

GRADE 11 | 2024 | PRACTICE EXAM

English Home Language

PAPER 2

Time: 2.5 hours

Total: 80 marks

Paper 2 - Practice Exam

INSTRUCTIONS

- This paper consists of FOUR sections.
- Answer ALL sections.
- Number answers as in the question paper.
- Use clear, well-structured language in all answers.

SECTION A -- COMPREHENSION [30 marks]

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

THE POWER OF UBUNTU IN THE MODERN WORKPLACE

The African philosophy of Ubuntu -- often translated as "I am because we are" -- is finding new relevance in contemporary workplaces struggling with the effects of hyper-individualism and the loneliness epidemic. Ubuntu is not a vague, sentimental notion. It is a practical framework that redefines success as something shared rather than hoarded.

In traditional African societies, ubuntu manifested in practices such as communal decision-making, shared resources, and a responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of all members of the community. A person with ubuntu did not measure their worth by what they owned or what title they held, but by the quality of their relationships and the care they showed others.

The contemporary workplace, particularly in the corporate world, has often operated on the opposite principle. Individual targets, performance bonuses, and a winner-takes-all mentality have created environments where colleagues compete rather than collaborate. The result, according to numerous studies, has been rising levels of employee disengagement, stress and burnout.

Forward-thinking organisations are beginning to experiment with ubuntu-inspired practices. These include team-based performance assessments instead of purely individual ones, mentorship programmes that pair experienced employees with newcomers, and decision-making processes that deliberately seek consensus rather than imposing top-down mandates.

Critics argue that ubuntu is incompatible with the ruthless efficiency that a competitive global economy demands. They contend that if everyone is responsible for everyone else's wellbeing, accountability becomes diluted and

mediocre performance is shielded from consequences.

Proponents of ubuntu respond that this is a false choice. Collaboration and accountability are not opposites. A team that genuinely invests in each member's growth is one where each member is more likely to perform to their full potential -- not less. Ubuntu does not reward failure; it refuses to abandon those who are struggling.

Perhaps the most radical implication of ubuntu for the modern workplace is its challenge to the very definition of success. If success is only what you accumulate for yourself, it is always fragile -- others can always take it from you, or circumstances can strip it away. But if success is defined by the strength of your community, it is something that multiplies the more it is shared.

A.1 (2)

What does the phrase "I am because we are" mean in the context of ubuntu? (2)

A.2 (2)

According to paragraph 2, how did people with ubuntu measure their worth? (2)

A.3 (3)

List THREE problems caused by individualism in the workplace, as described in paragraph 3. (3)

A.4 (4)

Explain in your own words what "ubuntu-inspired practices" involve, using evidence from paragraph 4. (4)

A.5 (2)

Summarise the argument of the CRITICS of ubuntu in the workplace in ONE sentence. (2)

A.6 (3)

Identify and explain the literary device used in: "success is only what you accumulate for yourself, it is always fragile -- others can always take it from you." (3)

A.7 (6)

Do you agree that ubuntu and individual accountability are compatible? Support your view with evidence from the passage AND your own knowledge. (6)

A.8 (3)

Suggest a suitable TITLE for this passage, other than the one given. Give reasons for your choice. (3)

A.9 (2)

What does the word "hyper-individualism" (paragraph 1) suggest about the state of modern society? (2)

A.10 (1)

The word "proponents" (paragraph 6) means:

A) critics B) supporters C) researchers D) writers (1)

SECTION B -- SUMMARY [10 marks]

Read the passage in Section A again.

B.1 (10)

Summarise the BENEFITS of ubuntu in the workplace as described in the passage.

You should write SEVEN points in full sentences. Use your own words as far as possible.

(7 points x 1 mark = 7 marks; penalise 1 mark for every word above 80)

SECTION C -- LANGUAGE AND EDITING SKILLS [20 marks]**C.1 (6)**

Rewrite the following sentences, correcting ALL errors (there are 2 errors in each):

- (a) The team have made they decision and everyone are satisfied.
- (b) She dont like when people talks down at her.
- (c) Neither the manager nor the workers was happy about the new policy.

C.2 (3)

Rewrite in INDIRECT (reported) speech:

The CEO said: "We will implement ubuntu practices in our company from next month."

C.3 (6)

Identify the FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE in each sentence and explain its effect:

- (a) "Success, when shared, multiplies like seeds scattered on fertile soil."
- (b) "The corporate world has long been a battlefield of individual ambition."

C.4 (3)

Rewrite the following in the PASSIVE VOICE:

"The manager evaluated each employee's performance individually."

C.5 (2)

Choose the correct word: "The policy had a significant (effect / affect) on staff morale."

SECTION D -- POETRY [20 marks]

Read the poem below and answer the questions.

IF by Rudyard Kipling (extract)

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream -- and not make dreams your master;
If you can think -- and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same...

D.1 (3)

What is the FORM of this poem? Name the rhyme scheme.

D.2 (3)

Identify and explain the figure of speech in: "meet with Triumph and Disaster / And treat those two impostors just the same." (3)

D.3 (3)

The poem uses a series of conditional clauses beginning with "If you can..." What effect does this create? (3)

D.4 (3)

What does the poet mean by "don't make dreams your master"? Explain in your own words. (3)

D.5 (4)

What is the TONE of this poem? Justify your answer with reference to the language used. (4)

D.6 (4)

Discuss the THEME of this poem. How does it relate to the ubuntu concept in Section A? (4)