

# KCSE TRIAL 2020

## ENGLISH PAPER 2

### 1. COMPREHENSION

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

Technology is basically the way we execute the discoveries of science and **blend** it with our own needs. Technology is a general term used to refer to the different tools, machines, and equipment we use in everyday life. These tools and equipment have been invented by man to make the tasks faster, easier and more comfortable.

Since the invention of the wheel and the use of microchips in computers and mobiles, technology has come a long way. Man has reached the moon and explored the outer space just because of the advancement in the aeronautics field. Even in primitive occupations such as agriculture, there have been so many technological advancements with modern tools such as traction engine and steam tractor technology which has helped us make progress.

Although there have been countless examples where technology has changed our lives, there are some which are considered as revolution for mankind. The technology used in the field of robotics is one such fine example. Nowadays robots are being used by people and industries all over the world for various purposes. They are also used in places which are otherwise considered harmful for humans thereby protecting us. One such area is the cleaning and managing of radioactive waste.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is another field which is a classic example of the technological advancement man has achieved. Who could have imagined that a machine would be capable of thinking like us? That is what AI has been successful in doing. It is an intelligent machine capable of behaving like us. It can do activities such as problem-solving, planning, learning and even reasoning. Today AI is used in all major areas such as warfare, security, healthcare and communication. On top of this, it is far more efficient than us and has a lower rate of error.

Technology has its own importance in our lives. Without technological advancement, our lives would not be simpler and faster. The modernization that the world is witnessing today has all been possible because of the technological developments in different fields. Moreover, it has helped in reducing the risks people had to undertake in many sectors such as mining. With new tools available, the tasks are less risky and are more efficient as well.

Although technological advancements are important for us, it is also true that we seem to be over-dependent on them nowadays. The use of mobiles was meant to be able to keep in touch in difficult times. But now we see kids too much involved in the different applications on mobiles and killing their valuable time. In addition, many crimes have been reported through the misuse of digital technology. Also, it has been

seen that many people lack the basic education required to ensure the proper use of the technology available today. In fact, most of them use it for the sake of fashion and hence end up misusing it. People have been so dependent on technology that they no longer want to do any kind of manual activity. Even for small works that can be done manually, people prefer to do it through technology. This has resulted in making humans mentally as well as physically dormant.

Technology is surely a **boon** for mankind. It is all the more important for the economic growth of a country. Modern technologies have in fact succeeded in reducing the human effort and the risk in doing a lot many things. But, still, it is for us to see how best we make use of the technology available to us.

While on one hand we can make use of technological advancements of nuclear energy to generate electricity and help many villages lighten us, on the other hand the same nuclear energy can be used to create bombs which can cause **mammoth** destruction. Similarly, robots and other technological advancements have served as a good servant to us but the moment it becomes the master it can wipe all humanity from the earth.

### Questions

(a) What is technology according to the passage (2marks)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(b) State two prominent ways in which technology has changed lives according to the passage. (2marks)

.....  
.....  
.....

(c) How has technology been important to human beings according to the passage? (3marks)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(d) How has advancements in the field of aeronautics changed this field? (2marks)

.....  
.....

.....  
.....

(e) Make notes on the drawbacks of technology. (4marks)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(f) Technology is surely a boon for mankind. (1mark)

*Begin: Surely.....*

.....  
.....

(g) Discuss the writer's mixed thought on technology? (3marks)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(h) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage. (3marks)

i) Blend

.....  
.....

ii) Mammoth

.....  
.....

iii) Boon

.....  
.....

2. **EXCERPT**

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

“In Nakuru, this was not a subject that concerned us much. But in Nasila it is on every lip.”  
“Yes, that’s very true,” Resian said trying to entice her mother to say more. “The other day Taiyo learnt from Joseph Parmuat that female circumcision was initiated by women themselves about two hundred years earlier. And that it was as a result of sexual abuse and harassment by an invading despot called Olarinkoi and his warriors. Is that true *Yeiyo*? I thought it was one of those myths that were created by men to blame women for everything that works against them.”

“What Joseph Parmuat told Taiyo is factually correct,” her mother told her confidently. “It was the shame and anger that was provoked by Ilarinkon taunts, lewd teasing and provocative posturing that made the women do what they did to **curtail** those desires the worthless predators exploited to prey upon them.”

“That may have been true then.’ Resian said looking directly into her mother’s eyes. “But what is the reason for doing it today? Ilarinkon are no longer with us, or are they?”

“The original Ilarinkon may have gone,” her mother said unconvincingly, “but other Ilarinkon are still with us.”

“Exactly!” said Resian triumphantly. “Yes, it’s the latter day Ilarinkon who are wreaking havoc on us women. Surely, *Yeiyo*, if one discovered a nasty but potent medicine that once taken cured an **ailment**, must they continue to swallow it every day – ten years down the line? I find that absurd. The sensible thing would be to discard the bitter medicine once people are cured. Period! Tell me *Yeiyo*, what use is FGM to today’s woman?”

“Are you suggesting that it is men who continue to perpetuate this cultural rite?” her mother asked **perplexed** by her daughter’s argument.

