**BECE Past Questions & Answers – 2013 (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 lion ……… under the tree waiting for its prey  
A. lie B. lain C. lay D. laid

2. I wish Ato ……..come to see us tomorrow  
A. will  
B. is to  
C. would  
D. may

3. It‟s high time we ………..the items out.  
A. move  
B. are moving  
C. moved  
D. were moving

4. This amount is all ………I have on me.  
A. what  
B. that  
C. which  
D. this

5. The harder you study, ……..your chance of success.  
A. the great  
B. greater

C. greatest  
D. the greater

6. Please, I would rather you ……….not disturb me  
A. did B. will C. may D. do

7. That pair of trousers is worn …………  
A. in B. out C. into D. on

8. Atsu is looking forward to ……….his friends at the party.  
A. see  
B. be seeing  
C. seeing  
D. have seen

9. The minister is my ……….brother.  
A. senior B. older C. elder D. junior

10. We have ………sugar, so we cannot have breakfast  
A. a few B. little C. few  
D. a little

11. I wouldn‟t say this to …….  
A. no other B. any other C. nobody  
D. anyone else

12. This vase is made …………glass.  
A. on  
B. of  
C. with  
D. by

13. Mrs. Akwei is blind ………the faults of her children.  
A. on  
B. over  
C. to  
D. by

14. Shika was absent yesterday, ………?  
A. isn‟t she  
B. has she  
C. didn‟t she  
D. wasn‟t she

15. Come and see me tomorrow, ……….. you?  
A. shall B. will C. may D. don‟t

16. If Kofi had studied hard, he ………..his examination.  
A. would pass  
B. would be passing  
C. will be passing  
D. would have passed

17. The boy likes his ……….dog.  
A. little pretty brown B. pretty brown little C. pretty little brown  
D. brown little pretty

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 radio is a very potent means of communication.  
A. necessary  
B. powerful  
C. widespread  
D. sound

19. Benjamin deserves the prize because he is industrious.  
A. polite  
B. hardworking  
C. intelligent  
D. funny

21. The recklessness of the driver caused the woman’s death.  
A. drunkenness  
B. arrogance  
C. carelessness  
D. ignorance

22. The doctors have been discussing the shortage of nurses.  
A. indiscipline  
B. love  
C. scarcity  
D. efficiency

**SECTION C**

In each of the following sentences a group of words has been underlined. Choose from the alternatives lettered  
A to D the one that best explains the underlined group of words.

23. Adzo takes after her mother. This means that Adzo  
A. likes her  
B. resembles her  
C. is unlike her  
D. always follows her

24. Board members are paid five Ghana Cedi’s a day across the board. This means that  
A. every member receives five Ghana cedi’s  
B. some members receive five Ghana cedi’s  
C. members are given five Ghana cedi’s for food.  
D. only deserving members are given five Ghana cedi’s.

25. Advise Peter not to poke his nose into my affair.  
A. interfere  
B. enter  
C. speak  
D. believe

26. During the lecture, Sarfo was miles away. This means that Sarfo

A. was self-conscious  
B. had travelled  
C. had slept  
D. was absent-minded

27. Ato was at his wits end. This means that Ato  
A. was collecting his ideas together B. had come to the end of his talk C. did not know what to do next  
D. did not have much to do.

**From the list of words lettered A to D, choose the one that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word underlined in each sentence**

28. We are surprised at her hostility to us.  
A. faithfulness  
B. attitude  
C. manner  
D. friendliness

29. She timidly faced her accusers.  
A. boldly

B. calmly

C. angrily  
D. smilingly

30. The minister is sincere in his promise.  
A. unrealistic  
B. uncertain  
C. dissatisfied  
D. dishonest

31. The flag was hoisted during the golden jubilee celebration.  
A. sunk  
B. dipped C. lowered D. dropped

32. Transparent ballot boxes are used in elections.  
A. dark  
B. opaque  
C. coated

D. painted

**SECTION D**

**PART B**

**LITERATURE**

From the options lettered A to D, choose the one that correctly answers each question or completes the sentence

33. The sequence of events in a play is the  
A. theme  
B. plot  
C. conflict  
D. resolution

34. An address directed at oneself is known as  
A. monologue  
B. dialogue  
C. apostrophe  
D. soliloquy

Read the following extract carefully and answer questions 35 to 37

“O incomprehensible God!  
Shall my pilot be  
My inborn stars to that  
Final call to thee”?

