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FEMSSISA ENGLISH OLYMPIAD:
GRADE 9

DATE: 19 - 23 SEPTEMBER 2022

TIME: 75 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 6 questions.
2. Answer on the paper below.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering.
4. Visit the websites: www.saolympiads.co.za.

NAME OF LEARNER:	
SCHOOL:	GRADE:

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QUESTION ONE:

Comprehension: Read Text A below and then answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Text A

Did you know that there is a fibre that is as flexible and lightweight as nylon yet five times stronger than steel? Did you know that this fabric is resistant to temperatures higher than 500 degrees Fahrenheit? Did you know that a woman invented this fibre? This miraculous fabric is called Kevlar and it is used to make everything from body armour to musical instruments.

The year was 1964. There were gasoline shortages due to conflict in the Middle East. A Polish-American chemist named Stephanie Louise Kwolek was working for DuPont, an American chemical company. She and her group were trying to make a lightweight, yet durable fibre to be used in tyres. Lighter tyres would allow vehicles to get better gas mileage, but the tyres had to be strong enough to resist the wear and tear of the road. They had been working on the problem for some time and had little success, until Kwolek had a breakthrough.

Kwolek and her group were synthesizing or creating fibres to test. During one of the steps in the process, Kwolek created a milky white solution by mixing two chemicals that were often used in the process. This solution was usually thrown away, but Kwolek convinced one of the technicians to help her test it. They were amazed to discover that the fabric that Kwolek has created was not only more durable than nylon, but it was also more durable than steel. Kwolek had invented Kevlar.

Kevlar is a remarkable fabric known for its strength and durability. Since its invention, it has found its way into a wide variety of products. Kevlar is used in sporting equipment like bike tyres, bowstrings, and tennis racquets. It is used in musical instruments like drum heads, reeds, and speaker cones. And it is used in protective gear like motorcycle safety jackets, gloves, and shoes. However, Kevlar is best known for its ability to stop bullets.

Richard Armellino created the first Kevlar bulletproof vest in 1975. It contained 15 layers of Kevlar, which could stop handgun and shotgun bullets. The vest also had a steel plate over the heart, which made the vest strong enough to stop rifle rounds. Vests like Armellino's were quickly picked up by police forces and it is estimated that by 1990, half of all police officers in America wore bulletproof vests daily. By 2006 there were over 2 000 documented police vest "saves" or instances where officers were protected from deadly wounds by wearing bulletproof vests.

Kevlar is an amazing fabric not only for its hardness and durability but also for its heat resistance. Because of this, it has been used to replace asbestos. Asbestos is a naturally occurring material that is known for its ability to resist fire. Asbestos can resist temperatures over 1 000 degrees Fahrenheit. For this reason, it was used in roofs, electrical cables, and brake pads until people discovered that it caused cancer and other serious health problems.

Kevlar poses no such risks. It is lightweight, flexible, and resistant to fire. Therefore, it has proven to be a good replacement for asbestos in many cases.

Since its invention in 1964, Kevlar has won its way into our lives. From musical instruments and brake pads to protective equipment and sporting gear, Kevlar is everywhere. Every day of your life you are exposed to something that was made better.

Choose the correct option from the choices below:

1. **Which one of the following is NOT a product that has been made with Kevlar?**

   (a) Tennis racquets
   (b) Bungee jumping cords
   (c) Brake pads
   (d) Body armour

2. **Why has the author chosen to use a rhetorical question?**

   (a) To ask questions that require answers
   (b) To involve the reader directly
   (c) To establish setting
   (d) To show a question-answer format

3. **Which of the following characteristics apply to Kevlar? Mark all the relevant options below.**

   (a) Heat resistance
   (b) Strength
   (c) Durability
   (d) All of the above

4. **Who is the person who deserves full credit for inventing Kevlar?**

   (a) Robert Kevlar
   (b) Richard Armellino
   (c) Stephanie Kwolek
   (d) None of the above

5. **All except one are synonyms for inventions. Which word is not a synonym for invention?**

(a) Innovation
(b) Fabrication
(c) Creation
(d) Ingenuity

6. **A vest made of 15 layers of Kevlar with NO steel plates could stop *all but which* of the following rounds?**

(a) Handgun rounds
(b) Shotgun pellets
(c) Rifle rounds
(d) It could stop all of the above

7. **Why did people choose to resort to asbestos use in buildings?**

(a) It was extremely durable
(b) It was poisonous to insects
(c) It was very heavy
(d) It was resistant to fire

8. **According to the article, the statistic of American police officers that are estimated to wear bulletproof vests daily is_____?**

(a) 1 000
(b) 2 000
(c) Over half
(d) Almost all of them

9. **Can you deduce from the article how much stronger is Kevlar than steel?**

(a) Half as strong
(b) As strong
(c) Five times as strong
(d) 200 times as strong

10. **What product was Kwolek trying to improve when she accidentally discovered Kevlar?**

(a) Tyres
(b) Milk
(c) Brake pads
(d) Armor

Marks: 10

QUESTION TWO:

Choose the correct homophones in the following sentences:

1. The dog likes all vegetables except/accept lettuce.
2. I need advice/advise about where to go for dinner.
3. I do not think that you have been altogether/all together honest with me.
4. My dog escaped from his kennel and is running loose/lose in the street.
5. The fog began to envelop/envelope the whole of the airfield.

