

K.C.S.E ENGLISH P1

1 *Read the advertisement below and answer the questions that follow.* (10 marks)

The Electoral Commission is currently seeking to recruit 800 clerical officers, who will work closely with the commission for two months to register voters in preparation for elections. The clerks will be expected to prepare a voters register.

Applicants must be:

- citizens of Kenya
- 18 years and above
- in possession of a national identification card
- fluent in English and Kiswahili
- in possession of a KCSE grade C – and above
- computer literate
- able to work with little or no supervision

Interested candidates are required to send their application to the following address so as to reach the commission by 30th November 2015. The Chief Executive Officer, Electoral Commission, P.O. Box 679439 – 010 NAIROBI.

- (a) Write an application letter in response to the advertisement. (10 marks)
- (b) Write an accompanying Curriculum Vitae (CV). (10 marks)

2 *Read the passage below and fill in each blank space with an appropriate word.* (10 marks)

It is an indisputable fact that agriculture **1** the backbone of the economy. It is therefore **2** that we stop over-relying on the rain-fed agriculture. Israel is a classic **3** of a country that has reclaimed its deserts and put them **4** use. Land which was **5** ‘useless’ has been turned around and **6** useful. Egypt which solely depends on **7** River Nile is a leading exporter of fruits and cereals. For our country to **8** self-sufficiency in food production and to get a **9** for export, land should be utilised to the **10** This is only possible with irrigation.



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

If We Must Die - Claude McKay

If we must die — let it not be like hogs
Haunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
Making their mock at our accursed lot,
If we must die — oh let us nobly die
So that our precious blood may not be shed
In vain; then even the monsters we defy
Shall be constrained to honour us though dead!
Oh kinsmen! We must meet the common foe;
Though far outnumbered, let us show us brave
And for their thousand blows deal one deathblow
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!

(i) Describe the rhyme scheme of this poem. (2 marks)

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(ii) Which words would you stress in the last line of this poem and why? (3 marks)

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(iii) Apart from rhyme, how else has the poet achieved rhythm? (4 marks)

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- (b) Your former school has invited you as a guest speaker to give a talk on discipline. At the end of the speech, the students comment that the talk was well delivered. Suggest reasons why they commented so. (4 marks)

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- (c) Which expressions would you use in each of the following situations. (4 marks)

- (i) You are revising for the end of year examinations at home. Your neighbours are playing very loud music. You decide to go over to their house to request them to reduce the volume of their radio.

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- (ii) A friend of yours comes to your house to invite you to accompany him or her to watch a film/video show. You are unable to accompany him/her because you have not finished your chores in the house. You decide to turn down the invitation.

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- (d) For each of the words given below, write down another word with a similar pronunciation. (4 marks)

maid

plum

hire

guest

- (e) (i) You have been invited to a very important interview. Explain briefly what you would need to do **before** the occasion to ensure that you look presentable. (3 marks)

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- (ii) What else would you need to do **before** and **during** the interview to ensure success. (6 marks)

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