



EXAMINATION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE MALAWI NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

2024 MALAWI SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION

## ENGLISH

Subject Number: M052/II

Wednesday, 10 July

Time Allowed: 1 h 45 min

11:00 – 12:45 pm

### PAPER II

(60 marks)

#### Instructions

1. This paper contains 12 printed pages. Please check.
2. The paper has two sections: A and B.
3. Answer all questions in both sections.
4. Use the spaces provided to answer questions in this paper.
5. Follow the instructions for each section carefully.
6. Write your Examination Number at the top of each page of the question paper.
7. In the table provided on this page, tick against the question number you have answered.
8. At the end of the examination, hand in your paper to the invigilator.

Question Number	Tick questions 1 & 2 if answered	Do not write in these columns	
1			
2			





## Section A (20 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully and afterwards make a summary of it in NOTE- FORM. In your summary:

- a. provide a suitable title for the passage.
- b. give the main points.
- c. supply supporting points for each main point.

**Marks will be awarded for content, note-style, and fair-copy layout.  
Candidates who simply copy the passage will be penalised.**

Not everyone will find themselves being employed by others. Some will employ themselves by venturing into a business. Venturing into a business does not necessarily require one to first retire from formal employment or reach a certain age in order to start it. One can start a business at any stage. While some businesses flourish, others fail on the way. As such, there is a need to have certain qualities in order to successfully run a business. This discussion therefore looks at the qualities of a successful business person.

Firstly, one needs to be willing to take moderate risks. Business is about taking risks. If you cannot take risks you cannot grow in business. For example, some people say they cannot run a transportation business because they fear that their vehicles will get involved in an accident which can lead to a big loss. This is retrogressive thinking. A good business person is always positive about the future. In this case, he or she will definitely buy a pick up and assure himself or herself that he or she will succeed in such a venture. Such a spirit is what is required in business.

Secondly, a business person should have the ability to identify and explore opportunities in his or her environment. It is recommended to think of new ways of investing and trying those avenues. For instance, if you sell vegetables, you can also

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**1. (Continued)**

sell tomatoes because it is likely that the one who wants vegetables would look for tomatoes. Or, while selling sugarcane, you can also sell boiled eggs at the bus depot. This is what is called diversification.

Thirdly, perseverance is another quality one needs to have in business. Most people think that if they start a business today, it will boom right away within a short space of time. You need to realise that there are also some ups and downs in business. Even if it means people making bad comments about your business, you do not have to give up. For example, if your business is not making profits, you should never give up but rather find a better way of boosting it in order to make profits.

Finally, a successful business person should be flexible to the demands of his or her customers. A good business person should listen and take note of what his or her customers demand. For example, if you are running a retail shop and your customers have asked for a repack of sugar into small quantities such as one kilogram to be in five hundred-gram packs or a loaf of bread into half a loaf, you should listen and offer them those products.

Doing well in business does not just come on a silver platter. It takes commitment and perseverance on the part of the business person. The business person should try one thing or another until success is realised.



Continued/...

**1. (Continued)**



**Continued/...**

**1. (Continued)**



**Continued/...**

**Section B (40 marks)****2. Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions that follow.**

Everyone, I should believe, remembers the May, 29<sup>th</sup> fire accident. All the major newspapers in the country carried that story on their front pages the following day. The story also made headlines on various radio and television stations. To many, May, 29<sup>th</sup> will just be one of those days. I cannot stop reminiscing about this day. I have my own reasons.

Smoke filled the spacious room we were in. We could make out that a huge crowd of people had gathered outside. We could detect desperation in their voices as they shouted for our safety. I looked at the woman beside me. Her already known asthmatic condition was not helping matters at all. She was literally gasping for air, but all I could do was to sit there like a statue trying to figure out the best way out of the unpleasant situation. There was no way out. Questions without answers raked through my mind. What would people say? What was my land lord's wife doing in the same bed with me? I regretted why I had not escorted my wife, Chipangano, to the village.

Mr Moyo the landlord, was a good man. His family and mine had no squabbles. His wife and mine went to church trips together. Kitchen utensils from our landlord found their way into our home and vice versa. Our children played together. I paid my rent in time. Nonetheless, all this and more did not stop me from admiring Talumba, his wife.

