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**KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATION COUNCIL  
REVISION MOCK EXAMS 2016  
TOP NATIONAL SCHOOLS**

**KENYA HIGH SCHOOL  
ENGLISH  
PAPER 2**

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# KENYA HIGH SCHOOL KCSE TRIAL AND PRACTICE EXAM 2016 (COMPREHENSION, LITERARY APPRECIATION AND GRAMMAR) PAPER 2

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## **COMPREHENSION ON UNSEEN TEXT:**

***Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:***

A short guy is a disadvantaged individual. And no, the disadvantage is not about reaching high surfaces. He can always stand on his toes or even get a stool. But what would he do when he is discriminated against or taunted on account of his being short; and when tall guys consider it something of a moral responsibility to remind the short fellow over and over that he is inferior?

Apparently, a short man, besides being irritable, is a psychological wreck, thanks to some syndrome of sorts.

Then there is a legion of misinformed women out there who declare to anyone who cares to listen that death would be a welcome alternative to dating a short man. Never mind that most are themselves as short as one can get. In their opinion, which they are entitled to anyway, tall is handsome, strong and literally oozes masculinity while short is the opposite. With limited choice of possible mates, restrictions on probable mates and slew of wrongful generalizations, affirmative action would be in order here.

But as they taunt, vilify, and harass short guys on the basis of height, the tall ones conveniently forget that no one chose how tall they would be. Elementary biology has it that we are all victims of genetic accidents; how tall one becomes is wholly subject to chance. Appearance and other human characteristics are an aggregation of parental traits at best, or a mutation at worst like when only one member is short in a family of tall fellows. It therefore speak volumes about the gray matter upstairs in anyone chest thumping about being tall. Once, when the disciplined forces were hiring, I offered myself for consideration. I was subjected to all sorts of strenuous exercise, running round and round the field in the midday sun like I had gone berserk, shutting my eyes alternately, and a host of other impossible strange routines, only to be turned away at the end of the day for the simple reason that my height did not add up.

Merchants of rumours and falsehood have been at it again. After unleashing the “shorter the monkey the longer the tail” rumour, they are back with another mind-boggling one: that these long-tailed short monkeys are poor lovers. While endowment does not necessarily equal performance, such are generalization of the absurd; something akin to the misplaced belief that all Africans lives on trees. If anything, as one Literary Great apply put it, a tiger does not declare its turpitude, it pounces.

And the politics of generalizations do not end there. The short guy is also said to be irritable and hence the worst possible choice for a boss or even a mate. Who wants to spend time with someone who will be over the roof at the slightest provocation? Not that the myth is gospel truth, but it has resulted in a further restriction of the short guy’s already limited choice of a mate.

As if this is not enough, stiff competition for short ladies silently rages, pitting tall guys against short ones. Despite their wide appeal, the tall fellows have an inexplicable penchant for short ladies. Factor in the belief that it is something of a misnomer to date a taller lady, the decision by some short ladies to give a not interested verdict for short men, and you have remote, dwindling chances of short men getting a mate.

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Maybe it is time the short in stature considered coming together to fight this wholesale discrimination on account of their height, over which they have no control. An association would be the perfect gateway to affirmative action. Surely, what has height got to do with love, temperament and everything else for that matter?

### Questions

- (a) Why does the writer think the short guy is disadvantaged? (2 Marks)
- (b) Explain the irony of some women discriminating the short man. (2 Marks)
- (c) According to the writer, what determines a person's height. (2 Marks)
- (d) Why does the writer give his experience when the disciplined forces were hiring? (2 Marks)
- (e) "There is a legion of misinformed women out there who declare to anyone who cares listen to dating a short man"  
(Rewrite the sentence using 'prefer
- (f) What two reasons are given why it might be difficult for short men to get mates? (2 Marks)
- (g) What solution is given by the writer to end discrimination of the short man? (2 Marks)
- (h) What is attitude of the writer towards people discriminate against the short man? (3 Marks)
- (i) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage (4 Marks)
- (i) legion
  - (ii) Aggregation
  - (iii) Chest thumping
  - (iv) Inexplicable penchant

### Question 2

**Read the excerpt below and then answer the questions that follow.**

**GOVERNOR'S WIFE:** Only essentials! Quick, open the trunks! I'll tell you what I need. (*The trunks are lowered and opened. She points at some brocade dresses.*) The green one! And, course the one with the fur trimming. Where are Niko Mikadze and Milka Loladze? I've suddenly got the most terrible migraine again. It always starts with the temples. (*Enter GRUSHA*) Taking you time, eh! Go and get the hot water bottles this minute! (*Grusha runs off, returns later with hot water bottles; the GOVERNOR'S WIFE orders her about by signs.*) Don't tear the sleeves.

**A YOUNG WOMAN:** Pardon, madam, no harm has come to the dress.

**GOVERNOR'S WIFE:** Because I stopped you. I've been watching you for a long time. Nothing in your head but making eyes at Shalva Tzereteli. I'll kill you bitch! (*She beats the YOUNG WOMAN.*)

**ADJUTANT:** (*Appearing in the gateway*): Please make haste, Natella Abashvili. Firing has broken out in the city. (*Exit*)

**GOVERNOR'S WIFE:** (Letting go of the YOUNG WOMAN): Oh dear, do you think they'll lay hands on us? Why should they? Why? (*She herself begins to rummage in the trunk*) How's Michael? Asleep?

