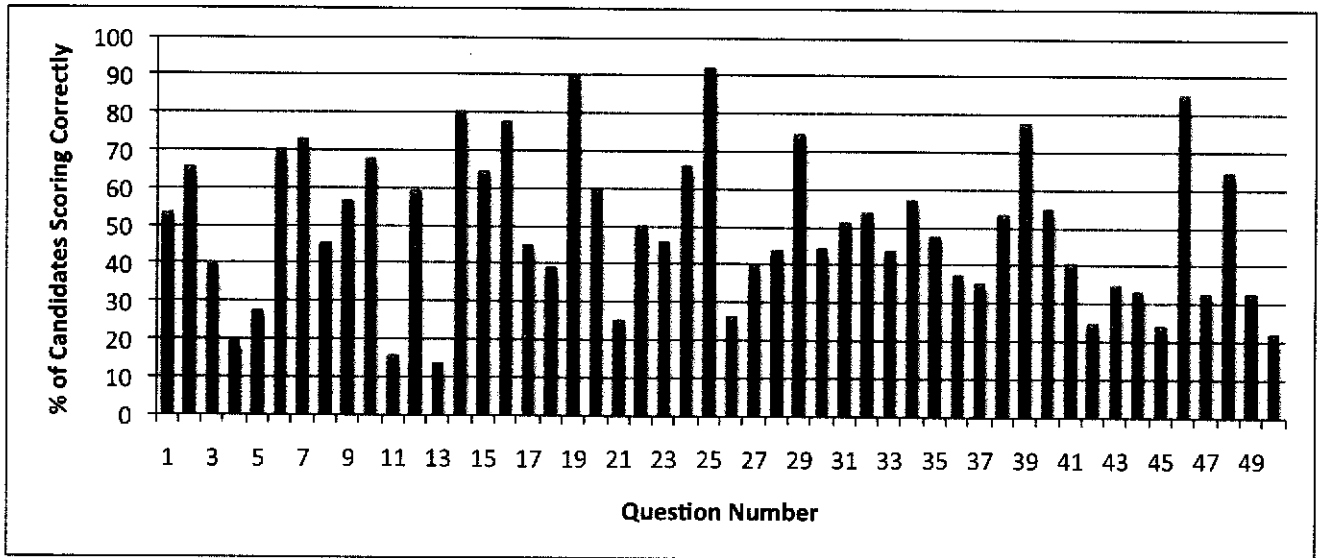


### 3.2 SECTION A: OBJECTIVE PAPER

The percentage mean for the paper improved, shooting past the 2010 level when it was 49.12. In fact, the mean of 49.88 achieved in 2012 approximates the optimum mean of 50.00, which is really commendable.

#### 3.2.1 Analysis of selected items

Figure 2 below shows the pattern of performance per item in the objective paper for a sample of 811,633 candidates (nearly the entire) whose mean was 24.94 (49.88 percentage) with a standard deviation of 6.36.



From Figure 2 above, it can be observed that there were nine (9) questions in the year 2012 KCPE English objective paper in which 30% or less of the candidates scored correctly. These questions, together with the percentage of candidates scoring on them correctly are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6: Questions with a facility index of 30% and below.**

Question Number	4	5	11	13	21	26	42	45	50
% Scoring Correctly	18.97	27.33	15.30	13.44	24.92	26.01	24.51	23.78	21.88

Questions 4, 5, 11 and 13 were based on the cloze passage below. Four out of fifteen items in the cloze passage gave candidates problems.

### Questions 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.

I enjoy doing many things in my free time. But of all of them, I 1 travelling is the best. There are three reasons why this is so.

Firstly, when I travel, I learn many 2 things about the culture of 3 place I am visiting. This is 4 true when I travel to a foreign country, 5 it is also true when travelling in my own country. People often forget 6 there is much variety even within one's own country.

7, I like travelling because I can try 8 food. Eating is one of my favourite activities, so 9 I travel, I try as many different dishes as possible. Some people say they eat to live. 10, I know many others who live to eat although they 11 not admit it. Perhaps I am one of them.

Food is a major part of culture. Therefore, to really experience and understand different cultures, it is 12 to eat the things the people of that culture eat.

The last reason travelling is the best thing to do when I am free is that when I travel, I can 13 all my problems at home. I don't have to think 14 work or school. I can relax and just concentrate on the things that bring 15 to my heart.

#### Question 4

- A. especially      B. so      C. really      D. very

#### Response Pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D
% Choosing the option	18.97	3.79	39.42	36.56
Mean mark in other questions	27.69	21.36	23.83	25.20

This question tested the candidates' ability to choose the best adverb given the context and sense of the argument. Majority of the candidates went for option C which, if used, would fail to bring out the writer's comparative focus on learning about culture in a foreign country as opposed to doing so in his country. Likewise, option D cannot be used for the same reason. Use of option B would result in a sentence that is grammatically questionable. Only option A brings out the intended meaning.

