

**PAPER II****SECTION A****CONTINUOUS WRITING****[50 MARKS]**

You are required to answer only one question from this section. Your answer should not be less than 450 words. All questions carry equal marks. You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

1. You are the chief speaker in a debate on the topic: *The Girl Child is more Useful to the Family than the Boy Child*. Write your argument *for* or *against* the motion.
2. Write a story that illustrates the saying: *Where there is a will, there is a way*.
3. You are the chief speaker in a debate on the topic: *The Social Media has done more Harm than Good to the Academic Performance of Secondary School Students in your Country*. Write your argument *for* or *against* the motion.
4. Write a letter to the Minister of Defence of your country drawing his attention to the *security challenges in the country and suggesting ways of tackling them*.



SECTION B
COMPREHENSION
[20 MARKS]

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions on it.

In Central Africa, there lives a group of people called the Pygmies. Their average height is less than five feet. The origin of their name, pygmy, which refers to the distance between the elbow and the knuckles is in reference to the height of the people. One tribe of the Pygmies is called the Efe tribe. These people are semi-nomadic. *During certain times of the year*, they move around in the forest in search of food. The tribe continues to live in the jungle like their ancestors did, hunting and gathering, almost totally unaffected by *modernity*.

Scientists find studying the Efe so *interesting* because these people represent the closest we can ever get to our ancestors. Their way of life remains so *unchanged* that learning about their lifestyle would open our eyes to how our ancestors lived as well.

The Efe are renowned archers. Their skill as archers sets them apart from other tribes, who use different methods of hunting their prey. The Efe usually hunt in groups for animals like antelope. They surround the animal and shoot at it with arrows from different directions. The arrows have metal tips which are very lethal. The meat of the animal is divided among all the hunters who have participated in the hunt. The best part of the animal, like the hind legs, are usually given to the hunter who made the first shot. The hunter who shoots the final arrow that brings down the animal also receives quite a good piece of the animal. The hunters who do not shoot the animal at all still get an equal share of whatever meat that is left.

The Efe also hunt for monkeys as a source of food. When they go monkey-hunting, however, they go alone. As only one person, the hunter can *minimise* the noise that he makes so that he can successfully sneak up on the monkey. This is certainly not an easy task compared to other animals. Poison arrows are used in monkey-hunting. The poison attacks the central nervous system of the monkey, but it can take as long as fifteen minutes to take full effect, long enough to make an escape. Shooting a monkey does not always mean bringing one home for a meal.

The Efe have a great *weakness* for honey, considered to be a delicacy. Every June, the trees start to flower and bees soon start to build beehives. Come July, the men start looking for honey. In spite of their height, they still manage to reach the hives by climbing up trees. With a basket of leaves and *smouldering* coals in one hand to pacify the bees, they reach into the beehive with the other hand and pull out the honeycomb. Those on the ground are

always excited at the sight, fighting to get the first taste of the wonderful substance. They usually fill themselves with it until their bellies are full. Sometimes, they eat all that they find, returning home to the women saying that they had no luck. Their full stomachs, of course, told a different story.

- (a) What physical quality makes the Pygmies a unique race? (1 mark)
- (b) Why are the Efe referred to as semi-nomadic people? (2 marks)
- (c) What do scientists particularly find interesting about the Efe? (2 marks)
- (d) Describe in one sentence, the communal lifestyle of the Efe people. (2 marks)
- (e) What makes the hunting of monkeys particularly a difficult task? (2 marks)
- (f) *During certain times of the year ...*
 - (i) What grammatical name is given to the above expression? (1 mark)
 - (ii) What is its function? (2 marks)
- (g) What two proofs are there in the passage that honey is a special delicacy for the Efe people? (2 marks)
- (h) Find one word or phrase which is *nearest in meaning* to, and can replace each of the following words as used in the passage:
 - (i) modernity
 - (ii) interesting
 - (iii) unchanged
 - (iv) minimise
 - (v) weakness
 - (vi) smouldering

One mark for each correct answer i.e. $1 \times 6 =$

SECTION C

SUMMARY

[30 MARKS]

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.

6. Read the passage below carefully and answer the question on it.

Back in the days of our fathers, reading was part and parcel of the learned such that those who were not well educated strove to go to college in order to acquire more knowledge. Reading then was the bedrock of greatness in every individual, regardless of age and gender. It is alarming how this practice which used to be widespread among Nigerian students, youths and even adults is fast eroding in our society at a jet speed.

