

# SMARTWIZ

## GRADE 10 ENGLISH EXAM

**MARKS: 50**

MARKS	

**TIME: 2 hour**

**SCHOOL** \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASS (e.g. 10A)** \_\_\_\_\_

**SURNAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

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### Instructions for Students:

- > Read all instructions carefully before beginning the exam.
- > Write your name and student ID clearly on the answer sheet/booklet.
- > Answer all questions unless otherwise stated.
- > Show all your work/calculations where applicable.
- > Write clearly and legibly.
- > Use blue or black ink only. \* Do not use correction fluid/tape.
- > No electronic devices (calculators, phones, etc.) are allowed unless explicitly permitted.
- > Raise your hand if you have any questions.
- > Do not talk to other students during the exam.
- > Any form of cheating will result in disqualification.

## SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (30 MARKS)

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

South Africa is a country with diverse cultures and languages. With 11 official languages and people from different backgrounds, it's important for young people to understand each other and work together. Many schools are making efforts to promote unity by organizing cultural days, where learners wear traditional clothes, share meals, and perform songs or dances from their heritage. These events teach learners that our differences make us stronger, not weaker.

In some schools, learners are taught about different cultures as part of the curriculum. However, others believe more must be done to bring learners together, especially in communities where people live in separate areas and have little contact with others. It is hoped that with more inclusive activities, the youth of South Africa will grow up to become leaders who respect and value every citizen.

### QUESTIONS:

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

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2. Name two ways schools promote unity. (2)

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3. Why is it important to teach learners about different cultures? (2)

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4. What does the writer mean by “our differences make us stronger, not weaker”? (3)

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5. Find a synonym in the passage for each of the following:

a) backgrounds (1)

b) respect (1)

6. Do you think cultural days are a good idea? Give a reason for your answer. (2)

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7. In your opinion, what else can be done to bring learners together? (2)

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8. Choose the correct answer. The tone of the passage is: (1)

- a) humorous
- b) serious
- c) angry
- d) confused

9. Quote one sentence that shows the writer is hopeful for the future. (1)

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10. Write a summary of the passage in your own words (5 lines only). (5)

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## SECTION B: VISUAL LITERACY – CARTOON (10 MARKS)

Look at the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.



The cartoon shows a girl using TikTok. On the left side, the caption reads: “**TikTok as a Chinese company**” and on the right side it reads: “**TikTok as a U.S. company**”. The character, her pose, and background remain the same, but the labels change.

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## QUESTIONS:

1. What is the main difference between the two panels in the cartoon? (2)

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2. What is the cartoonist suggesting about how TikTok is viewed depending on who owns it? (2)

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3. Do the girl’s actions or appearance change between the two frames? What does this suggest? (2)

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4. What is the purpose of the quote at the top: “*TikTok is sinister and needs to be sold or we will ban it*” – U.S. Congress? (2)

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5. Do you think the cartoon is fair in its criticism? Explain your opinion. (2)

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## SECTION C: POETRY (10 MARKS)

Read the poem below and answer the questions.

**Title: “The Power of Words”**

A simple word can lift the soul,  
Or cause a heavy heart to fall.  
We use them daily, big or small—  
But rarely stop to hear them all.

A whisper may bring peace and light,  
Or stir up storms within the night.  
So speak with care, with truth, with grace,  
For words are mirrors of our place.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What is the theme of the poem? (2)

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2. Identify one figure of speech in stanza 2 and explain it. (2)

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3. What is the tone of the poem? (1)

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4. Quote a line that shows how powerful words can be. (1)

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5. Do you agree with the message of the poem? Give a reason. (2)

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6. What is the poet trying to teach the reader? (2)

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## SECTION D: LANGUAGE STRUCTURES AND CONVENTIONS (50 MARKS)

Answer all questions in this section.

### QUESTION 1: PARTS OF SPEECH (10 MARKS)

Identify the underlined word and state its part of speech:

1. He quickly finished his homework. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The elephant walked slowly. \_\_\_\_\_
3. She gave him the gift. \_\_\_\_\_
4. That cake is delicious. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The children played outside. \_\_\_\_\_
6. I found my missing socks. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The cat slept under the table. \_\_\_\_\_
8. He was feeling very sad. \_\_\_\_\_
9. She and her sister went to the park. \_\_\_\_\_
10. They bought two books. \_\_\_\_\_

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### QUESTION 2: ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE (10 MARKS)

Change the following sentences:

1. The chef cooked a delicious meal. (Passive)

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2. A new song was written by her. (Active)

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3. They cleaned the classroom. (Passive)

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4. The letter was posted by John. (Active)

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5. The children broke the window. (Passive)

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### QUESTION 3: DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH (10 MARKS)

Change the sentences:

1. She said, "I love reading."

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2. "We are going to the mall," said Peter.

