

# SMARTWIZ

## GRADE 10 ENGLISH EXAM

**MARKS: 100**

MARKS	

**TIME: 2 hour**

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

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

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

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

MYST PATHWORKS

### 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.

Passage: "The Power of Reading"

Books have existed for centuries, shaping human thought and influencing countless generations. From the first handwritten manuscripts to digital eBooks, reading has proven to be a powerful tool for growth, imagination, and understanding.

In modern times, technology has altered the way we read. Many young people now prefer scrolling through social media over sitting with a novel. This change in behavior has raised concerns among educators and parents. Reading improves vocabulary, concentration, and empathy, yet it competes with the fast pace and distraction of online content.

Libraries and schools continue to encourage reading through campaigns, book clubs, and reading periods. Some even provide tablets loaded with digital books to keep up with changing times.

Ultimately, reading remains more than a hobby. It is a way to understand the world, escape into imagination, and learn without limits.

Questions:

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

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2. Mention two benefits of reading mentioned in the passage. (2)  

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3. How has technology changed reading habits in youth? (2)  

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4. Why are educators concerned about this change in behavior? (2)  

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5. Give a synonym for the word "*altered*" as used in paragraph 2. (1)  

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6. What is the tone of this passage? Choose from: *angry, hopeful, worried, joyful* (1)  

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7. Explain the meaning of the sentence:  
“Reading remains more than a hobby. It is a way to understand the world...” (3)
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8. According to the text, how are schools adapting to reading trends? (2)
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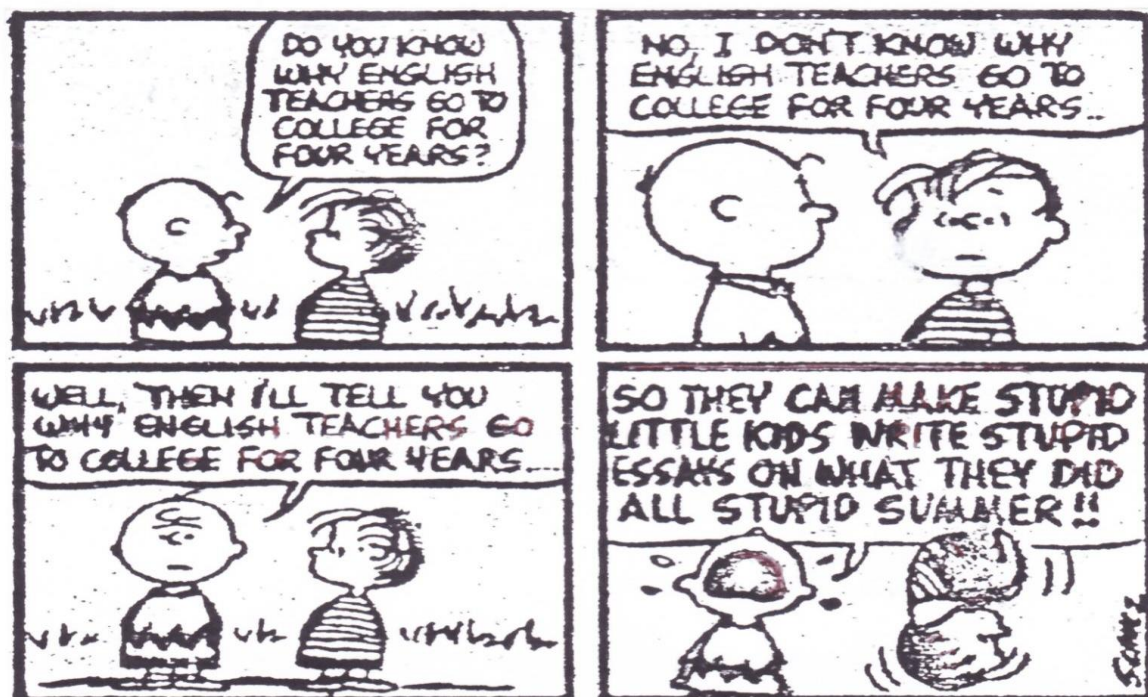
9. “Books have existed for centuries.” Rewrite this in the present perfect tense. (1)
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10. In your own opinion, how can learners be encouraged to read more? (Answer in 3–4 lines) (4)
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[Total: 20 Marks]