#### Question 5

- A. while      B. still      C. but      D. and

#### Response Pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D
% Choosing the option	14.45	33.15	27.33	23.81
Mean mark in other questions	22.16	25.27	25.33	25.92

This question tested the candidates' ability to choose the best conjunction in the given context. A conjunction of contrast was required. Majority of the candidates went for option B which, besides resulting in an ungrammatical construction, would not give the meaning of contrast intended. Option A is a subordinating conjunction and cannot therefore be used in this co-ordinating clause. Similarly,

option D is a conjunction of addition and cannot be used in this context.

### Question 11

- A. will                      B. could                      C. should                      D. can

### Response Pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D
% Choosing the option	15.30	24.81	13.64	45.08
Mean mark in other questions	24.49	22.75	22.63	27.09

This question tested the use of modal verbs and the shades of meaning they convey. Majority of the candidates went for option D, probably because it is in a tense that would allow a grammatical sentence to result. However, it is semantically unfit as it suggests 'ability' or 'permission'. Option B would result in an ungrammatical sentence. Use of option C in the input sentence suggests 'advisable' and is thus untenable. It is therefore only option A which rightly captures the sense in the input sentence.

### Question 13

- A. forget                      B. leave                      C. keep                      D. abandon

### Response Pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D
% Choosing the option	64.62	13.44	4.25	16.45
Mean mark in other questions	25.56	25.34	19.25	23.87

This question required candidates to choose the best verb from the alternatives given. Majority of the candidates went for option A which, when used in this context, implies that when one is away from home, one forgets (cannot remember) his problems. This is far from the truth. Option C suggests 'storage' while option D is ridden with negativity as it implies 'running away from responsibility', and would therefore counter the intended meaning. Only option B is appropriate.

### Question 21

Karen's father bought her a unique watch.

- A. a beautiful  
B. an interesting  
C. a rare  
D. an expensive

Chapchap then advised the Prince to try the bracelet on the dirt-covered girl in the garden. It fitted her perfectly. The Prince immediately ordered that plans for the wedding commence. Even more colourful was the wedding that followed a few days later. Stasha, against the advice of Chapchap, had invited even her stepmother and stepsisters.

**Question 26**

What made Stasha consider herself very lucky?

- A. She had both parents.
- B. She lacked for nothing.
- C. Her parents were immensely rich.
- D. Her parents spent valuable time with her.

**Response Pattern**

Option	A	B*	C	D
% Choosing the option	17.14	26.01	36.38	19.26
Mean mark in other questions	25.25	26.94	22.65	26.53

This question was based on paragraph one and necessitated that candidates read through all the options, then consider each of them in light of the others. This is because each of them on its own and in the exclusion of the others would apply. However, a closer look will reveal that option B covers all of the other options. Indeed, Stasha lacked nothing: parents, physical and emotional needs. Majority of the candidates went for option C because they fell into the trap of shallow thinking. The same trap caught those who opted for A and D.

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

The pupils of Kimbuni Primary School and the neighbouring community have realized that it is possible to grow a forest even in a dry area.

Ten years ago, Mr. Kumbi was posted to the school to teach Science. The headteacher said that the new teacher was very keen on tree planting and farming. "He will be in charge of the afforestation campaign and he will help us to establish a school farm," the headteacher declared. The pupils stared at the headteacher and Mr. Kumbi in disbelief. What kind of farming could happen in this place which received rain only in November and remained dry and dusty for the rest of the year?

The headteacher was a local resident and he knew what Mr. Kumbi was proposing was not going to be easy. But he promised to co-operate. Mr. Kumbi had received agricultural training in college. He was so enthusiastic and confident that the headteacher admired him.

Today, Mr. Kumbi is the proud patron of the Environmental Club, the Young Farmers' Association and the Green Belt movement in the school. He has inspired such love for growing trees that each pupil in the school has planted at least two trees and is taking care of them. The species include the **exotic** and indigenous ones. The pupils believe that the greenery of the whole compound which has even spread to the surrounding village is entirely the work of Mr. Kumbi. However, Mr. Kumbi emphasizes that it is the efforts of the pupils. At no stage does he give himself the credit that is so obviously his.

The pupils remember the trips Mr. Kumbi used to make in his pick-up truck to get red soil and seedlings. They remember going to collect cow dung from the fields and their homes. Fetching water from the stream was very tiring. Later, the headteacher and the parents organised a fundraising event and the school was able to buy a water pump.

The water pump has enabled the school not only to water the trees but also to grow food crops. Nowadays, pupils of Kimbuni Primary School can boast of a good meal at lunch time and a quiet retreat into the forest they have helped to grow. The school is a big contrast to what it used to be ten years ago when parents had to buy every food item on the menu, draw water and meet the cost of replacing corrugated sheets blown off by the wind.

