

HOLIDAY ENGLISH MOCK TEST

Paper Two

Instruction: Answer all questions in the spaces provided.

1. Read the passage below and answer the summary task that follows.

“I am stuck in traffic” is probably one of the most annoying and disappointing phrases you can ever hear, whether used in its proverbial cliché of an excuse, or really genuinely stated. I cannot begin to count the number of times I have missed out on important meetings and opportunities simply because I was stuck in a snarl-up somewhere. I have also lost count of the number of times I had to order another glass of juice at a restaurant or if the month was around that stiff bend, just sat there sipping on that one glass, nibbling impatiently on the straw as I waited for someone who was stuck in traffic to make their way to our meet-up. And the waiters and waitresses start to throw that ‘buy something else or leave’ glance at you. I digress.

No good comes out of traffic jams.

Getting stuck in traffic because vehicles are moving at a snail’s pace, or just not moving at all, is very disappointing. Ask those that spent almost an entire night stuck on Entebbe Road some time back. Traffic jams cause unnecessary delays where you end up spending more time on the road than at the office, home or any other place you would rather be at doing something more meaningful. Delays mean that you will get to work late, miss an important meeting or fail to hit the target for that particular day.

Did you know that every time a vehicle stops and starts in traffic congestion, it uses more fuel than it would if there was no congestion? This means that drivers have to dig deeper into their pockets to cater for more fuel yet the current fuel prices have skyrocketed making it even harder for them. Consequently, vehicles used for commercial purposes do not realize optimum profits while vehicles for personal use are ditched for cheaper means of transport considering it’s hard to fuel these types of vehicles.

Once you are caught up in traffic in the morning, it becomes hard for you to get to work in good time. It is at this point that you come up with lies to use on your employer seeing as you will be late. You become distracted throughout the day as evening approaches as you begin to think of how you will (try to) evade sitting in traffic. Eventually you get home late, sleep late and still have to get up early to try and beat the morning traffic. Once you are deprived of sleep and peace, productivity dwindles.

Besides consuming litres of fuel, vehicles in traffic congestion emit harmful gases that could cause major health complications to people that inhale them. Studies have also shown that these harmful emissions can lead to brain damage, lung diseases and high blood pressure among others. Major cities in the world faced by the problem of traffic jams have contributed to global warming due to the air pollution. On the other hand, sitting in traffic deprives you the chance to exercise and release the pent-up stress in you. This makes you easily irritable and impatient. These are all signs of a stressful life.

Question

In not more than 120 words, explain the effects of traffic jam.

2A Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

The Sports Gala

Last year's district sports gala for secondary schools left a stamp of enduring folklore at Kaka High School. For the first time, the school authorities had let loose of their airtight regulations on the students' sense of freedom. We had just got a new Head Teacher, Mister John Wacha, a cheerful less-than-middle-age gentleman. With a keener intuition to connect with teenagers than his retired predecessor, Mister Wacha had leaped to popularity within the first two weeks of his arrival. He moved with a youthful swagger and fondly tossed fists with students as his signature style of greeting. To keep his finger on the pulse of student sensibilities, he made it a point to learn their slung and soon turned it into his idiom of expression as he interacted with students. We were all thrilled. We soon reciprocated his gesture of camaraderie with a special nickname. Unlike other teachers whom students had christened derogatory labels – like 'Toilet Mouth', 'Dog Shit', 'Bread-Loaf Head', 'Darkling', 'Hypotenuse Angle' to mention but a few – Mister Wacha was given the lovely "Cool Boy".

So, it was no big surprise when the great darling of the boys and girls of Kaka High did the unheard-of by announcing at the morning assembly that the whole school would be allowed to accompany the school teams to the district sports grounds. The audience immediately burst into the most ground-quaking applause I had ever witnessed. Euphoria filled the air and chants of Cool Boy's greatness soon turned into morale-boosting songs when we reached the field. I was particularly relieved because I had not finished the Maths teacher's assignment and he was coming in first. We all hated lessons. Cool Boy had saved us from the tyranny of these talk-and-chalk-and-stick teachers.

