

SECTION A

1. Your school participated in an inter-school sports festival recently. As the Sports Prefect, write a report on the event for your school.
2. There have been several articles in the national newspapers on the lack of maintenance of public facilities. Write a letter to the editor of one of the newspapers expressing your opinion on the matter.
3. Your friend who resides in another country wants to study in your school and has written for information and advice. Write a letter to him, telling him all that he needs to know about the school.
4. Write an article suitable for publication in your school magazine on the need to revive the activities of clubs and societies in schools.
5. Write a story to illustrate the saying: *Half a loaf is better than none.*

SECTION B

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions on it.

It was a cold windy Monday morning just before dawn. A frail old woman who could barely see beyond a few metres ahead, of her - an early septuagenarian - braved all the odds and stepped out onto the dirt road in the village of Koomla. For her, today's duty had to be done even if it meant further risking her delicate health. "What would I not do for Koku to amount to something in this life that has given me nothing but woes?" Mma Koku thought to herself.

And so, despite the ominous signs from the sky, and wearing just a threadbare sweater over an equally aged wrapper, she forged ahead, daring the draught of air that was threatening to topple her. Luckily, the sand ground was still largely undisturbed owing to the dew, so she didn't have to contend with fending off particles from her often rheumy eyes.

"Come what may," Mma Koku assured herself as her left foot plonked into a muddy pothole she hadn't seen in time, "today I shall see The Pathfinder, before he leaves for the city." Her destination was still about nine kilometres away. At home. The Pathfinder, a respected middle-aged university teacher - the very first person to earn the highest postgraduate degree from the village of Koomla - had just roused himself from dreamland. In the dream, a figure in white had told him he owed an obligation to the old woman. She was on her way to give him a parcel for her son studying at a university in the city, about a thousand miles away.

The Pathfinder had come home for a two-day visit and the news had got to Mma Koku, who gladly took all of her savings for the last three months, put it in a small envelope and tied it up in the edge of her wrapper. The duo were to meet at the junction where the village road led off to the city. "You know, Lord, that this is all I have. Please let my son turn out well," the old woman prayed. "No sacrifice is too much for one's child," she heaved, skipping over another muddy pothole, for it had rained the previous day.

By the time Mma Koku got about a mile from The Pathfinder's home, the day was now bright enough for her to see with less strain. However, the sky suddenly became overcast and only seconds later there was a torrent from the heavens. There was very little that the surprised old woman could do to stave off the watery onslaught, so she trudged on stoically. At the appointed place, The Pathfinder activated his wipers at top speed as he stayed on the look out for the person he was expecting.

As drenched Mma Koku came into view, The Pathfinder switched off the ignition and rushed out to meet up with her, guiding her to a nearby shed. After a few minutes of pleasantries, she handed over her widow's mite. "Mma, please wait here till the sky stops weeping," he begged her. "I must run along now."

"Ah what can beat a mother's love!" Dr Felix Adoka soliloquised pensively, shaking his head as he winked a left turn to an oncoming driver, prepared to confront the elements. "I shall ensure her son gets a teaching job once he is done," he promised himself.

- (a) Why did Mma Koku leave home on a cold, windy morning?
- (b) What **two** difficulties did Mma Koku face on her way to meet The Pathfinder?
- (c) What may have prompted the villagers to call the man "The Pathfinder"?
- (d) What **two** indications are there in the passage that Mma Koku was poor?
- (e) What was The Pathfinder's attitude to Mma Koku?
- (f) What was the expectation of Mma Koku concerning her son?
- (g) In what age range would you place Mma Koku?
- (h) *...sky stops weeping...*
What figure of speech is contained in the expression above?
- (i) *"... before he leaves for the city."*
(i) What is the grammatically name given to this expression as it is used in the passage?
(ii) What is its function?
- (j) For **each** of the following words, find another word or phrase which means the same and which can replace it as it is used in the passage: (i) delicate; (ii) ominous; (iii) an obligation; (iv) overcast (v) pensively

SECTION C

Read the following passage **carefully** and answer the question on it.

For all well meaning citizens, the moral decadence in our society nowadays is cause for concern. Some have argued that the root cause of this decadence is poor parenting. Indeed, poor parenting has given rise to most of the criminality that we witness today. We all keep on complaining when, in fact, parents themselves are largely to blame for the unsavoury situation. In order to improve this situation, parents need to inculcate certain sterling qualities in their children.

