NAME …………………………………………………..

Index No …………………… Class …………………… Date……………………….

ENGLISH PP2 (comprehension, literary Appreciation and Grammar)

Trial 2 Exam

Time: 2 ½ hrs.

**Instructions**

**Answer all the questions in this question in this question paper**

**All your answers must be written in the spaces provided in this question paper**.

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

Of all the three kinds of work my father did, none fascinated me so much as his skill with gold. No other occupation was so noble; no other needed such a delicate touch. Moreover, this sort of work was always a kind of festival; it was a real festival that broke the monotony of ordinary working days…….

First, my father took up his scales and weighed the grains of gold. Then he took the clay pot that was kept especially for smelting gold and poured in the grains. He covered the grains with powdered charcoal, a special charcoal that he made himself; finally, he placed a large lump of the same kind of charcoal over the whole thing.

At a sign from my father, the apprentices started working the two pairs of sheep –skin bellows, which were placed on the ground at each side of the fireplace and connected to it by clay pipes. These apprentices remained seated with crossed legs in front of the bellows all the time. For a whole hour, they were both working the levers on top of the bellows till the fire leapt into flames.

Immediately all work more or less stopped in the workshop; while gold is being smelted, and while it is cooling, all work with copper or aluminum is supposed to stop, for fear that some small piece of these less valuable metals might fall into gold. It is only steel that can still be worked at such times. But workmen who had some steel work in hand usually either hurried to finish it or openly stopped work to join the other apprentices gathered around the **forge**. Sometimes, feeling that he had too little room to work in, my father made his apprentices stand well away from him. He raised his hand in a simple gesture; at that particular moment, he never said a word, and no one said a word. No one was allowed to say a word; the silence was broken only by the panting of the bellows and by the faint hissing of the gold. But though my father never used to say the actual words at this time, l know that he was saying them in his mind. I could see it by his lips that kept moving while he bent over the pot, stirring the gold and charcoal with a bit of wood that kept bursting into flame, so had to be constantly replaced by a fresh bit.

When finally the gold began to melt, I felt like shouting, and perhaps we would all have shouted if we had not been forbidden to make a sound. I was trembling, and certainly everyone else was trembling as we sat watching my fathers stirring the mixture. It was still a heavy paste in which the charcoal was gradually being burnt up. The next stage followed swiftly, the gold became; the gold became liquid, like water. ‘Bring me the brick!’ My father said, thus **lifting the ban** that until then had kept us silent. The brick which an apprentice placed beside the fire, was hollowed out, and generously greased with butter. My father took the pot off the fire and tilted it carefully and I watched the gold flowing into the brick- flowing like liquid fire. It was only a very small trickle of fire, but oh, how vivid it was, how brilliant! As gold flowed into the brick, the grease sputtered and gave off thick smoke that caught in the throat and **stung** the eyes leaving us all weeping and coughing.

When the gold had cooled in the hollow of the brick, my father began to hammer and stretch it. This was the moment when his work as a goldsmith really began. I noticed that before starting to work on it, he always stroked the little snake that was coiled up under the sheepskins on which he sat. I think that this was his way of gathering strength for what remained to be done, the part which was the most difficult.

My mother did not like my father to work with gold. She knew how harmful it can be. A jeweler can wear his lungs out, puffing at his eyes suffer from being so close to the intense heat of the fire.

a) Why did all work copper and aluminium stop in the workshop while gold was being smelted? (2mks)

b) What were the bellows used for? (2mks)

c.) What rule did all the workers in the workshop observe? (2mks)

d) Why did the workers who were using steel usually stop work while gold was being smelted. (2mks)

e) Mention the hazards associated with gold smelting as indicated in the passage. (2mks)

f) Make notes on how gold was smelted in the writer’s father’s workshop. (4mks)

g) Identify one character trait of the author and illustrate. (2mks)

h) Explain the meanings of the following words and phrases as used in the passage. (3mks)

i. Forge

ii. Lifting the ban

iii. Stung

iv. Hammer

**2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

“Joshua’s daughter? Joshua’s daughter!”

