

MINEDUC

SOUTHERN PROVINCE

MUHANGA DISTRICT

CLASS: S4

TIME: 3 HOURS

Marks: /100

ENGLISH EXAMINATION/SECOND TERM 2025-2026

Instructions :

Write your name and surname:

.....

- 1. Use a blue or black pen**
- 2. Write clearly**
- 3. This exam has four sections.**

Section one : 1. Reading comprehension : Compulsory / 20 Marks

2. Prose : Choose one / 15 MARKS

Section Two: Language structure : compulsory / 35Marks

Section Three: Summary : compulsory / 10 Marks

Section Four : Writing : Compulsory / 20 Marks

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

Did you know that International Women’s Day is celebrated on March 8th? The focus of International Women’s Day is to show respect and appreciation towards women for their contributions in society. A woman of influence is one who makes a lasting impact on others. Not all women of influence are famous and well known. Some work quietly in the background, but their actions inspire others and change lives. There is a saying: “The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.” The importance of women in raising future generations can never be overestimated. Mothers work hard and they often sacrifice a great deal to bring up their children. For this reason alone they are worthy of respect and love. In some countries, women do not have equal rights with men and their influence is restricted to their homes and family life. However in many countries, women are active and influential in other spheres of life besides raising children. Women are proving themselves to be successful leaders, politicians, entrepreneurs and philanthropists. In Rwanda, gender equality is written into the Constitution and laws have been passed which give women the right to inherit land, share the assets of a marriage and obtain credit. The African continent has a strong legacy of female leaders. In Rwanda parliament has a majority women representation. This is a world record. Women of influence can be found in many different occupations. Gender equality has been written into the Constitution in Rwanda and women have equal rights. Women serve on local councils, they own land and farm, run businesses and serve as government ministers and have risen through the ranks of government. Rwandan women are also active in sports. Female athletes have represented Rwanda at past Olympic Games. Women work as teachers, scientists, doctors, airline pilots and in many other occupations. When we talk about women of influence we are referring to women who use their talents to have a positive influence on those around them and whose actions improve the lives of others. The following are some of the qualities you may notice in women of influence in Rwanda: They use their voices to speak out about what they believe in. They live up to their values and morals. They encourage and help others. They do not give up when things get difficult.

SECTION I: A. Comprehension questions

1. Answer the following

a) Give the suitable title of the following passage? /2Marks

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b) When and why does the world give the women a day? /3 Marks

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c) Discuss what is meant by the phrase: ‘the hand the rocks the cradle rules the word’ /5 Marks

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d) write true or false / 5 Marks

1. In some countries women have equal rights with men and their influence is restricted to their homes and family life.....

2. In some countries women do not have equal rights with men and their influence is restricted to their homes and family life.....

3. The women’s day is celebrated every March 18th in the world.
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4. The women are not active and influential in other spheres of life besides raising children.
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5. Rwanda parliament has a majority women representation.....

e) Why do women bring the influences in Rwanda? / 5 Marks

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SECTION I . B. Choose one of the two passages below:

Read it carefully and then answer the questions that follow as concisely as possible. (15 marks) Either:

