

SMARTWIZ

GRADE 12 ENGLISH EXAM

MARKS: 150

TIME: 2 HOURS

SCHOOL _____

CLASS (eg. 4A) _____

SURNAME _____

NAME _____

MARKS	
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Instructions for Learners:

- Read all instructions carefully before you begin the exam.
- Write your full name and student number clearly on the answer sheet/book.
- Answer all questions unless otherwise instructed.
- Show all your work/calculations where necessary.
- Write neatly and clearly.
- Use only a blue or black pen. Do not use correction fluid or tape.
- Electronic devices (calculators, cell phones, etc.) are not allowed unless explicitly permitted.
- Raise your hand if you have any questions.
- Do not talk to other learners during the exam.
- Any form of dishonesty will result in immediate disqualification from the exam.

This exam consists of Five pages, including the cover page.

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (30 marks)

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The rise of remote work has transformed how people view the traditional office. Once tied to desks and commutes, millions now work from home or in coworking spaces. With flexibility has come a change in priorities—workers value work-life balance, mental well-being, and digital freedom more than ever. Employers have also had to adapt, implementing video meetings, flexible hours, and performance tracking tools. However, the shift is not without challenges: isolation, overworking, and digital fatigue are becoming increasingly common. As the future of work continues to evolve, both workers and businesses must find ways to stay connected, productive, and mentally healthy.

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the main idea of the passage? (2)

2. Mention TWO benefits of remote work as discussed in the passage. (2)

3. List TWO challenges that remote workers face. (2)

4. How have employers adapted to remote work? Mention TWO strategies. (2)

5. What is meant by the phrase "digital fatigue"? (2)

6. In your opinion, do the benefits of remote work outweigh the challenges? Give ONE reason for your answer. (3)

7. Identify and explain the tone of the passage. (2)

8. Give a synonym for the word “flexibility” as used in the passage. (1)

9. Why is it important for both workers and businesses to stay "mentally healthy"? (2)

10. Quote a sentence from the passage that shows the writer believes this shift will continue. (2)

SECTION B: POETRY (20 marks)

Read the poem below and answer the questions.

Silent Strength

By Jane Theron

Not every storm makes noise,
Some pass quietly through the night.
With whispered winds and gentle rain,
They soften soil and wash the pain.

Like people too, not all will shout,
To show the courage they live without.
But those who walk in silence deep,
May carry truths they'll always keep.

So listen close, don't miss the sign—
That strength is silent, still, divine.

Questions:

1. Identify the main theme of the poem. (2)

2. What is the poet comparing people to in the poem? (2)

3. What does the line “Some pass quietly through the night” suggest about inner strength? (2)

4. Identify one metaphor and one example of alliteration from the poem. (4)

Metaphor: _____

Alliteration: _____

5. Why do you think the poet chose the title "**Silent Strength**"? (2)

6. What message does the final line of the poem convey? (2)

7. Quote two consecutive lines that show how inner strength can be quiet. (2)

8. What is the tone of the poem? (2)

SECTION C: VISUAL TEXT – ADVERTISEMENT (20 marks)

“Every Drop Counts”

“Fix leaks. Shorten your showers.

Save tomorrow.”

50 litres saved a day means 18,250 litres a year!

Be part of the solution.



Answer the questions:

1. What is the main message of the advertisement? (2)

2. What persuasive technique is used in the phrase “Save tomorrow”? (2)

3. How does the visual of the dripping tap support the message? (2)

4. What emotion is the advert trying to evoke? (2)

5. Explain why the statistic is included. (2)

6. Who is the intended audience for this ad? (2)

7. Rewrite the slogan to make it more persuasive. (2)

8. Give ONE way this advert could be improved. (2)

SECTION D: LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT (30 marks)

1. Correct the following errors:

a) She don't like working from home. (1)

b) Its not the only solution. (1)

c) The employee and the manager disagrees. (1)

2. Rewrite in passive voice:

a) The company launched the new app last week. (2)

b) People should save water every day. (2)

3. Choose the correct word:

a) Their / There / They're doing a great job on the project. (1)

b) We had to accept / except the conditions. (1)

4. Give the antonym of the following:

a) Encourage (1)

b) Silent (1)

5. Match the figures of speech: (5 marks)

Phrase	Figure of Speech
"Like a lion, she fought on."	A. Hyperbole
"The wind whispered to the trees."	B. Personification
"I told you a million times!"	C. Simile
"He's a shining star."	D. Metaphor
"As fast as lightning"	E. Simile

SECTION E: ESSAY WRITING (30 marks)

Choose ONE topic below. Write 250–300 words. Structure your response clearly.

