SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENGLISH OLYMPIAD
FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (FAL)
GRADE 6

DATE: 15 AUGUST 2024

TIME: 60 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 12 questions.
2. Answer on the paper below.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering.
4. Visit the website: www.saolympiads.co.za.

NAME OF LEARNER:	
SCHOOL:	**GRADE:**

QUESTION ONE:

1. **Read the following extract from, "HOUR OF THE BEES," by Lindsay Eagar and answer the questions that follow.**

Something flies too close to my ear. For a moment, its buzz is the only noise in my world.

"Hey," I say, out of reflex, and swish my ponytail like it's a weapon.

"What?" Dad turns off the radio. The quiet brings attention to how bumpy the highway is. The bug zooms out the truck windows, its jewelled body glittering black and gold in the sunlight. A bee.

"Nothing," I say, contemplating the grim view. It's been mile after mile of "nothing" for more than an hour. Up ahead, a line of mesas come into view, flat as table tops and crumbling around the edges, rock cakes going stale, eternally baking. I snap a picture with my phone, but on the screen the mesas blur into red smears beneath an empty sky.

"Are you sure we didn't miss a turn?" "Maybe we're in Mexico"

Dad snorts. "Trust me, I'd rather go to Mexico." He switches his twangy rock music back on and checks his rear view mirror. My mom and one-year old brother, Lu, follow in the minivan, the only other vehicle on the road. My legs ache from being cramped in the truck for almost three hours on the clock.

"How much longer?" I groan.

"Excited, are we?" Dad says.

No. Definitely not excited. Instead of a summer filled with pool parties and barbecues, I'll be spending my days on a dusty sheep ranch with a grandfather I've never met. At least mum and dad are dreading it too. I'll have some company in my misery.

We turn off the highway and rattle down a long dirt road for about ten minutes. As we curve around the base of a mesa. Dad lets out a sigh, "There it is. Home sweet home."

Across the rose-coloured land, a run-down rambler sits in a brown pasture, its roof sagging, the porch beams warped with age.

The entire property is tucked between the buttes - out of sight, out of mind. Forgotten by civilization.

Grandpa Serge's two-hundred-acre sheep ranch, the place where dad grew up…

[Extract adapted from *HOUR OF THE BEES*]

Underline the correct answer from each question below:

1.1 Underline the option that is NOT correct. The family was NOT going to_____

(a) Mexico
(b) grandpa's ranch.
(c) a sheep ranch.
(d) the place where dad grew up.

(1)

1.2 Dad is listening to _____music.

a) pop
b) rock
c) jazz
d) reggae

(1)

1.3 What do you think the word, "mesas" mean?

(a) Landform
(b) Bugs
(c) Pieces of rubbish
(d) A herd of sheep

(1)

1.4 According to the text, what is the singular form of mesas?

mesa	medium

(1)

1.5 How many hours have the family been in the truck for?

(a) Almost one hour
(b) Almost two hours
(c) Almost three hours
(d) Almost six hours

(1)

1.6 Which of the options below is NOT a synonym for "ranch".

(a) Smallholding (b) Farmstead
(c) Acres (d) Wasteland

(1)

1.7 The insect is a bee. How many legs does a queen bee have?

(a) Two (b) Four
(b) Six (d) Eight

(1)

1.8 From reading the story, how many people are in the truck?

(a) Two (b) Four
(c) One (d) Seven

(1)

1.9 Choose the correct option to complete the idiom, "Misery loves _____.

(a) friends (b) sheep
(c) company (d) journeys

(1)

1.10 Braai is a borrowed word from Afrikaans that means the same as _____ .

(1)

1.11 The idiom, *"Out of sight, out of mind,"* means that if something is not visible it is easily _____ .

(1)

1.12 When dad says, *"Excited, are we?"* he is_____

(a) Exaggerating (b) Guessing
(c) Sarcastic (d) Foreshadowing

Marks: 12

QUESTION TWO:

Be smart and try to solve the conundrums below by providing a one-word answer:

2.1 Grandpa Serge grows how many acorns on the average pine tree?

_____

2.2 What should dad use to find roads without vehicles, forests without trees, and cities without houses?

_____

(2)

Marks:2

QUESTION THREE:

Fill out the correct form of the words in brackets:

3.1 The narrator feels as if she is (grow) _____older during the drive.

3.2 Grandpa Serge is (old) _____than dad.

3.3 Grandpa's ranch is the (old) _____ ranch compared to all the other ranches in the area.

3.4 The narrator's legs are (ache) _____from sitting in the truck for so long.

(4)

Marks: 4

QUESTION FOUR:

What two words make up these contracted words:

4.1 We're = _____ + _____

(2)

Marks: 2

QUESTION FIVE:

Join the sentences below with the correct subordinating conjunction:

5.1 The family is going to visit grandpa. The narrator would rather stay at home.

(2)

Marks: 2

QUESTION SIX:

Punctuate the following sentences:

6.1 when will we reach Grandpa's house asks the narrator

6.2 Ouch A bee stung me

(6)

Marks: 6

QUESTION SEVEN:

Draw a circle around the correct preposition of your choice.

7.1 The rake was (against / by) the wall.

7.2 Lu waited patiently (for / from) the trip to end. **(2)**

Marks: 2

QUESTION EIGHT:

Underline the pronouns in the sentences below:

8.1 Grandpa Serge waited for his family to arrive.

8.2 Mum and Dad had packed their bags for the trip.

(2)
Marks: 2

QUESTION NINE:

Identify the figure of speech in the phrases and sentences below:

9.1 I swish my ponytail like it's a weapon. _____

9.2 The buzz noise. _____

9.3 Buzzing Bumble Bee. _____

(3)
Marks: 3

QUESTION TEN:

Identify the part of speech below:

10.1 Bees _____

10.2 The _____

10.3 Contemplating _____

10.4 Mexico _____

10.5 And _____

(5)

Marks: 5

QUESTION ELEVEN:

Unscramble the words below that have something to do with the story, *The Hour of Bees*:

11.1 airod _____

11.2 heveilc _____

10.3 emsinut _____

10.4 ckcol _____

10.5 rpetpyor _____

10.6 emli _____

10.7 care _____

10.8 hrete _____

Marks: 8

QUESTION TWELVE:

Unjumble the word tiles below to reveal the genre of the story, *The Hour of Bees*:

a	c	a	i	m	g	l

_____

a	l	r	i	m	e	s

_____

(2)

Marks: 2

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 50