(A) PETER ABRAHAMS: Mine Boy

Around them, the street was alive. People moved up and down. Children played in the gutters, and picked up dirty orange peels and ate them. The pulsating motion of Malay Camp at night was everywhere. Warm and intense and throbbing. People sang. People cried. People fought. People loved. People hated. Others were sad. Others gay. Others with friends. Others lonely. Some died. Some were born... "You say you don't know. I know, Xuma, I know." She looked at him and there was the shadow of a smile on her lips, but her eyes were serious. "I know," she whispered. Then she pulled herself together and her voice changed: "Listen to me Xuma. I will try again to make you understand. In the city it is like this: all the time you are fighting. Fighting. Fighting! When you are asleep and when you are awake. And you look only after yourself. If you do not, you are finished. If you are soft, everyone will spit in your face. They will rob you and cheat you and betray you. So, to live here, you must be hard. Hard as a stone. And money is your best friend. With money, you can buy a policeman. With money, you buy somebody to go to jail for you. That is how it is, Xuma. It may be good, it may be bad, but there it is. And to live, one must see it. Where you come from, it isn't so. But here, it is so." Again, there was a long silence between them. The stars came out and twinkled brightly in the sky. The moon came up, and chasing the Milky Way, travelled eastward. Rosita, who lived across the way, turned on her gramophone and came on her veranda swaying her broad hips. "Hello!" she called across to Leah. Leah looked up, startled. Xuma too, was startled. "We must go in," Leah said. "Food will be ready." "My white man gave me a pound," Xuma said. "Will you take some of it for my food and my sleeping here?" Leah got up. She stared down at him then turned away. "No. You can pay me when you get paid properly," she said gruffly. "Come." They went in. A fire, made in a paraffin tin with holes in the side, stood in the centre of the kitchen. And around it, on the floor, sat Ma Plank, Daddy, a man who was a stranger to Xuma, the pale fat one called Drunk Liz, Lena the thin coloured woman, Johannes, and another woman who was also a stranger.

Questions

a) Where is this extract set? (1 mark)

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b) Why is Xuma worried according to this extract? (2 mark)

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c) What piece of advice did Leah give to Xuma? (1 mark)

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d) Describe Xuma's character traits in this novel. (2 marks)

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e) Discuss any two literary devices used to portray the message in this extract. (2 marks)

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f) From the above extract, describe the life in Malay Camp. (2 marks)

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g) Explain how the theme of corruption and kindness are portrayed in this extract with relevant examples. (4 marks)

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h) What happens to Leah later in the novel? (2 marks)

Or: (B) CHINUA ACHEBE: A Man of the People

Nanga must have gone into politics soon afterwards and then won a seat in Parliament. (It was easy in those days- before we knew its cash price.) I used to read about him in the papers some years later and even took something like pride in him. At that time, I had just entered the University and was very active in the Students' branch of the People's Organization Party. Then in 1960 something disgraceful happened in the Party and I was completely disillusioned. At that time Mr. Nanga was an unknown back-bencher in the governing P.O.P. A general election was imminent. The P.O.P. was riding high in the country and there was no fear of its not being returned. Its opponent, the Progressive Alliance Party, was weak and disorganized. Then came the slump in the international coffee market. Overnight (or so it seemed to us) the Government had a dangerous financial crisis on its hands. Coffee was the prop of our economy just as coffee farmers the bulwark of the P.O.P. The Minister of Finance at the time was a first-rate economist with a Ph.D. in public finance. He presented to the Cabinet a complete plan for dealing with the situation. The Prime Minister said 'No' to the plan. He was not going to risk losing the election by cutting down the price paid to coffee planters at that critical moment; the National Bank should be instructed to print fifteen million pounds. Two-thirds of the Cabinet support the Minister.

The next morning the Prime Minister sacked them and in the evening he broadcast to the nation. He said the dismissed ministers were conspirators and traitors who had teamed up with foreign saboteurs to destroy the new nation. I remember this broadcast very well. Of course, no one knew the truth at that time. The newspapers and the radio carried the Prime Minister's version of the story. We were very indignant. Our Students' Union met in an emergency session and passed a vote of confidence in the leader and called for a detention law to deal with the miscreants. The whole country was behind the leader. Protest marches and demonstrations were staged up and down the land. It was at this point that I first noticed a new, dangerous and sinister note in the universal outcry. The Daily Chronicle, an official organ of the P.O.P., had pointed out in an editorial that the Miscreant Gang, as the dismissed ministers were now called, were all university people and highly educated professional men. (I have preserved a cutting of that editorial.) Let us now and for all time extract from our body-politic as a dentist extracts a stinking tooth all those decadent stooges versed in text-book economics and aping the white man's mannerisms and way of speaking. We are proud to be Africans. Our true leaders are not those intoxicated with their Oxford, Cambridge or Harvard degrees but those who speak the language of the people. Away with the damnable and expensive university education which only alienates an African from his rich and ancient culture and puts him above his people. This cry was taken up on all sides. Other newspapers pointed out that even in Britain where the Miscreant Gang got its 'so called education' a man need to be an economist to be Chancellor of the Exchequer or a doctor to be Minister of Health. What mattered was loyalty to the party. I was in the public gallery the day the Prime Minister received his overwhelming vote of confidence. And that was the day the truth finally came out; only no one was listening. I remember the grief-stricken figure of the dismissed Minister of Finance as he held his team into the chamber and was loudly booed by the members and the public. That week his car had been destroyed by angry mobs and his house stoned. Another dismissed minister had been pulled out of his car, beaten insensible, and dragged along the road for fifty yards, then tied hand and foot, gagged and left by the roadside. He was still in the orthopaedic hospital when the house met. That was my first – and last – visit to Parliament. It was also the only time I had set eyes on Mr Nanga again since he taught me in 1948.