There is no doubt that temptations are bound to arise in everyday life. However, if lessons in self-control are instilled in children, they will be able to resist temptations. Children who have self-control are not likely to have problems with the law; moreover, they will be able to avoid health issues and financial stress, as well as other consequences of lack of self-restraint. For example, a child who has been taught to avoid eating junk food will not become obese. Such a child already knows that every action has a consequence.

Today, many people consider themselves better than others and therefore look down on them. They are arrogant, impudent and intolerant; as such as they are hardly ever willing to accommodate other people's ideas. A child who has imbibed the virtue of humility will be respectful, take interest in others and be willing to learn from them. Sometimes, humility is misconstrued as a weakness but in reality it is a strength which helps people to recognise their faults and acknowledge their limitations. Parents should ensure that their children take active part in chores and duties at home. They will therefore know that there is virtue in serving others.

In life, we cannot avoid obstacles and disappointments. A child cannot learn how to walk without occasional falls. Similarly, in life we experience occasional setbacks. For example, a child may fail a test at school. In such a situation, what is needed is encouragement that will boost the child's confidence for future tests. Parents can help the child to work out a strategy for achieving resounding success. Children should be taught the truth in the axiom, "If you fail at first, try and try again." This training in resilience helps children to face life's challenges with confidence.

Many adults lack integrity, so when they say "yes" they really mean "no". They can therefore hardly be trusted or relied on and usually fail to take responsibilities for their actions or failures. The actions of such adults have grave implications for society. If parents train their children on the need to have integrity, such children will not go about engaging in criminal activities.

Cutting corners in order to get rich quick is the stock-in-trade of many adults, who now engage in all forms of illegal and unwholesome activities to acquire sudden wealth. Indeed, the culture of hard work is fast disappearing. If children are well trained in appreciating the value of hard work, they will grow up into adults who will shun all forms of shady activities aimed at making an overnight fortune.

Obedience to laws is a key quality that will make any society stable and function smoothly. For example, if taxes are paid when due as stipulated by societal laws, money realised will be used to provide the badly needed social amenities and infrastructure. Parents have an important role to play by training their children to obey rules and regulations at home. This training will enable them to become law-abiding adults.

In the light of the foregoing, parents should be good role models in terms of character, comportment, speech and dedication to duty among other things. Only under such circumstances can we build a stable society that benefits all.

In **six** sentences, **one** for **each**, summarise the qualities that the writer advises parents to instil in their children.

ANSWERS TO WASSCE SC 2023 ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2 ESSAY QUESTIONS

SECTION A

1. REPORT ON THE JUST CONCLUDED INTER-SCHOOL SPORTS FESTIVAL

I write, with so much excitement, in my capacity as the Sports Prefect of our beloved school, Tonad International School, to intimate you on what happened in the just concluded inter-school sports festival and how our school was able to emerge victorious.

I must say that all the participating schools featured their best sports men and women, and that explains why the encounters were very competitive. The participating schools were all over the place, showing that they were fully ready to conquer every other school at the festival. However, the resilience and determination of our athletes and footballers earned us the victory we celebrate today.

As you are very much aware, our school did not compete in all the sporting activities, but only took part in five different sports which are volleyball, football, relay race, 100 metres and 200 metres race respectively. I am delighted to announce that we were able to win a total of three gold medals in football, relay race and the 200 metres race. We also won a silver medal in the 100 metres race and finally, a bronze medal in the volleyball competition. It is noteworthy to bring it to your attention that Goddy International College had earlier told us, before the commencement of the festival, that the relay race would be a walkover for them. Fortunately for us, we conquered all the participating schools. Goddy International College were greatly humiliated!

Although none of the sporting activity was a walkover, the football matches were particularly challenging. From the elimination stage through to the final, our boys proved their mettle. The final match, which we played against Rising Stars Academy, proved very difficult. We only managed to win through a penalty shootout after

a goalless encounter in the regulated time. As soon as the match ended, everyone present congratulated us for a job well done. Furthermore, all the match officials acknowledge our enviable spirit of sportsmanship displayed after the match. The acknowledgement of our show of sportsmanship was occasioned by the way we embraced our opponents after the match came to a joyous end for us.

