TAIDOB COLLEGE

PRE-WASSCE PREPARATORY ASSESSMENT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

SS3

SECTION 1

1.

From the words lettered A to D, choose the word that **best completes**

each of the following sentences.

- One of the causes of environmental______is the felling of trees.
 - A. degradation
 - B. pollution
 - C. damage
 - D. destruction
- Joe was _____ concerning allegation levelled against him because his identity card was found at the robbery scene.
 - A. grafted
 - B. implicated
 - C. sued
 - D. investigated
- 3. Jebba is a railway
 - A. terminus.
 - B. park.
 - C. junction.

D. destination.



- 4. _____is a person who makes and sells drugs to people.
 - A. Scientist
 - B. Pharmacologist
 - C. Pediatrician
 - D. Pharmacist
- 5. The suspect was_____in court.
 - A. presented
 - B. arraigned
 - C. adjourned
 - D. detained
- 6. The gigantic ship sank on her maiden
 - A. tour.
 - B. movement.
 - C. journey.
 - D. voyage.
- 7. The landlord _____all his tenants in order to renovate the house.
 - A. laid off
 - B. pursued
 - C. ejected
 - D. queried

After each of the following sentences, a list of possible interpretations is given. Choose the interpretation that is **most appropriate** for each sentence.

- Muhammed had a field day at the literary and debating competition.
 This means that he
 - A. withdrew from the competition.
 - B. triumphed in all aspects of the competition.
 - C. performed abysmally.
 - D. became aimless.
- The appearance which the popular actress made last year was her swam song. This means that
 - A. the performance was the actress's last appearance.
 - B. the event was postponed due to her absence.
 - C. the last play was the actress's best performance.
 - D. she became dejected.
- 10. Youths of nowadays think their parents are behind the times. This means that today's youths perceive their parents as
 - A. old-fashioned.
 - B. indolent.
 - C. non-duty conscious.
 - D. frivolous.

- 11. The pastor enjoined the congregation members to be above board in their dealings. This means that they should
 - A. be careful.
 - B. be above others.
 - C. be honest.
 - D. always travel by air.
- 12. The new employee was brought to heel by the supervisor. This means that the supervisor
 - A. was effective at his job.
 - B. was domineering.
 - C. forced the new worker to obey him.
 - D. was attentive to the employee's request.
- 13. Dr Kalu is wet behind the ears to own and run a private hospital. This means Dr Kalu
 - A. is young and inexperienced.
 - B. has hearing defects.
 - C. is an expert in the treatment of ear problems.
 - D. is too cold.

From the words lettered A to D, below each of the sentences, choose the word or group of words that is *nearest in meaning* to the underlined word as it is used in the sentence

- 14. Where negotiation fails, they must <u>fall back on</u> the law.
 - A initiative
 - B jettison
 - C depend on
 - D exterminate
- 15. The student was <u>cajoled</u> into joining a cult.
 - A coaxed
 - B forced
 - C compelled
 - D motivated
- 16. Kunle is adept at playing football.
 - A skillful
 - B agile
 - C barbaric
 - D smart

- 17. The <u>deceased</u> was interred immediately after the funeral rites.
 - A victim
 - B injured
 - C dead
 - D bereaved
- 18. He was disqualified as a result of his <u>pusillanimous</u> attitude.
 - A cowardly
 - B domineering
 - C arrogant
 - D unfriendly

From the words or group of words lettered A to D, choose the word or group of words that **best completes** each of the following sentences.

- - A beside
 - B within
 - C upon
 - D at

- 20. If it had rained heavily, the river_____by now.
 - A would have overflown
 - B would be overflowing
 - C has overflown
 - D will be overflowing
- 21. His guardian forbade him____out of the school.
 - A from going
 - B of going
 - C to go
 - D to have gone
- 22. He talks carelessly as if he is a parrot.

The underlined expression above is an adjunct of

- A time.
- B concession.
- C manner.
- D frequency.
- 23. The erudite scholar, Professor Owonikoko, has dabbled politics.
 - A through
 - B in
 - C into
 - D about

- 24. ____had the notorious armed robber left, than the police arrived
 - A As soon as
 - B Hardly
 - C The sooner
 - D No sooner
- 25. The stone hit
 - A neither me nor him.
 - B neither I nor him.
 - C either I or him.
 - D either me or he.