I walked to the district grounds with a group of five boys. Although the grounds were two miles away, we had avoided using the school bus or truck and had opted to utilize the rare opportunity of being outside school gates and fences. We needed to explore and adventure the geography of the area with 'our boots on the ground' first. We were not as much interested in watching the games or cheering up our team as we were in maximizing the greater benefits of an uncommon outing during school time. We were birds flying out of a cage, and the sky was the limit.

We arrived at the grounds at about eleven O'clock. Our school had won the first game and as soon as we got the news, we turned back, heading for the town. We lazed through the main and back streets, window shopping, buying this and that with most of our money going for small snacks, cheap armbands or fake wrist watches. By one O'clock, we were sick with hunger but without enough money to buy ourselves decent lunch in the town. We returned to the grounds hoping to catch-up with the school-prepared lunch only to find that the students had dived into the big dishes, fought over it in survival-for-the-fittest fashion and eaten off even the smallest crabs in minutes. We resorted to pancakes and sachets juice, then joined the morale boosters in what was the third match of our school team.

Although we qualified in both football and netball, we had put up the most outstanding performance in the latter. All this meant one important thing: Cool Boy's technique of sending the entire school to the district grounds had worked miracles since it had the advantage of stadium noise and pressure. But most importantly for me and my ilk, there would be no classes the next day and we would spend the whole day lazing about and flirting with girls.

Questions

2.1. Was it always the case that all students of Kaka High School attended the sports gala? What shows?

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2.2. By what gesture did Mister Wacha exchange greetings with students at Kaka High School?

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2.3. What things did Mr Wacha do that endeared him to students of Kaka High School?

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2.4. How did the learners react when it was announced that the whole school would accompany the teams to the district sports grounds?

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2.5. Why was the writer particularly relieved by this announcement?

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2B Read the passage below and select the correct answer from the alternatives given.

About six o'clock I went home, dressed, dined at the Cafe Royal, and turned into a music-hall. It was a silly show, all capering women and monkey-faced men, and I did not stay long. The night was fine and clear as I walked back to the flat I had hired near Portland Place. The crowd surged past me on the pavements, busy and chattering, and I envied the people for having something to do. These shop-girls and clerks and dandies and policemen had some interest in life that kept them going. I gave half-a-crown to a beggar because I saw him yawn; he was a fellow-sufferer. At Oxford Circus I looked up into the spring sky and I made a vow. I would give the Old Country another day to fit me into something; if nothing happened, I would take the next boat for the Cape.

My flat was the first floor in a new block behind Langham Place. There was a common staircase, with a porter and a liftman at the entrance, but there was no restaurant or anything of that sort, and each flat was quite shut off from the others. I hate servants on the premises, so I had a fellow to look after me who came in by the day. He arrived before eight o'clock every morning and used to depart at seven, for I never dined at home.

I was just fitting my key into the door when I noticed a man at my elbow. I had not seen him approach, and the sudden appearance made me start. He was a slim man, with a short brown beard and small, gimlety blue eyes. I recognized him as the occupant of a flat on the top floor, with whom I had passed the time of day on the stairs.

'Can I speak to you?' he said. 'May I come in for a minute?' He was steadying his voice with an effort, and his hand was pawing my arm.

I got my door open and motioned him in. No sooner was he over the threshold than he made a dash for my back room, where I used to smoke and write my letters. Then he bolted back.

'Is the door locked?' he asked feverishly, and he fastened the chain with his own hand.

'I'm very sorry,' he said humbly. 'It's a mighty liberty, but you looked the kind of man who would understand. I've had you in my mind all this week when things got troublesome. Say, will you do me a good turn?'

'I'll listen to you,' I said. 'That's all I'll promise.' I was getting worried by the antics of this nervous little chap.

There was a tray of drinks on a table beside him, from which he filled himself a stiff whisky-and-soda. He drank it off in three gulps, and cracked the glass as he set it down.

'Pardon,' he said, 'I'm a bit rattled tonight. You see, I happen at this moment to be dead.'

I sat down in an armchair and lit my pipe.

'What does it feel like?' I asked. I was pretty certain that I had to deal with a madman.

