

LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

END OF TERM II EXAMS 2011

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

SENIOR THREE

TIME: 2 HOURS

Name: Class / Stream:

I Read the passage below and answer the question on it.

The Great Drought

The toll is staggering. Nearly two thirds of the 30 million cattle in West Africa's sub-Saharan region have perished. Over half the camel population is lost, and an estimated 10 million sheep are dead.

Huge areas of the once good pastureland have been laid waste. Villages are deserted and wells filled in with wind-blown sand. Thousands of children have died of epidemics of measles and meningitis. Half a million nomads have been turned into refugees, fleeing south into West African cities like Kano, Niamey, Bamako and Ouagadougou, already desperately overcrowded. The countries of Chad, Niger, Mali and Upper Volta, listed by the United Nations as "the least developed among developing countries" are rendered almost bankrupt and unviable.

This is just part of the stark reality of the Great drought – the five years of diminishing rainfall that has devastated the "Sahelian zone" of Africa which runs as a broad band of scrubland under the rim of the Sahara from Mauritania in the West to Ethiopia and Somalia in the East.

The dimensions of the tragedy for the people, the livestock and the economies of the region are difficult to imagine, let alone measure, but the spectre of suffering – hunger, kwashiorkor, disease and death – has covered the whole Sahelian zone.

"La Grande Secheresse" – as the drought is called in the French-speaking countries of Africa – has cut across all of the six Francophone countries in the 2,000 mile wide belt of Sahel savanna in West Africa.

The rains in 1972 were the lowest in living memory. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in Rome sensed disaster as early as September 1972 and warned of impending food shortages and possible famine.

Six month later the governments of the six Francophone countries jointly declared themselves a disaster area and called for international relief. Nigeria also declared parts of the north a disaster area and decided to launch its own food relief operation without outside help.

But relief to the six Francophone countries was late and airlifts could only reach the more accessible towns. The region's poor roads meant that vast areas never received relief. Thousands of nomads were on the move, abandoning their land and even their cattle in search of better land in the south.

M. Telesphore Yaguibou from Upper Volta described the situation as follows:

“Whole families will queue for days for a few grammes of sorghum maize. Shepherds will deprive themselves of the last of their supplies of water and cow's milk to give the calves one more chance of survival. Others simply choose suicide rather than look on powerlessly while their flocks, on which their very existence depends, are totally destroyed.....”

But the drought disaster has ironically brought a glimmer of hope to future of the endangered nomadic population of the Sahel. For a total war on drought has been declared, and international agencies, governments, regional authorities, traditional rulers and the people are now preparing to move into battle against the slowly advancing Sahara Desert.

The area was not always stricken by drought. Rock frescoes in Saharan caves depict scenes of pastoral life in the midst of what is now desert. 6,000 years ago big herds of cattle and antelope, giraffe and ostrich grazed on expansive grassland. Areas now arid or with barren scrub were once tree-covered savanna.

Man must take much of the blame for the present crisis. Overgrazing by herds, the cutting down of trees and forests, and over-cropping have all over the centuries led to soil erosion and good land being turned into desert.

The goat has also done its worst in the Sahel zone, which has a goat population of 30 million. The goat contributes greatly to soil erosion because it eats as much of a plant as it can: leaves stem and roots. When the more succulent plants are devoured, it stands on its hind legs and strips bushes of leaves and trees of their bark. The goat then does not merely eat: it destroys. The irony is that it is not even particularly useful to herdsmen and could easily be replaced with sheep, which live in far greater harmony with the environment.

But now, at last, with the world awake to the tragedy of the region, plans are being laid to combat the problem. In Nigeria, for example, many steps are being taken.

Question:

Write a paragraph of not more than 90 words summarizing the results of the great drought.

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Fair copy

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

Urbanization

The vast majority of men throughout history have lived close to the land, in rural villages or tribes that were bound by age-old traditions. Life moved slowly there, and changes lagged far behind those of the fast-paced cosmopolitan centres.

Beginning in the nineteenth century, however, urbanization accelerated rapidly as a result of the industrial revolution. By now, more than one half of the population of North America and almost half of the population of Australia and New Zealand live in cities of at least 100,000. In South America and Europe about one third of the people live in cities of at least 100,000. Only Asia and Africa remain overwhelmingly rural, with 90 percent of the people still living in agricultural villages and on farms. But even this picture is beginning to change.

