

NAME:.....INDEX NO:.....

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE
UGANDA CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE 112**

This work has both paper 1&2,

Answer two questions in paper one and two questions in paper 2 every week.

For paper one, you MUST attempt a question on functional writing and composition every week and,

Summary writing and comprehension for paper two.

PAPER ONE

WEEK ONE.

SECTION A:

1. You have been caught by the school Askari (gate keeper) escaping from school at 8:00pm. You have been forwarded to the Headteacher the following morning. Write a dialogue of what was said.

SECTION B:

2. Write a story with a title “**HATRED BREEDS DEATH**”.
3. Discuss the view that “**Two heads are better than one.**”
4. “Using of a cane on students should be abolished from schools.” Discuss.
5. Write a narrative story end “.....had it not been for the old man I helped on way, I would be dead now.”
6. Write a descriptive story starting with “The cold day was to bring joy to the rest of my life had started.....”

7. Discuss the importance of education / learning in Uganda today.

Instructions

- This paper has **two** sections **A** and **B**.
- Answer question **one (1)** in section **A** and **one** other question in section **B**.

WEEK TWO.

SECTION A:

Use 250 – 300 WORDS)

1. Imagine you are the personnel officer in a large plastic factory which makes plastic bottles for water. Recently, you have heard a number of complaints from the workers about different aspects of their employment. You have decided to call an impromptu meeting of the workers' representatives so that they can air out their grievances as you make notes which will later be presented in form of a report to management.

Question:

Use the ideas below and any other ideas which you consider important to write the report to management explaining the difficulties which the workers face and recommending the improvements you feel should be made.

Ideas to consider.

- Workers expected to work very long hours
- Wages are very low compared with other less skilled jobs
- Morning breaks should be introduced
- Many workers would like the establishment of a canteen where they can buy tea, soft drinks, etc
- Many of the machines are old putting the lives of workers at risk
- Guards and other safety measures are completely missing
- Workers injured are not compensated at all
- And on the whole, conditions of work on the factory floor are unpleasant

SECTION B:

(USE 500 – 600 WORDS)

2. Write a story using ONE of the following titles
 - (a) A job during the holidays
 - (b) The burglar
 - (c) Rain!
3. Narrate a story in which you were wrongly convicted.
4. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of science and technology

5. Write a composition beginning “Oh God, what on earth have I done to deserve this....”

Write a story to end withterror washed over me.

WEEK THREE.

SECTION A:

There has been a strike at your school. It has been contained by the police. As the students' councilor, write a speech to cool down the situation, promising them better conditions.

SECTION B:

1. Describe the most pleasant surprise you have had recently.
2. Write a story ending with this statement;I left stealthily through the back door, not wishing anyone to associate me with what had just happened inside that house.
3. Describe what happened at a rowdy presidential candidates' meeting when one of the contestants stood up to address the electorate.
4. Basing on your personal encounter, explain the pains or pleasures of education.
5. Write an original story beginning: Mother had always cautioned me to stay away from that gang but it had occurred to me to take her words seriously....
6. Suggest how students in your school can be helped to pass English language better
6. Describe any person who has had an impact on your life.

PAPER TWO

WEEK ONE

1. *Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.*

To hell with the law! We shall circumcise the girls

Elders in Bukwo and Kapchorwa districts are preparing to circumcise over 200 girls next month despite a new law banning the practice.

They say that the whole tribe would rather go to prison than abolish a custom they inherited from their ancestors.

The practice, commonly referred to as female circumcision, is mostly practiced among the Sabiny, who occupy Bukwo and Kapchorwa districts on the northern slopes of Mt.

Elgon. The United Nations categorizes it as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) because it damages a woman's sexuality and leads to various complications. FGM refers to the removal of the external female genitalia.

Accordingly, in December 2009, parliament passed a law banning female circumcision. President Yoweri Museveni signed it into law on 17th March, 2010 and it took effect on April 9, 2010.