35. The poem is a kind of  
A. sermon  
B. apostrophe  
C. dirge  
D. sonnet

36. The theme of the above extract is  
A. life  
B. neglect  
C. war  
D. death

38. The main character in a play or a novel is called  
A. hero  
B. villain  
C. dramatist  
D. antagonist

39. The conversation between two characters is known as  
A. a dialogue  
B. a monologue  
C. an aside  
D. a soliloquy

40. Miming refers to  
A. the use of song in drama  
B. acting without the use of words  
C. imitation of a character  
D. the use of dialogue in acting

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1 SOLUTIONS**

OBJECTIVE TEST

1. C. lay

2. C. would

3. C. moved

4. B. that

5. D. the greater

6. A. did

7. B. out

8. C. seeing

9. C. elder

10. B. little

11. B. any other

12. B. of

13. C. to

14. D. wasn’t she

15. B. will

16. D. would have passed

17. C. pretty little brown

18. B. powerful

19. B. hardworking

20. B. profitable

21. C. carelessness

22. C. scarcity

23. B. resembles her

24. A. every member receives five Ghana Cedis

25. A. interfere

26. D. was absent-minded

27. C. did not know what to do next

28. D. friendliness

29. A. boldly

30. D. dishonest

31. C. lowered

32. B. opaque

33. B. plot

34. D. soliloquy

35. B. apostrophe

36. D. death

37. C. Final call

38. A. hero

39. A. a dialogue

40. B. acting without the use of words

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2**

1 hour

Answer two questions in all; one question from Part A and all the questions in Part B. Your composition should be about 250 words long.

PART A  
[30 marks]

*Answer one question only from this part*

1. Write a letter to your friend telling him or her three ways in which the computer has made learning easier for students.

2. Write an article for publication in a national newspaper discussing at least two reasons why students should cultivate the habit of reading

3. Describe one national event that took place recently and state at least two effects it had on the people in your area.

**PART B COMPREHENSION**

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

Nobody wanted Ananse to succeed in drinking the cup of hot water and win, Adiefe, the Chief’s  
beautiful daughter.  
Ananse grabbed the cup of hot water, bowed as gracefully as possible and smiled confidently. He lifted the cup and said, slowly and calmly. „Nana, look …..!‟ Nana Apo barked, yes, it’s hot. Drink it right now! But Ananse kept a cool head. Then, in the full glare of all present, he shook the cup vigorously for some time in order to cool its content. After this, he began to sip the now lukewarm water as if it was still hot. Between the sips, the pain he seemed to be going through made him frown. He shut the left eye and his right eye shone brightly. He deliberately let his left hand drop loosely by his side.  
Nana Apo smiled. Queen Amola grinned. Adiefe giggled – all in happy anticipation of Ananse’s failure.  
Suddenly, Ananse began to drink the warm water more quickly and noisily. Soon, all was gone. He turned the cup upside down towards Nana and, indeed, there was not a single drop in it. Lo and behold, Kweku Ananse, the notorious trickster, had succeeded where all others had failed. There was complete silence. Even the wind seemed to have stopped blowing. The impossible had happened and people’s expectation that Kweku Ananse would lose the contest had failed. Eventually, Kweku Ananse’s victory had won him the hand of pretty Princess, Adiefe.  
Nana Apo and Queen Amola, with great reluctance, led their daughter, Adiefe, and handed her over to victorious Kweku Ananse.

(a) What was the attitude of the people present before the contest? (b) Why do you think Ananse shook the cup?  
(c) State the three tricks Ananse used to show that he was in pain.

(d) (i) Why did Ananse turn the cup upside down?  
(ii) What was the mood of Nana Apo and Queen Amola in the end?

(e) Explain the following expressions in your own words: (i) „Ananse kept a cool head‟  
(ii) “all was gone”  
(iii) “The impossible had happened”

(f) For each of the following words, give another word or phrase that means the same and can fit into the passage:  
(i) grabbed  
(ii) barked  
(iii) deliberately (iv) Eventually (v) pretty

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2

SOLUTIONS

4.  
a) The attitude of the people present before the contest  
Resentment or disapproval or dislike or despise or Hostile or Unfriendly or Antagonistic or  
Unsympathetic or unsupportive  
or wanted him to fail  
or Opposed to Ananse

b) Why Ananse shook the cup  
To make the hot water cool faster

c) The three tricks Ananse used to show he was in pain  
(i) he frowned  
(ii) he closed his left eye leaving the right eye shining brightly  
(iii) he let his left hand drop loosely by his side

d) (i) Why Ananse turned the cup upside down  
To prove that he had really drunk all the water  
Or  
To show that the cup was really empty

(ii)  
The mood of Nana Apo and Queen Amola in the end  
They were sorrowful or sad or distressed or unhappy or displeased or disappointed.

e)

(i)

Ananse ‘kept a cool head’  
Ananse remained calm or composed or unruffled or undisturbed or unperturbed

(ii)  
‘all was gone’  
It (the water) was finished  
or There was no water left

(iii) ‘The impossible had happened’  
The unexpected had happened  
or  
The highly unlikely event had taken place.  
or  
The unthinkable had come about.  
or  
Something that no one ever thought would occur had occurred

f)  
(i)  
grabbed – gripped or clutched or grasped or firmly held or took or held or seized or took  
hold of

(ii)  
barked – shouted or exclaimed or screamed or spoke loudly or yelled or snapped or  
retorted or replied angrily or answered quickly or responded sharply

(iii) deliberately – intentionally or consciously or on purpose or knowingly

(iv) Eventually – in the end or in the long run or ultimately or finally or at last or at long last or  
lastly.

(v) Pretty – beautiful or good-looking or attractive or fine-looking or striking or lovely or  
nice or charming.