MYST PATHWORKS

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



## Questions

1. How many characters are speaking in the cartoon? (1)

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2. What is the main topic the characters are discussing? (1)

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3. What is the boy's opinion about English teachers? (2)

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4. What is humorous or sarcastic about the final frame of the cartoon? (2)

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MYST PATHWORKS

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5. Identify a stereotype or exaggeration in the cartoon. (2)

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6. Do you think this cartoon fairly represents teachers? Why or why not? (2)

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[10 MARKS]

## SECTION C: POETRY (15 MARKS)

### Poem: “A Mind Unplugged” (*Original poem*)

I walked away from screens so bright,

To find myself in nature's light.

The buzzing world began to fade,

Replaced by trees and evening shade.

No pings, no posts, no urgent calls,

Just birds that sing and water falls.

For once, I breathed without a rush,

And listened to the evening hush.

I learned my thoughts could softly grow,

Where silence teaches all we know.

### Questions:

1. Who is the speaker in the poem? (1)

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2. Identify two things the speaker leaves behind. (2)

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3. Find two examples of alliteration. (2)

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4. What message does the poem convey about technology and nature? (3)

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5. Quote one line that shows peace or calmness. (1)

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6. What is the effect of using short, simple stanzas in the poem? (2)

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7. Do you agree with the message of the poem? Why or why not? (Answer in 3 lines) (4)

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[15 MARKS]

## SECTION D: LANGUAGE (45 MARKS)

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### D1: Parts of Speech (10 Marks)

Identify the part of speech for the underlined words:

1. The **sun** rises every morning.

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2. She **ran** quickly to class.

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3. The **beautiful** flowers bloomed.

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4. They played **soccer** after school.

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5. **Wow!** That's amazing.

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6. I **visited** Durban last holiday.

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7. She looked **under** the table.

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8. He **forgot** his book.

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9. **And** then he smiled.

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10. The teacher gave **homework**.

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## D2: Tenses (5 Marks)

**Rewrite these sentences in the correct tense:**

1. Yesterday, I (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to the market.

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2. She always (eat) \_\_\_\_\_ lunch at 1 p.m.

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3. By next week, we (finish) \_\_\_\_\_ the project.

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4. I (study) \_\_\_\_\_ hard last night.

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5. He (sleep) \_\_\_\_\_ now.
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### **D3: Active & Passive Voice (5 Marks)**

**Change to passive voice:**

1. The dog bit the postman.

2. They built a house.

3. She wrote a letter.

4. The chef cooked dinner.

5. The students completed the test.
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### **D4: Direct & Indirect Speech (5 Marks)**

**Rewrite the sentences in reported speech:**

1. "I am reading a book," she said.

2. "Do you like ice cream?" he asked.

3. "We watched the match," they said.
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4. "Close the door," the teacher said.

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5. "I will come later," said John.

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### D5: Degrees of Comparison (5 Marks)

Write the comparative and superlative form:

1. tall → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
2. good → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
3. hot → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
4. easy → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_
5. far → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_

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### D6: Editing (10 Marks)

Correct the following paragraph (There are 10 errors):

my friend is very smart. he study every day and never miss a class. one day, he forgotten his homework but he apologised to the teacher. the teacher forgive him and said, you are usualy responsible.