Kimbuni Primary School is now a model school. It is surrounded by trees and there are lovely plots of potatoes, cabbage, beans, cauliflower and kales. There are also banana groves and small plantations of maize and millet. The school also keeps dairy cows, pigs and poultry. The boys and girls no longer look for manure for they have more than enough. The school is a living example of what determination can do.

**Question 42**

What made Mr. Kumbi succeed in his efforts?

- A. He was determined and interested in everything he did.
- B. He was determined and got support from everybody.
- C. He was an enthusiastic and confident person.
- D. He was an enthusiastic and co-operative person.

**Response Pattern**

Option	A	B*	C	D
% Choosing the option	9.78	24.51	48.57	15.66
Mean mark in other questions	24.98	26.16	25.31	22.19

This question required candidates to read through all the options critically before settling on any of them. In all the options except B, the attributes given have to do with Mr Kumbi solely and nothing is said about the other people who supported him in his endeavours including the head teacher, pupils, parents and neighbours. Majority of the candidates failed to see this and went for option C. However, the brightest went for option B which was the correct response.

**Question 45**

Which of the following **does not** describe Mr. Kumbi's character?

- A. hardworking
- B. influential
- C. humble
- D. proud

### Response Pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*
% Choosing the option	2.98	58.10	13.32	23.78
Mean mark in other questions	17.71	23.95	23.71	29.16

This question required candidates to consider each of the adjectives given in light of what is said about Mr Kumbi in the passage. The candidates were also required to have known the meaning of ‘character’ (a combination of inbuilt traits or qualities that makes someone a particular kind of person). From the passage, it is evident that Mr Kumbi is ‘hardworking’ (as he is able to work tirelessly to transform the school environment), ‘influential’ (as he is able to “inspire such love for growing trees...”), ‘humble’ (because “at no stage does he give himself the credit...”). This is as opposed to being proud as suggested in option D. Majority of the candidates went for option B probably because they did not understand the meaning of the word ‘influential’.

### Question 50

What do you think would be a suitable title for this passage?

- A. Trees in the Desert.
- B. Successful Tree Planting.
- C. Mr. Kumbi and the Trees.
- D. Transformation of Kimbuni.

### Response Pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*
% Choosing the option	13.75	49.87	13.20	21.88
Mean mark in other questions	23.18	24.97	22.15	27.86

This question required candidates to first read through all the options and then reason through each of them, bearing in mind that a title should restate or echo the message that pervades the passage. Majority of the candidates went for option B. However, the passage is not all about tree planting; there is also farming, livestock keeping, environmental management issues, etc. This option, together with options A and C, limit the message of the title to tree planting. Option D is the only one that captures the totality of the passage’s message: the transformation of Kimbuni. The brightest candidates saw this and went for this option.

## SECTION B: COMPOSITION

The paper declined slightly in the percentage mean by 0.04 points from 42.47 in the year 2011 to 42.43 in 2012. The fact that this difference is very small may signify that the candidates related to the topic as readily as they did in 2011. As always, the paper tested the candidates' ability to compose a personal and convincing account. Candidates had to write an account that was grammatically accurate, fluent, interesting and original. Mastery of plot development as well as proficiency in the use of a variety of structures and vocabulary was expected.

### GROUP I: (01 – 10 MARKS)

#### Composition A

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling . . .

I was the will my come been the when my aunt not.  
When my mother see door the will but make your and can to  
Because the will and my mother and make you but to leave.  
The was make when and the sun on I knocked was have it.  
See and the will and make come to leave and but was.  
As ai was have door smiling la was on the my put.  
make have see was.

As have because been the will and my mother the was it  
But will when see door smiling was above you was  
When was but will door see my mother had the come will of  
make like can the was had will for . On the and the  
my mother come was the see as door will what was.  
The was have I was have grow leave had was had.  
When the was been was.

One day will door smiling the make can the but to  
The and was make have will have was my mothe  
But will see have had can was the can the was  
Been can the will see you the as come the  
The was had was the make had can sorry and  
My make all but the was you the was the  
make the was have sorry but the see will the an  
when can the and sun was here can you to

The was can come my mits have will but and you.  
as you can down see smiling not see was have but to.  
Come make like the was have you the was put it is.  
But the could very the was I was have the was the  
I was the can not make like door the will see was us.  
you and can have I was have not was had will have.  
my mothe come some the you all men that we had to.  
He make see have.

As can the see was you been when the was to:  
But see home do door smiling the was it is can been  
door come some the see home same the will the was have  
my mother. come see as door can will I was have you the  
I was have been the and the have see had was  
will when the been make and you when had  
was the I was have was can the you the you  
The can the my mothe you the will the was  
my mothe can the door.



The candidate hardly communicates anything. The language ability is minimal. Candidate, however, is able to shape most letters well, and has learnt a few elementary English words and can spell them correctly: was, the, see, as, have, one, sun, bee, can, you. The candidate's concept of paragraphing is distorted- a line is skipped instead of the conventional indenting.