The thing seemed incredible. He had known Muthoni when she was small. He could remember the day he and Kinuthia and Kamau had Muthoni scream with terror when they had ambushed her at Honia. Waiyaki had pleasure which had later turned to shame. It was no bravery frightening girls, he thought. Later, his mother had beaten him after discovering he had taken part. Fortunately, the matter was hushed up between the woman and Chege and Joshua never came to know of it.

And now, here she was. Waiyaki had seen Joshua a number of times, both in Makuyu and at Siriana. He had heard of his strictness in matters of concerning life. How could she have come here? Perhaps she had run away. Lots of girls have done it. At least that is what he had been told by boys who had come from ‘beyond’, where missions had long been established. The same night, Waiyaki had sought out Kinuthia. Kinuthia too was a candidate for initiation.

“You surprise me”, Kinuthia had laughed at him. “Haven’t you heard that she has run away?”

The idea that she had actually run away, actually rebelled against authority, somehow shocked him. He himself would not have dared to disobey Chege. At least he could not see himself doing so.

So tonight Waiyaki knew that Muthoni had actually run away. Her aunt, living in Kameno, was going to take charge of her. In some villages, people could not believe this. They said that Joshua had a hand in it, probably to appease the gods of the outranged hills. Was it not known that Joshua took beer secretly? Strangely, nobody had ever seen him drinking. But they said they knew.

The dance was being held in an open –air place in Kameno. Whistles, horns, broken tins and anything else that was handy were taken and beaten to the rhythm of the song and dance. Everybody went into a frenzy of excitement. Old and young women and children, all were losing themselves in the magic motion of the dance. Men shrieked and shouted and jumped into the air as they went round in a circle. For them, this was the moment. This was the time. Women stripped to the waist, with their thin breasts flapping on their chests, went round and round the big fire, swinging their hips and contorting their bodies in all sorts of provocative ways, but always keeping the rhythm.

They were free. Age and youth had become reconciled for this one night. And you could sing about anything and talk of the hidden parts of men and women without feeling you had violated the otherwise strong social code that governed people’s relationships, especially the relationship between young and old, man and woman. Waiyaki still felt uneasy. Something prevented him from losing himself in this frenzy. Was it because of Muthoni? He wondered what Livingstone would say if he found him or if je saw the chaos created by locked emotions let loose. And the words spoken! Even Waiyaki was slightly embarrassed by this talk of forbidden things. Perhaps this was a social taboo. Of course Waiyaki knew that nothing bad would happen in spite of the talk. It was actually a taboo to go with a woman on such an occasion.

a) Place the extract in its immediate context. (2mks)

b) Identify two thematic concerns evident in the passage and illustrate. (4mks)

c) Explain the use of irony in the passage (2mks)

d) Identify an instance of literal translation in the passage. (1mk)

e) Identify and illustrate character traits of the following characters as portrayed in the extract. (6mks)

i. Waiyaki

ii. Muthoni

iii.Joshua

f) Even Waiyaki was slightly embarrassed by this talk of forbidden things (Rewrite into active voice) (1mk)

g) Why was Waiyaki shocked when he saw Muthoni? (1mk)

h) Making reference to sections outside this extract, explain why Muthoni felt she had to undergo the rite. (2mks)

i) Waiyaki still felt uneasy. (add a question tag) (1mk)

j) Who is Livingstone? How is he related to Waiyaki? (2mks)

k) Explain the following words and phrases as used in the passage. (4mks)

i. Joshua had a hand in it

ii. Appease

iii. Violated

iv. Become reconciled

**3. Read the following passage and then answer the questions that follow.**

Long ago the sky was close to the Earth. Men and women did not have to plant their own food. Instead, when they were hungry, they just reached up and broke off a piece of the sky to eat. Sometimes the sky tasted like ripe bananas. Other times it tasted like roasted potatoes. The sky was always delicious.