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✓ [TOTAL FOR SECTION D: 45 MARKS]

**TOTAL 100 MARKS PAPER**

# MEMO: GRADE 10 ENGLISH EXAM PAPER

TOTAL: 100 MARKS

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## SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (30 marks)

1. **Main idea:**  
Reading is important and powerful for growth and understanding. (2 marks)
  2. **Two benefits of reading:**
    - Improves vocabulary
    - Improves concentration
    - Improves empathy(Any two = 2 marks)
  3. **How technology changed reading:**  
Many young people prefer scrolling on social media instead of reading novels. (2 marks)
  4. **Educators' concerns:**  
Reading competes with fast-paced, distracting online content. (2 marks)
  5. **Synonym for "altered":**  
Changed / modified / transformed (1 mark)
  6. **Tone of passage:**  
Worried (1 mark)
  7. **Meaning of sentence:**  
Reading is not just a pastime; it helps us understand the world, use imagination, and learn without limits. (3 marks)
  8. **How schools adapt:**  
By encouraging reading campaigns, book clubs, reading periods, and providing tablets with digital books. (2 marks)
  9. **Rewrite in present perfect:**  
Books have existed for centuries. → Books have existed for centuries. (Accept: "Books have existed..." or "Books have been around...") (1 mark)
  10. **Opinion on encouraging reading:**  
Accept any reasonable 3-4 lines about motivating learners — e.g., reading programs, rewards, interesting books, quiet reading times, role models, etc. (4 marks)
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## SECTION B: CARTOON (10 marks)

*(Since cartoon is not provided, this is a guideline for marking once cartoon is received)*

1. Number of characters speaking — 1 mark
2. Main topic — 1 mark

3. Boy's opinion on English teachers — 2 marks
  4. Humorous/sarcastic element in final frame — 2 marks
  5. Stereotype or exaggeration — 2 marks
  6. Opinion on cartoon's fairness — 2 marks
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## SECTION C: POETRY (15 marks)

1. **Speaker:**  
The person who has stopped using screens and is appreciating nature. (1 mark)
  2. **Two things left behind:**
    - Screens
    - Pings, posts, urgent calls / technology (2 marks)
  3. **Two examples of alliteration:**
    - "screens so bright"
    - "birds that sing"(Accept any two correct examples) (2 marks)
  4. **Message about technology and nature:**  
Technology causes distraction and rush, while nature brings peace, calm, and personal growth. (3 marks)
  5. **Line showing peace/calm:**  
"And listened to the evening hush." (1 mark)
  6. **Effect of short, simple stanzas:**  
Creates a calm, gentle pace; easy to read and reflects simplicity and peace. (2 marks)
  7. **Agree/disagree opinion:**  
Any reasonable 3-line answer showing understanding of the poem's message. (4 marks)
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## SECTION D: LANGUAGE (45 marks)

### D1: Parts of Speech (10 marks)

1. sun — noun
  2. quickly — adverb
  3. beautiful — adjective
  4. played — verb
  5. Wow! — interjection
  6. Durban — proper noun
  7. under — preposition
  8. book — noun
  9. And — conjunction
  10. homework — noun
- (1 mark each)

**D2: Tenses (5 marks)**

1. went
  2. eats
  3. will have finished
  4. studied
  5. is sleeping
- (1 mark each)

**D3: Active & Passive Voice (5 marks)**

1. The postman was bitten by the dog.
  2. A house was built.
  3. A letter was written.
  4. Dinner was cooked.
  5. The test was completed.
- (1 mark each)

**D4: Direct & Indirect Speech (5 marks)**

1. She said she was reading a book.
  2. He asked if I/he liked ice cream.
  3. They said they had watched the match.
  4. The teacher told them to close the door.
  5. John said he would come later.
- (1 mark each)

**D5: Degrees of Comparison (5 marks)**

1. tall → taller → tallest
  2. good → better → best
  3. hot → hotter → hottest
  4. easy → easier → easiest
  5. far → farther/further → farthest/furthest
- (1 mark each)

**D6: Editing (10 marks)**

Corrected paragraph:

My friend is very smart. He studies every day and never misses a class. One day, he forgot his homework, but he apologised to the teacher. The teacher forgave him and said, "You are usually responsible."

(Each corrected error = 1 mark, total 10 marks)

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**END OF MEMO**