

**THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS  
COUNCIL, ACCRA**



**BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE  
EXAMINATION FOR SCHOOL CANDIDATES**

**JUNE 2024**

**ENGLISH 2**

**FINAL MARKING SCHEME**

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL  
BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2024  
SCHOOL CANDIDATES  
FINAL MARKING SCHEME

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2

PREAMBLE

1. There are three parts – A, B and C. Candidates are expected to answer three questions in all, ONE question from PART A and Questions 4 & 5. If a candidate attempts more than one question from PART A, mark BOTH and choose the better of the two.
2. The minimum length of each composition should be 250 words.
3. Mark Allocation: Each composition is to be marked out of a total of 30 marks distributed as follows:

CONTENT	-	10 marks
ORGANIZATION	-	5 marks
EXPRESSION	-	10 marks
MECHANICAL ACCURACY	-	5 marks

4. If a candidate writes on a topic other than the ones set, award zero for Content and mark Expression out of 5. The mark allocations for Organization and Mechanical Accuracy remain unchanged.

**NB: The script of a candidate who writes on a topic other than the ones set should be referred to the Team Leader or the Chief Examiner.**

5. Each ring should attract a deduction of half a mark ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ). Formal features of letters should have two rings only counted against the marks for Mechanical Accuracy. Subsequent errors in the formal features should be underlined only.
6. The candidate is expected to know the basic rules of English Language. These include concord: subject – verb, noun – pronoun agreement, etc.; the proper use of capital letters and correct spelling of words. The candidate should also be able to use determiners and prepositions correctly and be capable of constructing sentences with all their vital components.

PENALIZE

7.
  - (i) each grammatical error.
  - (ii) wrong spelling – the wrong spelling of the same word should be penalized only once.
  - (iii) faulty construction.
  - (iv) punctuation error and the wrong use of the capital or small letter.

(v) the pronoun 'I' if written as a small letter (i).

8. Each of these errors should be ringed and half a mark ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) deducted up to a total of 5 marks.

9. **ASSESSMENT GUIDE**

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Below average	Illiterate/Unintelligible
Content	9 - 10	7 - 8	6	5	3 - 4	0 - $2\frac{1}{2}$
Organization	5	4 - $4\frac{1}{2}$	3 - $3\frac{1}{2}$	2 - $2\frac{1}{2}$	1 - $1\frac{1}{2}$	0 - $\frac{1}{2}$
Expression	9 - 10	7 - 8	6	5	3 - 4	0 - $2\frac{1}{2}$

Number of Words

5 words on a line	=	50 lines
6 words on a line	=	42 lines
7 words on a line	=	36 lines
8 words on a line	=	31 lines
9 words on a line	=	28 lines
10 words on a line	=	25 lines
11 words on a line	=	23 lines
12 words on a line	=	21 lines
13 words on a line	=	19 lines

Number of Words

250 words	=	5
225 words	=	$4\frac{1}{2}$
200 words	=	4
175 words	=	$3\frac{1}{2}$
150 words	=	3
125 words	=	$2\frac{1}{2}$
100 words	=	2
75 words	=	$1\frac{1}{2}$
50 words	=	1
25 words	=	$\frac{1}{2}$

Mechanical Accuracy (out of)

### Question 1

Your friend in another town thinks that school life is boring and wants to leave school to start petty trading. Write a letter to him/her discussing two aspects of school life you find enjoyable and giving two reasons to encouraging him/her to remain in school.

#### CONTENT: 10 marks

The Candidate is to write a letter to his/her friend, discussing two aspects of school life he/she finds enjoyable and encourage his/her friend to stay in school.

There are three parts to the question: referring to the problem, discussing two aspects of school life that are enjoyable and encouraging his/her friend to stay in school.

The candidate must write on all three parts, effectively, to earn a good mark of six (6) or more. Mark content out of two (2) marks for reference to the problem, four (4) marks for discussing two aspects of school life that are enjoyable and out of four 4 marks for giving two reasons to encourage the friend to remain in school.

#### ORGANISATION: 5 marks

This is an informal letter, and the following features are mandatory:

- i. Address of the writer and date
- ii. Salutation: Dear + first name of friend
- iii. Subscription: Yours sincerely/ Yours/ Your friend/ Yours ever...
- iv. First name of writer

All formal features must be present. Any logical presentation should be accepted, provided due regard is given to paragraphing and coherence of ideas.

