- e) In a summary of not more than **60** words, explain why the author says the concept of habits being compound interest is difficult to appreciate in daily life. (5 marks)

Rough copy

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school writing paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Fair copy

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- f) “You should be far more concerned with your current trajectory than with your current results.”
(Rewrite beginning: Your) (1 mark)

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- g) Explain the following imagery: “Habits are the compound interest of self-improvement.”
 (3 marks)

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- h) Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the passage. (3 marks)

- i) astounding
- ii) enormous
- iii) clutter

2. EXCERPT FROM 'THE SAMARITAN'

(25MARKS)

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow.

Ted: The first is the indecisive type.

Seymour: Like who?

Ted: They are quite a number. Hon. Ferreira, or Mr. Key, as they still call him, is the best example. This man has never seen a fence on which he can't sit. He can hardly ever commit to any side. We chatted at length, and he kept talking in circles, citing proverbs and idioms here and there.

Ramdaye: I wonder why they called him Mr. Key. I hear he can never make up mind which door to open or in fact, whether to open any door at all!

Seymour: So, what did he say?

Ted: He said that what will be, will be because something certainly will be.

Ramdaye: Is that a proverb?

Ted: I have since been wondering whether it is, but he also said you don't cross the bridge until you get to it.

Seymour: Which bridge now?

Ted: I am not sure which bridge he meant, but I guess he must have been talking about the cases, in case we are sued.

Ramdaye: What an upstart he is! I hear he even has difficulties deciding what and how much to eat!

Seymour: You talked of different categories. What are the other categories?

Ted: The other category comprises the majority. I would best describe them as the headless type

Ramdaye: Headless?

Ted: Yes, they have brains, alright, but they don't use them.

Seymour: How on earth?

Ramdaye: You mean they're like a headless chicken?

Ted: Exactly! They are headless chicken. They follow the leader of their ethnic group who thinks for them. And they wait for that leader to make decisions for them in all matters, including the decision to go to pee. Most members of the People's Party of Mr. Basdeo belong here, and so do the members of Mossi's Liberal Party.

Seymour: I thank God I don't belong to any ethnic group.

Ted: Then, there is what I can best describe as the entrepreneurial type.

Ramdaye : Who are these?

Ted: These are political entrepreneurs, very keen on making money. They vote with their stomach, so to speak. That means they will vote the side that gives more money.

Seymour: Are you saying they demanded money to support the no confidence motion?

Ted: Yes, that was my understanding. I indicated funds would be available. They promised to deal as soon as money changes hands.

- a) Explain what happens *just before* this excerpt. (2marks)

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- b) Identify and illustrate one character trait of: (4marks)

i) Hon Ferreira.

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ii) Hon Ted

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- c) Explain the use of language in the excerpt above. (4marks)

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- d) From elsewhere in the play, what cases is Hon Ted referring to? (3marks)

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- e) What is Hon Ted's attitude towards the 'headless type' category of leaders? (3 marks)

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- f) These are political entrepreneurs, very keen on making money. (*Re-write using a relative clause*) (1 mark)

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- g) Explain *two social concerns* that are addressed in this excerpt (4 marks)

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- i) Explain why the leaders in this excerpt are planning a vote of no confidence. (2 marks)

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- j) Explain the meaning of the following expressions as used in the excerpt. (2marks)

I. Upstart

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II. Vote with their stomachs.

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3. Read the narrative below and answer the questions that follow.

Long, long time ago animals and birds spoke just like men do. When God had to stop them speaking, he made birds sing, like this chrip! Chrip....Lions to roar like this graagh! Graagh! And hyenas to howl like this huuu! HUUUU!

And you blame God? Listen to what naughty hyena who had gone two days without any meal did. He had been wandering up and down the hills when he suddenly stopped, nose in the air, one foot raised.

Do I smell, eh..... smell food? He slowly raised his head to the skies as if to say, "Please God, let me find some food, even one rotting bone will do." Slowly, he followed the smell, sniffing hard, stopping now and again, over grinning wide as the smell became stronger. "Here at last," he said as he came in sight of a calf that seemed dead, flies buzzing over its excrement. "Good no time to waste. Who knows the owner may be around. Oh, no, I see it is secured to a tree with a 'Mukwa' I'll take my time.

Ha, I am tired too, come to think of it. God gave us pretty strong senses of smell, generous old.... Man.

Still I do think some people tend to exaggerate, now who was it saying the other day 'ati' God is the giver of everything and that we should be grateful. O.K.



Tell me, did God give this calf? Did you God? I found it myself, smelled my way there, all the way. Nice calf too, rather thin but it will do. I'll take the head home and make soup with herbs. I especially like 'muthathii, and I see one over there.

Ok. Here we go, where shall I start, this lovely neck: No, I know, I will start with the

'mukwa' then I'll get on to the soft stuff, the tail, the rump, 'Mahu'

After chewing up half of the 'mukwa' the hyena brushed his teeth with the twig of a 'muthiga' a tree to stimulate his appetite. He stepped on the calf's tail, stuffed it in his mouth and 'snap it went. The calf which was only very sick and tired shot up and bolted away in the twinkling of an eye.

The hyena rubbed his eyes, ambled after the disappearing calf and soon fell down in exhaustion. He looked up again to the heaven, tried to speak but no words came. Hyenas have never been able to speak ever since...

Questions:

- a) Categorise this narrative and give a reason for your classification. (2 marks)
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- b) Identify and explain two features of oral narratives evident in this story. (4 marks)
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- c) Describe two character traits of the hyena as depicted in the narrative. (4 marks)
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- d) What do we learn about the community depicted in the narrative above? (2 marks)

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- e) What moral lesson do we learn from this narrative? (2 marks)

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- f) Identify one instance of irony evident in the narrative above. (3 marks)

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- g) Describe the tone in Hyena's utterances (3 marks)

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4. GRAMMAR

(15MARKS)

a) *Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Do not change the meaning.* (4 marks)

- i. You will not take this book under any circumstance. (*Begin: Under...*)

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- ii. do not give in to peer pressure the principal advised her students. (*Punctuate correctly*)

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- iii. That was the first time our MPs voted to impeach a deputy president. (*Begin: Never...*)

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- iv. Were it not for their laziness, they would have done quite well. (*Begin: But....*)

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b) *Fill in each blank space with the most appropriate form of the word in brackets.* (3 marks)

- i. The criminal's behaviour in court appalled the judge. (*scandal*)

- ii. Justine was suspended from his job. His was questionable.

(*sober*)

- iii. She walked on the wet floor. (*caution*)

c) *Fill in each blank space with the most appropriate word(s).* (3 marks)

- i. Massive immigration is a real hot.....for European countries.

- ii. The project had been given funding for another year. But it is not out of

.....yet.

- iii. I don't like Njue because he tried to stab me.....

d) *For each of the following sentences, replace the underlined phrasal verb with one word.*

(3marks)

- i. It is not good to walk out on one's family.

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- ii. I do not like falling out with my siblings.

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- iii. I was taken aback by her snide remarks.

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e) *Fill in each blank space with the most appropriate preposition.*

(2 marks)

- i. The disgruntled members could not agree a common stand.

- ii. It is advisable to pay.....cheque.

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