

**KCSE 2013**  
**English Paper 2 (101/2)**

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- 1 Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. (20 marks)

To understand garbage, both industrial and domestic, you have to touch it, feel it and smell it. You have to pick through hundreds of tons of it, counting and weighing all the daily newspapers, the directories, the soiled diapers, the lipstick cylinders coated with grease, the medicine vials still encasing brightly coloured pills, the forsaken toys, and cigarette butts. You have to sort and weigh the volume of all the organic matter, discards from thousands of plates: rice; ugali; fish heads to which justice has hardly been done; rotting water melons bleeding from gaping holes; the half eaten bananas, mostly still within their peels, black and incomparably sweet in the embrace of the final decay.

To understand garbage, you need thick gloves, a mask and a vibrant immune system. However, the knowledge harvested from a dumpsite makes up for the grim working conditions. To an archaeologist, ancient garbage pits are among the happiest finds. Every archaeologist dreams of discovering spectacular objects – but the **bread and butter work** of archaeology involves the most common and routine kinds of discards.

Interestingly, much conventional wisdom about garbage and its disposal consists of myths and assertions that turn out, upon investigation, to be misleading or dead wrong. For example, plastics are assumed to constitute the highest quantity of waste matter. For the record, the item most frequently encountered in a dumpsite is plain old paper. At one point, there was a lot of talk about how technology, computers in particular, would bring about “paperless office” – a risky prediction, given the way things have turned out. Personal computers and printers grace many offices and homes today. Consequently, where the creation of paper waste is concerned, technology is proving to be a fertility drug rather than a contraceptive.

Concerning plastics, it is true that the number of plastic objects has been increasing over the years. Nevertheless, the proportion of space they take up in a dumpsite has hardly changed. The explanation appears to be the result of what is called “light-weighting” – making objects in such a way that they retain all their functional characteristics but require the use of less **resin**. These days, even the plastic in disposable diapers ensures that they enter the house very light but leave it much heavier than ever before. The result is that many more plastic items can be squeezed into a given volume.

Plastics are the Great Satan: gaudy, cheap, a convenient scapegoat for people who claim we waste and consume too much. Although it is paper more than anything else that is filling up the dumpsites, in its defense one frequently hears the claim that paper biodegrades while plastic remains inert and will take up space until the end of time.

Not really.

The reality is that the dynamics of a modern dumpsite are very nearly the opposite of what most people think. Biologically and chemically, a dumpsite is much more **static** than we commonly assume. For some kinds of garbage, biodegradation goes on for a while and then slows down to a virtual standstill. For other kinds, biodegradation never **gets underway** at all.

[Adapted from “*Five Major Myths about Garbage , and Why they Are Wrong*” by William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, appearing in *The Presence of Others* (1994). New York: St Martins Press]

- (a) From paragraph one, name **two** examples of industrial waste and **two** examples of domestic waste. (1 mark)
- (b) According to the passage, how does a banana change as it rots? (2 marks)
- (c) Why do you think a vibrant immune system is said to be important in understanding garbage? (2 marks)
- (d) In the following sentence, replace the **underlined expression** with **one word**. (1 mark)  
  
However, the knowledge harvested from a dumpsite makes up for the grim working conditions.
- (e) Why do you think the author puts the words “paperless office” in quotation marks? (2 marks)
- (f) Explain how technology has become a fertility drug rather than a contraceptive. (3 marks)
- (g) What can we infer about **resin**? (2 marks)
- (h) In **point form**, summarize the reasons why the author feels paper waste poses a greater danger to the environment than plastics. (4 marks)
- (i) Explain the meaning of each of the following expressions as used in the passage. (3 marks)  
  
bread and butter work;  
  
static;  
  
gets underway.

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

PETER STOCKMANN: By the way, Hovstad was telling me he was going to print another of your articles.

DR. STOCKMANN: One of my articles?

PETER STOCKMANN: Yes, about the Baths. An article you apparently wrote during the winter.

DR. STOCKMANN: Oh, that one! No I wouldn't want that to appear now.

PETER STOCKMANN: Why not? I should have thought that this would be the most opportune moment.

DR. STOCKMANN: Yes, very likely – under normal conditions.  
(crosses the room.)

PETER STOCKMANN *(following him with his eyes)*: Is there anything extraordinary about the present conditions?

DR. STOCKMANN *(standing still)*: To tell you the truth, Peter, I can't tell you just at this moment – at least not tonight. There may be much that is very abnormal about the present conditions – and it is possible there may be nothing extraordinary about them at all. It might very well be just my imagination.

PETER STOCKMANN: I must say it all sounds most mysterious. Is there something going on that I am not supposed to know? I should have imagined that I, as Chairman of the governing body of the Baths ...