Moreover, there was an interesting scenario at the festival when our school was called upon to address everyone present because of our sterling outing. Edith, our school Head Girl, rose to the occasion and address everyone. She spoke so eloquently that everyone listen to her with rapt attention. Hardly had she rounded off her address when virtually everyone approaching us and making enquiries on how they could enroll in our school so that they too can learn at the feet of the experienced teachers that God has blessed us with in our school, Tonad International School.

I would like to conclude by saying that we had a very good outing at the sports festival. While we await the next edition, I would like to appeal that the school make provision for more training facilities and trainers to further prepare students, especially in other sports in which we have no representatives to compete. As it stands now, we still have almost a whole year to prepare for the next edition. If we put in our best to prepare now, we will be able to win more medals in future competitions.

Thank you.

Cletus Akanni
SSS 3A

2.

Zenith Model College,
Argungu Way,
Kubwa,
Abuja.

17th May, 2023.

The Editor,
City Delight Express,
PMB 2023,
FCT, Abuja.

Dear Sir,

LACK OF MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC FACILITIES IN NIGERIA

I humbly write to express my opinion on the issue of "lack of maintenance of public facilities" that has generated a lot of reactions in the national dailies recently. I would like to opine that, in Nigeria, majority of the citizens ignorantly see public facilities as belonging to the government and therefore treat them the way they like, not knowing that those facilities are actually meant to serve the interest of the general public.

The culture of vandalism of public facilities has assumed a worrisome dimension. Student groups, labour organisations and other pressure bodies resort to vandalism of public facilities as a way of getting back at the government that has refused to accede to their demands. Nonetheless, some criminal elements engage outright in stealing of public facilities such as electric cables, water pipes and telecommunication equipment without considering the negative effect of their actions on the larger society.

One of the effects of vandalism is that the scarce resources that should have been used in providing new facilities are being wasted in replacing what has been vandalised. Meanwhile, it is only the masses that bear the brunt of all the acts of vandalism. For instance, when the electric cables and transformers are damaged, the people are thrown into darkness for a long time, thereby affecting their economic activities and inflicting untold hardship on the people before the government will respond eventually.

Equally, getting regular water supply to the people has become a mirage due to acts of vandalism. The consequence is that vast majority of the people lack good water for domestic use, and therefore resort to getting water from sources that pose serious threat to their health. Additionally, when communities are thrown into darkness on account of vandalism of electricity, armed robbers and other criminal elements are encouraged to carry out their activities under the cover of darkness making life unbearable for the masses.

Furthermore, of importance is the fact that the lack of maintenance of public facilities is a great barrier to national development in Nigeria. It is common knowledge that national development will be a pipe dream if we fail to practice good maintenance of public facilities in our dear country, Nigeria.

As a way out of this ugly trend, the government needs to engage in proper sensitisation of the masses to make them understand the effects of vandalism and the fact that public facilities are owned by the citizens and are meant to serve them. Similarly, anyone found guilty of destroying or stealing public facilities should be made to face the full wrath of the law. That will serve as a deterrent to would-be destroyers of public facilities and those stealing public facilities in Nigeria.

Yours faithfully,



Adediran James

Shining Stars Academy,
20 Azikiwe Crescent,
Wuse, Abuja.

Dear Tobi,

17th May, 2023.

Trust you and the family are doing great and adjusting well to the present cold weather condition over there in Canada. I am writing in response to your request on the information and advice regarding my school. To start with, I would like to advise that you shouldn't bother about looking elsewhere because my school possesses the best quality that is second to none. My school is known for high academic excellence, and I would not hesitate to share some of the secrets with you.

First and foremost, my school has a policy of engaging only qualified and experienced teachers who are well remunerated and motivated. Consequently, we get the best academically which has manifested in the sterling performance of our students over the years at both the internal and external examinations. In addition, my school has a comprehensive programme for students to be trained in, at least, a vocation and entrepreneurial skill before graduation. This programme has helped in equipping past students with life skills to earn income while some have gone ahead to develop themselves along those career paths.