The law argues that FGM infringes on the rights of the woman and also leads to health hazards, including excessive bleeding, death, birth complications and exposure to illnesses. The law criminalizes the practice, calls for prosecution of offenders and protection of victims. Anyone caught doing it faces up to ten years in prison if the victim dies of the effects of this practice.

But the Sabiny are unfazed by this law. The vice – chairman of Bukwo district, John Chelangat, says over 200 girls are being prepared for the practice beginning on 1st December and neither he nor other political leaders are able to stop it. The men like it because circumcised women are less interested in sex and are, therefore, less likely to have extramarital affairs. The girls do not want to be considered outcasts, so they go for the knife.

“This is a very sensitive period and no politician will talk about abolishing FGM because we shall lose votes. For me, I will not talk about FGM because I know this will land me into the political dustbin,” says Chelangat. Consequently, as the date for the circumcision got near, preparations to grace the ritual were in high gear in Sebei region.

In Bukwo district, the residents had a bumper harvest of maize, sorghum and millet that was to be used for making local brew (malwa) to entertain the revellers and also aid in performing sacred rituals, only known to the Sabiny people. Kokop Chebet, 70, a mentor from Matibeyi village had received applications from over 20 girls wishing to be prepared for the ritual.

“They came to me in January and I have been training them on how to go through the ritual. They told me they want to become women like others because they are tired of being scolded by the community that still calls them girls because they are not cut,” she added.

Alice Kokop, 65, another mentor, has also received about 15 applications from girls in Kabei Sub – County wishing to be cut. Other girls were to come from Chesower and Bukwo. “I have already taken them through a series of trainings and they are about to be

ready. We shall cut the first group in the first week of December,” Kokop explains. Asked about the law prohibiting FGM, the two said the law cannot stop the cultural rite of the Sabiny people unless the community agrees with it.

Twenty-year old Ana Chebet is a resident of Matibeyi village. Married with three children, Chebet had always been scolded by the community for not undergoing circumcision that passes her from childhood to adulthood. “I cannot milk a cow or climb into a family granary. Whenever I go to the well, other women throw scorn at me because I am not cut,” added Chebet, who would be one of the candidates that December. She said mentors trained her on how to dance when preparing for the ritual, the kind of food to eat, including posh, beans, honey and fermented milk to replace lost energy and blood.

Alice Chemutai, 17, another resident of Matebeyi, was convinced by her aunt to undergo female circumcision. But because she is educated, she refused and her father supported her. She could write an endless list of young girls who had dropped out of school to get married after the ritual and those who had birth complication, bleeding and infections thereafter.

“I will never get circumcised because this will not only infringe on my rights of womanhood but also exposes me to long-term health hazards. I am happy my father and mother support me against other relatives,” added Chemutai, a senior three student at Amananga High School in Sudan. According to the law, a person commits aggravated FGM in situations where death occurs or where the victim is disabled or is infected with HIV and AIDS. A person also commits aggravated FGM where the offender is a parent, guardian or a person having control over the victim or where the act is done by a health worker.

The law stipulates that a person who commits aggravated FGM shall be imprisoned for a period not exceeding 10 years. People who participate or aid FGM shall be jailed. The Sabiny people claim they do not fear the law initiated or brought by the people of Sebei. “It was brought by people who do not understand why we carry out circumcision,” said Alice Kokop.

According to Sabiny customs and traditions, female circumcision had been around for over 2,000 years and it is carried out to convert females from childhood to adulthood. Females who are not circumcised are not called women and they are not supposed to carry out certain home activities like milking a cow, climbing into a family granary and talking with the elders.

(Adapted from: *The Saturday Vision*, Late Edition 6th November, 2010 Vol. 04 Number 45 pp 12-13 by Fedrick Wamakuyu)

Questions

In about 100 words, summarise the reasons why the Sabiny people have insisted on female circumcision and the negative effects it brings

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WEEK TWO

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow it.

