

University of Yaoundé I
Ecole Normale Supérieure
Common Entrance Examination July 2009 Session

Cycle: Second, Main Campus Yaounde

Series: Bilingual I letters

Paper: English Language

Coef: 4

Duration: 3 hrs

General Instructions

Sections I and II of this paper (1-40) are multiple choice questions and you are expected to write on your answer sheet, against the number representing each item, the letter corresponding to the correct answer, ONLY. Section III is essay writing.

Section I: Reading Comprehension (15pts)

a) Read the passage and select the right answers to the questions (1-5)

A Gentle Nightmare

The dream changed. For hours, it seemed, I had been wandering aimlessly through a silent forest of pine trees; now I was alone in a small boat which was drifting along lazily, past tree-covered islands, whose bare rocky edges rose abruptly from the transparent water. I was being carried between grassy banks where meadows sprinkled with buttercups sloped to the river. Soft fluffy clouds were reflected in the velvet surface of the water. The current must have been steady and strong, for the boat kept moving forward smoothly, without meeting any obstacle, as though it were being steered by some invisible hand.

Soothed by the peace of my journey, I had lost all count of time but eventually I became aware that the boat was gliding slowly towards the bank. At this point, where a narrow stretch of silver sand was bounded on either side by heaped granite boulders, an old man was standing, his hand shading his eyes. As the boat ran aground, he came up to me, held out his hand, and greeted me courteously.

'You have reached us at last. We have been expecting you for so long. Would you follow me, please.'

I hesitated there for a moment. I had suddenly felt a chill conviction of danger, a shiver that suggested overwhelming evil. Yet this old man with the sensitive delicate features seemed kindly and gracious. He had noticed my suspicion and he smiled at me reassuringly.

'You need not be afraid,' he murmured. 'You are deeply respected, indeed revered, by us all. Everything has been prepared for you. We have done everything in our power to honour you. Now please come with me to the place chosen for you.'

I dared not risk offending him. But for reasons I cannot explain, I avoided touching his hand outstretched to assist me as I stepped out of the boat, and I followed him reluctantly.

Our feet sank into the yielding sand as we made our way towards a low flight of marble steps which led up from the beach. The steps had been polished so skilfully that they seemed to glow in soft shades of rose, lilac and ivory. At the top my guide paused and looked back at me. I gasped in amazement at the incredible beauty of the scene which lay before me at that moment. And again I shivered involuntarily with an inexplicable dread.

1. Why is the writer's experience described as a nightmare? a) He had no control over his actions. b) He was afraid of something unknown. c) He knew that something horrible awaited him. d) The man who greeted him looked evil.
2. The passage suggests a) that the sun was shining in a clear sky. b) that clouds hid the sun. c) that the sun was shining but there was no clouds. d) nothing definite about the weather.
3. While in the boat the writer felt a) relaxed. b) afraid. c) only half-conscious. d) helpless.
4. How did the boat move forward? a) rapidly. b) uninterruptedly. c) jerkily d) helplessly.

5. The sides of the islands a) had trees on them b) were covered only with grass c) were covered with grass and flowers d) had no covering.

b) Choose the words or phrase which best completes each sentence (6-15) below

6. Many difficulties have _____ as a result of the changeover to a new type of fuel.
A. raised B. has been C. experienced D. arisen
7. The deep pool was so brown and weed-covered that it was almost _____
A. transparent B. solid C. opaque D. invisible
8. You must remember not to _____ from the point when you write an essay.
A. go astray B. wander C. diverge D. go off
9. The _____ of the lake is covered with reeds and rushes.
A. beach B. coast C. shore D. bank
10. Paper clips, drawing pins and safety-pins were _____ all over the floor.
A. scattered B. sprayed C. dispersed D. separated
11. Don't _____ to correct me if I make a mistake.
A. stops B. mind C. hesitate D. pause.
12. I wandered through the cool _____ of the forest trees.
A. shadow B. dark C. shade D. obscurity
13. The neighbours do not consider him quite _____ as most evenings he awakens them with his drunken songs.
A. respectful B. respected C. respectable D. suitable.
14. The autumn air felt _____ so she went to fetch a coat.
A. cool B. chilly C. chill D. tepid
15. I was not _____ by his arguments so finally we agreed to differ.
A. convinced B. assured C. convinced D. concerned.

Section II: Usage, Grammar & spoken English (15 pts)

(c) Select the letter (a-j) which corresponds to the right intensifier in the box to fill the gaps below.

a. deeply, b. far, c. actually, d. definitely, e. badly, f. greatly, g. bitterly, h. exceedingly, i. completely, j. extremely

16. It was really _____ kind of you to help us.
17. I am _____ grateful to you.
18. We all feel _____ more certain of our position now.
19. The clerk's story was _____ exaggerated.
20. Did you _____ hear him threaten the girl?
21. I am sure she must have been _____ shaken.
22. You will _____ regret this one day.
23. We were all _____ moved by his story.
24. The results of the election is now _____ confirmed.
25. The situation has _____ changed

d) Mark the main stress (just before the stress syllable) in the following words

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 26. Forbidden | 30. Distress | 34. Disappointed |
| 27. Sacrifices | 31. Recognition | 35. Superficial |
| 28. Advertisement | 32. Hierarchy | |
| 29. Indistinct | 33. Curiosity | |

e) Indicate whether the parts underlined in the sentences below are:

- a. direct object
b. indirect object
c. subject complement
d. object complement

36. Will someone get a doctor quickly?
37. George and Paul both become famous doctors.
38. He made a great mistake.
39. Do you call yourself a scientist?
40. May I call you a criminal or something else?

Section III: Composition (40pts)

g) Write an essay of 500 -550 words on ONE of the following topics:

- To what extent will the social and economic development of Cameroon depend on the quality of formal education?
- The use and abuse of cell phones in Cameroon.
- Has the HIV AIDS pandemic influenced people's sexual behaviour in cities and villages in any way?

NOTE: Any essay that falls short or far exceeds the required number of words will lose marks.