**BECE Past Questions & Answers – 2011 (English)**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1

OBJECTIVE TEST  
45 minutes

PART A  
LEXIS AND STRUCTURE

SECTION A

From the alternatives lettered A to D, choose the one which most suitably completes each sentence

1. The jury acquitted the man …………murder.  
A. from  
B. of

C. on

D. with

2. Ama’s essay is superior ……………that of Adzo.  
A. from B. over C. than D. to

u

4. I cannot tell you …………  
A. what about the story is B. what about is the story C. what is the story about D. what the story is about

5. That troublesome friend of ………is here again.

A. he B. him C. his  
D. himself

6. I told you to leave my office, …….I?  
A. aren‟t B. didn‟t C. don‟t D. wasn‟t

7. Kofi travelled five days ……….  
A. ago  
B. hence C. now D. since

8. Kwame‟s uncle, with his three friends, ………coming home tomorrow.  
A. are  
B. is  
C. were  
D. would be

9. I am afraid I cannot make you ……….  
A. in B. on C. out D. up

10. The plane takes ……….at noon.  
A. from  
B. of C. off D. to

11. Please, can I have ………….salt in my soup?  
A. little more B. a few more C. a little more D. few more

12. I wish I …………my friend next week.  
A. can visit  
B. am visiting  
C. shall visit

D. could visit

13. By September 2007, I …………….school for nine years.  
A. had attended  
B. have attended  
C. have been attending  
D. shall have attended

14. ……………….Aso runs short of money, what would she do?  
A. If  
B. In case C. Should D. Were

15. Human beings will not live forever, ………………?  
A. will they  
B. isn‟t it  
C. does it  
D. shall they

16. I saw Esi ……………a new pair of shoes.  
A. bought  
B. buy C. buys D. to buy

17. Let us have a cup of tea, ……………?  
A. do we  
B. shall we  
C. should we  
D. would we

SECTION B

Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one which is nearest in meaning to the underlined word in  
each sentence.

18. The headteacher‟s arrival in the classroom was sudden.  
A. quick  
B. strange  
C. unexpected  
D. unusual

19. It is rude to talk loudly in the presence of elderly people.  
A. impolite B. incorrect C. improper D. unwise

20. The pupils grumbled about the assignment.  
A. bothered  
B. complained  
C. talked  
D. questioned

31. It is compulsory for all pupils to be in school uniform for the ceremony.  
A. considerate

B. optional  
C. unnecessary  
D. expected

32. Aminata is boas tful about her beauty.  
A. careless B. humble C. modest  
D. uneasy

PART B

LITERATURE

33. A metaphor achieves the same effect as a/an ……………  
A. alliteration B. metonymy C. paradox  
D. simile

34. One of the following gives a clue to a character‟s nature:  
A. what he thinks  
B. how he feels  
C. what he says  
D. how he moves about

Read the following extract carefully and answer Questions 35 and 36

The fair breeze blew; the white foam flew, The furrow followed free;  
We were the first that burst  
Into the silent sea

35. The dominant sound device used in the extract is  
A. alliteration  
B. onomatopoeia  
C. pun  
D. rhyme

36. The device in the extract helps to express the  
A. silence of the sea  
B. smoothness of the movement

C. whiteness of the foam  
D. fairness of the weather

37. A good novel or play both entertains and  
A. condemns B. preaches C. teaches  
D. warns

38. A character that develops in a play or novel in the course of the work is known as  
A. complete  
B. flat  
C. round  
D. sound

39. Which of the following best help(s) to develop the plot of a novel or play?  
A. Characters  
B. Literary devices  
C. Setting  
D. Style

40. A lyric is usually fairly short and  
A. tells a short story  
B. praises a dead person  
C. expresses thoughts and feelings  
D. is sung to send a child to sleep

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1

SOLUTIONS

OBJECTIVE TEST

1. B. of

2. D. to

3. D. were

4. D. what the story is about

5. C. his

6. B. didn‟t

7. A. ago

8. B. is

9. C. out

10. C. off

11. C. a little more

12. D. could visit

13. A. had attended

14. A. If

15. A. will they

16. B. buy

17. B. shall we

18. C. unexpected

19. A. impolite

20. B. complained

21. D. recognize

22.  
A.  
dangerous

23.  
B.  
even though he was clever

24.  
C.  
unchangeable

25.  
A.  
foolishly

26.  
A.  
cowardly

27.  
B.  
can defend herself

28.  
D.  
rejected

29.  
B.  
generous

30.  
C.  
shabby

31.  
B.  
optional

32.  
C.  
modest

33.  
D.  
simile

34.  
A.  
what he thinks

35.  
A.  
alliteration

36.  
B.  
smoothness of the movement

37.  
C.  
teaches

38. C. round

39. A. Characters

40. C. expresses thoughts and feelings

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2**

1 hour

Answer two questions in all: one question from each part.  
Your composition should be about 250 words long

Credit will be given for clarity of expression and orderly presentation of material

**PART A ESSAY WRITING**

***Answer one question only from this part.***

1. Write a letter to your District Director of Education giving at least, two reasons why caning should be banned in schools.

2. Write a story which ends with the expression: ‘………what a dream!‟

3. As secretary of the Friends of the Environment club, write the speech you would give to the students of your school on the need to keep the environment clean

**PART B COMPREHENSION**

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions which follow.

Ali set out from the house that morning in high spirits knowing well that he was going to meet his childhood friend Kofi. He had heard that his friend was occupying a very high position in a reputable company.  
Kofi could hardly recognize Ali when he latter entered the former’s office. “So you can’t recognize me, Kofi, your classmate, Sikakrom JHS? Does money blind people and erase their memory? Can ten short years change you so completely as to make you forget an intimate friend?”  
Kofi then suddenly recognized him. “Sorry, Ali. You’ve changed so much I couldn’t make you out. Please, sit down. What can I do for you?”

Ali reluctantly sat down. He admired Kofi’s tidy office and person – the well-groomed hair, the attractive shirt and tie. Ali removed a small bottle from the breast pocket of his dust-covered shirt, poured out some white substance in his palm and sniffed it greedily.  
Kofi noticed all that but suppressed his anger. “I learn that luck has given you great wealth, Kofi!” Ali said. “Indeed, some people are lucky!” he added, and pulled out a crumpled cigarette and a box of matches.  
I’d rather you didn’t smoke here. I keep my air fresh,” Kofi politely ordered.  
Ali was shocked. “Hei, Kofi, what a complete change! What bird must have lent you its wings for you to soar so high? Oh, Luck, you can really change people! Just ten short years!”  
“Look here, Ali, leave luck out of this. I worked very hard for seven years to acquire a good degree and a job. I never relied on luck for success.”

(a) What did Ali expect as he left the house to meet Kofi?

(b) Why did Kofi fail to recognize Ali?  
(c) What does the passage tell us about Ali’s habits?

(d) (i) According to Ali, what has made Kofi successful? (ii) What actually helped Kofi to succeed?

(e) Explain the following expressions in your own words: (i) in high spirits;  
(ii) erase their memory;  
(iii) I couldn’t make you out.

(f) For each of the following words, give another word or phrase that means the same and can fit into the passage:  
(i) reputable (ii) intimate (iii) tidy  
(iv) attractive  
(v) acquire