

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. Your younger brother has written the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and needs your advice on a suitable subject combination relevant to his future career. Write a letter suggesting the combination and giving at least three reasons for your suggestion.
2. You are the chief speaker in a debate on the topic: *Democracy in Africa is a Curse rather than a Blessing*. Write your argument *for* or *against* the motion.
3. Write an article suitable for publication in a national daily on the rising cases of kidnapping in your country and suggest ways of curbing the evil act.
4. Write a story that illustrates the saying: *Where there is a will, there is a way*.

SECTION B

COMPREHENSION

[20 MARKS]

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

5. 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 *unaffected* 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, tell 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 × 6 = (6 marks)

SECTION C

SUMMARY

[30 MARKS]

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

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

Sleep apnea is an involuntary cessation of breathing that occurs while the patient is asleep. It is a sleeping disorder which occurs when the upper airway (nose or throat) becomes continually blocked during sleep, reducing or completely stopping airflow. Sleep apnea can be caused by a person's physical structure or medical conditions. These include obesity, large tonsils, endocrine disorders, neuromuscular disorders (heart or kidney failure), certain genetic syndromes, and premature birth. People with obesity have much fat stored in their neck and this can block the upper airway. Large tonsils may contribute to sleep apnea because they narrow the upper airway. Conditions like neuromuscular disorders that interfere with the brain, airway and chest muscles can also result in sleep apnea. Advanced heart and kidney failure can also cause sleep apnea. Babies born prematurely before 32 weeks of pregnancy have a higher risk of having breathing problems during sleep.

Sleep apnea is characterised by a reduced or an absence of breathing, frequent loud snoring and gasping for air while sleeping. It can cause excessive daytime sleepiness and fatigue, attention declination, dry mouth or headache when awake, sexual dysfunction and waking up several times during the night to urinate. Undiagnosed or untreated sleep apnea can lead to serious complications such as heart attack, glaucoma, diabetes, cancer, cognitive and behavioural disorders.

If you have been diagnosed with sleep apnea, it is important that you adopt healthy lifestyle habits and maintain an open airway during sleep. You could use breathing devices like the Positive Airway Pressure (PAP) machine, Continuous Positive Air Pressure (CPAP) machines, mouthpiece, or implants and usage of prescribed treatments.

If you have any concern that you may be experiencing sleep apnea, consult your doctor immediately. Your doctor will review your medical history or symptoms and recommend a change in lifestyle. This might include eating a heart-healthy diet, aiming for a healthy weight and avoiding alcohol and smoke in any form.

Generally, maintaining a healthy lifestyle can decrease or prevent the incidence of sleep apnea.

- (a) In two sentences, one for each, summarise the causes of sleep apnea.
- (b) In two sentences, one for each, summarise the symptoms of sleep apnea.
- (c) In two sentences, one for each, summarise ways sleep apnea can be managed.

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

ENGLISH (TYPE E)

SUMMARY

(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. It is highly sought after.

(h) (i) Civilization

(ii) Fascinating

(iii) Unaffected

(iv) Reduce

(v) Fragility

(vi) Glowing

ENGLISH (TYPE E)

SUMMARY

(6a)

- Sleep apnea may result from physical abnormalities such as obesity, enlarged tonsils and blocked airways.

- It can also be caused by certain medical conditions, including endocrine, neuromuscular, heart and kidney disorders, as well as premature birth.

(6b)

- Sleep apnea is marked by interrupted breathing, loud snoring and gasping for air during sleep.

- It may also lead to excessive daytime tiredness, poor concentration, headaches, dry mouth and frequent urination at night.

(6c)

- Sleep apnea can be managed by adopting healthy habits, maintaining a healthy weight and avoiding alcohol and smoking.

- It can also be treated with medical devices such as CPAP or PAP machines, mouthpieces or other prescribed treatments under a doctor's care.

ENGLISH ESSAY (TYPE E)

(1)

No. 12 Ehi Street,

Ujoelen, Ekpoma,

Edo State.

15 July, 2026.

Dear Ose,

I was very happy to hear that you have successfully written the Basic Education Certificate Examination. Congratulations on this first major step in your academic journey. I know you are now thinking about the subjects you should choose for Senior Secondary School, and I am glad that you asked for my advice on this matter.

After careful consideration of your interests, your performance in JSS, and your dream of becoming a medical doctor, I strongly suggest that you choose the Science subject combination when you get into SSI. This combination should include English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Civic Education, and any other required subjects offered by your school. With this combination, you will be laying a solid foundation for a career in Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, or any other course in the Health Sciences.

The first reason for this suggestion is that the Science combination is the direct requirement for admission into any medical-related course in Nigerian universities. From what I have learnt through my friends at UNN and ESUT, schools of Medicine and Pharmacy do not admit students from the Arts or Commercial classes. If you choose Biology, Chemistry, and Physics now, you will meet the basic subject requirement for JAMB and for post-UTME screening. Without these core science subjects, your ambition of studying Medicine will be very difficult to achieve, no matter how good your grades are in other areas.

The second reason is that studying Science subjects will help you to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are important for your future. In Biology classes you will learn about the human body and how it functions. In Chemistry you will understand how drugs and chemicals react with one another. In Physics you will grasp the principles behind medical equipment such as X-ray machines and scanners. All these subjects will prepare your mind for the kind of work that doctors do in hospitals. They will also make your transition from secondary school to university much smoother, because you will not be meeting these concepts for the first time in 100 level.

The third reason is that the Science combination gives you more career options in the future, even beyond Medicine. If along the line you decide to study Biochemistry, Microbiology, Nursing, Medical Laboratory Science, or even Engineering, you will still be qualified because you already have the core science subjects. On the other hand, if you choose Arts or Commercial subjects now, it will be almost impossible to switch back to Science later. By choosing Science early, you are keeping many doors open for yourself while still focusing on your main goal.

I know that Science subjects require a lot of hard work and dedication, but I believe in your ability. You have always been good in Mathematics and Basic Science, and with seriousness in class, regular reading, and practical work in the laboratory, you will do very well.

Please take this advice seriously and discuss it with your class teacher and the school counselor as well. I am confident that with the right subject combination and determination, you will achieve your dream of becoming a doctor and making our family proud.

Write to me when you have made your final decision. I am always here to support you in any way I can.

Your loving brother,
Ehiaquina

ENGLISH ESSAY (TYPE E)

(4)

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, even the roughest road can lead to a great destination.