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## SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY ENGLISH OLYMPIAD:
## GRADE 5

**DATE:** 04 - 08 SEPTEMBER 2023

**TIME:** 60 MINUTES

**Instructions:**

1. This booklet has 8 questions.
2. Answer on the paper below.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering.
4. Visit the website: www.saolympiads.co.za.

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|---|---|
| **NAME OF LEARNER:** | |
| **SCHOOL:** | **GRADE:** |

## QUESTION 1

**Read Text A and then answer the questions that follow:**

**TEXT A:**

The elephant is the largest land animal. It has a long nose, big floppy ears, and fat legs. The adult elephant has two large tusks made of a substance called ivory. The two species of elephant are the **Asian** elephant and the **African** elephant. African elephants are larger than the Asian elephants. They grow eight to thirteen feet tall and weigh five thousand to fourteen thousand pounds. Asian elephants grow six to nine feet tall and weigh four thousand to ten thousand pounds. The elephants living in the savanna or flat open land have curved tusks. Those who live in more wooded areas have small straight tusks which help them to push through dense bushes.

Asian elephants live in the scrubland and rainforests of India, Nepal and Southeast Asia. African elephants live south of the Sahara Desert, in central and West Africa, and in Mali. They are herbivores and eat grasses, bark, and roots. They use their tusks to dig up roots and strip the bark off trees. An adult elephant can eat as much as three hundred pounds of food a day.

The oldest female called the **matriarch** leads the group of elephants which is called a **herd**. Adult males often wander around on their own. Females, older males, and young elephants usually make up the herd. The matriarch will teach her children certain rules of elephant behaviour. When greeting another elephant, the first elephant raises its trunk.

Bulls are male elephants. Cows are female elephants. The baby elephant is a calf. It adds two to three pounds of growth a day for the first year. Even after just four months, young elephants start to learn how to use their trunks. The babies will be weaned from nursing between two and three years of age.

The males just wander off and the females stay with their mothers. Females will have their own babies between the ages of thirteen and twenty. In the wild, elephants can live thirty to fifty years.

The ears of an African elephant look like the continent of Africa when they are stretched out. The largest elephant known was an African elephant. It was eleven thousand, three hundred and thirty-nine thousand kilograms and nearly four meters tall. In hot weather, an African elephant sucks water in with his trunk and then blows it back out to cool himself. An Asian elephant has smaller ears than an African elephant.

One hundred thousand muscles make up an elephant's trunk. An elephant uses its trunk to smell, drink, pick things up and make noises. Every elephant has a dominant tusk just like humans are right-handed or left-handed. The tusk most often used will be more worn down than the other. An elephant's skin is one inch thick. To protect its sensitive skin from the sun, an elephant will cover itself with mud or dust.

Elephants carry their babies in their wombs for twenty-two months. A female usually has one calf every three to six years. The whole herd pitches in to help to take care of newborns. Young females are in training to become mothers while they take care of the young. They are called **allomothers**.

The number of elephants is slowly decreasing because they do not reproduce as fast as they are killed by **poachers**. Poachers are people who kill elephants to take their tusks and sell them to ivory dealers. Dealers around the world want the tusks to make jewellery, crafts, musical instruments and religious objects. Elephants may become extinct very soon due to poaching.

To prevent the extinction of elephants, governments need to set up portions of land that will be safe from poachers. China has made a law that beginning in 2018, no one can buy or sell ivory in the country.

## QUESTION ONE:

**Choose the correct answer for each question from the options provided below:**

1. **Which one of the following statements tells us how long a mother elephant carries her baby before it is born?**
   a. A year
   b. Nine months
   c. Twenty-two months
   d. Sixteen months **(1)**

2. **What is a female elephant called?**
   a. Bull
   b. Sow
   c. Cow
   d. Mare **(1)**

3. **Which of the following countries has decided to ban the buying and selling of Ivory?**
   a. Japan
   b. Nigeria
   c. Zambia
   d. China **(1)**

4. **Which body organ does an elephant use to make noises?**
   a. Mouth
   b. Teeth
   c. Trunk
   d. Tongue **(1)**

5. **Choose the title that is given to the oldest female in the herd?**
   a. Leader
   b. Head bull
   c. Patriarch
   d. Matriarch **(1)**

6. **Which of the following statements are true?**
   a. Asian elephants are larger that African elephants.
   b. To protect itself from the sun an elephant will stand under a tree.
   c. Poachers are killing thousands of elephants.
   d. The largest known elephant was an Asian elephant.