DR. STOCKMANN: And I should have imagined that I ... Oh, come, don't let us fly off the handle at one another, Peter.

PETER STOCKMANN: Heaven forbid! I am not in the habit of flying off the handle, as you call it. But I am entitled to request most emphatically that all arrangements shall be made in a businesslike manner, through the proper channels and shall be dealt with by the proper authorities. I can allow no dubious or underhand methods.

DR. STOCKMANN: Have I ever at any time used dubious or underhand methods?

PETER STOCKMANN: You have an ingrained tendency to take things into your own hands, at least; and, that is almost equally inadmissible in a well-ordered community. The individual ought undoubtedly to subordinate himself or herself to the community – or, to be more accurate, to the authorities who have the care of the community's welfare.

DR. STOCKMANN: Very likely. But what the devil has all this got to do with me?

PETER STOCKMANN: That is exactly what you never seem to learn my dear Thomas. But, mark my words, some day you will have to suffer for it – sooner or later.

- (a) Explain why the brothers, Peter and Thomas Stockmann, differ over the timing of publication of the article mentioned in this excerpt. (2 marks)
- (b) Give **two** reasons why Dr. Stockmann is reluctant to discuss the “present conditions” of the Baths with the mayor. (2 marks)
- (c) Identify and illustrate **three** character traits of Peter Stockmann evident in this excerpt. (6 marks)
- (d) In the light of what happens later in the play, say to what extent each of the two brothers has got “the care of the community's welfare”. (4 marks)
- (e) What is it that Dr. Stockmann “never seems to learn” according to the mayor? (2 marks)

- (f) “Have I ever at any time used dubious or underhand methods?”  
(Rewrite in reported speech) (1 mark)
- (g) Identify and explain **three** aspects of foregrounding the author uses in this excerpt. (6 marks)
- (h) Pick out a phrase in this excerpt that may suggest that Peter Stockmann exaggerates or even falsely accuses Dr. Stockmann of insubordination. Explain your answer. (2 marks)

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

### OUT-CAST

They met by accident  
He proposed the idea  
She gave her consent  
All the way to the altar

The casualty was male  
And his pigment was pale  
Unlike his alleged sire  
Who was black with ire

The recourse was legitimate  
He disclaimed responsibility  
So they had to separate  
The boy remains illegitimate

Last month, not long ago  
They both took their go  
Coincidentally by accident  
No will, no estate  
Nothing to inherit

The poor boy is hardly ten  
And knows no next-of-kin  
He roams the streets of town  
Like a wind-sown out-cast

*G. Gathemia*  
(From: ***Boundless Voices***).  
Edited by Arthur I. Luvai

- (a) Briefly explain what the poem is about. (4 marks)
- (b) Describe **two** character traits of the mother in the poem. (4 marks)
- (c) Explain the meaning of the following as used in the poem. (3 marks)
- (i) disclaimed



- (ii) unlike his alleged sire who was black with ire
- (d) Identify and explain one instance of irony in the poem. (3 marks)
- (e) What is the persona's attitude towards the boy in the poem? (3 marks)
- (f) Rewrite the following in your own words.  
(‘They both took their go’) (1 mark)
- (g) Give a proverb which appropriately summarizes this poem. (2 marks)
- 4 (a) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions after each. (4 marks)
- (i) It was difficult but we completed the task.  
(Begin: Difficult ...)
- (ii) He said that he had not insulted me.  
(Use: ‘denied’ ...)
- (iii) I will not at any cost support your evil plans.  
(Begin: At no cost ...)
- (iv) She is renovating her house so that she may sell it.  
(Rewrite using: ‘with a view’ ...)
- (b) Explain the difference in meaning of each of the following pairs of sentences. (2 marks)
- (i) I. Even I attended the ceremony.  
II. I even attended the ceremony.
- (ii) I. Bring an umbrella if it rains.  
II. Bring an umbrella in case it rains.
- (c) Replace each of the underlined words with a **phrasal verb**. (3 marks)
- (i) The meeting was postponed to a later date. ....
- (ii) After consultations the man agreed to assume the role of manager.
- (iii) The number of smokers has decreased because of the cancer awareness campaign.
- (d) Fill in each of the blank spaces with the appropriate form of the word in brackets. (3 marks)
- (i) The chairman expressed doubts about the ..... of showing the film on children's television. (suit)
- (ii) We could not understand him. His actions were completely ..... (explain).
- (iii) Wearing a mask, he was totally ..... (recognize)
- (e) Fill in each of the blank spaces with the appropriate form of the word in brackets. (3 marks)
- (i) If they had worked hard, they ..... the examination. (pass)
- (ii) If the athlete had maintained the pace, she .....  
..... (overtake)
- (iii) Unless the ambulance arrives in time, his life .....  
..... (save)