When the flow of water in a stream is interrupted or altered, the value of the stream is changed. Major in-stream uses of water are for hydroelectric power, recreation, and navigation. Electricity from hydroelectric power plants is an important energy resource. Presently, hydroelectric power plants produce about thirteen percent of the total electricity generated in the United States. Hydroelectric power plants do not consume water and do not add waste products to it. However, the dams needed for hydroelectric power plants have definite disadvantages, including the high costs of construction and the resultant destruction of the natural habitat in streams and surrounding lands. While dams reduce the amount of flooding, they do not eliminate it. In fact, the building of a dam often encourages people to develop the flood plain and as a result when flooding occurs, the potential loss of property and lives is greater.

The sudden discharge from a dam of the impounded water also can seriously alter the downstream environment. If the discharge is from the top of the reservoir, the stream temperature rapidly increases. Discharging the colder water at the bottom of the reservoir causes a sudden decrease in the stream's water temperature. Either of these changes is harmful to aquatic life in the stream.

The impoundment of water also reduces the natural scouring action of a flowing stream. If water is allowed to flow freely, the silt accumulated in the river is carried downstream during times of high water. This maintains the river channels and carries nutrient materials to the

river's mouth. But if a dam is constructed, the silt deposits behind the dam eventually fill the reservoir with silt.

In addition, impounded water has a greater surface area, which increases the amount of evaporation. In areas where water is scarce, the amount of water lost through such evaporation can be serious. This is particularly evident in hot climates. Furthermore, flow is often intermittent below the dam, which alters the water's oxygen content and interrupts fish migration. The population of algae and other small organisms are also altered. Therefore, dam construction requires careful prior planning.

Water tends to be a focal point for recreational activities like sailing, water skiing, swimming, fishing, and camping, all of which require water of reasonably good quality. Water is used for recreation in its natural setting and often is not physically affected. Even so, it is necessary to plan for recreational use, degrade water quality for example; waves generated by power boats can accelerate shoreline erosion and cause siltation.

Dam construction creates new recreational opportunities because reservoirs provide new sites for boating, camping and related recreation. However, this is at the expense of a previously free-flowing river. Some recreational opportunities, such as river fishing have been lost.

Most major rivers are used for navigation. North America currently has more than 40,000 kilometres of commercially navigable waterways. Water ways used for navigation must have sufficient vessels.

Questions

- (a) In not more than 40 words summarise the advantages of damming.
- (b) In not more than 90 words summaries the disadvantages of damming

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WEEK THREE.

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

In the chimney of the autumn wind sings the song of the elements, and the old firs before my study windows wave excitedly with their arms and sing so loudly in chorus that I can hear their singing melody through the double panes. Suddenly, from above, a dozen black, streamlined projectiles shoot across the piece of clouded sky for which my window forms a frame. Heavily as stones they fall, fall to the tops of the firs where they suddenly sprout wings, become birds and then light feather rags that the storm seizes and whirls out of my line of vision, more rapidly than they were borne into it.

I walked to the windows to watch this extraordinary game that the jackdaws are playing with the wind. A game? Yes, indeed, it is a game, in the most literal sense of the word; practiced movements, indulged in and enjoyed for their own sake and not for the achievement of a special object. And rest assured, these are not merely inborn, purely instinctive actions, but movements that have been carefully learned. All these feats that the birds are performing, their wonderful exploitation of the wind, their amazingly exact assessment of distances and, above all, their understanding of local wind conditions, their knowledge of all the up-current, air-pockets and eddies – all this proficiency is no inheritance, but, for each bird, an individually acquired accomplishment.

And look what they do with the wind! At first sight you, poor human being, think that the storm is playing with the birds, like a cat with a mouse, but soon you see, with astonishment, that it is the fury of the elements that here plays the role of the mouse and that the jackdaws are treating the storm exactly as the act its unfortunate victim. Nearly, but only nearly, do they give the storm its head, let it throw them high, high into the heavens, till they seem to fall upwards, then, with a casual flap of a wing, they turn themselves over, open their pinions for a fraction of a second from below against the wind, and dive – with an acceleration far greater than that of a falling stone -into the depths below. Another tiny jerk of the wing and they return to their normal position and, on close-reefed sails, shoot away with breathless speed into the teeth of the gale, hundreds of yards to the west: this all playfully and without effort, just to spite the stupid wind that tries to drive them towards the east. The sightless monster itself must perform the work of propelling the birds through the air at a rate of well over 80 miles an hour; the jackdaws do nothing to help beyond a few lazy adjustments of their black wings. Sovereign control over the

power of the elements, intoxicating triumph of the living organism over the pitiless strength of the inorganic.