A smile flickered over his drawn face. 'I'm not mad--yet. Say, Sir, I've been watching you, and I reckon you're a cool customer. I reckon, too, you're an honest man, and not afraid of playing a bold hand. I'm going to **confide** in you. I need help worse than any man ever needed it, and I want to know if I can count you in.'

'Get on with your yarn,' I said, 'and I'll tell you.'

He seemed to brace himself for a great effort, and then started on the queerest rigmarole. I didn't get hold of it at first, and I had to stop and ask him questions. But here is the gist of it.

Questions:

- 2.6. From the first paragraph, we can tell that the writer is:
- a) a commissioned inspector of the town.
 - b) a malicious person who envies everyone and hates everything.
 - c) very confused and restless.
 - d) bored by life around him while the others seem happy and engaged.
- 2.7. Why did the writer's servant only come by during the day?
- a) He was lazy and used to dodge night duty.
 - b) He had another part-time job that he did at night.
 - c) The writer did not like staying with servants.
 - d) The servant occupied a flat on the top floor.
- 2.8. The man speaking to the narrator is:
- a) a stranger who lived in the same neighborhood.
 - b) the servant
 - c) a madman
 - d) a mysterious ghost
- 2.9. Why was the man speaking and doing things hastily?
- a) He was rushing for something urgent.
 - b) He was nervous, worried and desperately in need of help.
 - c) He was a lunatic who had just escaped from confinement.
 - d) That was his character.
- 2.10. The word 'confide' means:
- a) To confine someone
 - b) To confuse and deceive someone
 - c) To disclose some information to everybody
 - d) To disclose private matters or problems to somebody

3A Re-write the following sentences as instructed in brackets without changing the meaning.

3.1 Because Tony was not well prepared for the examination, he failed miserably.
(Begin: If ...)

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3.2 She was so stupid that she opened the door when the thieves knocked. (Begin: So ...)

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3.3 Although the government warned against unnecessary movements, many people continued to exercise in public places. (End with ... notwithstanding.)

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3.4 Both my friends and I didn't attend the party. (Use ... neither ...)

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3.5 Whatever the consequences may be, I will defy the curfew laws this week. (Use ... regardless ...)

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3.6 If the police had not arrived in time, the thieves would have escaped. (Begin: But for ...)

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3.7 I am fascinated by the way she speaks. (Use: what)

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3.8 “Wow! I have never seen such a beautiful dress,” said Anita. (Write in indirect speech.)

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3.9 The deputy insisted that we had to be punished that day. (Re-write the sentence in direct speech)

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3.10 She fears moving at night,? Supply a suitable question tag.

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3B For each of the following, choose the correct alternative to answer the given questions.

3.11. You shall have as many books as you need. The underlined phrase means:

- a) I promise to give you.
- b) I must give you.
- c) I may give you.
- d) I am required to give you.

3.12. If the backbenchers so loudly, we would have heard what the speaker actually said.

- a) have not been talking
- b) had not been talking
- c) were not talking
- d) did not talk

3.13. After a hard day’s work, the meal was a welcome for the hungry peasants.

- a) spectacle
- b) sight
- c) scene
- d) view

3.14. Marvin sits Deus.

- a) besides
- b) adrift
- c) between
- d) beside

3.15. When a person grows old, her vitality and creative power

- a) disappears
- b) disappear
- c) deteriorates
- d) deteriorate

3.16. Capital punishment may be a discouraging factor against repeated crime. The underlined words above mean:

- a) Determent
- b) Deterrent
- c) Barrier
- d) Dissuasion

3.17. of the two passed the test.

- a) All
- b) Neither
- c) Both
- d) Nor

3.18. It was _____ cold and as such I didn't need a sweater.

- a) extremely
- b) mildly
- c) exceedingly
- d) exceptionally

3.19. The bottle needs to be closed. Where is _____ lid?

- a) your
- b) our
- c) it's
- d) its

3.20. Uganda is a country.

- a) beautiful small African
- b) small beautiful African
- c) African small beautiful
- d) small African beautiful

All the Best. Keep Safe. Stay Home.

