

SECTION A

1. Read the passage below and answer the question that follows.

Despite increasing research, the causes of the rising youth suicides remain a mystery. Experts point to the influence of sexual abuse, broken homes, drug and alcohol abuse. Peer pressure, unemployment, the stress of changing society and the breakdown of relationships are also considered as part of the underlying causes.

The rapid changes brought about by new political freedom and the democratization of society has put enormous pressure on black young stars. One reason is that many young blacks have very high material expectations of the new Africa. They make unreal demands on their parents. When parents fail to fulfill them, they commit suicide to punish them. Black youths are frustrated and feel that nothing has really changed. In fact, the upsurge in violent crimes is causing levels of stress to increase. Social media cyber bullying and online harassment cannot be ignored. The fear of failure has also greatly contributed to this multifaceted issue, especially where academic pressure lies. It is also important to note that social isolation and loneliness can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, or even background. Accessibility to lethal means for example fire arms, self-prescribed medication is also worthy being paid attention to.

While parents are becoming disciplinarians, they need to recognize that their children may be at risk. It is not unusual for adolescents to have suicidal thoughts. Parents need to be able to distinguish between abnormal behaviour and normal adolescent moodiness. In many cases, teenage suicides are brought on by severe depression which can be caused by external factors or chemical imbalances in the brain. Experts agree that there are a number of tell-tale symptoms of severe depression that may result in suicide. These include a change in eating and sleeping habits, withdrawing from friends and family, rebellious behaviour and running away, neglecting personal appearances, a decline in the quality of schoolwork, and frequent complaints about headaches, fatigue and stomach pains.

Sudden cheerfulness after a period of depression can be indicative of suicidal thoughts, as giving away favorite possessions. Parents ought to communicate with their children because adolescents are going through huge emotional and physical changes and need a lot of support. Worried parents should tell their child's principal of their concerns, and check whether teachers and friends have noticed anything unusual in the child's behavior. A young person, may feel she cannot communicate with her parents, but it is vital that she speaks to someone if she is feeling depressed. Parents should listen to their children. Always reassure them of their unconditional love and support. They should never wait until it's too late before they start communicating. To avoid the danger of impulse attempts, parents should ensure that fire arms and any other dangerous equipment are kept out of sight or disposed of.

Task; in about 125 words, summarize the causes of suicidal tendencies amongst the youth.

Rough Copy

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Fair Copy

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

2. Read the text below very carefully and attempt the tasks after it.

Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for girls' education, is a remarkable example of integrity. Born in the Swat Valley of Pakistan, Malala grew up in a region where the Taliban had banned girls from attending school. Despite the danger, Malala's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, ran a school and encouraged Malala to speak out against the ban.

In 2008, at the age of 11, Malala began writing a blog for the BBC about her life under Taliban rule and her desire to attend school. Her writings were honest and courageous, and they soon gained international attention. As Malala's profile grew, so did the threats against her.

The Taliban's attack on Malala on 9th October, 2012 as she was returning home from school with her friends received worldwide condemnation. She became an international symbol of the fight for girls' education after she was shot, for opposing Taliban restrictions on female education in her home country of Pakistan. In Pakistan, over two million people signed a right to education petition, and the National Assembly ratified Pakistan's first Right to free and Compulsory Education Bill. But, the attempt on her life only strengthened Malala's resolve. She continued to advocate for girl's education, and her message of hope and resilience resonated with people around the world. In 2014, Malala became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize, which she accepted with grace and humility.

Through her journey, Malala has demonstrated unwavering integrity. She has remained true to her values and beliefs, even in the face of extreme danger. Her courage and conviction have inspired millions of people, and her message of education as a fundamental human right has become a rallying cry for justice and equality.

Malala's integrity is rooted in her faith and her family. Her father, Ziauddin, has been a constant source of support and inspiration, and her mother, Tor Pekai, has taught her the importance of compassion and empathy. Together, they have instilled in Malala a strong sense of purpose and principle. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres designated Malala as a United Nations Messenger of Peace in 2017 to help raise awareness of the importance of girls' education.

Respond to the following tasks.

- a) Who is the person described in the passage? 1 score

b) What was Malala's advocacy focused on? 1 score

c) How has Malala demonstrated integrity throughout her journey? 2scores

d) Some authorities in your society treat the poor people unjustly. Explain four injustices meted out to the poor people by those in authority in your community. 4scores

e) Imagine you met a person you need a service from and she or he tried to solicit for a bribe, what would you do? 1score

SECTION B: Writing

3. Your school has recently held a sports day event, where your house emerged as the third. During the sports period, you found out a few challenges that you think could have contributed greatly to your house's performance. As the house leader, write to your House Mistress, and suggest possible ways that can be taken up next year, for a better performance.