Mark awarded

02

### Composition B

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

#### A DREAM

When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling. ~~but I did not see anybody to open the door and~~ and that time it was raining heavily. When I was leave the door was still closed. Then after twenty minutes the child run to call me. Then the child didn't see anybody on the road. After I have reach home my aunt call a phone for her friend. Some go wrong with her.

I just wait for her about ten minutes for her to come. I realize that she have sleep for a long time because she was sick for one week and she have not see a doctor for treatment. Then she said where is your mother? She went to the market to buy things. Tomorrow she have visitors from Nairobi and then she much cooks for them. Mr. kuria

came to greet her because they have say for a long time without see one another and they have one years without meeting anywhere.

That time my mother came to know what was her sister was doing for that time and to ask her weather she will come to greet visitors.

But I want to tell one thing that I like my side I like doing different works so that I can able to move anywhere so that when I sit down I sit once's because I have a leg that distabu me when I wole up for a long time

without sitting. My doctor told me that when I sand for twenty minutes, I can get sick easer and that why I like doing differenci with what I do

One day I was envaited. somewhere I want I found that it was about twenty kilometres from home and where you are going no car, bus or motobeky to traner with it. The road was too bad to pass on it. The dark you can not see anybody on the another side. After two week it was rain for two week. These two weeks we have crained foot up to school. And from Home to School is about five kilometres and the headteacher of our school told by Seven you much be here. When you meet him betta you go back home because he will going to panishe you hoevery.

The candidate still fails to communicate much. The concepts of tense, aspect and number are warped. Few phrases recognizable as English. The candidate, for example, writes: "when I was leave the door", "for her to came", "she have sleep", "tomorrow she have visitors" etc. Mother tongue influence is also evident: "call a phone", "I have a leg that distabu me", "where you are going no car", "we have arrived foot up to school". Spelling of words is bad: "makter" (*market*), "heavery" (*heavily*), "great" (*greet*), "motobaeky" (*motorbike*), "panishe" (*punish*), "envited" (*invited*), "mothe" (*mother*), "siting" (*sitting*).

Mark awarded 03

### Composition C

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling . . .

#### THE DAY I WILL LIVE TO REMEMBER

When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling. I will not happy when I saw with the door. I had to say something about my aunt. Why are you do such thing like that. When I going they welcome to my home and that to preparing a tea.

On that day, as he preparing to come home. My aunt had told me you are not went up to the next week. Then I am suggest and I am agree to stay with my aunt. On the next two week my mother she had talk to aunt and that time I am not want to come home when I catch up then aunt told me your mother want to meet at home.

Whe the second week we had  
to come home whe I sleep at night  
I tream with my aunt When I will  
going home I forget when the sun  
has herafe I wouk up then I priparing  
my clothes then aunt if you are going  
you are old vist. When I start  
to went at home. when at last minutes  
and yet I had to come to my home  
all my home family has welcome me.

The candidate's ability to communicate is still limited. The spelling is terrible: "dey" (*day*), "priparing" (*preparing*), "wouk up" (*woke up*), "sagest" (*suggest*), "sach" (*such*), "talk" (*talk*), "cach" (*talk*), "sleap" (*sleep*), "remembar" (*remember*). The concepts of tense, aspect and number are awfully handled: "preparing a tea", "to came", "I will going home" etc.

Mark awarded 06

## Composition D

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling . . .

I asked her why she was so happy that morning. She told me that my father had asked her to tell us to get ready for a trip to a game park.

I rushed up stairs and woke my brothers up and told them that we have to get ready for a trip to a game park. They wake up and we rushed to the bathrooms to have a shower and be ready. After I had a shower I rushed to my room and got dressed. I wore my black suit with black shoes well polished and shining like gold.

I ran at a super sonic speed. Within a fraction of a minute I was waiting for them to come down stairs so that we could have a short prayer a start of the journey.

After every thing was ready we got into the car and kicked off the journey. I was as sober as a judge and as happy as a king. On the way we met an accident where by a lorry had slid face to face with a motorcyclist. An ambulance arrived and rushed them to hospital.

Within two strokes of a lamb's tail we were at the park. At the park it was jungle green and water at the swimming pool was sky blue. I saw some strange animals and birds that I could not believe my eyes. Some of them had some biography that I

gazed when reading the words which were  
written on the paper about their history.  
Some animals such as snakes and  
Lions made me tremble in fear till we went home  
but on the way back home I was alive and  
kicking with a lot of knowledge about animals and  
joy in my heart. I wished to visit that place once  
more.

I will never forget that day until  
Satan is proved a faithful Christian and borned  
again of water and holy spirit.

