NAME: ..... ADM NO: .....

SCHOOL: ..... DATE : .....

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE: .....

01
ENGLISH
(FUNCTIONAL SKILLS)
JULY / AUGUST 2016
TIME: 2 HOURS

2016
FORM 2

Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E.)
ENGLISH
TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

(a) *Write your **Name, Admission Number** and **School** in the spaces provided above.*
(b) ***Sign** and write the **Date** of Examination in the spaces provided above.*
(c) *Answer **ALL** questions in this question paper.*
(d) *All your answers **must** be written in the spaces provided in the question paper.*
(e) *Candidates must check the question paper to ascertain that all pages are printed as indicated and that no question are missing.*

FOR EXAMINER'S USE ONLY

Question	Max. Score	Candidate's Score
1	20	
2	20	
3	20	
4	20	
5	10	
Total Score	**90**	

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1. **FUNCTIONAL WRITING**

You are a class monitor. Write a memo to the class teacher requesting him or her to allow you to travel to Kenya National Theatre to watch the performance of one of the set-books. (20 marks)

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2. COMPREHENSION

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

They are a rite of passage for young women and a sign of likely fertility and health. For some women, they are welcome proof that they are not pregnant. But generally, periods aren't much fun. What with radical mood swings, migraines, cramps, bloating and nausea; at best they are an irritation, at worst, they require medication.

Now though, women can choose to opt out entirely. Some pharmacies in the US are stocking a new oral contraceptive designed for women "interested in putting their menstrual cycle on hold." The pill can be taken 365 days a year with no need to break for a monthly bleed. Other forms of hormonal contraceptives are on the cards too and are meant to keep periods at bay by blocking the body's own progesterone.

All of this has reignited the debate over whether it is healthy for women to disrupt their monthly cycle, and even stop having periods altogether. Some say that the rate at which the average Western women menstruates could actually be bad for her health – causing an increased risk of ovarian cancer and many other disorders. Others argue that long exposure to the hormones in the birth control pills could be harmful, that it is wrong to medicate periods and that not having periods could mask signs of infertility until it is too late.

The regular contraception has changed very little since it was first licensed in the 1960s. Today's pills contain a much lower dose of hormones than previously but the concept remains the same. Most are made of synthetic versions of the key reproductive hormones estrogen and progesterone, which prevent pregnancy by stopping the ovaries from releasing an egg. They also thicken the cervical mucus making it nearly impossible for sperms to pass into the uterus.

The pill was designed to be taken for 24 days in a row, followed by a week of either placebo pills or no pills at all. Over the first 24 days, the endometrium – the lining in the wall of the uterus – reinforces itself, building up tissue into a lush nourishing environment in anticipation of a fertilized egg, which, of course, will never arrive. When the pills run out, the drop in progesterone triggers the expulsion of this blood vessel-rich in tissue, mimicking a period.

However, not all women follow this schedule. Some choose to take the pill everyday, skipping the seven day break or placebo pills and avoiding any bleeding. Women have been doing this for ever since the pill was formulated. Some do it for convenience and others to rid themselves of the unwanted symptoms.

Now, after more than 20 years of clandestine menstrual suppression, continuous contraception is becoming mainstream and the standard pill regime is beginning to look a bit passé. In recent years, some pharmaceutical companies have repackaged their pills into products that allow women to just have four periods a year.

It is now believed that bleeding every month is not necessarily the norm. A study in the 1980s among the Dogon people in Mali showed that menstruation was relatively rare event: between the ages of 20 and 24, women had an average of just two periods a year, a sharp contrast with the western women.

While the taking of the pill continuously might reduce one's risk of developing ovarian cancer, anaemia and uterine fibroids, it brings health concerns of its own such as breast and cervical cancer, clots, stroke and heart attacks.

Questions

(a) How do periods raise self esteem of a woman? (2mks)

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(b) From the first paragraph, what could be considered ironical about periods? (2mks)

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(c) Why do you think the words "interested in putting their menstrual cycle on hold" are within quotation marks? (2mks)

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(d) The debate on whether to disrupt periods or not is now new. How do we know this? (1mk)

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(e) Rewrite the following sentence to begin with the word "Hardly ....." (1mk)

The regular contraception has changed very little since it was first licensed in the 1960s.

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(f) What evidence can be inferred to prove that hormones in contraceptive pills can be harmful? (2mks)

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(g) Why is it that the expected egg "will never arrive?" (2mks)

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(h) Why does the author mention the Dogon women? (2mks)

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(i) Write notes on the advantages of using the pill to suppress periods. (3mks)

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

(i) On the cards (1mk)

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(ii) Placebo (1mk)

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(iii) Passé (1mk)

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3. **POETRY**

Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow. (20mks)

The Other Time

He killed a man in a drunken brawl;
They tried him, hanged him,
That was all.

But he left his wife nearly penniless,
She was raven-haired,
She was glamorous.

She had swooned in court,
She had caused a stir.
And the editor of
The Sunday Blare,

Aware of his readers' appetite,
And judging she should be worth a bit,

Hurried a snooper round to her house,
With an offer he thought quite fabulous.

If she'd lend her picture, lend her name,
To a story about her life with Him.

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They'd write it up from what she said.
Did she understand? She understood.

"I never had much I've still less now,
I need the money. The answer's No."

And he rose to go.
He noticed a medal,
Mounted and framed,
Above the mantel.

And asked her about it.
Where was it won? When did he get it?
What had he done?