Questions

a) Describe the setting of this extract / **2Mark**

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b) Who is the narrator in this extract? **(1 mark)**

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c) Give the reason behind the dismissal of Minister of Finance and his supporters. **(2 mark)**

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d) Comment on the point of view used in this extract. (2 mark)

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e) Describe the character traits of The Prime Minister in this extract. (2Marks

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f) Discuss any three literary techniques used to portray the message in this extract. /3marks)

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g) Discuss any theme that is used to portray the message in this extract.(2 marks)

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h) With evidence from the extract, examine the impact of Western education to African leadership. (2 marks)

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SECTION II. LANGUAGE STRUCTURE / 35Marks

1. Create new words from these given often change the grammatical class by adding affixes to a root word./ 5 Marks

- a) Happy:
- b) Teach:
- c) Agree:
- d) Develop:
- e) Quiet:

2. Formation of words : Choose the best answer / 5 Marks

- A. The structure of the compound word: blue black is
 - a) noun + noun
 - b) verb +noun
 - c) adjective + adjective

d) adjective + noun

B. Which of the following words is a compound word?

a) administrator

b) goodness

c) computer

d) upland

C. The compound word in which the modifying adjective combines with the noun to create a new noun is.....

a) open compound word

b) closed compound word

c) hyphenated compound word

d) Primary derivate.

D. Living room is a closed compound word.

a) True

b) False

E. Choose the compound word which has the structure noun +noun

a) Blackboard

b) Screwdriver

c) Walking-stick

d) hand –made

3. Complete the gaps with the correct answer in the brackets. / 5Marks

a) I.....dancing. (often,go,go often)

b) shein the morning. (Smokes never, never smokes)

c)drink wine at lunchtime. (I rarely, rarely I)

d) I..... some gardening at the weekend if the weather's nice. (do usually, usually do)

e) He passed away. (next year, last year)

4. Put the suitable sentences into passive voice / 10 Marks

a) The children laughed at the begger.

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b)They elected him chairman.

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C)One should keep one’s promises.

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d) Rwanda mines some menerals.

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e) Rwanda has a small industrial sector.

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Section IV: Summary writing (10Marks)

Reading the following passage and write a summary of 30 words

The production of food for the plant is done by the leaves through the process of photosynthesis. Carbon dioxide from the air is taken into the plant by the leaves. The carbon dioxide mixes with water that has come from the air and the roots. Energy from the sun helps this process and turns the water and carbon dioxide into glucose. Glucose is the plant’s food and gives it energy to grow. During the process of photosynthesis, the plant breathes out oxygen into the atmosphere. This is very important, because oxygen is needed by human beings in order to survive. The great rainforests of central Africa are part of the ‘lungs’ of the planet. The flower of a plant is responsible for its reproduction. A flower is made up of the sepals, petals, stamen and pistil. Plants are an extremely important part of the ecosystem. Not only do they provide food for human beings, but they also harbor animals, birds and insects, providing food and shelter for them.

Section Five: Essay writing /20 Marks

Choose one topic below and write an essay about 200 to 250 words on it.

1. Write an essay about the importance of environment.
2. Write the letter to your head teacher in order to apologize on the reason why you didn’t study last day.

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END OF EXAM