Question:

- a) In not more than 120 words, explain how the jack-daws play a game with the wind, and the kind of movements birds carefully learn.

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WEEK FOUR

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Traffic congestion in the peak hours is already creating havoc in the main transport route and bottlenecks between Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri. The Ministry of Energy and Mining was estimated that some 50,000 “bakasi”, (converted light weight Japanese pickup trucks) operate in the capital.

Undoubtedly, fewer vehicles on the road and the elimination of the unsafe ‘bakasi’ would reduce accidents. An alleviation of the daily rush for transport would mean less dependence on ‘bakasi’ whose capacity is only eight passengers, but which carry up to fifteen, some hanging from the rear with only an arm’s hold on the speeding vehicle. “This is the easiest way of killing many people at one go”, remarked Mark Simon a self – employed labourer. With no alternative, thousands of workers each day make their way home.

Since 1977 – according to government statistics – traffic accidents, unlicensed drivers, death and severe injuries caused by cars, have actually decreased. In 1977, 204 people reported killed in Khartoum in traffic accidents. In 1982, only 136 perished. Unfortunately, the fewer numbers are likely more a reflection of the reduced monitoring capacity of the traffic department than safer driving. In addition to the absence of safety regulations for public transport the current state being one of survival of the fittest, and he who does not push and shove does not get home – traffic regulations are largely ignored.

With the installation of traffic lights, the work – load of the traffic policemen might be thought to have been reduced. However, more often than not, traffic lights are out of order, creating not only confusion for drivers, but also the need for the posting of police on traffic duty. More acute is the danger to pedestrians. With most of the white lined Zebra crossing faded, drivers are often unaware of the pedestrians’ right of way. Unfortunately, the average driver simply ignores the waiting pedestrians and merely swerves to miss the pedestrians who characteristically walk into the traffic any way.

The men and women behind the wheel are very inconsiderate. The rule of driving is often, the bigger the car the faster one must go. Rather than slow down for approaching intersections and

its absurdity are many and varied. In the case of whaling it can be summed up in the following way. When the stock has been reduced below critical level, a natural, possibly unstoppable downward spiral begins because of three main factors. First, the animals lucky enough to survive the slaughter will be too scattered to locate one another owing to the vastness of the oceans. Secondly, whales being sociable animals probably need the stimulus of sizeable gatherings to induce reproductive behaviour (which has social inferences as well as sexual). It is quite likely that two individuals meeting through chance will not be compatible. (They can hardly be expected to be aware of their own rarity or to realize any need for adjusting their natural inclinations). This is especially so with polygamous species like the sperm whale.

Thirdly, and perhaps most important in the long term, even allowing that the whales might still be able to band together in socially acceptable groups (thanks to their undeniably excellent communicative systems there is a real danger, possibly even a probability, that the whales gene pools would by then have sunk so low as to be biologically unviable.

That is to say, the characteristics possessed by the original population in total would be whetted down by those characters possessed by the few remaining individuals. The result of such a biological calamity is increasing less ability to adapt to new conditions and less individual variety; three words can sum it up: protracted biological extinction.

Questions:

- 1.1. Give four words from the passage that suggest that whales have a problem.

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- 1.2. Briefly explain the meaning of the following words and expressions as used in the passage.

(i) vastness

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(ii) not compatible

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(iii) whetted down

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1.3. When, according to the writer, is it possible for extinction to occur?

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1.4. What reasons do the whales give to argue that the whales cannot become extinct?

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1.5. Give one reason why the numbers of whales could never recover even when whaling has stopped.