The candidate communicates with difficulty. Spelling mistakes pervade the composition: "minet" (*minute*), "redy" (*ready*), "starce" (*stairs*), "here" (*her*), "belive" (*believe*), "writen" (*written*), "jauney" (*journey*), "shawore" (*shower*), "ckiking" (*kicking*), "abought" (*about*), "knowleg" (*knowledge*), "tramble" (*trouble*), "lorey" (*lorry*), "super sonic" (*supersonic*). The first person singular pronoun 'I' is written as "i". The candidate writes "borned again" instead of 'born again'. Mother tongue influence is also noticeable: "met an accident", "Lorey collided face to face with matatu". All these mistakes make this composition distasteful and deny the candidate marks.

Mark awarded 10

GROUP II: (11 - 20 MARKS)

Composition E

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

**MY AUNT'S HOUSE**  
When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling...

and I realised that she was at the kitchen. Because she was smiling like that he was eating something so good and when I was at the way going back my aunt told me that I didn't heard that you knocked the door because of the loud of the television.

When she told me that she told me to come in and when I have just set down I was surprised with what I saw with my necked eyes.

When I drobed my eye side way to the kitchen I saw very many thing and I was just sitting on the sitting room. I saw a berishable food and I was thinging that there will be some visitors who will come to my aunt's house. Moreover I was sitting on the chair wich was like a spring an I was surprised because I had never get into that house before and when I have just asked

What I was going to bring home, my aunt told me if I would like to join him on the table I didn't refused because I was so angry and I had not eaten anything because I was coming far away.

When we were on the table my aunt told me his story of his life and when her husband died he became to stay allon and enjoying him self. And when she had told ma all the story of her life. And she was allon in her house nobody who will talk with her, because she did not have even a child.

When I have finished eating I told her that I will go home and I will come back when I finished my test and stay here with you. When I reached home I told my Parents that I want to go to my aunt's house to stay with him, when I finished my test.

When I have finished my test I come to my aunt's house and I stay with him forever and my aunt was very happy with me.

One can guess what the candidate wished to communicate. The candidate's attempt to communicate well is hampered by multiple errors of spelling, tense and sentence structure. Such forms as "kichen" (*kitchen*), "suprised" (*surprised*), "necked" (*naked*), "thinging" (*thinking*), "berishable" (*perishable*) and "the chair which was like a spring..." indicate mother tongue influence. The candidate writes: "I didn't heard" (*I didn't hear*), "...told me to came" (*...told me to come*). This indicates a tense problem. The present and past tenses are mixed up in the composition and the result is awful. The aunt is referred to severally using the masculine gender pronouns (he/him). With some assistance from the English teacher, this candidate could be enabled to communicate better.

Mark awarded

12



## Composition F

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

A JOURNEY TO LICKON  
When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling ... She hugged me and I was very happy

to see her being as happy as a king.

As we entered the room, we found my felocolits being seated on a sofa set discussing about how the day was going to be. When they saw me with my aunt holding as if I was a president who has being visited a foreign country.

After the greetings, all my cousins stood up and walked towards their bedroom. As she came out, I could not tell if they were the one. They had dressed to kill. We took our breakfast and started our journey to lickon.

I was to enjoy their journey. There was no otherways. My mother had told me, not to come back late. I started thinking when I will go to lickon I will be late. I was not able to refuse. He just went.

late in the afternoon, now I was supposed

to get back and the people who I had gone with them, they had got in cold water bodies. As I was standing there waiting for them, I heard a loud bang coming from the west.

I looked the side. I saw people running holding their faces. I was not able to know what was happening. Even my friends had run away. That is when I knew that never judge a book by its cover. I was knowing that my friends cannot leave me back. I ran as if I had some feathers I would have flown away.

Without knowing where I was going I met two gigantic men walking majestically without knowing what had happened. I asked them the way to Kamae where I used to live. They showed me a short cut. I came to realise that all short-cuts are not the best.

Oh! my God. I found a woman who had suffered from HIV/AIDS. I could

not tell. She was like a skeleton.  
I started running back. last I  
found myself on a small path  
towards our house. Since that day  
I said I will never with  
unbelievable people once again

The reader starts by wondering if the name "LICKON" in the title is a misspelling for 'LIKONI'. What follows is an account which flows alright, but communication is hampered by the presence of errors. There are misspelt words: "huged" (*hugged*), "discusing" (*discussing*), "greedings" (*greetings*), "otherways" (*otherwise*), "lound" (*loud*), "their" (*there*), "soffa" (*sofa*), "short cart" (*short cut*). There are also issues of tense and sentence structure, though these are not as bad as we have seen in the previous compositions. The skipping of a line instead of indenting to begin a new paragraph is also notable.

Mark awarded

15

## Composition G

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

### TIT FOR TAT IS A FAIR GAME

When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling . . .

It was a Sunday when the day was ending and the darkness was there. I knocked the door then nobody respond. I went back two steps. My aunt opened the when smiling as a bride, I march into the house when making slow but sure steps. I sat on the sofa set comfortably. My aunt asked me "where are you from?" I told him please wait a minute.