#### EXPRESSION: 10 marks

This is a letter to a friend; therefore, the language should be chatty to reflect the close relationship between the candidate and his/her friend. Contracted forms and slang are acceptable here but should be controlled. There should be a variety of sentence types.

#### MECHANICAL ACCURACY: 5 marks

Ring all errors in concord (subject-verb, noun-pronoun), tense, determiners, prepositions and punctuations whenever they occur. Ring the wrong spelling of the same word once. Subsequently, underline them. American spelling is accepted but there must be consistency. Each sentence and proper noun should begin with a capital letter. Ring the use of "i" instead of "I" for the first-person pronoun.

## Question 2

A teacher from your school won the first prize as the National Best Teacher. You were selected to represent your school at the ceremony. Write a report on what you saw and discuss two lessons you learned as you observed the event.

### CONTENT: 10 marks

The candidate is required to write a report on what he/she saw at the National Best Teacher Award ceremony and discuss two lessons he/she learnt. The essay is in two parts: describing what the candidate saw and discussing two lessons he/she learnt. The candidate must write on both parts effectively to earn a good mark of six (6) or more. Mark the description out of four (4) marks and the discussion of each lesson learnt out of three (3) marks.

### ORGANIZATION: 5 marks

This is a report, and the following features are mandatory:

- i. Heading/title
- ii. Introduction
- iii. Body (itemized, sequentially arranged)
- iv. Conclusion
- v. Writer's signature
- vi. Writer's full name
- vii. Date

The paragraphs should be well developed and effectively linked. Mark organization out of three (3) marks if a candidate writes the features of a letter (address, salutation, subscription).

### EXPRESSION: 10 marks

The language should be formal and appropriate. Slang, colloquialism and contracted forms are out of place. There should be varied sentence patterns and coherence of ideas. The use of the past tense of verbs is expected. There should be clarity of expression.

### MECHANICAL ACCURACY: 5 marks

Refer to Question 1 and Preamble.

### Question 3

It is an election year and the major political parties have started campaigning. As a peace-loving member of your community, write an article for publication in a local newspaper of the community, discussing two ways of maintaining peace during the period.

#### CONTENT: 10 marks

The candidate is expected to describe the current state of affairs and discuss two ways of maintaining/improving it. Both parts should be well discussed/illustrated for six (6) marks and above. If a candidate writes on only one point, he/she should not score more than 4 marks. Mark content out of two (2) marks for effective description of the current state of affairs and out of 4 marks each for discussing the two ways for maintaining peace.

#### ORGANIZATION: 5 marks

This is an article, and the following formal features are mandatory: The heading of the article with the writer's name under it or at the end of the article; the writer's contact (address). Paragraphs should be well developed and properly linked. Mark organization out of three (3) marks if the candidate writes a letter.

#### EXPRESSION: 10 marks

The language should be formal. Slang, colloquialism and contracted forms are out of place here. Sentence patterns should vary, and the writer is expected to use appropriate vocabulary.

#### MECHANICAL ACCURACY: 5 marks

Refer to Question 1 and Preamble.

**PART B**

**Reading**  
**[20 Marks]**

**PENALTIES FOR QUESTION 4**

- a) Deduct half a mark for any grammatical/expression error(s) at each scoring point.
- b) Where a candidate gives two answers to a question and one of them is wrong, award zero. If, however, both answers are correct, award full marks.
- c) Where words/expressions are expected to be given to replace words/expressions in the passage, they must fit in perfectly. Otherwise, award zero.
- d) Answers need not be written in sentences, unless otherwise stipulated.
- e) An answer, taken as a whole, must make sense before any part of it is accepted for scoring.
- f) **Question 4e**
  - i. Award zero (0) if any content/ main word in the expression being tested is repeated.
  - ii. Award zero (0) if a candidate uses fixed expressions (idioms, phrasal verbs...)
- g) **Question 4g (Summary)**
  - i. Award half the allocated mark if the answer is not written in a complete sentence.
  - ii. Apt lifting within the stipulated number of words is allowed.
  - iii. Deduct half a mark ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) if an answer exceeds the required number of words (extraneous material)
  - iv. Deduct half a mark ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) for any grammatical/ expression error in a correct answer.
  - v. Deduct half a mark ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) for any extraneous material in a correct answer.