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WEEK TWO

Read the following passage and answer the following questions as precisely as possible

To the swimmer clear water alone is reassuring, and man's mistrust has always been awakened by sharp and concealing corners or slopes too rich in vegetation. Throughout history the best divers have come from the clear-water countries: Greeks, Italians, and Polynesians. Bretons, who are such good fishermen, never dive and seldom swim.

Our anxiety in the water is like a blind man's but by wearing a diving mask we enjoy clear vision and can get rid of phantoms. Yet there remains in all of us a more or less vivid memory of those legends which peopled the sea with monsters and shadowy catastrophes.

All these underwater terrors have not yet been dispelled. How many times have I seen a friend tremble when I touched him on the shoulder under water and he had not felt my approach, how many times have I not shuddered as something brushed against me! Our imagination goes on suspecting mysterious dangers, where in reality there is only a dark patch or a harmless creature more frightened than we are.

Fear, cruelty, incomprehension leave a heavy mark on our first encounters with the water world. We go into the sea with all our landsman's prejudices. On land we participate in a hierarchy of emotions which excludes the sea creatures; the man who can't bear to see a rabbit killed will look on with a cold eye while the back of a live fish's throat is torn out with the hook which is caught in it. The death-agony of all terrestrial things, from a horse to a hedgehog, wakes in us some feelings of sympathy and egotism, some echoes of tenderness for the common fate of beast

and man. This sense of pity which is so easily aroused remains indifferent to sea creatures; our clemency is unable to go further than the shore or to be extended to the living world beyond.

Yet life and death are the same on land and sea; the blood which flows there is just as red, and in its farewell to life the flesh of the scale bearers should offer as pathetic a spectacle to our eyes as that which is covered by feather or fur. But far from it a fish to most of us is generally only an oblong sack of bones and scales. If it dies in convulsions it dies at any rate in silence and makes a nice clean corpse with a minimum of blood and gut. So we conclude it feels nothing.

That is because we watch it die in the air; once on land, where it is so helpless, a fish loses even the means to express suffering. It's quite a different thing when the death-throes take place in the water. The eye-witness soon finds that he is spectator of a drama as painful as that of the dying hind which tramples on its entrails. The true hunter's instinct is the same in both cases: to finish them off quickly. If this seems hard to believe, here is the opinion of an underwater fisherman, Bernard Gorsky, from his *Disx Mètres sous la Mer*:¹

'I shall always have a clear memory of a splendid specimen of over five pounds which I harpooned with a horizontal shot. In its struggle the drum-fish tore itself free and disappeared in a large overhanging crevice. I reloaded and was about to go down again when the fish reappeared, completely disabled; unable to turn, it was coming towards me, dragging its pale intestines; there was such an anguish in the position of the body, in the expression of the half-closed eyes, that I was frozen by it, and it was with very mixed feelings that I fired my harpoon again.'

For the first time in human history man and fish are finding themselves face to face in the same water, breasting the same weed. I can remember the time when fish were less frightened for their lives and would come up to nose my harpoon. Now their education is complete; they know we are murderers and flee at sight. I believe we have missed a wonderful opportunity; a possible friendliness such as the birds gave to Saint Francis. For fishes holiness wasn't even a requisite!

2.1 Why do the Bretons never dive and seldom swim?

(2 marks)

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2.2 The writer speaks of the fears which envelop the underwater swimmer. What is the chief cause of these fears? (2 marks)

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2.3 In your own words explain the writer's views about the difference between our attitude towards land animals and that toward fish as set out in the fourth paragraph (2 marks)

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2.4 What is the wonderful opportunity that has been missed? (2 marks)

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2.5 Briefly explain what the following expressions mean as they are used in the passage.

(i) Their education (last paragraph) (½ mark)

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(ii) Incomprehension (paragraph 3) (½ mark)

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(iii) A minimum of blood and gut. (paragraph 5) (½ mark)

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(iv) Breasting the same weed (last paragraph)

(½ mark)

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WEEK THREE

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow

A nice touch

When Lonnie Jackson learnt that he'd won a basketball scholarship to a small Mid-western college, everyone told him what a wonderful opportunity it was. But Lonnie felt a little anxious. Indiana seemed a very long way from his old neighbourhood in New York City. Later in September, when Lonnie arrived at the airport in Indiana, he was met by Clayton Leeds, the basketball team's assistant coach. When they arrived at the campus, Lonnie realized that life would be different here. Gradually, he **got acquainted** with other students, especially his teammates. Yet even though he was a top basketball player and participated in the school activities, everything seemed strangely unfamiliar.