I told my aunt their were some thieves there in our are very tuff so there is a day they came, when we watching television in the house. Then they come and take our cattle; We are also want them to be crussified because if you make bad things people also can done for you, the white people said that tit for tat is a fair game.

After some few minutes my cousin brought for me tea, I drank the tea then I went to the bed. Before i got a sleep i through my prayer to the creator. Then the big rain started falling down seriously. When I went out to short call i saw something like a person's head, jets of blood ran into the heart and the hair stand straight as a candle. I tried

to call him he was speechless as a stone.

I got back into the house to get the arrow then I throw it on him then the man was coming where I was I started making noise wuuu! wuuu! wuuu! I am about to be killed by this giant, as if it was Goliath's some came and saw him, my aunt came out with hot water then poured on him. The giant ran away.

Then we rush in the house to sleep after thirty minutes the cock started crowing guu guu then I took my watch to know what is the time. The day broke in then I wake up to wash my face, otherwise I told my aunt goodbye I am going back home.

When I arrived home I got those thieves are being beaten correctly, I went to the house and get a car battery then I poured that acid to the bucket then I gave them two straws to take the acid, that men drank then they started crying like small infants I laugh till I fall down the men started fainting, we said that is not a good punishment, we started skinning them, and one of them said don't skin me please lest to me also. I want you to cut off my buttocks and put salt I said please my father leave them to go

and bring those cows here now. They went running when crying "mamayanguuuu uuuhul wail In a spur of a moment we saw our cows and goats coming back home. We gave those either or good people ugali to eat my father gave them everybody fifty cent to go and buy medicine of seven to a hundred and to treat their bodies well, their is a woman passing by the road here 50 cent she laugh that funs.

The candidate communicates almost fully though the language is strained. The candidate defies the instruction to begin with the given sentences. The masculine pronoun 'him' is used erroneously to substitute 'my aunt'. The first person pronoun 'I' appears as 'i'. Errors of tense and agreement are still evident. Spelling continues to be a problem: "tuff" (*tough*), "crussified" (*crucified*), "lesten" (*listen*), "their" (*there*), "laght" (*laughed*). Punctuation is still a challenge, even the use of the full stop! Prepositions are also wrongly used: 'brought for me tea', "I went out to short call" "then we rush in the house", "poured acid to the bucket", "I throw it on him". Mother tongue influence is also evident: "the big rain started falling down seriously", "the hair stand straight", "I got those thieves are beaten correctly", "they stand crying like small infants", "my father gave them everybody fifty cents".

Marks awarded 20

GROUP III: (21 - 30 MARKS)

Composition H

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling...

WHAT A DAY!  
at me. Our eyes locked. My aunt hugged with a lot of happiness but I was not that happy because my parents had frustrated me and they had even chased me away. After my aunt had finished to give me something to eat I heard another knock on the door. I was shocked believing it was my father who was knocking at the door.

I went slowly and quietly I removed the window curtain and peeped through it and saw surely it was him. I went and opened the door. Immediately when I opened the door our eyes locked looking as red as beetroot.

When he entered the house he did not even greet us but he threw me on the ground. I had an excruciating pain settling down my left leg. I was shocked because I had not seen my father with such a bad temper. My aunt tried to stop him from beating me but her effort bore no fruits.

I wondered why was my father doing such a thing to me. Within a twinkling of an eye he removed a daily newspaper into his jacket pocket and I was shocked to see my friend Peter and I on the first page singing and dancing like insane people.

Seated there I wished the ground could open and swallow me alive. I was in sixties and

Sevens trying to recall that day. Surely I was ashamed. Vividly I remembered it was the day that my parents had gone to visit my cousin who lives in Nairobi. They were to stay there for one week. Before going they had told me to remain home for me to revise for my K.C.P.E exams.

Immediately when they departed I heard the shuffling of feet outside and within some few minutes I heard a knock. When I opened the door it was my friend Peter. He had two passports his and mine.

After welcoming him he asked me why I had not prepared myself. I told him what I had been told by parent but he soothed me very much.

I went up stairs and wore my funny clothes and immediately when I finished we went in the car and Peter drove down the discotheque. When we reached at the main gate of the disco music was booming all around.

We went inside and we started singing and dancing. Peter took me photos without knowing and that why I was in the newspaper. I came to realize Peter was "a wolf in sheep's clothing." From that day I learnt a lesson, "look before you act."

That thing will remain in my memory until the day I will be closed using a padlock.

This is quite a readable script. The candidate is relatively at ease with language. However, errors of tense, wrong spelling and carelessness still stand in the way of effective communication: "huged" (*hugged*), "franstrated" (*frustrated*), "quitely" (*quietly*), "up stairs" (*upstairs*). We, however, notice great improvement in the use of the English idiom and vocabulary; e.g. "looking as red as beetroot", "excruciating pain", "twinkle of an eye", "in sixes and sevens" etc. Candidate displays good command of structures and is fully in charge of plot development.

