

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 passage and answer the questions below.

The Power of Podcasts

In recent years, podcasts have become a popular way for people to learn, be entertained, and stay informed. Unlike traditional radio, podcasts are available on demand and cover a wide variety of topics—from science and politics to comedy and lifestyle.

Many young people are now turning to podcasts instead of news articles or textbooks. They enjoy the casual tone, storytelling techniques, and the ability to multitask while listening. For example, someone can listen to a history podcast while jogging or cooking.

However, critics argue that not all podcasts are reliable sources of information. Anyone can create one, which means some may spread misinformation. This is why it's important to check the credibility of the speaker and the content.

Despite this, the popularity of podcasts continues to grow. Educators are even using them in classrooms to supplement lessons and improve students' listening skills. As technology continues to change the way we access knowledge, podcasts may become a standard part of our daily learning.

Questions:

1. Give two reasons why people enjoy listening to podcasts. (2)

2. How are podcasts different from traditional radio? (2)

3. Why should listeners be cautious about the podcasts they listen to? (2)

4. Quote a sentence that shows podcasts are used in education. (2)

5. Do you think podcasts are a good tool for learning? Give a reason. (2)

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

a) Popular – _____ (1)

b) Check – _____ (1)

7. What tone does the writer use to describe podcasts? Support your answer. (2)

8. Explain what is meant by "podcasts may become a standard part of our daily learning." (2)

9. What is the main idea of the article? (2)

10. Suggest one topic for a podcast that could interest students. (2)

SECTION B: POETRY (20 MARKS)

Read the poem below and answer the questions.

Don't Quit (*Author Unknown*)

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,

Rest if you must—but don't you quit.
Life is strange with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out.

Questions:

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

2. Identify one rhyme and one example of repetition. (2)

Rhyme: _____

Repetition: _____

3. What emotion is the poet trying to inspire? (2)

4. How does the line “Rest if you must—but don't you quit” reflect the theme? (2)

5. What figure of speech is used in the line “the road you're trudging seems all uphill”? (2)

6. Who do you think the poet is speaking to? Why? (2)

7. What does “had he stuck it out” mean? (2)

8. What tone does the poem use? Provide one word. (1)

9. Do you agree with the poet's advice? Explain why or why not. (3)

SECTION C: VISUAL TEXT – ADVERTISEMENT (20 MARKS)

“Refill, Reuse, Refresh – Be the Change!”

Stop plastic pollution.

One bottle can save 1,000 plastic bottles a year.

Available at all eco-stores nationwide.



Questions:

1. What product is being advertised? (1)

2. Identify the slogan used. (1)

3. What environmental issue is the advert addressing? (2)

4. How does the phrase “Be the Change” encourage action? (2)

5. Why is the statistic included in the advertisement? (2)

6. Suggest one way to make this advert more effective. (2)

7. What persuasive language technique is used in “Refresh”? (2)

8. Would this advert appeal to teenagers? Why or why not? (2)

9. Who is the target audience of this advert? (2)

10. What is the tone of the advertisement? (2)

SECTION D: LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT (30 MARKS)

1. Choose the correct homophones: (4 marks)

- a) I read a great _____ (piece/peace) about water conservation.
b) We're going to the market to _____ (buy/by) fresh produce.

2. Rewrite the sentences in reported speech: (4 marks)

- a) He said, “I love listening to podcasts.”
b) She asked, “Are you attending the seminar?”

3. Correct the errors: (4 marks)

- a) The teacher give us homework everyday.
 b) Its raining heavily outside.

4. Provide the opposite (antonym): (4 marks)

- a) Difficult – _____
 b) Begin – _____

5. Fill in the prepositions: (4 marks)

- a) We listened ____ the podcast on climate change.
 b) She applied ____ a job last week.

6. Change the voice: (4 marks)

- a) They launched a new recycling program. → (Passive)
 b) A documentary was filmed by the students. → (Active)

7. Match the idiom to its meaning: (6 marks)

Idiom	Meaning
a) Hit the books	1. To begin studying hard
b) Under the weather	2. Not feeling well
c) A piece of cake	3. Very easy

- a) _____
 b) _____
 c) _____

SECTION E: ESSAY WRITING (30 MARKS)

Choose ONE of the following essay topics. Write 250–300 words.

1. Narrative Essay:

Write a story that begins with: “It all started with a voice in my headphones...”