They gave me this little piece of job. I was supposed to work in a hospital which was about a mile away from the campus. It was called University Hospital. A lot of the kids who were studying **to be doctors and whatnot** work in the hospital. What I was supposed to do wasn't much, but I had to do it if I wanted to get some money for extra expenses, because the scholarship only covered books and tuition and just enough money to get by on.

I got the campus bus and went over to the hospital. I found the physical therapy department after asking about six people for directions. They looked at me as if they had never seen a black guy before. Finally, they sent me down to the end of the building that looked a little newer than the rest.

"Excuse me, I'm supposed to see Dr Corbett." The woman sitting behind the desk was kind of nice-looking. I thought I had seen her around the campus before, but I wasn't too sure.

"You're Lonnie Jackson?" she asked. "The basket ball player?"

"Yeah."

"I'm Ann Taylor." She stuck out her hand and I shook it. "It's really Annie Taylor but I hate Annie, okay?"

“Yes, ma’am.”

“Okay. Dr Corbett isn’t here right now, he’s usually here in the mornings. It’s my understanding that you’re only going to be here six hours a week, right?”

“Right. Two days, three hours each day.”

“Okay, Eddie Brignole comes twice a week, two and half hours each time. I think you can work with him.”

“Let me tell you about Eddie. He’s got one real problem, as far as we know. Sometimes with a kid you really can’t tell what problems they have until they’re more developed. Anyway, Eddie’s nine and he’s so withdrawn that at first we thought he was artistic, you know what I mean?”

“Draw?” She had pretty eyes, man, and when she said that they got kind of wide and nice.

“No, he does not draw. He just sits around and does nothing most of the time. He won’t play with the other kids or anything. Most of the time, he just goes into the gym and sits by himself. What we do is just sit with him and talk to him. The **staff psychiatrist** seems to think that he looks forward to being here even if he doesn’t do anything and that it might help in the long run. Once in a while the athletes do get a rise from him, but not usually. So there you are.”

“Oh, one more little problem that you’ll just love,” Ann said. “Eddie comes here with his mother. She **sits in the gymnasium** for the whole time. Whatever you do will be wrong as far as she is concerned. If she had the money she would take him to the – how does she put it now – the best clinics in the world. But she doesn’t so she’s stuck with us, and we’re stuck with her. She’s not shy about telling you either.”

“Okay,” I said. “I guess I can handle it.”

“I hope so. She’s worn out two football players already.”

I just sat around for a while and read and looked at a magazine waiting for his kid Eddie to show up. After a while, a woman of medium height with dark hair and bobby pins at the back of her head came in. She wore a suede jacket that fitted her nicely. She probably could have looked a little better if she had taken better care of herself. Ann **motioned** to me to go over.

“Mrs Brignole, this is Lonnie Jackson.” Ann’s voice carried a smile with it. “He’s going to be working with Eddie for a while.”

(Adapted from: The Outside Shot by Walter Dean Myers: HBJ Treasury of Literature 1993 p.49)

Answer questions 2.1 – 2.5 by writing the correct answer.

2.1 How did Lonnie Jackson feel upon winning the basketball scholarship?

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2.2 Why did Lonnie Jackson feel the way he felt in (2.1) above?

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2.3 What would be the proper job title for the lady Jackson found behind the desk?

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2.4 How regular was Jackson to work at the hospital?

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2.5 Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the story.

(i) Got acquainted

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(ii) To be doctor and whatnot

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(iii) Staff psychiatrist

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(iv) Sits in the gymnasium

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(v) Motioned

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WEEK FOUR

2. A) Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

The peace of the district was shattered abruptly one morning, a little before noon.

