

2015 BECE English Language Past Questions – Paper Two

PART A
ESSAY WRITING
[30 MARKS]

Answer one question only from this part

1. You have won a scholarship to study abroad. Write a letter to your friend telling him or her at least two things that you will miss away.
2. Write an article for publication in your school magazine suggesting at least two ways by which cheating in the BECE can be stopped.
3. Write a story that ends, This is why our friendship came to an end.

BELOW ARE SOME GUIDELINES THAT IF EMPLOYED AND REMEMBERED SHOULD AID THE STUDENT CONSTRUCT A GOOD ESSAY.

- TOPIC SENTENCE : Main Concept Of The Paragraph
- THESIS STATEMENT: Clear And Coherent Statement That Answers The Question Posed.
- SUPPORTING EVIDENCE: Evidence That Supports The Concept In The Thesis Statement.
- PAPER FORMAT AND GRAMMAR: The Essay Should Have A Beginning Middle And An End. It Should Also Utilize Proper Grammar Including Punctuation, Spelling Subject And Verb Usage.

PART B
COMPREHENSION
[30 marks]

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions which follow

In the Western world, the family is simply made up of the husband, wife and children. This is called the nuclear family. In Africa, the family includes relatives from both the maternal and paternal sides. This is known as the extended family.

This relationship binds every member whose origin can be traced to the same ancestor. This has developed into such complex groups as clans among the Akans and kinship relations in other parts of Ghana and Africa.

Wherever the extended family is practiced, its benefits seem greater than its disadvantages. In Ghana, at the small community level, it brings unity among people. They share everything among themselves – wealth or problems. The system even binds and caters for others who may be separated by social factors such as marriage.

However, it often makes people look up to others for help when they could solve problems themselves. It also makes some members become lazy. In the long run the only well-to-do person in the family is made to shoulder the responsibilities of more people than he can really cope with. Now, the question to ask is, has the extended family system any chance of continuing when the nuclear family is now gaining so much ground? Whether the extended family will continue or die out will depend on how strong the nuclear family becomes.

(a) What does the word 'family' mean to:

- (i) the people in the Western world?
- (ii) the African?

(b) What links people in the extended family system?

(c) Mention two advantages of the extended family system.

(d) Give two reasons why you would support the nuclear family system.

(e) Explain the following expressions in your own words.

(i) look up to

(ii) made to shoulder

(iii) gaining so much ground

(f) For each of the following words, give another word or phrase that means the same, and can fit into the passage:

(i) binds;

(ii) origin;

(iii) caters for;

(iv) in the long run;

(v) cope with.

4.

(a) What the word 'family' means to:

(i) the people in the Western world?

To the people in the Western world, family is simply husband, wife and children.

(ii) the African?

To the African, family refers to relatives from both maternal and paternal sides.

(b) What links people in the extended family system

What links people in the extended family is their origin that can be traced to the same ancestor.

(c) Two advantages of the extended family system.

(i) It brings unity among people.

(ii) It caters for those separated by social factors.

(iii) Its members share everything among themselves. (any two)

(d) Two reasons why you would support the nuclear family system.

Answers to this question may vary. Any appropriate response is acceptable.

(e) Explanation of the following expressions.

(i) look up to : think highly of, admire, hold in high regard, view in high respect, etc

(ii) made to shoulder : made to bear, made to take on, etc
(iii) gaining so much ground : becoming more important, becoming more popular, advancing steadily, winning massive acceptance, etc.

(f) Other word or phrase that means the same, and can fit into the passage:

(i) binds – connects, links

(ii) origin – ancestry, roots, lineage, family, family tree, descent

(iii) caters for – provides for, help

(iv) in the long run – in the end, eventually, at the end of the day, ultimately

(v) cope with – handle, face, manage

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