Reading stimulates imagination, encourages quick learning, curiosity and expands horizons. It also enhances acquisition of skills for handling complex ideas or issues and it is the mother of strategic planning. Every piece of write-up is the manifestation of experience garnered by a writer overtime. As important as education is, it hurts to know that the sharp decline in our reading culture is attributed to a number of factors in the society.

Looking at the present-day society, there is no doubt that poverty is a great challenge to the reading culture in Nigeria. In a country where about 70 percent of the population lives with less than one dollar per day, it automatically means that a larger proportion of the population cannot afford the basic educational foundation that will enable them read and write. Such people are more interested in what to eat rather than seeking materials to read and get knowledge.

A good learning environment calls for a quiet study centre. Most of our schools are associated with noisy environments and full of distractions that are hindrances to the smooth flow of learning and reading. In the past, schools/learning centers were built in isolated places or, better still, they were built in the outskirts of the town which were usually serene. But the reverse is the case today as schools are mostly found in the Central Business District (CBD) of towns and cities. This is occasioned by the fact that school owners see the institutions more as business venture. Hence, their location in the CBD where they can be accessed easily.

The poor reading culture can also be attributed to the high level of illiteracy in our society which conforms to the recent report by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) that there are 62 million illiterates in our beloved country. This statistics actually underscores the level of illiteracy in the country. It is gainsaying that the many years of neglect of our educational institutions, especially at literacy education, have come to hurt us in the face at a time the world is becoming a global village. This is, therefore, a clarion call to the federal and state ministries of

education to declare a state of emergency in the education sector. The fight against illiteracy is a very crucial one because of the aftermath in our society. Illiteracy is worse than any kind of oil spill. Thus, all and sundry should rise to make it a thing of the past in the shortest possible time.

One cannot overlook the fact that the pursuit of materialism, fame and fortune among Nigerian youths has contributed to the drastic fall in the reading culture. Youths now attach undue importance to fame and wealth such that the place of reading has been relegated. Lastly, paying lip service to education especially by the government and stakeholders in the education sector has adversely affected the reading culture among Nigerian youths. In five sentences, one for each, state the factors responsible for poor reading culture in Nigeria.

6 marks for each correct answer i.e. $6 \times 5 = 30$ marks

ENGLISH (TYPE I) COMPREHENSION

(5)

- (a) Their short height make the Pygmies a unique race.
- (b) They are called semi-nomadic because at certain times of the year, they move around in the forest in search of food.
- (c) Scientists find them interesting because their way of life has remained almost unchanged, so studying them shows how our ancestors lived.
- (d) The Efe share the meat from group hunts equally among all participants, with special portions given to the first and final shooters.
- (e) The task is hard due to the need for silence and the slow-acting poison that allows monkeys to escape.
- (f) (i) Adverbial phrase of time
(ii) It modifies the verb "move"
- (g) They go to great lengths to get it. They fight over it.
- (h) (i) Civilization
(ii) Fascinating
(iii) Unaffected
(iv) Reduce
(v) Fragility
(vi) Glowing

ENGLISH (TYPE I) SUMMARY

(6)

- Many Nigerians are too poor to buy books, prioritizing survival over reading.
- The location of schools in busy, noisy areas makes learning difficult, unlike in the past when schools were built in calm and isolated places.
- Widespread illiteracy is another cause, as UNESCO's report of 62 million illiterates shows the effect of neglecting education for years.
- Youths' obsession with wealth, fame and material things has pushed reading aside and made it less valued.
- The lack of serious commitment to education by the government and other stakeholders has also damaged reading habits among Nigerian youths.

ENGLISH ESSAY (TYPE I)

(2)

Where there is a will, there is a way

In the small village of Umuoke, there lived a boy named Emeka. He was the first son of a poor widow who sold firewood by the roadside in order to feed her three children. From his childhood, Emeka had only one big dream. He wanted to become an engineer and build bridges across the rivers in his community.

The problem was that his mother could not afford the fees for secondary school. After primary school, Emeka stayed at home for two years while his mates went on with their education. Each morning he would watch them pass by with books in their hands, and each night he would sit under the dim light of a lantern to read the old textbooks he borrowed from neighbors.