Secondly, my school is one of the best around in terms of facility. Our classes are fitted with projectors to enhance teaching and learning. Our science laboratory also boasts latest scientific equipment used for practicals. Again, for ease of learning, we have a maximum of thirty students per class, and this has enhanced greater relationships between students and teacher. As it relates to our condition of living, the dormitory is very conducive and well maintained. We have no problem with water supply since the school has a dedicated borehole. We have cleaners who take very good care of the surroundings to ensure that it is clean at all times. Also, our power supply is very regular and when there is power outage, my school runs on a big generating plant. That makes it possible for us to study conveniently at night.

Toby Man, another interesting thing about my school is that there is a cordial relationship between our teachers and parents. That is why the Parent-Teacher Association of my school has been able to embark on many laudable development projects in our school. This cordial relationship has rubbed off positively on every student in my school. This enviable relationship has made our school to be the leader in anything good and great both in academics and every other aspect of life, because many successful personalities you see in Nigeria today passed through my school. Consequently, in Nigeria today today, they occupy sensitive positions in government, banking, health, and so on.

Finally, in the area of security, my school is properly fenced with a high wall, while trained security personnel keep watch at the gate both day and night. Indiscriminate movements are not allowed, even among the students. As a result, we have no fear whatsoever; the mind of everyone is always at rest.

Tobi, I hope you'll be persuaded to come over, going by the information at your disposal, and also considering the fact that, as friends, we'll be close to each other to plan our studies. I look forward to hearing from you soon on what you eventually decide. Extend my warm regards to your dad and mum and do take very good care of yourself.

Yours sincerely,
Daniel

4.

Evergreen Model College,
General Takum Way,
Gwagwa,
Abuja.

15th May, 2023.

The Editor,
Evergreen Times,
General Takum Way,
Gwagwa,
Abuja.
Dear Sir,

NEED TO REVIVE THE ACTIVITIES OF CLUBS AND SOCIETIES IN SCHOOLS

I write to earnestly advocate the revival of the activities of clubs and societies in schools, including our beloved Evergreen Model College, as the benefits derivable from these societies and clubs cannot be over-emphasised. Over the years, the activities of these, once vibrant, clubs and societies gradually dissipated and, in some cases, completely gone in our schools.

Clubs and societies such as Press Club, Debating Society, Chess Club, Boy Scouts, Mathematics Club, Book Club, Dance Club, Environmental Society, and Young Farmers Club among many others have the potentials to positively impact the lives of young people. These groups take learning outside of the core

curricular environment to where learners can practically support each other through harnessing of talents and building lifelong skills, thereby charting a career path for themselves.

Similarly, students can develop the spirit of teamwork and open-mindedness through interactions among themselves. There is no doubt that these personal skills will go a long way towards making life meaningful and fulfilling for the younger people long after they have left school and then faced with the reality of the society. These skills will come in handy for them in their workplaces, places of worship and business interactions including relationships with family members.

Possession of communicative abilities is another great benefit derivable from the revival of the activities of clubs and societies in schools. This means that the various activities embarked upon by clubs and societies of students will make them possess communicative abilities, and also enhance the communicative abilities of their class presentations, especially during class presentations in tertiary institutions.

Furthermore, reviving the activities of clubs and societies will build self-confidence in students. This will enable them to achieve many laudable feats in all their endeavours. This will manifest in their dealings with various personalities wherever they find themselves, both at the personal and corporate levels.

There is a need for all well-meaning Nigerians and corporate bodies to support the government and schools in reviving these dying associations which has proven to be very beneficial in the time past if we ever hope to correct the many wrongs and ills going on in the society today, especially among young people.

In a nutshell, the personal skills highlighted above have shown that the revival of the activities of clubs and activities in schools is long overdue. The skills highlighted are teamwork, open-mindedness, enhanced communicative abilities and self-confidence, and it is safe to refer to those skills as advantages of reviving the activities of clubs and activities in schools. Therefore, there is no doubt that clubs and societies need to be urgently revived across our schools to allow students combine club activities with the core academic curriculum so as to bring about a well-rounded and confident students who will, in turn, positively impact the larger society and translate into national development.

Yours faithfully,


Sunkanmi Oguntuase

5.

HALF A LOAF IS BETTER THAN NONE

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful girl named Asake in Gwaleza, a village near Lagaz. She was the village belle and the only daughter of her parents. She had a suitor named Jide who worked as a clerical officer and lived in the nearby city, Lagaz. Asake visited him regularly, while Jide did his best to buy beautiful clothes and shoes for her to look good. She was the cynosure of all eyes in the community.

