

FIRST LANGUAGE KHOEKHOEGOWAB

6098
Paper 1

GENERAL COMMENTS

It was clear from the candidates' responses to the question paper that reading with understanding and general interpretation of the questions is a common difficulty experienced overall. The poor language usage and recurring spelling errors has obstructed the meaning in most cases and this was observed in all centers. Very few candidates were able to display a variety of well-constructed sentences, simple to complex sentences, idiomatic expressions, some figurative language and appropriate style of writing in their responses.

It was also evident that learners are not exposed to reading and responding to a variety of text types. Many candidates were not able to differentiate between point and paragraph formats of writing. Some candidates resorted to a formal letter format for the response to an article.

Teachers should put emphasis on the correct grammar usage during normal teaching. This may be rectified through more language usage and writing exercises and consistency in marking and correcting learners' errors. Teachers should strive to see improved skills over the year. Teachers are therefore encouraged to make use of Khoekhoegowab Third Orthography to guide learners on correct spelling, language usage and grammar.

COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS

- 1 Questions (a – i) were contextual questions assessing reading and understanding. Although generally candidates did well in responding, it was notable that learners still do not read with understanding and rather skim for answers consequently resulting in copying texts directly containing parts of the question. This resulted in most candidates losing out on marks.
 - (a) This question required candidates to mention two reasons why the mother finally allowed the father to take the son for skiing. Most candidates were able to respond correctly to this question. The candidates were expected to write the following to score marks; father would not give up and swore or promised that he would take good care of the boy✓ and return him home before Christmas eve dinner✓ (both statement. Some candidates wrote both statements while others only wrote one. Some candidates mentioned that the mother was very upset or angry with the father because he once sneaked the boy into a night club to see the famous American singer*. If they answered in this manner, it is wrong and they did not score any marks.
 - (b) Why did the father see the need to ski down the mountain for one last time? Candidates were required to mention what attracted the father to ski again. The following answer were accepted as correct; the fresh snow was inviting/he saw something special about the snow✓ (one mark for either of this answers). Most candidates had this answer right.
 - (c) Why did the father put chains around the wheels? In most cases the candidates interpret the question wrongly. In order to answer this question correctly, candidates needed to have the background or general knowledge about snow. Most candidates did not know the type of chains referred to in the passage hence they were confused about what the purpose of the chains was. Snow is rare or does not exist in Namibia therefore, candidates could not relate the use of chains on a vehicle. This are the type of metal bars put around the outside of a wheel. The desired answers would be; to ensure easy driving in the snow/to make the car grip the on the road better/to ensure car does not slip off the road/ that the car does not get stuck in heavy layers of snow (any two). Most candidates that score marks mentioned that the chains were used to pull the car out of the snow.
 - (d) What does the author mean with the following statement “*I was very far in my thoughts*”? The candidates were required to understand the statement and interpret it in their own words. The simple answer was that the boy was thinking about home/that he wished he was at home. Many candidates were not able to answer this question correctly.

- (e) Why did the boy not respond to his father calling him 'lhōtarab' like he used to? The candidates were supposed to mention the mood in which the boy was at that time. Almost all candidates did not understand this question. Most candidates responded that it was disrespectful to talk to an adult like that. The correct answer would be that the boy was angry/upset that they were not going home, he was not in the mood for jokes, he did not believe his father would take him home in time.
- (f) In which way did the boy become an accomplice to his father, according to the father? The correct answer is that the boy moved some of the barricades that blocked the road. Few candidates were able to score marks here. Most candidates did not master this question as they misunderstood the question. They would answer as follows; now you are my accomplice "nēsits ge go ti lapelhao-ao kai" or we will go to jail together "Iguiba khom !khō-oms lIga nî !gû".
- (g) What does the author want to convey with the repetition of the word (snow) "Ikhoab" in the paragraph? Many candidates were not able to answer the question as they did not even know what snow is. Many answered by trying to explain what snow is instead of explaining the author's intention. The correct answer should be; to emphasize that the snow has fallen heavily and cover the whole soil.
- (h) In your view, what did the father mean with, "You should never try this"? Candidates were struggling to respond correctly to this question in their own words. It was evident that the candidate did not understand the passage well therefore, responding to this question was challenging. The desired response was that the father was feeling guilty/he wanted to apologize to the boy/he knew it was dangerous or reckless and irresponsible to drive on the closed road/he was cautioning the boy not to copy what he did. Some candidates were able to respond correctly.
- (i) What is the meaning of the boy's words in the last sentence of the passage? Many candidates copied the last sentence from the passage as the answer. The correct response is that the boy meant if you don't try something no matter how dangerous it may be, you'll never have the experience. Very few candidates were able to explain this in their own words.

Contextual questions usually require candidates to understand the question as well as the passage in order to in most cases interpret the response in their own words. Few candidates performed well in this question.

- 2 This question which was also based on Passage 1 consisted of part (a) for which the candidates were required to mention points from the passage that indicated that the father has shown irresponsible behavior while on the excursion with the son. Candidates were required to respond in note form and there was no need to use their own words. Most candidates were able to lift correct ideas from the passage while a few just copied directly from the text. Some candidates responded in paragraph format while others just wrote phrases. Teachers are urged to teach the difference in point form writing and paragraph writing.

The part (b) of the question required candidates to write a summary of 100 – 150 words with the ideas written as their response in part (a). Many candidates did not use their ideas from part (a) but rather wrote a summary of the whole passage and they missed the correct information in so doing.

Some candidates did not respond correctly to part (a) which they had to use to respond to part (b) of the question. This caused them to lose out on marks. Teachers are encouraged to verse them well with the assessment objectives of this question paper in order to prepare the learners for their final examination.

- 3 This question was based on passage 2 and the candidates were required to write an article on the similarities of social problems in their social environment mentioned by President Barak Obama in his inauguration speech and suggest appropriate solutions. Candidates were expected to use the content of the passage as guideline in responding to the question.

This question was assessing the candidates' skills of in-depth reading of the passage and the ability to write clearly, extensively and showcase appropriate language usage in their responses. This is a directed writing question and learners should be prepared at school through repeated writing activities to master the skills. Most of the candidates were unable to respond correctly to this question. Many did not have the correct format and structure of an article while some opted for a letter as their response.

It was again evident that the candidates responded to questions without understanding and even more without reading the passage for understanding. More reading of variety of texts is therefore recommended.

3. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, all the teachers are commended for their hard work and dedication in ensuring that candidates were prepared for the final examination despite the unusual circumstances of this year that affected the school calendar. The Senior Education Officers in the regions and the Heads of Departments at the schools are hereby urged to discuss the examiner's report with the subject teachers to ensure that the recommendations are implemented. Thank you!