All along the ridges women were weeding in the shambas and men, for the most part, lounging in the shade or intent on the game giuthi, which was played with counters of beans in two rows of shallow holes dug in the ground. Suddenly the sleepy silence was pierced by a distant high-pitched shout. It had an instantaneous effect. Women dropped their knives and straightened their backs with consternation on their faces. Men jumped to their feet and stood listening, their heads cocked to one side. The shouting came again quite plainly, a sort of wail, long and high, from a distant ridge.

In a moment people were scurrying in all directions like winged termites rising out of the earth after a shower of rain. Worriers dived into their huts to extract their head-dresses, their raffles and their weapons of war. In the compound their women folk helped them to strap on swords and quivers and handed them spear, club and shield. Boys herding in the bush drove the goats with all speed towards the forest. The air was full of shouting Nduini brought out the war-horn, the horn of a kudu, and ran to the top of a hill to send its warning on the Western ridges, towards Wangombe's and the distant – cattle. Two ridges over the signal was taken up by the next horn, and soon its clear note was floating down from the hills to salt – lick and plain.

There the herders heard it. And sprang into action. First, runners spread out on the flanks of the herds to bring them together and drive them towards the Amboni, away from danger. All the rest of the warriors, Muthengi among them, assembled by the salt-lick ready to change into the battle whenever they might be needed, and if possible to cut off the enemy's retreat. Black ball ostrich feathers were lifted off the trip of spears and swords loosened in the sheaths. Presently a low throbbing chant began, deep in the chest of the warriors, and soon the war song was raising up to the ridges above, while feet stamped in unison and flashing spears quivered under the sun.

Matu was herding goats near his grandfather's homestead, when the shouting started. With terror itching in his legs he drove them helter-skelter to Mahenia's where his grand mothers were dressing Ngarariga for the fight. Mahenia was nowhere to be seen.

"Fly quickly to the forest," Ngarariga ordered. "Go first to Waseru's, and he will tell you what to do. You should be safe enough there; the enemy never gets as far as that."

Two Njamas ran by, calling Ngarariga to join them.

"Masai have seized our cattle at the salt-lick of Gethwini," one shouted. "They are driving them now towards the plain behind the hill Mawe; our worriers were taken unawares. I carry Nduini's orders! Run to the ford below Mawe, where the path crosses the river. Here the Masai must pass on their retreat, here Nduiri will fall upon them to recapture the cattle, Run on, like the whirlwind that races over the plai

Njamas hurried on, pausing at each compound to summon all able-bodied men of the warrior classes. Columns of smoke standing up above the ridge behind them showed that the victorious Masai, not content with carrying off cattle, were firing the huts. The hill side glittered like quarts as the spear heads of converging warriors hurrying to the ford caught the sun. An Njama blew steadily on the war-horn and the air was full of shouts.

In Mahenia's homestead his two wives quickly collected a few calabashes of cooked food and some water-guards, gathered up the terrified small children and set off up the path that led to the forest and to Waseru's shamba. Soon they joined a stream of women, children and old men hurrying in the same direction. The elders were shaking their heads dolefully and many of the women were in tears. The refuges moved for the most part in dispirited silence, save for the bleating of agitated goats and the whimpering of babies. The silence of the forest was broken only by the harsh screech of monkeys and the fluting of woodpigeons; distant shouts of triumph or defeat were muffled by a wall of trees. They halted at the swampy glade below Waseru's shamba and sat in an uneasy silence, listening with the intensity of hunted animals. Waseru searched among the crowd for his father, and but without success. Several distracted mothers failed to account for all their children and most of the elders missed some of their goats.

2.1 What does the reaction of the people suggest about the attack?

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2.2 From the passage what can you tell about the whereabouts of the people when the alarm was sounded?

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2.3 Why did the Njamas order the warriors to the fords?

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2.4 Why were the men's heads cocked to one side?

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2.5 explain the meaning of the following words/expressions as they are used in the passage.

i) instantaneous

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ii) stamped in unison

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iii) terror itching in his legs

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iv) dispirited silence

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