"Oh, that," she said.
"They pinned that on
The other time
He killed a man." *By Peter Appleton.*

Questions

(a) Briefly explain what the poem is about. (3mks)

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(b) What was the effect of hanging on the man's wife? (2mks)

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(c) Why do you think "Him" in stanza six begins with a capital letter? (2mks)

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(d) In about 70 words, summarize the reasons why the editor wanted a story about the woman. (4mks)

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(e) What is the poet's attitude towards the media? Explain your answer. (4mks)

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(f) Identify and illustrate any **two** character traits of the hanged man's wife. (3mks)

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(g) In what circumstances do you think the hanged man had killed a man earlier? (2mks)

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4. ORAL LITERATURE

Read the following story and answer the questions given. (20mks)

Once upon a time, there lived a man who had two wives. One of the wives was barren and the other one had many children. The man lived with his wives for many years.

The barren wife was unhappy because she did not have children of her own. She did most of the work in the house, since she had no one to assist her. Compared with her co-wife, she had fewer domestic duties to keep her at home. She was assigned the task of herding and watering the clock by her husband. These are the chores which are normally performed by men and barren women.

As time went by, the barren woman felt very bitter, neglected and lonely. She became extremely jealous of the other woman. After a while, the fertile woman gave birth again, this time to twin boys. The barren woman became even more green with jealousy. She worked out a plan to run down the image of her co-wife in the home and in the neighbourhood.

One night, while their mother was heavily asleep, the barren woman took the twins and cut off their little fingers to let out blood, which she smeared around the mouth of their mother. It was going to seem obvious to everyone that the fertile woman had eaten her own children. The barren woman grabbed the twins, put them in a drum and dumped the drum into the river. She went around the village and told everyone she met about how her co-wife had eaten her children. Everyone was bewildered.

The mother of the twin children tried desperately to explain to the incredulous neighbours what had actually happened, but no one would believe her, especially on seeing the blood in her mouth, and failing to trace the twins. The husband, too, believed the story of his barren wife; his fertile wife was then declared a cannibal. He beat the bereaved woman until she could cry no more. As if this was not enough, he sentenced her to a life-time herding donkeys, a menial job which is normally performed by children and labourers.

Meanwhile, the drum containing the twin brothers remained afloat on the river, season in, season out. It was swept away by a gentle current to another country, until one day, elders who sat under a cool shade by the river deliberating on affairs of the clan, noticed the drum as it was swept adrift to the river bank.

"That drum is mine!" one of them said, agitated.

"Whatever is inside it is mine!" another one burst out.

The elders scampered to the drum, and holding it by both ends removed it from the water.

They plucked it open and pulled out the frail twin boys. The drum and its contents were shared out equitably among the anxious rescuers. The elder who had been given the share of the twin boys quickly brought them to his house, nursed them until they became big warriors. They were nicknamed "the twins of the drum."

As they grew into big men, the twins became restless. They were told many stories about the way they had been rescued. They grew curious and anxious. They wanted to know their country of origin. Eventually they said to each other: "Look, let us gather some presents and search for our motherland."

They set out on a homebound journey. It was a long journey of search, in the course of which they encountered a famished sickly woman, who was tending healthy and round donkeys. They had never seen a woman herding donkeys. They stopped and asked her: "Mother, why are you herding donkeys? Where have the children gone?" They showed her the remains of their fingers and repeated the story which the people in the strange land had told them. On discovering that she was their mother, they were overjoyed. The young men dressed their mother in new garments and set out for the village. They left the donkeys in the field.

When the villagers saw "the donkey woman," as she came to be called, all dressed up, they were mesmerized: "Has the donkey woman found the sons she had eaten!" they wondered. A Council of Elders was convened. It was established that the young warriors were the sons of the old man. He raved in shame and pain and humiliation when he remembered the way he had punished his innocent wife. He threatened to kill his barren wife, but his sons advised him to let the barren woman do the donkey work. She was sentenced to herd the donkeys for the remainder of her life. The old man, his wife, and the twin sons then lived happily ever after.

(From Oral Literature of the Maasai by Naomi Kipury. Heinemann Educational Books, 1983)

(a) Explain briefly what this story is about. (3mks)

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(b) How did the husband contribute to the misery of the barren woman? Use information in the second paragraph. (2mks)

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(c) In about 80 words, summarize what we are told about this community. (5mks)

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(d) Identify and explain any **two** character traits of the barren woman. (4mks)

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(e) What can we infer about the elders that rescued the boys? Explain your answer. (3mks)

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(f) Although the boys were treated well in foreign country, they yearned to return to their own. Which proverb would summarize their feelings? (1mk)

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(g) How do we know that the husband regretted what he had done to his fertile wife? (2mks)

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5. **GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)**

(a) Choose the correct word from the brackets to complete the sentences. (5mks)

(i) Repairing the five roads _____(is, are) some little-known company.

(ii) There _____(is, are) now no chaos in the compound.

(iii) The inclusion of Mary and Alice _____ (guarantees, guarantee) us success.

(iv) The organizers of the strike _____ (has, have) been summoned.

(v) A person of such manners (does, do) not get admission here.

(b) Use the correct form of the word in brackets to complete each sentence. (5mks)

(i) _____ from school without good reason will be punished.(Absent)

(ii) _____ is what cost him his job. (Drunk)

(iii) The boulders have _____ precariously for years (hang)

(iv) They left the scene _____(haste)

(v) We did it as a matter of _____ (formal).

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