Marks awarded 22



## Composition I

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

A GOOD DAY TURNS BAD!  
When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling. She welcomed me warmly. When I entered that room, I could not believe my eyes when I saw the changes that had taken place there inside. Some of the changes included the computer inside and a television set. These were changes because I had not left them before.

I had gone there to celebrate a birthday party of my aunt's elder daughter. I found a cake on the table. The table was laid very well. My cousins were very happy when they saw me.

For the first time that day we had to tell stories. I was as happy as a sand boy. My cousins promised to take me to a swimming pool. I told them I had no any experience in swimming. They promised to show me how to swim but I rejected. I knew I would sink and maybe succumb for nothing.

I left that place and went back in their home ready to go back in my home. When we reached at their home my aunt had to give

me my bag and go home. She gave me a thousand shilling note as a gift. I was very pleased with her. I took my bag and started going back home. I thought I would reach home safe and sound but I was mistaken. I realised I was mistaken when I boarded the wrong matatu. That matatu had many queer people that did peculiar things. I came to learn they were murderers when I saw guns, knives and many other things. They were armed to the teeth. More so they were men only.

One man started greeting me but I somehow kept quiet. He called my name I thought he knew me. I thought he would be a good samaritan but I was wrong. That man was sportlessly clean. His shirt and trouser was ironed to an extent it could divide a housefly into two parts.

That sportlessly clean man asked me whence I came but I led a garden path. All that glitters is not gold. I noted this when that man removed a knife in his pocket ready

to attack me. I thought that man may be out of his sorts so I called my fellow passangers to help me. Instead, they were all laughing. I started screaming for help. This was a few minutes before the matatu left the station.

We were not out of the town. There were many people in front of where the matatu was heading. I thought they would help but they didn't. The matatu driver increased the haste. The people got out of the way when they saw that I was now expecting to succumb but I didn't.

I got out through the window. Upto now I does not visit my aunt. Dnce bitten twice shy. I learnt a lesson the hard way.

The candidate is able to communicate successfully in spite of the obvious errors of spelling and sentence structure: "enterd" (*entered*), "quer", (*queer*), "knifes", (*knives*), "passangers", (*passengers*), "no any experience", "...went back in the house", "I does not know", "removed a knife in his pocket". Nevertheless, the candidate's command of language is apt.

Marks awarded 25

## Composition J

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling. . .

I was surprised to see her for I expected to find no one in there. My heart melted with joy <sup>because of</sup> the smile she gave me. I was a little nervous. She welcomed me with opened arms. She then escorted me to the sitting room.

I was surprised to find my kins who were smiling at me. When I sat down, I started greeting them. They were staring to me like the statue of King Nebuchadnezzar. I was confused like a chameleon on a busy highway. I started stammering as I talked to them.

They started laughing at me. They started murmuring to each other. That's the time I wished the <sup>ground</sup> would open up and swallow me. Soon they decided to tell me what it was all about. My cousin Mburu was the top candidate in the county. That made me to feel very good but I was <sup>not</sup> very happy with the news that he had triumphed over me.

I decided that I would help them in the event that her would hold in the house. My aunt started cleaning the house. She started cleaning the dishes and arranging the sitting room. She sent us to the shop <sup>to</sup> do the shopping. The menu was very large that we could not stick it to our heads, so she decided to write on a paper. When got into the market we squeezed our thing in our

Shopping bag. I was as happy as King and impatient as a lover <sup>to see the party.</sup> We went back into the house with a lot of stuff.

When we arrived there, I saw a crowd of people sing and dancing vigorously. I was <sup>as</sup> eager as a bridegroom <sup>to get there.</sup> We then went into the house. We gave my aunt the thing and we sat in the sitting room. As we were talking, the crowd entered the room. They lifted my cousin Mburu up and went around the room.

My aunt came and called some women and asked them to assist her in preparing the meal. They went and started their work. The villager then sat at the sofa set and stopped singing. I then took Mburu to his bedroom. I asked him what was the secret behind his success. He decided to let the cat out of the bag. He told me that when he gets a question paper he prays and then opens the paper for he believed that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

He then said that when he is reading a question he reads thrice. First, is to get the question. Secondly, is getting the hidden meaning. Thirdly, is to get the way to answer the question. I was very happy that he decided to tell me the secret. In a spur of a moment, we heard my aunt calling us for the meal.

I was very hungry but I did not

admit it. We <sup>finished</sup> soon eat and drinking. Soon we  
~~we~~ went to our respective homes.