Having decided to settle down with Asake, Jide wrote proposals to building construction companies in Lagaz that he was interested in supplying them with building materials. However, all of them replied him that they would get back to him. Being a firm believer in the power of Almighty God, he knew that his financial breakthrough was closer than he had ever imagined.

Nevertheless, one fateful day, Dapo, a rich young man, came to the village and ran into Asake. He was captivated by her beauty. Dapo stopped his car, made some enquiries from her and then offered to drive her home. They subsequently became friends. Dapo began visiting Asake frequently. Because of the allure of money, Asake began to withdraw from Jide. Jide, having noticed Asake's strange behaviour, complained about it. Shockingly, Asake told him frankly that he was no longer interested in him. That was how their long-time relationship came to a sad end and Jide decided to move on.

Shortly after, Jide met another girl who treated him right. He became happy again and informed his parents and the girl's parents of their intention to get married. Both families accepted, and preparations commenced in earnest. As fate would have it, while the wedding plans were in top gear, fortune smiled on Jide. All the construction firms he had earlier contacted, accepted him to be one of their main suppliers of building materials. This spelt great financial freedom and success for Jide.

Meanwhile, Dapo and Asake would always go out, visit exciting places and have fun. He would take her to spend time at his friends' places but never for once took her to his own house; neither did he ever introduce her to his family members. Asake never bothered about this strange behaviour from Dapo. Basking in the euphoria of having a 'rich' fiancé, she would always turn a deaf ear to advice, insisting that it was her life and she intended to live it to the fullest.

However, few months later, after Dapo had had enough of Asake and taken advantage of her greed, he dumped her and vanished into thin air. Asake became heartbroken and decided to go back to Jide for reconciliation. But then, it was already too late. Jide was already engaged to someone else, and their marriage preparations were already at an advanced stage. Asake lost out on both sides because of her greed. She had a faithful and caring partner in Jide but left him for some uncertain riches. Dapo was only a play boy. It was at the end of it all that she realised that *half a loaf is better than none*.

Muiz Adewuyi

SS3 A

SECTION B

- 6.(a) - She left her home to see The Pathfinder to secure her son's future. - She left home to send money to her son. - She left home to secure a bright future for her son.
- (b) - The bad road which led her to step into potholes. - The long distance he had to cover. - The bad weather she was confronted with. - The potholes posing challenges to her.
- (c) He was the first person to earn the highest postgraduate degree from the village. **OR** He was the the first man in the village with a doctorate degree.
- (d) - The widow's mite she was able to send to her son. - Her clothing was in a sorry state. - She could only raise little money from three-month savings. - The long distance she covered due to insufficient funds.
- (e) - He attended to Mma Koku compassionately. - He approached her kindly. - He treated her with care.
- (f) Her explanation was for the pathfinder to help her son to secure a job and succeed in life. **OR** She expects her son to be successful
- (g) Mma Koku age should be between 70 and 79. **OR** She was between 70 and 79 years old.
- (h) Personification
- (i) (i) Adverbial clause of time (ii) It modifies the verb phrase "shall see".
- (j) (i) delicate - frail, fragile, feeble (ii) ominous - threatening, menacing, baleful, bad, unfavourable (iii) an obligation - a duty, a commitment, a task, a responsibility (iv) overcast - cloudy, hazy, dull, foggy, overclouded (v) pensively - contemplatively, reflectively, thoughtfully, meditatively, sombrely, ruminatively
- (7) (i) Parents should inculcate the quality of self-control in their children.
- (ii) Parents must instil in their children the virtue of humility.
- (iii) Parents must train their children in resilience through encouragement.
- (iii) Parents must teach their children integrity so that they can be responsible children.
- (v) Parents must teach their children the value of hard work while trying to make a fortune.
- (vi) If children would grow up as law-abiding citizens, their parents must teach them to obey rules and regulations at home.
- (vii) Parents should ensure that their children take an active part in chores and duties at home.
- (viii) Parents should teach their children the strategy to face challenges in life.
- (ix) Parents should train their children on the need to have dignity, integrity and manners.
- (x) Parents should train their children to abide by the fundamental laws of the land.
- (xi) The principle of humanity should be the watchword for every child.