**Question 4**

- a. What was Aisha's occupation before she went to the city?  
She was a (traditional) caterer/Catering/Cooking/Preparing food to sell — full sentence  
NB: She sells food = 0      Cooking food = 0      1 mark
- b. In which two ways did migrant workers spend their money?
  - i. They provided their own accommodation needs/ took care of themselves/ fed themselves
  - ii. They sent money to their parents/relatives.

- i. Migrants have/ face accommodation/housing challenges/ problems/ Migrants are poorly accommodated/ Migrants live in deplorable conditions.
- ii. Migrants face job/ employment challenges/ problems; Migrants lack job/ employment opportunities.
- iii. Migrants may be/ are poorly paid.
- iv. Migrants may/do/can not feed their families well/ properly.

NB: Migrants may/do/cannot feed their families = 2-½

- v. Migrants may/can/do not send money to their parents. /Migrants are unable to send money to their parents. / Migrants are unable to support their parents (financially).

(Any two (2) of the above for 2 marks each)

4 marks

PART C  
Literature  
[10 marks]

PENALTIES FOR QUESTION 5

- (a) Deduct ½ mark for any grammatical/expression error at each scoring point.
- (b) Where a candidate gives two answers and one of them is wrong, award zero (0). If, however, both answers are correct, award full marks.
- (c) An answer taken as a whole must make sense before it may be accepted for scoring.
- (d) Award zero if a candidate spells a name, a literary device, etc. wrongly.

Question 5

- a. harsh/ unsympathetic/ (very) stern/ a bully/ coarse/ crude/ cruel/ insensitive/ mean/ inhumane/ callous.
- b. ignorant/ clueless/ naive/ inexperienced/ unexposed/ (very) innocent.
- c. The older rat (It) wanted to reward/ thank Asempa/ The hunter had set (the baby rat/ younger rat/the speaker's younger brother) free from his trap
- d. to appreciate other people's kindness/ to show gratitude to those who help us / to reciprocate kindness.
- e. Couplets; aa, bb; AA, BB = (1-½)
- f. to assess oneself before criticizing others/ tolerance/ accommodating
- g. metaphor/ symbolism
- h. Hard work brings success/ those who work hard succeed
- i. Eulalie/ Ato Yawson's wife/ Eulalie Rush

NB: Hureri=0

- j. oxymoron/ alliteration/ consonance



iii. They saved for the future.

Any two (2) of the above for 1 mark each

2 marks

c. In one adjective, describe how Aisha felt when she arrived in the city.

Sad/Disappointed/Worried/Unhappy/frustrated/disillusioned/dejected/despised/  
uncomfortable.

any of the above for 1 mark

NB: She felt/ was "sad" = 1

She felt/was sad = (1- ½)

1 mark

d. "Reluctantly, Bello gave in", why was Bello reluctant?

i. He did not have a good/decent/ comfortable/ suitable/ fitting accommodation.

ii. He knew he could not take proper/good care of them there.

iii. He did not want them to suffer.

iv. He knew it was very difficult living in the city.

Any one (1) of the above for 2 marks

2 marks

e. Explain in your words the following expressions as used in the passage:

i. to fend for – to take care of/ to look after/ to provide the needs of/ to support/ to cater for

2 marks

ii. save for a rainy day – keep some money to use in future/ put some money aside to use  
later / *reserved money for future use* • 2 marks

iii. was not in vain – became profitable/ brought rewards/ brought good/ positive results/  
produced positive/ good results/ yielded positive results/ outcome/ not wasted/ not  
useless.

2 marks

f. For each of the following words, give another word or phrase that means the same and can  
fit into the passage:

i. occasional – rare/random/infrequent/periodic/irregular/ intermittent/ seldom/ periodical

1 mark

ii. prepared – cooked/made/provided

1 mark

iii. handsomely – (very) well/ adequately/ sufficiently/ generously/ bountifully/ abundantly/  
greatly/ amply

1 mark

iv. improvement – enhancement/development / change/ progress/ advancement/ turn  
around/ upliftment/ amelioration/ upgrade

NB: Prosperity = 0

betterment = 0

1 mark

g. In two sentences of not more than ten words each, summarize two problems that  
migrants face as expressed in the third paragraph.