<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>OUT OF</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. COMPOSITION</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. COMPREHENSION</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. GRAMMAR</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Write a composition beginning:

When I picked the phone, I heard screams from the background and suddenly it went silent.
2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

I don’t think Africans have taken as much interest in the Oscars as they did this year. And there was one reason: Lupita Nyong’o. Even people deep in the rural areas knew there was something happening, yet they hardly watched movies. The interesting thing is that since Lupita won, many people are suddenly having their own Lupita story. More of such stories are yet to come.

Don’t be surprised to hear people around you talk of how Lupita once came to their salon to do her hair, or to eat in their restaurant. Some will speak of the day she forgot her purse at home and they were right there to help her out. Others will tell you how they taught her to act her first role. More will claim to be her cousins. This happens for one reason. Everyone wants to associate with success.

There are people whose only claim to fame would be that they knew her when she was a nobody. Now that’s the problem. If you knew her then and everything has changed in her life and nothing about yours, don’t you think there is a big problem?

**Stagnation** is a choice that people make when they fail to embrace new positive things in their lives. It affects individuals, organisations and even nations. What are the causes of stagnation in people?

The world has seen the rise and the fall of empires since the beginning of time. What made great empires lose their position of global dominance? It was pride. They got to a point where it was either their way or no way. They considered the rest of the world subservient to them and were not open to anything coming from any other part of the world.

This is the same situation with many individuals. No matter what you tell them, they will still do only that which they are accustomed to. Their ignorance and current status blinds them from their potential status. If Kodak could file for bankruptcy, and if Lehman Brothers could collapse, then there is no organisation or individual that is immune to becoming irrelevant. Stagnation is the launching pad for irrelevance. It is a process that begins in the mind. No one with a progressive mind can live a stagnated life. What new information have you embraced recently? What book are you reading? What new thoughts are you developing? What new relationships are you building? What new thing are you embarking on? What new approach are you adopting to old things? If you don’t have a positive answer to all these questions, you are on the stagnation super highway.

When you see people you have not seen for a long time and they tell you that you have not changed, please ensure that they are not talking about your mind because that will not be a compliment.

The dignity of human development lies in the ability to change our minds. It is a sign of progress. Have you changed your mind about anything lately? If no, that is suggesting that all you know is all there is to be known about what you know. That is pride, and it creates the perfect launching pad for stagnation. If you do not know where to start changing your mind, let me give you a few suggestions.

First, you need to change your mind about yourself. What you see is not all there is to you. There is much more to you than meets the eye. Second, you need to change your mind about
Africa and stop complaining. There is an economic scramble for Africa by multinationals. Would they be coming here if there was nothing great about us? Quit whining and start building your mind to be able to see and grab opportunities around you.

Third, never forget the words of our “cousin” after she received her Oscar award – that no matter where you come from, **all dreams are valid.**

1. From the first paragraph, why do you think Africans have taken interest in the Oscars? 
   (2 marks)
   …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

2. For what reason do people wish to be associated with Lupita?  (2 marks)
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3. List two companies that are mentioned in the passage. Why are they mentioned?(3 marks)
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4. Explain why great empires have lost their global dominance.   (2 marks)
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5. In a paragraph, explain three things that one should do in order to change their minds.  
   (3 marks)
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6. Where does the dignity of human development lie? (2 mark)
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7. For each of the following, answer according to the instructions given after each. (2 marks)
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8. They got to a point where it was either their way or no way. (Write in present simple.)
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9. ‘....many people are suddenly having their own Lupita story’. (Identify a quantity adjective.)
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10. ‘That is pride, and it creates the perfect launching pad for stagnation.’ What proverb can be used to summarize this sentence? (1 mark)
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………………………………………………………………………………………………
11. Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage. (3 marks)
A nobody…………………………………………………………………………………..
Stagnation…………………………………………………………………………………..
All dreams are valid……………………………………………………………………....

3. GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)
(a) Complete the following sentences by filling the correct article in the blanks. (2 mks)
(i) There was ......................outbreak of cholera.
(ii) Oxygen is .....................gas.
(iii) .....................sun is a source of warmth.
(iv) Becky wants to be ......................air hostess.

(b) Fill in the blanks below with a noun formed from the words in brackets. (4 mks)
(i) She craves for .......................(free)
(ii) Agnes broke off her .......................last year (engage)
(iii) Jeremy’s ..................................turned into ...........................................when he was announced as
the best performer nationally, (anxious, excite)

(c) Write the following in their plural form. (2 mks)
(i) Peter had quite some luggage to carry.
..............................................................................................................................................
(ii) The hoof of the horse hurt the goose.
..............................................................................................................................................

(d) Give the correct adjective to fill the blanks as per the category given in brackets. (3 mks)
(i) My father bought ..............................................magnificent building. (demonstrative)
(ii) ..............................................students attended the thanksgiving ceremony. (quantity)
(iii) The children had a ........................................experience at the beach. (quality)

(e) (i) Arrange the following words in the order you expect to find them in the
dictionary. (1 mk)
Orbit, occupy, observe, ornament, obtain, onchology, optician.
................................................................................................................................................

(f) Fill the blanks with correct pronouns. (2 mks)
(i) Ian and ..........................................went for a ride.
(ii) The visitor helped ..............................................to paint our house.

(g) Categorize the following words into the different types of nouns. (3 mks)
Car ......................................................
Honey ......................................................
Jamaica ......................................................
Elephant ......................................................
Family ......................................................
Peace ......................................................

(h) Pluralise the following. (3 mks)
Bedding ......................................................
Index ......................................................
Stereo ......................................................
Wolf ......................................................
Ox ......................................................
Volcano ......................................................