ORAL ENGLISH SECTION 1

From the words lettered A to D, choose the word that has the **same vowel sound** as the one represented by the letter(s) underlined. An example is given below

- 26. cl<u>ea</u>nse
 - A clap
 - B clan
 - C many
 - D lean

27. b<u>uy</u>

- Α Boy
- ivory В
- С pith
- D Fit
- cl<u>a</u>ss 28.
 - Last Α
 - В claims
 - С curse chat
- 29 c<u>or</u>d

D

- gaunt А
- В quaint
- С fond D quote
- ch<u>ew</u> 30.
 - quit А
 - church В
 - С quest
 - D queue

From the words lettered A to D, choose the word that has the *same consonant sound* as the one represented by the letter(s) underlined. An example is given below.

- 31. <u>h</u>and
 - A whore
 - B vehement
 - C annihilate
 - D rhetorics
- 32. len<u>gth</u>
 - A heathen
 - B these
 - C hearth
 - D those
- 33. fluc<u>t</u>uate
 - A chair
 - B state
 - C blast
 - D dictate

34. placard

- A placed
- B solace
- C watch
- D chemist
- 35. banquet
 - A shin
 - B uncle
 - C connect
 - D bark

SECTION 3

From the words lettered A to D, choose the word that *rhymes* with the given word. An example is given below.

36. brake

- A sleak
- B stuck
- C stark
- D slick

37. hunting

- A seething
- B shouting
- C bunting
- D building
- 38 burst
 - A perched
 - B worst
 - C guessed
 - D marshed

39. honey

- A donkey
- B money
- C yankee
- D monkey

40. survival

- A arrival
- B retrieved
- C convivial
- D recited

In each of the following questions, the main or primary stress is indicated by writing the syllable on which it occurs in capital letters. From the words lettered A to D, choose the one that has the *correct stress*.

- 41. circumstantial
 - A CIR-cum-stan-tial
 - B cir-CUM-stan-tial
 - C cir-cum-STAN-tial
 - D cir-cum-stan-TIAL
- 42. inadequate
 - A IN-ad-e-quate
 - B in-AD-e-quate
 - C in-ad-E-quate
 - D in-ad-e-QUATE
- 43. advertisement
 - A AD-ver-tise-ment
 - B ad-VER-tise-ment
 - C ad-ver-TISE-ment
 - D ad-ver-tise-MENT

44. dependable

- A DE-pen-da-ble
- B de-PEN-da-ble
- C de-pen-DA-ble
- D de-pen-da-BLE
- 45. laboratory
 - A LA-bor-a-tory
 - B la-BOR-a-tory
 - C la-bor-A-tory
 - D la-bor-a-TORY

SECTION 5

From the words lettered A to D, choose the word that contain the **sound** represented by the

given phonetic symbol. An example is given below.

46 /æ/

	А	mango		B palm	С	chart		D	market
47	/ w	1							
	A	who	В	while	С	whose		D	whole
48 /iə/									
	А	there	В	ware	С	here	D	where	2

49 /j/

	Α	bridge	В	merge	С	dew	D	gag
50	/ 0	/						

A threat B fathom C weather D tin

SECTION A

ESSAY

Answer **one** question only from this section. All questions carry equal marks. Your answer should not be less than **450** words.

- There have been incessant incidents of theft in your school hostel. Write a letter to your friend in another school telling him or her about your experiences and the steps you have taken to safeguard your items from being stolen.
- You are the chief speaker in a debate on the topic: Teachers are to blame for students' mass failure in external examinations. Write out your contribution for or against the topic.
- 3. The water supply in your school has been irregular. As the Health Prefect, write a letter to your Principal telling him about the effects of this on the school and the possible solutions to the problem.
- 4. Write an article suitable for publication in a national newspaper on

the dangers of indecent dressing among today's youths.



5. Write a story that illustrates the saying: Pen is mightier than sword.

SECTION B

COMPREHENSION

6A. Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions on it.

All over the world, money and prestige go together. The more money a person has, the more successful he is judged to be.

When a person lives on inherited income, whether it <u>supplements</u> what he earns or frees him from working, he is judged as coming from a successful family. _Old money' is thus a symbol of family success. By contrast, _new money', or money earned by the person himself, is regarded as a symbol of personal success. In every culture greater <u>prestige</u> is associated with old money than with new, and the person with old money is more favourably judged.

