

Name Index Number

101/2

ENGLISH

Paper 2

(Comprehension, Literary Appreciation and Grammar)

May 2015

2½ hours

ALLIANCE HIGH SCHOOL

PRE-TRIAL EXAMINATIONS

Instructions to candidates

- (a) Write your name and index number in the spaces provided above.
- (b) Answer all the questions in this question paper.
- (c) All your answers must be written in the spaces provided in this question paper.

For Examiner's Use Only

Question	Maximum Score	Candidate's Score
1	20	
2	25	
3	20	
4	15	
	Total Score	

1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

When Memory Banda's younger sister was forced to marry at just 11 years old, Memory became determined to ensure that no more girls had to experience her sister's fate. Since then, this remarkable young woman from rural Malawi has helped to persuade her government to raise the minimum age of marriage across her country, and is blazing a trail for girls that we all should follow.

Memory's sister became pregnant during a traditional sexual "cleansing ceremony," a **rite of passage** in some parts of Malawi that is supposed to prepare pubescent girls for womanhood and marriage. She was forced to marry the father of her unplanned child, a man in his early 30s, and was burdened with all the responsibilities of adulthood. Now 16, she is raising three children alone; she has been unable to return to school.

The incident inspired Memory to push for a better future for girls. She became involved with a local grassroots group, Girls Empowerment Network, joining other young women and civil-society groups across Malawi to urge village authorities and parliamentary ministers to put an end to child marriages. Last month, Memory's efforts – along with those of thousands of others – paid off, when Malawi's government **enacted** a new law that sets the minimum age for marriage at 18.

Memory's achievement is an important one. Every year, some 15 million girls are married before the age of 18, and their plight is all too often ignored. A girl forced into marriage typically faces pressure to bear children before she is physically or emotionally ready to do so. And the result can be deadly. Girls who give birth before they turn 15 are five times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than women in their 20s.

The consequences of child marriage are life-long. Child brides typically drop out of school, losing the chance to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. Like Memory's sister, they often are married to older men – a situation that leaves them less able to ensure that they are treated well. Can you imagine trying to stand up to a man you did not choose, you do not love, and who does not respect you?

Education for girls is crucial to ending child marriage. The transition from primary school to secondary school is particularly important, as it usually coincides with adolescence, a period in a girl's life that lays the foundation for success and wellbeing in womanhood. Girls with secondary education are up to six times less likely to marry early compared to girls with little or no education. An educated woman is also likely to bear fewer children and is able to plan for a healthier, more prosperous future for herself and her family.

Girls must be convinced and assured of their worth. In places like India, Tanzania, and Zambia, girls' empowerment clubs, in which members share their challenges and learn how to overcome them, have proved their effectiveness. Such clubs give girls the confidence and skills they need to take control of the major decisions in their lives – including whether, when, and whom they will marry.

But girls should not be left to end child marriage on their own. Child marriage occurs in a wide variety of countries, religions, and cultures, and families, communities, and societies share a joint responsibility to end it. Governments need to adopt legislation that sets 18 as the minimum age for marriage – leaving no room for exceptions such as traditional practices or parental consent.

Fathers, brothers and male leaders must be engaged to care for and empower girls. Support should be given to civil-society groups that conduct dialogues with parents, teachers, and traditional leaders to build community awareness of the consequences of child marriage.

Girls hold the key to building thriving societies. It is up to all of us to serve as role models for the girls in our lives. We have all benefited from the wisdom of our parents, partners, colleagues, and mentors. It is now up to us to **nourish** and nurture girls' ambitions. We must bring to an end a practice that prevents millions of them from reaching their potential. Let girls be girls, not brides.

('Girls, Not Brides' by Graça Machel, Founder of the Graça Machel Trust and Mabel van Oranje, Chair of Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage. Available at <http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/minimum-marriage-age-by-graca-machel-and-mabel-v--oranje>)

- (a) Describe two injustices committed against Memory Banda's sister as expressed in the first paragraph? (2 marks)

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- (b) Which two aspects show that the "cleansing ceremony" is a retrogressive cultural practice? (2 marks)

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(c) What from the passage could be an indication that men leave parental responsibilities to women in Memory Banda's society? (1 mark)

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(d) The incident inspired Memory to push for a better future for girls.

(Rewrite beginning: Memory's...)

(1 mark)

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(e) What justifies the claim that the consequences of child marriages are life-long?