People spent their time making beautiful cloth. They painted beautiful pictures and sang songs at night. The grand king, Oba, had a wonderful palace. His servants made beautiful shapes out of pieces of sky.

Many people in the kingdom did not use the gift of the sky wisely. When they took more than they could eat, the sky became angry. Some people threw the extra pieces into the garbage.

Early one morning the angry sky turned dark. Black clouds hung over the land, and a great sky voice said to all the people,” You are wasting my gift of food. Do not take more than you can eat. I don’t want to see pieces of me in the garbage anymore or I will take my gift away.”

The king and the people trembled with fear. King Oba said, “Let’s be careful about how much food we take.” For a long time, all the people were careful.

But one man named Adami wasn’t careful. At festival time, he took so many delicious pieces of the sky that he couldn’t eat them all. He knew he must not throw them away.

He tried to give the pieces to his wife. “Here, wife,” Adami said. ‘You eat the rest.”

“I can’t,”Adami’s wife said. “I’m too full.”

Adami asked all his children to help him eat the delicious pieces of sky, but the children couldn’t eat one more bite. So Adami decided to try to hide the pieces at the bottom of the garbage pile.

Suddenly, the sky became angry and the clouds turned black. “You have wasted my gift of food again,” yelled the sky. “This time I will go away so you cannot waste me anymore.”

All of the people cried, “What will we eat? We might starve!”

The sky said, “You will have to learn how to plant crops in the ground and hunt in the forests. If you work hard, you may learn not to waste the gifts of nature.”

Everyone watched as the sky sailed away. From that time on, they worked hard to grow their food and cook their meals. They always tried to remember not to waste the gifts of nature.

a) What kind of oral narrative is this? Support your answer. (2mks)

b) What features of oral narratives are evident in this story? (2mks)

c) Identify and illustrate Adami’s character traits. (4mks)

d) According to the folktale, why does the sky become angry with the villagers? (1mk)

e) What moral lesson does the sky want them to learn? (1mk)

f) Identify one political activity and illustrate. (2mks)

g) Identify two economic activities of the community and illustrate. (4mks)

h) According to the folktale, what happens when Adami cannot finish all of the food he has taken? (1mk)

i) Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the passage (2mks)

i. Slouched

ii. Critical

**4. a) Rewrite the following sentences according to instructions given each. Do not change the meaning. (3mks)**

i) Hellen gestured disapprovingly at us. She crossed the road in a huff. (Combine into one sentence using a participle phrase)

ii) The officers went in and the protestors ran away. (Rewrite to begin with In……….. and end in ….protestors.)

iii) If you see him before noon, let him realize that all is not lost. (Begin: should….)

**b) Complete the following sentences using appropriate connectors (3mks)**

i. The legislators refused to approve the names forwarded by the principals. --------------------------, the process of constitution implementation was delayed unnecessarily.

ii. I did not have enough time to prepare the tennis team………………………… , we managed to retain the championship title.

iii. The new parents expected to pay the fees in full. ………………….. , only four did so.

**c) Rewrite the following sentences by replacing the underlined words with phrasal verbs with a similar. (3mks)**

i. He refused to **resign** even after he was prevailed upon by the president.

ii. This issue **appeared** **unexpectedly** in the meeting last evening.

iii. Shalom is unwilling to **accept** the position her uncle offered her in the new firm.

**d) Choose the correct pronoun in each case. (3mks)**

i. This matter is between you and …………………………….. I/ me.

ii. The chairman gave Osogo and ………………………… I/ me another chance to explain our findings.

iii. You and ……………………………. She/her can now prepare to appear before the board.

**e) Complete the following sentences with the correct verb. (3mks)**

i. Either the legislators or the speaker ………………………….. was/ were to blame for the stalemate.

ii. The number of politicians interested in the new positions …………………………….. is /are overwhelming.

iii. The news filtering from the warfront …………………….. is/ are very encouraging.