<u>Values</u> relating to money change with experience in the use of money and with the realization of the role of money in personal and social adjustments. However, money contributes to some end that is important to a person at every age. To the young child, money is a means of getting things his parents do not give him, mainly sweets. At school, the child who has money to spend for things his friends regard as important, gains prestige and respect in their eyes. For the adolescent, money contributes to two important ends, independence and social status. He would learn if he had money, that he would be able to _buy' popularity in the form of material possessions and commercial amusements which he could enjoy with his peers. All these increase his social acceptability. He also discovers that leadership, like popularity, can be bought <u>if one has enough money</u>. In planning for his future therefore, it is not surprising that the adolescent is more concerned about how much a job pays than about the nature of the work, how interesting it is to him, or what opportunities it offers for future adancement.

To the young adult, as to the adolescent, money is primarily a means of acquiring prestige symbols, respect and or fulfilling his needs for entertainment. He also discovers that other symbols of success have a price <u>tag.</u> Should he want to go to a famous college a graduate or professional school prepare for a prestigious occupation, or wants to belong to the <u>exclusive</u> social and professional organizations of the community, he must have money to pay for it.

A person does not view money as a source of security until he experiences the problem related to lack of money. So long as is a <u>minor</u> and lives under the parental roof, he will be taken care of even if the breadwinner of the family is unemployed. Social security and other aids guarantee him this security. When adults discover that satisfying their desire for prestige symbols often means buying in installments and being constantly in debt, they begin to change their attitude about budgeting and saving money. This is hastened by the anxiety that comes from fear of losing their jobs, being unable to pay their debts, and having to ask their families or friends for help.

Middle-aged people worry about unemployment, the difficulty of getting another job, and the financial distress they would face if the family breadwinner should die or be invalided. They place high value on saving and on spending freely for what they now regard as _extravagances'.

Questions

- (a) According to the passage, who is a successful person?
- (b) What is the basic difference between _old money' and _new money'?
- (c) What does the writer consider as the central role of money to all ages?
- (d) Why, according to the passage, is old money preferred to new one?
- (e) ... if one has enough money.
 - i. What is the grammatical name given to this expression?
 - ii. What is its function?
- (f) What does the adolescent first consider in choosing a career?

(g) Why do adults have a change in their attitude towards saving money?

- (h) Find a word or phrase which is nearest in meaning to and can at the same time replace each of the following words as used in the passage:
 - i. supplements; ii. prestige; iii. values; iv. tag;
 - v. exclusive; vi. minor.

6B. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

What do young people usually think of? A recent study has revealed that young people, boys and girls in primary schools are often pre-occupied with problems usually associated with adults. Contrary to what most of us would have expected, it was found that these young people are already bothered by issues such as what kind of husband or wife they would marry; what professions they would prefer; the type of car they would drive; and how they would cope with scarcity of money. Surprisingly, most of them are scared by prospects of marital problems, and some seem to take it for granted that divorce is the way out of difficult marriages. However, it is not surprising that political issues rarely featuring among the problems bothering them: they seem to hardly preoccupy with the thought of who governs them, the kind of government in the country or its political ideology. Nonetheless, quite a good number of them have serious thoughts about becoming ministers, commissioners, governors or presidents.

Beyond this, what they would do afterwards does not seem to



<u>concern</u> them nor can they define precisely how they would attain these positions.

It appears that children's thought patterns are shaped, or at least influenced by the environment within which they live. For instance, while most of those from happily married parents think of the kind of <u>spouse</u> to marry, those from polygamous or broken homes tend to envisage marital problems and divorce. Again, children from humble backgrounds, for example, where the parents are farmers, carpenters, mechanics and those from the rural or semi-urban areas, are less ambitious. They usually opt for the more conventional professions like teaching and nursing. On the other hand, children from more sophisticated backgrounds tend to opt for the less conventional professions such as aeronautical engineering, accountancy and banking. From all that has been discussed so far, an obvious lesson is that children should not be exposed to unhealthy ideas and unpleasant thought as their aspirations and actions are indeed influenced by their environment

(Culled from: WASSCE, November 2002)

- A. What is the purpose of the opening question in this passage?
- B. How did the writer obtain the information contained in this passage?
- C. What does the author find surprising about young people's thought patterns as contained in the first paragraph?

- D. What effect does parents' marital experience have on their children's ideas about marriage?
- E. What does the passage say about the children's attitudes to politics?
- F. Who generally influences children in forming their opinions?
- G. ...that young people, boys and girls in primary school are often preoccupied with problems...
 - i. What grammatical name is given to the above expression?
 - ii. What is its function?
- H. For each of the following words, find another word or phrase that means the same and can replace it as used in the passage:
 - i. revealed;
 - ii. scared;
 - iii. concern;
 - iv. spouse;
 - v. humble;
 - vi. professions.

