

P3021 Nov.
W.A.S.S.C.E. 2000
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE 1

1

2½ hours

Name.....

Identification Number.....

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

West African Senior School Certificate Examination

November 2000 ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1 2½ hours

*Write your **Name and Identification Number** in the spaces provided at the top right-hand corner of this paper.*

*Answer **four** questions in all: **one** question from Section **A** and **all** the questions in Sections **B** and **C**.*

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SECTION A

[50 marks]

*Answer **one** question from this section. All questions carry equal marks. Your answer should **not** be less than 450 words.*

You are advised to spend about 50 minutes on this section.

1. Your family has recently moved to a new environment. Write a letter to your best friend describing the environment and stating what you dislike about the place.
2. Write an article for publication in one of your national newspapers discussing ways of improving the standard of education in your country.
3. There has been a wave of killings in your locality. Write a letter to the Editor of one of your national newspapers condemning this evil act and suggesting at least three ways of curbing it.
4. You have been chosen to speak to the youths in your town on the dangers of bush-burning. Write out the speech you would deliver on the occasion.
5. Write a story, real or imagined, which illustrates the saying: "Don't count your chickens before they are hatched."

television and radio networks, etc. As he progresses from infancy to adulthood, he enjoys efficient medical services. He is sure of a good education at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. On leaving school, he has access to the social security services which ensure some financial support before he secures employment. Throughout his life he has access to so many financial schemes, which are ready to sponsor any of his well-thought-out plans for a feasible project. Above all, he has a very high life expectancy, as high as 80 years in Japan and 76 in Britain.

On the other side of the coin, a child born into one of the many technologically backward and indigent countries of the third world has less than 30 per cent chances of surviving the killer diseases of infancy. He is more likely to be born into an unclean environment, usually with no tap water, electricity or telephone services. The public transport system is often unreliable, medical services are grossly inadequate, and the few doctors available have very few facilities to work with. Where schools are within the reach of young learners, their environment is mostly unattractive; the classrooms are poorly equipped and there are far more learners than the classrooms can accommodate. Consequently, failure rates are high and many learners drop-out. Because there are very few or no social welfare schemes, the child battles against serious odds if he is unemployed, retrenched, or incapacitated by ill health. Finally, he has a very low life expectancy, varying from about forty to fifty-five years.

So, of the one hundred children born during the course of your reading this passage, some 94 face a bleak future; a life of struggle from the cradle to the grave. The situation would have been better had the distribution of births and facilities been less uneven between the developed and developing countries of the world. As things are, the serious discrepancy is indeed one of the causes of the woes of the developing countries.

- (a) What irony is there in the first paragraph?
- (b) Mention **two** advantages of improved medical care in the developed countries.
- (c) Give **two** examples to show that medical services are inadequate in the developing countries.
- (d) Mention **two** educational problems in the developing countries.

- (e) State **two** consequences of the educational problems of the developing countries.
- (f) “On the other side of the coin ...”
- What figure of speech is contained in this expression?
 - What does it mean?
- (g) “... which ensure some financial support.”
- What grammatical name is given to this expression as it is used in the passage?
 - What is its function?
- (h) For each of the following words, find another word or phrase which means the same and which can replace it as it is used in the passage.
- developed;
 - killer;
 - employment;
 - schemes;
 - discrepancy.

SECTION C

SUMMARY

[30 marks]

You are advised to spend about 50 minutes on this section.

8. *Read the following passage carefully and answer the question on it.*

Apart from bringing forth children, a mother has also to cater for their emotional welfare. She plays a vital role in helping a child learn about love and affection — lessons that may be just as important as the satisfaction of his physical needs. In order to develop into a well-balanced adult, a child needs a warm, secure environment while growing up. Here again, a mother’s role is crucial. So, whatever else a woman might do, this is her primary function in society. Besides looking after her children, the mother is often their principal teacher. It is mainly the mother or grandmother who patiently teaches the child to speak, to walk, and to do household chores and countless other things. Little wonder then that one’s language the world over is referred to as one’s “mother tongue” rather than “father tongue.”

Today more women than ever have to work outside the home to help support their families. Millions of women work on the land, or care for livestock. This labour, usually underpaid or unpaid, feeds half the world. In Africa, 70 per cent of the food is grown by women, in Asia the figure is 50 – 60 per cent and in Latin America 30 per cent.

In the Western World, most women leave home daily to work in offices, schools and factories. Many of them are indeed getting into top positions, although they are still outnumbered by men at this level. Although they generally earn less than men, simply because they are women, they nonetheless provide very essential services that keep many factories and institutions running. Indeed, in many countries of the world, most nurses, midwives, doctors and teachers are women. One of the greatest gifts that women can give their families is compassion. When a family member falls sick, the mother takes on the role of a nurse, while still shouldering all her other responsibilities. A woman's compassion may even motivate her to eat less herself so that her children do not go without food. Researchers have found that some women consider their food intake as sufficient even though they are malnourished. They are so accustomed to giving the larger share to their husbands and children that as long as they can still work, they consider themselves adequately fed.

Sometimes a woman's compassion is expressed in her concern for the local environment. That environment matters to her, since she also suffers when drought, desertification, and deforestation impoverish the land. In one town in India, women were outraged when they learnt that a lumber company was going to cut down about 2500 trees in a nearby forest. When the loggers arrived, the women were already in place, hands joined, protectively encircling the trees. "You will have to cut us down as well if you want to cut down the trees," they told the loggers. The forest was saved.

Perhaps because of her biological role as the provider of succour and compassion, a woman is hardly ever a soldier. However, if need be, she can take up arms to save her children and her community. And when a woman does that, oh, she can be terrible! The Dahomey warriors who tormented the ancient Egba for ages were women in arms! However, it is perhaps best to save women the abominable role of killers and reserve them for what they are best at: bringing forth and bringing up the young ones.

In six sentences, one for each, state the functions of women in society.