   **(1)**

7. **What does the word "extinct" mean?**
   a. Dead
   b. Vanishes
   c. Asleep
   d. Expired **(1)**

8. **Herbivores eat:**
   a. Insects like moths and locusts.
   b. Plants like grasses and leaves.
   c. Both of the above. **(1)**

9. **In the sentence: "The number of elephants is slowly decreasing …" – what part of speech is the word "slowly"?**
   a. Verb
   b. Adjective
   c. Adverb
   d. Preposition **(1)**

10. **There is a well-known saying that "elephants never forget". Do you think this saying is True or False?**
    a. True
    b. False **(1)**

**(10)**

**QUESTION TWO:**

a. **Rewrite the following sentence by changing from the present tense to the future tense.**

Tom works hard to be successful. **(2)**

b. **Rewrite the following sentence by changing from the past tense to the future tense.**

I enjoyed watching the movie "Top Gun". **(2)**

**QUESTION THREE:**

**Join the following sentences to form one good sentence – DO NOT USE THE CONJUNCTION "AND" to join the sentences.**

I watched the movie. The movie was about the life of Vincent van Gogh. **(2)**

**QUESTION FOUR:**

**Rewrite the following sentence from direct speech to indirect speech.**

Mrs Black said, "I am so proud of my daughter!" **(2)**

**QUESTION FIVE:**

**Choose a synonym for each word in Column A that matches the meaning of one in Column B.**

| **Column A** | **Column B** |
|---|---|
| assist | awesome |
| champion | protect |
| close | aid |
| easy | winner |
| terrible | accurate |
| | straightforward |
| | bad |
| | shut |

**(5)**

**QUESTION SIX:**

**In the following sentence state what part of speech each underlined word is:**

She was hiding under the big, old table but I could see her clearly.

**She: ……**

**Was hiding: ……..**

**Under: ……**

**The: ……..**

**Old: ……**

**Table: ……**

**But: ……**

**Clearly: ……..**

**(8)**

**QUESTION SEVEN: LOGIC**

**Unscramble each "bug" word and write it on the lines.**

**g o n d r f y l a - _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _**

**m w o r -** _ _ _ _

**r i c c k t e -** _ _ _ _ _ _ _

**b l e b u b e e m -** _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

**d y b g a l u -** _ _ _ _ _ _ _

**n a t -** _ _ _

**u t t b f y r e l -** _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

**p s d e r i -** _ _ _ _ _ _

**To solve the riddle: take the 5th and 6th letters of the first word**

**The 1st and 2nd letters of the second word**

**The 2nd letter of the third word**

**The 3rd letter of the fourth word**

**The 3rd letter of the fifth word**

**The 1st letter of the sixth word**

**The last letter of the seventh word**

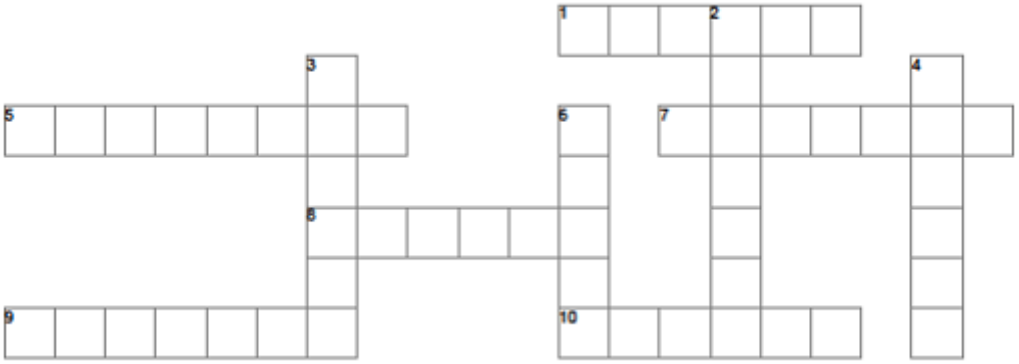
**The 1st letter of the last word**

**"When do robins like to play outside?"**

**_ _ "_ _ _ _" _ _ _ _!** **(9)**

## QUESTION EIGHT: CROSSWORD

**Read the clues below and fill in the blank crossword puzzle.**



| ACROSS | DOWN |
|---|---|
| 1. decline | 2. different |
| 5. distressed | 3. careful |
| 7. melodious | 4. instructed |
| 8. visible | 6. value |
| 9. agree | |
| 10. status | |

| ACROSS | DOWN |
|---|---|
| 1. | 2. |
| 5. | 3. |
| 7. | 4. |
| 8. | 6. |
| 9. | |
| 10. | |

**(10)**

**Total for paper: 50**