SECTION C

SUMMARY

Read the passage below and answer the questions on it. 7A. In the towns where a young man can have a young girl for a kerchief or a woman for fifty naira, and older men, a more permanent companion for the price of her keep. Thus lover relationships become the most usual patterns of contact between men and women long before marriage. Young men do not wish to marry early as they once did — _why commit yourself to all this expense? I can get a girl for fifty naira'. Many of them frankly say they wish to experiment before they marry, and guite apart from the bride price, there is a general reluctance to mortgage the future with a permanent union. Older men, especially those with no local roots, find women similarly situated with whom they share a room. There are several grades of permanency in these temporary marriages, the average period being about three years Many women also prefer to live free from the toil of the shamba and from subjection to a husband. In one week in Kampala, I met three pleasant hard-working unmarried women in domestic service, each with two children and all from rural areas. They lived guite independently arid were guite happy -We love children, they declared, and we can have a baby whenever we want one; but we don't want to work for a husband who beats us and gives us no money. Among Africans, this love of children is very real; even in temporary marriages men and women want children and a mother will usually regard her child as more important than her husband Nevertheless, these conditions are not growing points of stable married life or a promising

family background for the rearing of children.



One of the customs that tend to delay marriage is the institution of the bride-price paid to the father of a girl on betrothal This marriage payment, which is customary in both tribal and Christian marriages, is regarded as a bond between the contracting parties and also as a guarantee of the good faith of the bridegroom and the good behaviour of the bride. The amount of the bride-price agreed upon varies from tribe to tribe. Among the Baganda it is not high but among some of the Kenyan tribes, it may be the equivalent of fifty thousand naira or more, paid usually in cattle and cash Although the institution is universal in Africa, the younger generation is beginning to reject it for it has indeed become a very serious burden on a young man who wishes marry.

- In **four** sentences, one for each, summarise the reasons why some young men do not wish to marry.
- In two sentences, one for each, summarise the reasons why some women prefer to remain single.

7B. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Why is it so hard to get others to treat you with just a little respect? You want to be heard and to be taken seriously. So when peers and grown-ups, especially your parents, ignore you or make light of your feelings, talk down to you or put you in your place, it can really hurt.

It is only natural to want to be esteemed by others. Gaining the

respect of others is not easy when you are young. Youth is associated with inexperience and unbridled energy while



knowledge and wisdom come with age. Generally, then people do not give youths the same respect they give adults. If you think this is unfair, you are perhaps right. But, it is a fact of life you must live with. Furthermore, many youths have earned a bad name for themselves. As a result, some adults mistakenly think that all youths are rebellious, irresponsible or crazy. In some lands, culture and rapid social changes are responsible for the gap between youths and adults. In Africa, for example, many youths have educational advantages their parents did not have. Furthermore, they may find themselves in constant conflict with their elders who are guided by traditional norms. Older people are often greatly irritated by what they perceive as disrespect or even rebellion on the part of youths.

Whatever your situation, it will take real initiative and diligence for you to win the respect for others. But it can be done. First, realize that respect is not something bestowed upon you simply because you want it, nor can you force someone to respect you. Respect is something that you earn. You should have established a record by your conduct that you have become worthy of respect. Another way to earn respect is refusing to go along with the crowd; especially when the fashion is the pursuit of sensual pleasure. You should try to be serious-minded and be polite to everyone. You may be mocked and teased for being different but others will often grudgingly respect you for it. Also, you should be respectful to others. Respect begets respect. Lying, unkind teasing, making other people the butt of cruel jokes,



bossing or bullying are not ways of treating others with honour. In the long run, they undermine the respect others have for you. It is particularly important that we show honour and respect to those in positions of authority. A law-enforcement officer once said, Kids today seldom say, Sir.' How do you treat those in authority – teachers, police officers school administrators? If you have a reputation for being respectful to authority figures, it is likely that they too will treat you with a measure of respect.

In certain cultures, there are long-standing rule of etiquette that a youth is expected to follow. In most African countries, many older ones do not talk kindly to a youth who talks with his hands in his pockets or who gestures to them with his left hand. Such objections may seem strange to Westerners and old-fashioned to some African youths, but the practices are not offensive to civilized standards also in certain cultures, not youths. One who violates local culture by usurping adult authority will usually of as impertinent. You will do far more to win the respect of others if you recognize your subordinate role and learn to cope with it.

(Culled from: WASSCE, November 1999)

- A. Summarize, in **one** sentence, why people do not give youths the same respect they give adults.
- B. In **five** sentences, one for each, summarize the advice give to youths for them to gain the respect of others.