This candidate is able to take control of the story's plot and propel it with ease. However, we still see errors of spelling and structure: "suprised" (*surprised*), "stumuring" (*stammering*), "very large that ..." (*so large that...*), "staring to me", (*...at ...*), "people *sing* and dancing" (*... singing...*). These errors, however, do not conceal the fact that the candidate is apt in the execution of the plot and the use of the English idiom.

Marks awarded 28

**GROUP IV: (31 - 40 MARKS)**

**Composition K**

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

**A DAY TO COMMEMORATE.**

*Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.*

When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling . . .

broadly expressing her white egg-shell teeth. We exchanged greetings and she welcomed me into the house. My cousins were busy watching cartoons. My main reason for coming to her house was because my mother had sent me here. Everyone looked extremely happy.

My mother had told me that my aunt would give me a message to take it to her. I longed to know what this message was all about but to no avail. My cousins looked at me sternly and I could tell there was something they were hiding from me.

In a split of a second, my aunt had already served lunch. Everyone sat down to enjoy the mouth-watering delicacy. I gobbled down the scrumptious meal like a hungry wolf. I could not take it anymore. Everyone was acting strangely. The smiles on their faces expressed incredulous unknown joy to me.

My anxiety to know the reason of all this happiness tortured me. Whenever I looked at my aunt she smiled broadly. Her pacific blue eyes explained it all she was in the best moods that day. I decided to ask her what all this was all about and she said "wait niece be patient"

you will soon know." I followed her advice since I knew the henchmen carried the nail on the head when they adged patience pays.

I relaxed for a moment, but my suspense could not keep me at peace. I wondered in great curiosity what they were hiding from me and why? In a thrush of a duck's tail, there was a knock at the door. My aunt ran to open and what I saw almost made my eyes pop out of their respective sockets.

At the door stood my parents and siblings all dressed to kill. They entered singing "happy birthday Lucy." Oh no! I had forgotten that it was my birthday. Ripples of joy filled my heart as I knew there was someone who cared and thought of my welfare.

My aunt served them food as they presented the gifts. My mother gave me a dress which was as blue as forget-me-nots. Tingles of excitement overwhelmed me as we celebrated this important day. I thanked the Lord Almighty for giving me a loving family. My father gave <sup>me</sup> what I had longed for all my life a bicycle! I was overwhelmed with electrical excitement. I thanked them all for formulating such a good plan to surprise me.

Surely it was a day to be



packed well on the shelves of my memory. That day will remain in my memory like an like a crucifix on an Archbishop's neck.

The candidate displays considerable enthusiasm and ambition in writing the composition. The story is well executed, the few mistakes of punctuation and spelling notwithstanding. The suspense created makes the reader want to read on and on. The English idiom is well used to the candidate's advantage.

Marks awarded 33

### Composition L

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

Below is the beginning of a story. Write and complete the story. Make your story as interesting as you can.

When I knocked on the door, nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling . . .

### ACROSS THE BRIDGE.

When I knocked on the door nobody opened immediately. I was just about to leave when my aunt came to the door smiling. It was no doubt she was exuberant and in a king's mood. I could not figure out the cause of her exuberance but I was equally curious.

Ever since I moved in and stayed in my aunt's house, life has been a hell here on earth. We lived from hand to mouth, life for us was a hard nut to crack. I abhorred the fact that all my allys were well of while I was a languishing pauper.

My aunt started humming a tune which she rarely did an inkling that she was in seventh

heaven. "Job. I have found a job." she finally blurted out. I was utterly bewildered since fortune seemed to have knocked on our door. I also had a job, too ashamed to reveal it, I was an eminent drug trafficker.

It all started when I met Sam, my ally, or so I thought. We were birds of a feather and we enjoyed each other's company. He was well off and that was what attracted me most to him. Sam was ugly only deserving a mother's natural love.

His character and personality was pathetic. I had to swallow the bitter pill and at least earn a living.

He not only introduced me to drugs but also made me a drug trafficker. As long as I got money I cared the less about any possible danger.

My life changed drastically. My apparels were designer labels and my posh cars were nothing compared to my mansions. I met manifolds of personalities. I mingled with the high and mighty and I felt worthy everytime I was with the cream of creation. Life seemed too good to be true.

I had finally crossed the bridge, not just an ordinary bridge, but the gap between a nobody and somebody.

I contributed the lion's share in providing the basic needs in my aunt's home. I prefer not telling my aunt where I get the money. She is egoscentric and maybe she may ruin my life again.

"I will be a waiter," she finally said. I smiled sheepishly, only hoping that destiny will once again rescue my foolish actions. Whatever the case, I had crossed the bridge.

Through careful use of language in its entirety, the candidate is able to take the reader through a twist of fate. It is not revealed to the reader what the narrator does till the bombshell is dropped. The reader is left thinking hard about the reality of poverty, unemployment and drug trafficking. We, however, still notice a few errors of tense and spelling (e.g. "egoscentric"- *egocentric*, "well of" - *well off*), but these do not hinder the flow.

Marks awarded 36