

**SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
ORDINARY LEVEL  
SENIOR THREE**

**ENGLISH TEST /40 marks**

**Instructions:**

- ✓ *Answer all questions*
- ✓ *Respect the questions' order.*
- ✓ *Read carefully the text before answering.*
- ✓ *Any kind of cheating is not tolerated.*

**Text: The wedding**

The wedding was in December so I could attend it. Some dates stick out. December fifth. A week before Kenya's independence. Two great ceremonies for the neighbourhood to look forward to.

I was not to be left out. I polished my pointed shoes and put on my best jeans. I put on a hat and a scarf. ***Always dressed to kill, that was me. My dream girl*** was being married to a fellow whose face I did not like, but there were ***other birds to kill***.

I joined the crowd at their home. Tradition said that she must wait in the house with her pretty little maids until he came for her. She was there now, surrounded by them and waiting. I heard someone say that the bridegroom and his party were an hour late. Someone else replied that ***the distance from Murang'a to Kangemi was not like that from the nose to eye***. We must be patient. He would come for her. What if he didn't turn up for her, I thought. The neighbourhood would just laugh and go home. And she would kill herself from shame. ***The goat with a broken leg***.

"Are these people from Murang'a coming or not?" an impatient woman cried. She was dressed in traditional goatskins, dressed for her party, which was to bargain with the bridegroom's people. For that a child does not leave her home just like that. Those people from Murang'a would have to pay dearly for being late. Kangemi people were very particular about time and did not to be kept waiting.

Peter Mboca, who was going to give away the bride, paced around and looked at his watch. He was a grey old man in a smart suit, and he was one of the richer uncles. He paced around, his lips moving. He was rehearsing the speech he would make later. How good Liz was... and how very obedient, how hard-working, how bright in school...

At last they came. They announced their coming with the aggressive blare of car-horns. Popooooo. Pipeeeeeee. We were not very impressed. Although we could not see over the hedge and the tall maize, we could tell from their sound that it was a small procession.

I hurried to see them arrive. A Peugeot, a Toyota, a Volkswagen. A woman spat into the grass. 'Three filthy cars. Not even decorated.' 'It must have been raining in Murang'a', someone said.

True to custom the Peugeot with the bridegroom stayed outside the gate while the other cars came in. The bridegroom waits in dignity while his best man gets the bride for him. The cars stopped their blaring and out of the Toyota shot a young man. He wore a three-piece suit and had a red flower sticking out from his breast pocket. Very smart, but very muddy. We could see that he had done his best to wipe the mud off his new shoes. Another fellow came out of the Volkswagen, leaving others inside. A murmur of astonishment passed through the crowd. This chap was so muddy he could have stayed in the car. She was short and solid -looking.

Our women closed in and asked sarcastically what these muddy people wanted. The shy best man, trying to look as confident and as brave as a best man should, said they had come for the bride. Two muddy brave warriors, come for the bride! So!

'Is there no water where you come from?' Our women shot back. 'Is our girl going to a place where there is no water?' The short fellow said, 'This is mud, not just soil, mother. It means that Murang'a is not as dry as people say, but full of water.' Smart answer. Some women nodded and approved. Murang'a was full of water and water was good.

The slender best man began to explain how 'in fact...'

'Don't speak English to us. We are not Europeans.'

He coughed and smiled. He was quite a charming young fellow but this was obviously the first time he had got mixed up in these things. He started again. Without using English word like 'in fact' and 'actually' he explained that they had stuck in the mud and had had to pay a tractor to drag the cars out of the mess.

### **A. COMPREHENSION AND VOCABULARY / 15 marks**

#### **I. Choose the best answer to these questions. / 10 marks**

1. What date was the wedding?
  - a. 15/12
  - b. 50/12
  - c. 05/11
  - d. December 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. None of the above.
  
2. How did the writer feel about the marriage?
  - a. He was upset because the girl he liked was getting married to someone else.
  - b. He was happy to be there.
  - c. He had mixed feelings: he was losing the girl he liked, but he was sure to find someone else.
  
3. How was the writer dressed?
  - a. In modern, stylish clothes.
  - b. In an elegant suit.
  - c. In old clothes.
  
4. How far did the bridegroom have to travel that day?
  - a. A short distance.

- b. Quite a long way.
  - c. We don't know.
5. Why would the woman make the groom suffer when he arrived?
- a. It was traditional
  - b. Because they didn't like him.
  - c. Because in their culture being late was not acceptable.
6. What was the bride's uncle going to do at the wedding?
- a. Pay for it.
  - b. Make a speech.
  - c. Give the bride away and make a speech.
7. How did the bride's family know that the groom's party was a small one?
- a. Because of the sound made by cars.
  - b. Because they couldn't see them over the hedge.
  - c. Because they already knew they were small.
8. Why did the bridegroom wait in the car?
- a. It was traditional for the best man to go and get the bride.
  - b. He was feeling upset because of what happened on the journey.
  - c. He was afraid of the women.
9. How did the women feel about the fact that the best man and his friend were covered in mud?
- a. They were very angry.
  - b. It made a bad impression.
  - c. They thought it was funny.
10. What language did the best man speak when he started to explain why they were covered in mud?
- a. Gikuyu (their mother tongue)
  - b. English
  - c. Gikuyu with some English words.

**II. Explain these expressions as used in the text. /5 marks**

- a. Always dressed to kill, that was me.
- b. My dream girl.
- c. Other birds to kill.
- d. The distance...was not like that from the nose to the eye.
- e. The goat with a broken leg.

**B. GRAMMAR /25 marks**

**I. Conjugate the verbs in brackets with the conditional form /5 marks**

- 1. The visitor will arrive here at noon if the plane (fly) on time.
- 2. Those nuclear weapons (not to be made) if they had not mined Uranium.
- 3. If you didn't catch the lesson's content, you (fail) the exam.
- 4. If those persons put together their energy in 2000, they (earn) much money.

5. What could have happened if he (not to fight) against that monster?

**II. Change the following sentences from active to passive voice. /5 marks**

1. We will keep that promise.
2. A learner read this book.
3. Rwanda has built Kigali Convention Centre and Radisson Blu Hotel.
4. Apple Inc. makes iPhones.
5. Do you eat that kind of food?

**III. Put these sentences in indirect speech. /5 marks**

1. Alice says, "I am the owner of that house."
2. The tourist said, "I shall visit Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda."
3. "They answered all the questions", replied the prosecutor.
4. "Did my girl fall in love with him?", asked the father.
5. The teacher had told the students, "Write quickly!"

**IV. Form the nouns from the following verbs. /5 marks**

1. Respond
2. Explain
3. Discover
4. Compete
5. Satisfy

**V. Rewrite the sentences below with the correct form. /5 marks**

1. We (do) English exam now.
  2. Last year the headmaster entered while students (shout) loudly.
  3. The teacher will collect papers when the students (finish) the exam.
  4. When I arrived there he already (go) to the police station.
  5. He (not to trust: simple present) you?
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