- Narrative Essay:** Write a story that begins with the sentence: *"I didn't expect the silence to be this loud."*
 - Discursive Essay:** "Social media brings people together, but also pulls them apart." Discuss.
 - Descriptive Essay:** Describe a moment in nature that made you reflect on life.
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END OF EXAM

TOTAL : 150

MEMO

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (30 marks)

1. **Main idea:** (2)
 - The rise of remote work and how it has changed both workers’ and employers’ experiences.
2. **Two benefits:** (2)
 - Flexibility
 - Improved work-life balance / mental well-being / digital freedom (any two)
3. **Two challenges:** (2)
 - Isolation
 - Overworking / digital fatigue (any two)
4. **Two employer strategies:** (2)
 - Video meetings
 - Flexible hours / performance tracking tools (any two)
5. **Meaning of “digital fatigue”:** (2)
 - Tiredness or exhaustion from constant digital communication or screen use.
6. **Opinion with reason:** (3)
 - Accept any reasonable opinion with a valid justification.
7. **Tone:** (2)
 - Informative / reflective / neutral / analytical
8. **Synonym for “flexibility”:** (1)
 - Adaptability / freedom / openness / versatility (any correct synonym)
9. **Importance of mental health:** (2)
 - Helps maintain productivity, job satisfaction, emotional balance, etc.
10. **Quote showing ongoing change:** (2)
 - “As the future of work continues to evolve...” (or similar)

SECTION B: POETRY (20 marks)

1. **Main theme:** (2)
 - True strength is often silent and not always shown through loud or bold actions.
2. **Comparison:** (2)
 - People are compared to quiet storms.
3. **Line meaning:** (2)
 - Strength can exist without being loud or attention-seeking.
4. **Devices:** (4)
 - Metaphor: “Not every storm makes noise” or “Storm” = a person
 - Alliteration: “Some pass silently through the night” / “whispered winds”
5. **Title meaning:** (2)
 - Highlights that strength doesn’t always have to be loud; it can be quiet and steady.
6. **Final line message:** (2)
 - Silent strength is powerful, admirable, and meaningful.
7. **Quote (any two lines showing quiet strength):** (2)
 - “Like people too, not all will shout / To show the courage they live without.”

8. **Tone:** (2)
– Reflective / respectful / admiring

SECTION C: ADVERTISEMENT (20 marks)

1. **Main message:** (2)
– Save water to protect the future.
2. **Technique in “Save tomorrow”:** (2)
– Emotive language / future appeal / slogan
3. **Tap visual meaning:** (2)
– Represents water waste and the need to stop small but continuous losses.
4. **Emotion evoked:** (2)
– Responsibility / urgency / guilt / concern
5. **Statistic purpose:** (2)
– Shows the real, measurable impact of saving water to make the message credible.
6. **Target audience:** (2)
– General public / water users / homeowners / environmentally conscious individuals
7. **Slogan rewrite (examples):** (2)
– “Stop the drip—save your future!” or “Turn off the tap, turn on your future.”
(Any creative, persuasive slogan)
8. **One improvement:** (2)
– Include a web link / QR code / use a stronger image / more color contrast, etc.

SECTION D: LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT (30 marks)

1. Correct the errors:

- a) She **doesn’t** like working from home. (1)
- b) **It’s** not the only solution. (1)
- c) The employee and the manager **disagree**. (1)

2. Passive voice:

- a) The new app **was launched by the company** last week. (2)
- b) Water **should be saved** every day. (2)

3. Choose correct word:

- a) **They’re** doing a great job. (1)
- b) We had to **accept** the conditions. (1)

4. Antonyms:

- a) Encourage → **Discourage** (1)
- b) Silent → **Noisy / loud** (1)

5. Figures of speech match: (5)

Phrase	Answer
“Like a lion, she fought on.”	C. Simile
“The wind whispered to the trees.”	B. Personification
“I told you a million times!”	A. Hyperbole
“He’s a shining star.”	D. Metaphor
“As fast as lightning”	E. Simile

(1 mark each)

SECTION E: ESSAY WRITING (30 marks)

Marking Criteria:

- Content and originality (10 marks)
- Coherence and organization (10 marks)
- Language use, spelling, and grammar (10 marks)

Accept any well-structured, original essay relevant to the chosen topic.

Use standard structure: **Introduction, Body, Conclusion**

Length: approx. 250–300 words

TOTAL: 150 MARKS