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3. They said, "We watched the movie."

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4. John said he was tired. (Direct speech)

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5. "Do you like football?" he asked. (Indirect speech)

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### QUESTION 4: CORRECT THE ERRORS (10 MARKS)

Rewrite each sentence correctly:

1. he go to school every day.

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2. We was happy to see you.

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3. The girls sings beautifully.

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4. I have saw the film already.

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5. She don't like milk.

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### QUESTION 5: FIGURES OF SPEECH (10 MARKS)

Identify and name the figure of speech used:

1. The stars danced in the sky. \_\_\_\_\_
2. He is as strong as a lion. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Time is a thief. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Bang! The door slammed shut. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Her smile was as bright as the sun. \_\_\_\_\_

ToTal: 100 MARKS





# GRADE 10 ENGLISH EXAM MEMORANDUM

## SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (30 MARKS)

1. The article discusses how digital addiction affects teenagers' ability to concentrate and communicate in real life. (2)
2. Because she became isolated, ignored family, and lost interest in hobbies. (2)
3. She had no balance between online and offline life. (2)
4. Negative effects include anxiety, lack of sleep, poor communication, and reduced academic performance. (4)
5. a) True – The article mentions children are "glued to screens". (2)  
b) False – Aisha found it *hard* to focus in class. (2)
6. Students need to give two well-explained strategies, such as digital detox, scheduled screen time, or doing outdoor activities. (4)
7. "It's never too late to reconnect with real life." (1)
8. Own opinion – Accept answers with valid reasoning. (3)
9. The tone is hopeful/encouraging. (2)
10. Title suggests balance between online activity and real life. (2)

**TOTAL: 30 MARKS**

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## SECTION B: VISUAL LITERACY – CARTOON (10 MARKS)

1. The label changes from "Chinese company" to "U.S. company". (2)
2. The cartoonist suggests TikTok is judged based on ownership, not content. (2)
3. No, her actions are exactly the same. This shows that the app itself doesn't change. (2)
4. It shows political bias or fear about foreign ownership. (2)
5. Accept reasoned opinions – e.g., "Yes, it highlights double standards." (2)

**TOTAL: 10 MARKS**

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## SECTION C: POETRY (15 MARKS)

*(Poem titled "The Digital Cage")*

1. The speaker is trapped by digital devices or online habits. (2)
2. The "cage" is symbolic of addiction or dependence on the internet. (2)
3. The tone is reflective or regretful. (2)
4. "Notifications chain me down" – metaphor (1)
5. Yes – evidence: "I forgot the feel of the sun, the voice of a friend." (2)
6. Theme: Technology vs human connection / losing touch with reality. (2)
7. Accept logical, personal opinions. (2)
8. Devices, screens, phone, cage, net, web. (2)

**TOTAL: 15 MARKS**

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## SECTION D: LANGUAGE (45 MARKS)

### D1. Parts of Speech (10 MARKS)

1. a) noun  
b) verb  
c) adjective  
d) adverb  
e) pronoun  
f) preposition  
g) conjunction  
h) interjection  
i) article  
j) proper noun

### D2. Active/Passive Voice (5 MARKS)

1. The assignment **was written** by the student.
2. The teacher **marked** the tests.
3. A poem **was recited** by her.
4. He **completed** the homework.
5. The phone **was bought** by them.

### D3. Direct/Indirect Speech (5 MARKS)

1. She said that she loved reading.
2. He asked me if I had done my homework.
3. They said they were going to the library.
4. I said, "This is a great book!"
5. "Will you join us?" she asked.

### D4. Degrees of Comparison (5 MARKS)

1. happy – happier – happiest
2. bad – worse – worst
3. bright – brighter – brightest
4. beautiful – more beautiful – most beautiful
5. small – smaller – smallest

### D5. Punctuation (5 MARKS)

Correctly punctuated sentence:

"Where are you going?" she asked. "Don't forget your homework!"

### D6. Spelling and Homophones (5 MARKS)

1. Their
2. To
3. Whether

4. Write
5. Lose

**D7. Editing (10 MARKS)**

Corrected sentence:

Aisha was scrolling **through** her phone when her mother **called** her. She didn't respond because she **was watching** a video. Her mother **walked** into the room and took the phone away. Aisha **felt** upset but knew it was for the best.

**TOTAL: 45 MARKS**

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✓ **TOTAL MARKS: 100**