2. Argumentative Essay:

“Teenagers should spend less time online and more time outdoors.” Discuss.

3. Reflective Essay:

Describe a moment when you overcame something difficult and what it taught you.

END OF EXAM

TOTAL : 150

MEMO

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (30 marks)

1. **Two reasons why people enjoy podcasts:** (2)
 - Casual tone
 - Ability to multitask / storytelling / accessible anytime
2. **Difference from traditional radio:** (2)
 - Podcasts are on demand / cover a wider variety of topics
3. **Why listeners should be cautious:** (2)
 - Not all podcasts are reliable / may spread misinformation
4. **Quote about education:** (2)
 - “Educators are even using them in classrooms...”
5. **Opinion-based (reasonable answers accepted):** (2)
 - Yes, they’re convenient / engaging
 - No, not all are reliable (Award if reason is valid)
6. **Synonyms:** (2)
 - a) Popular – **trending / common / well-liked**
 - b) Check – **verify / confirm / assess**
7. **Tone:** (2)
 - Informative / optimistic (Accept with justification)
8. **Meaning of “standard part...”** (2)
 - Podcasts may become a normal/regular part of learning
9. **Main idea:** (2)
 - Podcasts are increasingly popular and changing the way people learn
10. **Suggested podcast topic (accept relevant ideas):** (2)
 - Career advice, teen mental health, music, entrepreneurship, etc.

SECTION B: POETRY (20 marks)

1. **Main message:** (2)
 - Don’t give up / persevere through challenges
2. **Rhyme and repetition:** (2)

Rhyme: “will” and “hill” / “high” and “sigh”

Repetition: “don’t you quit”
3. **Emotion inspired:** (2)
 - Determination / hope / resilience
4. **Theme reflection:** (2)
 - Even when tired, one must not give up
5. **Figure of speech:** (2)
 - Metaphor: Life as a difficult uphill road
6. **Poet’s audience:** (2)
 - Anyone facing hardship / learners / general public

7. **Meaning of phrase:** (2)
 - If he had kept going / not given up
 8. **Tone:** (1)
 - Encouraging / motivational
 9. **Own opinion (any valid explanation):** (3)
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SECTION C: ADVERTISEMENT (20 marks)

1. **Product:** (1)
 - Reusable water bottle
 2. **Slogan:** (1)
 - “Refill, Reuse, Refresh – Be the Change!”
 3. **Environmental issue:** (2)
 - Plastic pollution / waste
 4. **Phrase meaning:** (2)
 - Encourages individuals to take personal responsibility
 5. **Reason for statistic:** (2)
 - To highlight environmental impact / make message measurable
 6. **Improvement suggestions (accept valid ones):** (2)
 - Use more visuals / bold fonts / include a call-to-action
 7. **Technique in “Refresh”:** (2)
 - Emotive appeal / play on sensory imagery
 8. **Teen appeal:** (2)
 - Yes: trendy, eco-conscious, easy to understand
 - No: might lack strong visuals (accept valid argument)
 9. **Target audience:** (2)
 - Environmentally aware consumers / youth / shoppers
 10. **Tone:** (2)
 - Positive / persuasive / motivational
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SECTION D: LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT (30 marks)

1. **Homophones:** ($2 \times 2 = 4$)
 - a) piece
 - b) buy
2. **Reported speech:** ($2 \times 2 = 4$)
 - a) He said that he loved listening to podcasts.
 - b) She asked if I was attending the seminar.
3. **Error correction:** ($2 \times 2 = 4$)
 - a) gives
 - b) It's

4. Antonyms: ($2 \times 2 = 4$)

- a) Easy
- b) End

5. Prepositions: ($2 \times 2 = 4$)

- a) to
- b) for

6. Voice change: ($2 \times 2 = 4$)

- a) A new recycling program was launched by them.
- b) The students filmed a documentary.

7. Idiom match: ($3 \times 2 = 6$)

- a) Hit the books – 1
- b) Under the weather – 2
- c) A piece of cake – 3

SECTION E: ESSAY WRITING (30 marks)


Marking Breakdown:

- **Content and structure** – 10
- **Language and style** – 10
- **Grammar, punctuation, spelling** – 10

Guidelines:

- Must be 250–300 words
- Clear structure: Introduction, Body, Conclusion
- Logical flow and paragraphing
- Relevant to the chosen topic

Mark generously for originality, creativity, and clarity.

 **TOTAL: 150 MARKS**