I recall events that had led to the situation at hand. A chance had presented itself on a silver platter to me when my wife told me that she had to travel to the village the next morning. I knew that her mother had been sick for quite some time. My heart skipped with excitement. I wholeheartedly financed her trip and gladly dropped her off at the bus stop.



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**2. (Continued)**

My mind got busy when I got back home. I went into serious planning with Talumba. Mr Moyo's one-week workshop in Lilongwe made our plans easy to carry out. The venue was settled. The fun had to be taken away from Blantyre to avoid prying eyes. Hotel 105 in Mangochi was ideal. After all, that place had proven to be a dependable hideout for a couple of times.

A loud shriek in the corridor of Hotel 105 shook me back to reality. I immediately jumped up and scooped Talumba in my arms like a newly born baby. The smoke blurred my vision, so I bumped into the wall as I searched for the door using my legs. Finally, my legs located the door, but getting it open was another hill to climb. I hit the door with all the strength left in me and it flung open leading us into the corridor.

The corridor itself was filled with half-dressed men either carrying or dragging scantily dressed ladies. The picture was ridiculous but it was obvious that we all chose life over clothes.

I pushed through the coughing bodies of people in the corridor, thanks to the daily fitness training. I managed to heave myself forward with a great push just enough to land outside. The Red Cross people were already on the ground and immediately started providing first aid to Talumba who had now been laid on a piece of red cloth.

Moments later, I breathed a sigh of relief as Talumba flicked her eyes open and fixed her gaze on me. I tried to smile but she did not smile back. I noticed that her eyes had opened even wider and they were fixed on one spot – not on me, but behind me. I turned to see. At that moment, I just wished the ground could open and swallow me up as my eyes came into direct contact with Mr Moyo's.



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**2. (Continued)**

"Mr Moyo!" I called out his name with shame written all over my face.

"Tonde...," he muttered my name. I could sense the anger in his shaky voice.

I had not even noticed when Shumba, my houseboy, arrived on the scene. What was Shumba doing in Mangochi? I recalled that Mr Moyo and Shumba hailed from the same village and they grew fond of each other. He must have eavesdropped on my call to Talumba when the masterplan was being pieced together. I put two and two together. He had blurted it out to him over the phone.

I wondered how word about our scandal went through the crowd as people started singing about how a man 'stole' his friend's wife and how a lady cheated on a good man. Shame and fear engulfed me as I waited the unspecific punishment to be meted on me. I just wished I had died in the fire.

- a. In which district did the fire accident take place?

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(1 mark)

- b. Explain how occupants of Hotel 105 knew that there was a crowd of people outside.

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(2 marks)



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## 2. (Continued)

- c. Mention **three** things that show that the narrator's and Moyo's families were in good terms.

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(3 marks)

- d. Why did Chipangano travel to the village?

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(1 mark)

- e. Give any **two** reasons why it was relatively easy for the narrator and Talumba to leave Blantyre for Mangochi without the knowledge of their spouses.

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(2 marks)

- f. Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage:

(i) reminiscing (paragraph 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

(ii) raked (paragraph 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

(iii) squabbles (paragraph 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)



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## 2. (Continued)

g. Explain the meaning of each of the following expressions.

(i) 'figure out' (paragraph 2)

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(2 marks)

(ii) 'hill to climb' (paragraph 6)

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(2 marks)

(iii) 'blurred it out' (paragraph 12)

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(2 marks)

h. Describe the character of each of the following:

(i) the narrator

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(2 marks)

(ii) Shumba

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(2 marks)

i. Explain how the narrator's daily fitness training benefitted him during the fire accident.

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(2 marks)



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## 2. (Continued)

- j. In your own words explain how Mr Moyo came to know about the masterplan.

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(2 marks)

- k. Give any **two** reasons why shame was written all over the narrator's face.

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(2 marks)

- l. Give a suitable title for the passage.

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(2 marks)



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- m. Summarise the passage in your own words. Your summary should be between 70 and 100 words.

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(10 marks)



**END OF QUESTION PAPER**  
**NB:** This paper contains 12 printed pages.