“Yes, they are creators of the labyrinth that the women continue to meander around,” she said philosophically. “Even if I am reluctantly convinced that it was women and not men who initiated the obnoxious ritual, who provoked the women to do so? The Ilarinkon who were purported to have pushed women into mutilating their sexuality were men. And the ancient Ilarinkon were no different from today’s Ilarinkon. The ancient Ilarinkon were sadists and despotic. Today’s Ilarinkon are worse. In addition to being despotic, they are oppressive tyrants; ‘and one of their ways of oppressing us is to demand that F G M be perpetuated against us forever!’”

**Questions:**

- (a) Resian is fond of her sister Taiyo. Why is Taiyo not here at this moment? Explain the significance of her absence. (3marks)

.....  
.....  
.....

- (b) Discuss **two** themes evident in the excerpt. (4marks)

.....

.....

.....

.....

(c) In your words rephrase the origin of FGM (3marks)

.....

.....

.....

(d) Describe **two** character traits of Resian as brought out in the excerpt. (4marks)

.....

.....

.....

(e) ‘The original Ilarinkon may have gone,’ her mother said unconvincingly, ‘but other Ilarinkon are still with us.’

*Change into reported speech* (1mark)

.....

(f) Today’s Ilarinkon are worse (*add a question tag*) (1 mark)

.....

(g) Identify the main style used in this excerpt. State its **two** significances (3marks)

.....

.....

.....

(h) Describe the events that occur soon after this excerpt. (4marks)

.....

.....

.....

(i) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the excerpt. (3marks)

- i) Curtail.....
- ii) Ailment.....
- iii) Perplexed.....

3. Read the poem below and then answer the questions that follow.

**TOUCH BY HUGH LEWIN**

When I get out  
I'm going to ask someone  
Touch me  
Very gently please  
And slowly,  
Touch me  
I want  
To learn again  
How life feels

I've not been touched  
For seven years  
For seven years  
I've been untouched  
And I've learned  
To know now  
The meaning of  
Untouchable.  
Untouchable – not quite  
I can count the things  
That have touched me.

One: fists  
At the beginning  
Fierce mad fists  
Beating beating  
Till I remember  
Screaming  
Don't touch me  
Please don't touch me

Two: paws  
The first four years of paws  
Every day  
Patting paws, searching

Arms up, shoes off  
Legs apart-  
Probing paws, systematic  
Heavy indifferent  
Probing away  
All privacy.

I don't want fists and paws  
I want  
To want be touched  
Again  
And touch.  
I want to feel alive  
Again  
I want to say  
When I get out  
Here I am  
Please touch me.

*(From poets to the people, edit by Barry Feinberg)*

**Questions**

(a) Where do you think the person is? Briefly explain your answer. (3marks)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(b) What do you the persona means by “touch”? (3marks)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(c) Using two illustrations, describe the persona’s experience during the seven years. (4marks)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(d) What is the significance of the word ‘paws’? (2marks)

.....  
.....  
.....  
(e) Which device does the poet use to reinforce the theme? (2marks)

.....  
.....  
.....  
(f) Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the poem. (2marks)

i) Prodding

.....  
.....  
.....  
ii) Indifferent.

.....  
.....  
.....  
(g) What does the poet use to reveal about human need? (4marks)

.....  
.....  
.....

#### 4. GRAMMAR

(a) In the sentences below, use the correct form of the words in brackets. (2marks)

i) You will have to pay for the ..... of the house. (maintain)

ii) The support staff decided to wait for the outcome of the .....  
(deliberate)

(b) Rewrite the sentences according to the instruction given without changing its meaning. (2marks)

i) A good thing about our small town is that the crime rate is low.

*Begin:*

*That*.....  
.....  
.....

ii) My father would not allow us to attend night parties under any circumstances. (*Begin: Under.....*)  
.....  
.....

(c) Explain the difference in meaning of each of the following pairs of sentences. (2marks)

i) Even I attend the graduation ceremony

ii) I even attended the graduation ceremony

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(d) Choose the more appropriate pronoun to fill in the blank spaces. (2marks)

- i) Chebet thanked her aunt, from .....she had received the phone. (whom, who)
- ii) Either you or .....will be the leader on the trail. (me, I)

(e) Rewrite by correcting the errors in the sentences. (2marks)

- i) Lets decide whom will start the game.  
.....  
.....
- ii) It's news are not difficult to understand  
.....  
.....

(f) Replace the underlined idiomatic expression using a single word. (1mark)

The student complained that her father was close-fisted  
.....  
.....

(g) Replace the phrasal verbs underlined in the sentences below with one word that means the same. (2marks)

- i) It is wrong to look down on students from other schools.  
.....  
.....
- ii) Bicoty takes after her father.  
.....  
.....

(h) Choose the correct order of adjectives in brackets to fill in the gaps. (2marks)

- i) My.....laptop is very efficient. (small, old, ugly, grey, Samsung)

ii) Oloisudori gave Resian an expensive ring in a .....  
box. (metal, square, small)