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ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
PAPER 1  
November 2023  
2¼ hours



## WAKISSHA JOINT EXAMINATIONS

End of Year Assessment

SENIOR THREE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(COMPREHENSION AND COMPOSITION)

Paper 1

2 hours 15 Minutes

### INSTRUCTIONS

- *Attempt all items.*
- *All your responses for Section A must be written in the spaces provided.*
- *Use a separate booklet for Sections B and C.*
- *Divide up your time appropriately among the sections.*

1. Read the passage below and use it to respond to the questions after it.

Before setting off from Nsambya Police Barracks, Nyero had told me to be very careful when crossing streets. But how could one take care? In battles you can protect yourself against your enemies by using a shield and spear. How could one protect oneself against these numerous wheeled killers? If you did not want to die, you must not cross any street.

Nyero was a Kampala child, born and raised there. Perhaps he even knew some of the motorists and cyclists. Perhaps some of them knew his father, Corporal Okello. Perhaps some of them knew his mother. He slipped across the street, and it was as if vehicles had slowed down for him to pass, and he was on the other side in no time. I saw him raising his hand in greeting to one of the drivers. He stood there under a lamp post, waiting for me to cross the street and join him.

Some fire began to burn inside me. A bus rumbled past, shaking the ground where I stood like an earthquake, and for a moment I could not see the boy. I must not lose sight of Nyero for how can I find my way back to Nsambya Police Barracks through the stupid milling crowds? And I must stop looking frightened, because Nyero would narrate it to the women at home and where would I go to escape their cruel laughter too.

Each time I made for the street, vehicles would come towards me with an intention to kill! I felt confused and helpless like a woman whose hut was engulfed in flames. I waited until the flow of vehicles had momentarily become a trickle, then I shot myself across the street, the kind of running you might see when a hunter is chasing a wounded edible rat. An old bus came at me as if I had killed its driver's twin brother! I braked in the middle of the street and jumped back like a waterbuck breaking through the net. I crashed into a giant of an Asian who was standing on the pavement. The white man fell on his back, and the buttons of his trousers broke, and his head-gear flew some distance away. My loin cloth came apart and three thousand shillings in notes I had tied on my loin-cloth scattered and I immediately bent down to gather them.

The policemen swooped down on me like waiting vultures after seeing the animal had dropped dead. One held my left hand, greatly interfering with the effort to wear my loin-cloth. They said foolish things in some crazy language, and Nyero appeared to be translating to me what they were saying but I could not hear a word. A large crowd quickly gathered and they were shouting their heads off. What makes men in a crowd so stupid and childish? They were men dressed in respectable looking suits, carrying small leather boxes in their hands.

They stood there making so much noise in broad daylight. There was an old man straining his skinny neck to catch a glimpse of a young man. When our eyes met he emitted a shrill cry! A white woman stood there trembling all over, she was so excited and really enjoying the policeman's interference with my



dressing up. I could not hear anything not only because of the noises produced by the silly crowd; there was also a drum pounding in my head.

The white man stood there spitting blood. He held his trousers with his left hand and brushed the blood from his bushy face with the back of his right hand. His moustache was full of blood and he looked like a lion shot dead before it had licked the blood of its kill from its mouth. I faintly heard Nyero say that we were supposed to go to the police station.

(SOURCE: Okot p'Bitek (1953): *White Teeth*)

### Questions

- a) If you were Nyero, how would you have helped the narrator to cross the street safely? (02 Scores)

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- b) In addition to what the narrator encounters in the passage, what other challenges are people likely to face when they visit the city their first time? (03 scores)

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- c) At the end of the passage, Nyero interprets for the narrator that they were meant to go to the police station. What in your opinion would be the right way for the parties to resolve the matter following the incident? (03 scores)

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- d) What is the narrator's impression of the city and its crowds in the passage? How does this make him feel? (04 Scores)

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- e) 'He slipped across the street, and it was as if vehicles had slowed down for him to pass, and he was on the other side in no time.' Re-write the sentence beginning: Slipping ..... (02 scores)

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- f) One reason why the narrator braves the scaring vehicles and attempts to cross the street inhibiting his fear is because he expected Nyero to narrate the experience to the women at home who would scorn him with their laughter. What does this tell you about:

- (i) Nyero (02 scores)

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- (ii) The women at Nsambya police barracks (02 scores)

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- (iii) Why people do things far beyond their ability. (02 scores)

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- g) In a paragraph of about 50 words, summarize what happens to the narrator in the passage. (05 scores)

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SECTION B:

FUNCTIONAL WRITING

2. You were caught hiding in the dormitory during morning prep by the teacher in charge. You were presented before the Disciplinary Committee which found you guilty and liable to heavy punishment. Using an appropriate mode of writing, apologise to the chairperson of the disciplinary committee.

SECTION C:

CREATIVE WRITING

3. Your village has witnessed a number of robberies. Many people have lost their property and others have been injured in the process. Your family recently became the latest victims of this vice. Give an account of it.

END