Many people in the village told him to forget about school. They said, "Your mother has no money. Without money, you cannot go to school. Without a sponsor, you cannot become anything." But Emeka refused to give up. In his heart, he believed that with determination, a way would open up for him.

During the rainy season, he worked on farms for other people. He fetched water for builders, and he carried goods for traders at the market. With the little money he earned, he saved it in an empty milk tin that he kept under his bed. At the same time, he went to the community library every Saturday to read and to ask questions from the teachers who came there for adult classes.

After two years of hard work, Emeka had enough money to pay for JSS1. He enrolled in the village secondary school and started in the afternoon class because he still worked in the mornings. Life was not easy. He walked for more than 5 kilometers to school every day. During exams, he studied by the light of a kerosene lamp while mosquitoes buzzed around him. Sometimes he slept in class out of tiredness, but he never missed a test.

His teachers noticed his seriousness. One of them, Mr. Obi, spoke to the principal on Emeka's behalf. Because of his good grades and his behavior, the school gave him a scholarship that covered his fees from JSS2 to SS3. Old students from the town also began to support him with books and sandals.

When the time came for WAEC, Emeka worked harder than ever. He studied in groups, he practiced past questions, and he prayed for strength. At the end, he made 7 As and 2 Bs. He was the best student in Science in the whole local government.

Today, Emeka is in his third year at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, studying Civil Engineering on a federal scholarship. During holidays, he comes back to Umuoke to teach younger children in the community library.

When people now ask him how he made it, he only smiles and says, "Where there is a will, there is a way."

His story reminds everyone in the village that poverty is a challenge, but not a prison. With focus, with hard work, and with faith in oneself,

ENGLISH ESSAY (TYPE I)

(4)

No. 14 Independence Layout,
Enugu, Enugu State.
15 July, 2026.

The Honourable Minister,
Federal Ministry of Defence,
Ship House, Abuja.
Dear Honourable Minister,

AN APPEAL CONCERNING THE SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE COUNTRY AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDRESSING THEM

I write with great respect to draw your attention to the increasing security challenges across different parts of our country, and to offer some suggestions on how these problems can be tackled for the peace and progress of our nation.

Over the last few years, the issue of insecurity has become a major concern to citizens in both urban and rural areas. In the North East, activities of insurgents have continued to affect lives and properties despite the efforts of our gallant soldiers. In the North West and North Central, cases of banditry, kidnapping, and attacks on farming communities have made movement on highways and in villages very dangerous. In the South East and South, there have been reports of cult clashes, armed robbery, and destruction of public facilities. These incidents have created fear among the people and have also affected farming, business, and education in many communities.

One of the major effects of this situation is on the economy. Farmers can no longer go to their farms without fear of attack, and as a result food prices have gone up in markets across the country. Investors are also reluctant to come into areas with a history of violence. Parents are afraid of sending their children to school in some regions, and many youths are being forced to abandon their businesses and relocate to other states for safety. The morale of our security personnel is also being tested, because they are working under very difficult conditions with limited resources.

In light of the problems above, I humbly wish to suggest a few ways through which the situation can be improved. First, there is a need for better equipment and welfare for our security agencies. Soldiers, policemen, and other operatives at the front lines require modern weapons, communication gadgets, vehicles, and protective gear in order to confront criminals effectively. At the same time, their salaries and allowances should be paid promptly in order to boost their morale and commitment to duty.

Second, intelligence gathering should be strengthened at the community level. Traditional rulers, vigilante groups, and youth leaders know their areas very well and can provide useful information to security agencies about suspicious movements. A good working relationship between the military, the police, and local structures will help in preventing attacks before they occur.

Third, the government should invest more in job creation and youth empowerment. Many young people are being recruited into crime because of poverty and unemployment. If skill acquisition centres and small business support are provided in different parts of the country, many youths will channel their energy into productive ventures instead of violence.

Fourth, there should be improved coordination among the various security agencies. When the army, police, DSS, and civil defence work together with a common strategy, operations against criminals will be more effective and there will be less duplication of effort.

Honourable Minister, we believe that with strong leadership, adequate funding, and cooperation from citizens, the security challenges facing our country can be overcome. The Nigerian people are resilient, and they are ready to support every effort aimed at restoring peace and order across the nation.

Thank you for your service to our country. I trust that this letter will receive your urgent attention, and I look forward to seeing positive changes in the security situation across Nigeria.

Yours faithfully,