Marks: 5

QUESTION THREE:

Provide a suitable antonym for each of the following words:

(a) Random

(b) Knowledge

(c) Unique

(d) Professional

(e) Arrive

Marks: 5

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QUESTION FOUR:

In the following sentence, list what PART OF SPEECH each of the underlined words is:

She was going into the quaint little town on her rusty bicycle when the rain started

and forced her to find shelter immediately.

Marks: 8

QUESTION FIVE:

Two fathers and two sons are in a car, yet there are only three people in the car. How can this be?

The father met up in a car crash. He broke many bones in his body. When asked how he is doing, he ironically said, "I am fine. It was just a scratch." We call the father's statement an _____ .

Marks: 2

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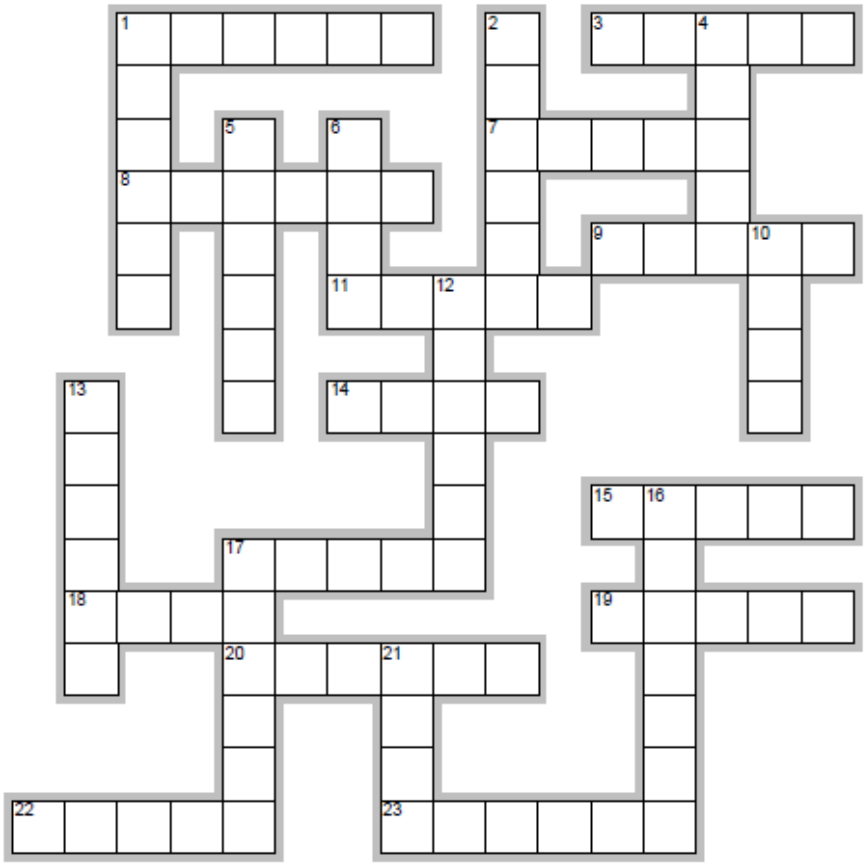
QUESTION SIX:

CROSSWORD: Fill in the clues in the crossword below.

All the answers are made up of letters in the word "WATERMELON".



Across:

1 A chunk of rock from space that makes a light streak in the sky.

3 H2O

7 To resume or take up again

8 Small gardening tool, another name for a small spade

9 Bumps on the skin, from toads?

11 Group of females

Down:

1 Shelf above a fireplace

2 Mental attitudes of a person or group, especially re: confidence during adversity

4 Tall fortress

5 Antonym for immortal

6 Cat Sound

10 Collective noun for rugby players

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14 Lease payment

15 Find out new information

17 Synonym for an inn

18 A large plant with bark

19 Yellow fruit

20 Synonym for tidier

22 Back tooth

23 If you are not mentally challenged, you are _____

12 Relating to the mind

13 Used to switch the T.V on

16 Lasting through all time

17 A teacher and a role model

21 Another name for a small city

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ACROSS
1
3.
7.
8.
9.
11.
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DOWN
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13.
16.
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21.

Marks: 20

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 50