The speed with which urbanization is now taking stands in a sharp contrast to the very gradual development of cities over thousands of years. Today's feverishly accelerated pace of urbanization; with its accompanying technological changes has had the effect of uprooting people, destroying ancient traditions and beliefs, and breeding instability. For example, the urbanization and industrialization taking place in India is helping to break down the caste system that has regulated Indian life for thousands of years.

In many parts of Africa ancient tribal customs and regulations are disintegrating under the impact of urbanization. In many countries young people have been leaving the impoverished rural lands to seek work in the large cities. Although such migrations are often temporary and seasonal, the fact that so many Africans are experiencing urban life – and are exposed to outside cultures and ideas – has had the effect of weakening ethnic ties. Infact, much of African society is now divided into “modern” and “traditional” factions that are philosophically at war with each other.

When a person leaves his rural home for the city, it may be the first time in his life that he mingles freely with people from other areas. This is especially true if he is a member of a minority group in the city. In the following account, a young man relates his experiences in Mulago, an urban region just outside Kampala. Many people who live in Mulago work in the government and business offices in Kampala. Others work at the large Mulago hospital, or in shops in Mulago. The majority of people there are Baganda, while the remainder comes from other parts of East Africa. The write, a non-Ganda, states:

“When I first arrived in Mulago I looked for any person from my home area I knew. I was lucky to find a friend and I stayed with him for three weeks before I found a place for myself. I had a little money when I arrived but after four days in Mulago almost half of it was stolen. My friend introduced me to his friends (not all of whom come from our home area) to ask for jobs. Eventually I found work as a sweeper in a big office.

“I now live with a group of young men only one of whom is a member of my tribe but two others work in the same office as messengers. We go to work together because one of them has a bicycle and I can ride with him....

“I am now trying to get better work where I can get more money. So I went to see a Ganda friend of mine. He likes me because I can speak his language.

“On Sunday I play football. I have joined a club and pay one shilling every three months. There are people from many different areas in my club but we get on well together. I sometimes get tired of living here and having to buy all my food. If I get tired of work I go home. But I always come back”

Questions

1. From paragraph 3 we can see that the writer thinks that urbanization
 - A. gets rid of harmful traditions
 - B. destroys valuable traditions
 - C. destroys traditional ways of life
 - D. has revolutionized the way of life in India

2. The writer thinks that urbanization in Africa
 - A. is harmful
 - B. has had very good results
 - C. is inevitable
 - D. has weakened traditional beliefs

3. *factions* in line 49 probably means
 - A. fractions
 - B. tribes
 - C. groups
 - D. areas

4. The first thing that the young man did on his arrival in Mulago was
 - A. to find to try a job
 - B. to find someone to stay with
 - C. to find a person from his home area
 - D. to find someone to employ him

5. Find a word in the passage that correspond in meaning to “to do with people from many different parts of the world”

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3 Rewrite items 3. 1 – 3.8 as instructed. Do not change the meaning.

- 3.1 It is shocking that the man bit his daughter to death.
(Begin: That)

- 3.2 I meant to go to the laboratory. (Begin: It was)

- 3.3 You may be a good writer, but you still need to practice.
(Rewrite using ‘no matter’)

- 3.4 I feel nervous whenever I see that woman.
(Begin: Every time)

- 3.5 Jeremiah was not able to complete the task he had been given.
(Rewrite using: “Succeed”)

3.6 Whose pen is this? (Begin: I wonder)
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3.7 Jane performed well. His parents bought him a house as a reward.
(Begin: Having)
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3.8 I would rather play tennis than volleyball. (Rewrite using 'sooner')
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4. For items 4.1 – 4.4 select the best alternative to complete the sentence.

4.1 The students were orderedat ease.
A. Standing C. having to stand
B. to stand D. stand

4.2 The secretary would be surprisedthat I was admitted.
A. hearing B. to hear
C. having heard D. to have heard

4.3 The scripture that was hung on the wall was beautifulit was artistic.
A. Consequently B. Indeed
C. Besides D. Nevertheless

4.4 Theof brakes took the pedestrians by surprise.
A. rustling B. screeching
C. shuffling D. tinkling

5. For this section, use the best forms of the words in the brackets to complete the sentence.

5.1 There is a lot ofamong the youth in our village (poor)

5.2 Lack of literacy causes someto the development of a country. (hinder)

5.3 The hunterspeared the lion and killed it. (courage)

*****END*****