(2 marks)

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(f) Outline the advantages of educating girls as a way of ending child marriages.

(3 marks)

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(g) Explain the importance of girls' empowerment clubs.

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(h) Explain what, according to the passage, governments, male members of society and civil society should do to end child marriages.

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(i) Explain the meaning of the following expressions as used in the passage.

rite of passage(1 mark)

enacted(1 mark)

nourish(1 mark)

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

MOTHER-IN-LAW: Of course he is! Didn't you hear him say yes?

MONK: All right. We declare the marriage contracted! How about extreme unction?

MOTHER-IN-LAW: Nothing doing! The wedding cost quite enough. Now I must take care of the mourners. (*To LAVRENTI:*) Did we say seven hundred?

LAVRENTI: Six hundred. (*He pays.*) Now I don't want to sit with the guests and get to know people. So farewell, Grusha, and if my widowed sister comes to visit me, she'll get a welcome from my wife, or I'll show my teeth. (*Nods, gives the CHILD to GRUSHA, and leaves. The mourners glance after him without interest.*)

MONK: May one ask where this child comes from?

MOTHER-IN-LAW: Is there a child? I don't see a child. And you don't see a child either- you understand? Or it may turn out I saw all sorts of things in the tavern! Now come on.

After GRUSHA has put the CHILD down and told him to be quiet, they move over left, GRUSHA is introduced to the neighbors. This is my daughter-in-law. She arrived just in time to find dear Jussup still alive.

ONE WOMAN: He's been ill now a whole year, hasn't he? When our Vassili was drafted he was there to say good-bye.

ANOTHER WOMAN: Such things are terrible for a farm. The corn all ripe and the farmer in bed! It'll really be a blessing if he doesn't suffer too long, I say.

FIRST WOMAN (*confidentially*): You know why we thought he'd taken to his bed? Because of the draft! And now his end is come!

MOTHER-IN-LAW: Sit yourselves down, please! And have some cakes!

She beckons to GRUSHA and both women go into the bedroom, where they pick up the cake pans off the floor. The guests, among them the MONK, sit on the floor and begin conversing in subdued voices.

ONE PEASANT (to whom the MONK has handed the bottle which he has taken from his *soutane*) There's a child, you say! How can that have happened to Jussup?

A WOMAN: She was certainly lucky to get herself married, with him so sick!

MOTHER-IN-LAW: They're gossiping already. And wolfing down the funeral cakes at the same time! If he doesn't die today, I'll have to bake some more tomorrow!

GRUSHA: I'll bake them for you.

MOTHER-IN-LAW: Yesterday some horsemen rode by, and I went out to see who it was. When I came in again he was lying there like a corpse! So I sent for you. It can't take much longer. (*She listens.*)

(a) To whom and why does Mother-in-law make the remarks she does at the beginning of this excerpt? (3 marks)

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(b) What is 'extreme unction' and what does it reveal about the characters in this excerpt? (2 marks)

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(c) Lavrenti tells Grusha that if she goes to visit him she will get a welcome from his wife or he will show his teeth. Describe the encounter between Grusha and Lavrenti's wife and explain how it contributes to the events in this excerpt. (4 marks)

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(d) Comment on the remarks made by the First Woman in this excerpt. (2 marks)

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(e) Describe the character of Mother-in-law as presented in this excerpt. (4 marks)

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(f) Identify two instances of the use of irony in this excerpt. (4 marks)

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(g) Describe one theme expressed in this excerpt.

(2 marks)

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(h) Who does Mother-in-law listen to at the end of this excerpt? Explain whether the events this character talks about happen.

(4 marks)

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

Sympathy

I know what the caged bird feels, alas!

When the sun is bright on the upland slopes;

When the wind stirs soft through the springing grass,

And the river flows like a stream of glass;

When the first bird sings and the first bud opes,

And the faint perfume from its chalice steals-

I know what the caged bird feels!

I know why the caged bird beats his wing

Till its blood is red on the cruel bars;

For he must fly back to his perch and cling

When he fain would be on the bough a-swing;

And a pain still throbs in the old, old scars

And they pulse again with a keener sting-

I know why he beats his wing!

I know why the caged bird sings, ah me,

When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore,-

When he beats his bars and he would be free;

It is not a carol of joy or glee,

But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,

But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings-

I know why the caged bird sings!

Paul Laurence Dunbar