**WOMAN WITH THE CHILD:** Yes, Madam.

**GOVERNOR'S WIFE:** Then put him down a moment and get my little saffron-coloured boots from the bedroom. I need them for the green dress. (*The WOMAN puts down the CHILD and goes off.*) Just look how these things have been packed! No love! No understanding! If you don't give them every order yourself... At such moments you realize what kind of servants you have! They will gorge themselves. I'll remember this.

**ADJUTANT:** (*Entering, very excited*): Natella, you must leave at once!

**GOVERNOR'S WIFE:** Why? I've got to take this silver dress – it cost a thousand piasters. And that one there, and where's the wine-coloured one?

**ADJUTANT:** (*Trying to pull her away*): Riots have broken out! We must leave at once.  
Where's the baby?

**GOVERNOR'S WIFE:** (*calling to the YOUNG WOMAN who was holding the baby*): Maro, get the baby ready! Where on earth are you?

**ADJUTANT:** (*Leaving*): We'll probably have to leave the carriage behind and go ahead on horseback.

*The GOVERNOR'S WIFE rummages again among her dresses, throws some on top of chosen clothes, then takes them off again. Noises, drums are heard. The YOUNG WOMAN who was beaten creeps away. The sky begins to grow red.*

### Questions

- (a) Place this extract in its immediate context. (4 Marks)
- (b) Identify and illustrate two character traits of Governor's wife brought out in this extract (4 Marks)
- (c) Why does Natella appear to be in such a hurry? (2 Marks)
- (d) "I've got to take this silver dress – it cost a thousand piasters." Rewrite this sentence beginning. This ... (1 Mark)
- (e) Identify and illustrate two themes highlighted in the excerpt? (4 Marks)
- (f) Identify and illustrate any two features of style used in the extract. (4 Marks)
- (g) Who is Michael and what happened to him later in the play. (3 Marks)
- (h) Give the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the extract. (3 Marks)
- (i) Essentials
  - (ii) Migraine
  - (iii) Gorge themselves at your expense

### Question 3

#### ORAL LITERATURE

**Read the oral piece below and answer the questions that follow**

Blood iron and trumpets  
Blood iron and trumpets  
Forward we march  
(others fall on the way)  
Blood iron and trumpets  
We shall hack kill and cure  
Blood iron and trumpets  
Singers of the datsun blue  
Forward we drive breaking the records  
Blood iron and trumpets  
Let bullets find their targets and the earth be softened  
Blood iron and trumpets  
Let the dogs of war rejoice  
And the carrion birds feed  
We are reducing population sexplosion  
Blood iron and trumpets  
The uniformed machines are around  
Put on your helmet iron and rest  
Blood iron and trumpets  
Only through fire can be baptized to mean business  
So once again  
Blood iron and trumpets

We shall always march along  
Blood iron and trumpets  
Blood iron and trumpets  
Blood alone

- (a) Classify the oral piece above (2 Marks)  
(b) What are the functions of the oral piece above? (3 Marks)  
(c) Identify two features of oral poetry evident in the oral item. (3 Marks)  
(d) What two issues is this oral poem talking about? (4 Marks)  
(e) Cite one social and one economic activity of the community from which this oral poem is taken  
(f) Who would be the most suitable audience for the oral poem? Give reasons for your answer (2 Marks)  
(g) "The uniformed machines are around" Explain the meaning of this statement. (1 Mark)  
(h) Describe the mood of the poem. (2 Marks)

### **GRAMMAR**

- (a) Change the following sentences into indirect speech. (2 Marks)  
(i) "You have cheated for too long," blurted the woman.  
(ii) "How much money do you owe me?" demanded the creditor from the debtor.  
(b) Add question tags to the following statements.  
(i) She warned you right from the beginning. (2 Marks)  
(ii) You will call in tomorrow.  
(c) Change the following sentences into the active voice. (2 Marks)  
(i) The experiment was successfully carried out by the student.  
(ii) Our school was greatly honoured by the minister.  
(d) Rewrite the following sentences according to instructions given after each. (Do not change the meaning.)  
(i) Many students benefit if they read in the morning. (Rewrite using a gerund)  
(ii) If he calls me, I will attend the wedding ceremony. Begin: Unless  
(iii) In spite of the bad weather they decided to go for a walk as planned.  
(Rewrite using *although*)  
(e) Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions. (3 Marks)  
(i) I am fond \_\_\_\_\_ music.  
(ii) He died \_\_\_\_\_ his country.  
(iii) The river flows \_\_\_\_\_ the bridge.  
(f) Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets. (3 Marks)  
(i) Her \_\_\_\_\_ cost her life. (deceive)  
(ii) Such an \_\_\_\_\_ had never been seen. (Occur)  
(iii) When we saw the suspect fidgeting, we knew \_\_\_\_\_ that he was guilty. (doubt)