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SOUTH AFRICAN HOME LANGUAGE (HL)
ENGLISH OLYMPIAD:
GRADE 8

DATE: 07 AUGUST 2024

TIME: 75 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 8 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:

Read the following passage and then answer the questions that follow:

TEXT A:

Signs of Change

Jason knelt and examined the winter grass on the baseball field. Yes, there it was, a small strand of green mixed with the yellow and brown blades. He reached out and lightly touched it. Finally, the first signs that spring had arrived. He gazed out at the field, his eyes gravitating to the spot where his team's season had ended last year. It was his spot, second base.

Jason could almost hear the slap of leather from baseballs popping into gloves as he remembered warming up with his teammates for the big playoff game. The stands behind him had been a sea of parents, teachers, and fellow students. They were there to watch the Northglenn Knights take on the West Hills Hornets. The winner would play for the city's Junior League Championship. The buzz of the crowd and the chatter of the players filled the air, putting a bounce in everyone's step. Jason felt wonderful, joking with his teammates, waving at people in the crowd. He was even bantering lightheartedly with the other team, keeping up small talk. As usual, he was generally clowning around, going through the warm-up drills at half-speed, showing off by making catches behind his back and flipping balls to his teammates.

"Knock it off, Jason," Coach Fowler warned. As usual, Jason paid little attention. He was the Knights' best player and knew Coach wouldn't put him on the bench in a playoff game. Besides, it had been that way all season. Jason didn't really do anything wrong; he just didn't try as hard as the other players. He didn't need to try because he had what the coach called "natural talent."

He was shocked when Coach Fowler announced the starting line-up and left Jason sitting on the bench. *Never fear*, he told himself, *Coach is just trying to teach me a lesson*. Jason was confident he would get into the game soon. As the game progressed, though, Jason began to worry. Maybe Coach Fowler had finally had enough.

As the Knights came to bat for the last time, Coach Fowler called Jason. "Grab a bat," he instructed. "You go in for Reuben," he added, nodding toward Jason's teammate. "He's not feeling well right now."

"Don't worry, Coach," Jason said. "I'll get a hit."

"Jason," Coach Fowler warned. "Keep your focus. The team is counting on you."

When it came to his turn to bat, Jason forgot Coach's words. He strutted up to the plate, grinned, and gave a thumbs-up sign to the cheering crowd. Despite his antics, Jason hit a ball that allowed two of his teammates to score, putting the Knights in the lead.

I don't even need to play the whole game to help us win, Jason thought as the team took the field. Three more outs and the Knights would go to the championship. The first two outs came easily. The Knights' pitcher struck out the first batter. The second batter hit a high pitch, and the catcher caught it for the second out. The third batter hit one to left field and made it to first base. Then came the play that had seared Jason's memory like a red-hot coal. He had been looking into the crowd for his friends, when . . . *Thwack*! The fourth batter connected. As Jason looked back, he saw the ball coming at him fast. "No problem," he whispered. He put out his glove, already dreaming about the championship. Then to his surprise, the ball sailed over his glove into the outfield, rolling all the way to the fence. The outfielder chased it down and threw it to the catcher, but it was too late. Both Hornet players had scored, and the Knights' season was over.

Jason had felt terrible. He knew he had not concentrated, and he had let his team down. He had promised himself that the next season would be different. Besides apologizing to his coach and teammates, he had worked hard to improve his skills. In addition to helping Coach Fowler clean and check the equipment, he had volunteered to work in the park, tending the field and cleaning and painting the bleachers. Never before had he considered all the people who worked hard and gave their time so that he and his friends could play on a first-rate field.

Jason finally began to understand what it meant to be part of a team. He helped raise money for uniforms and equipment by working at car washes and bake sales, activities he had always avoided in the past. All the while he counted the days on the calendar, staring out at the winter grass on the field.

Now, at last, a few blades were pushing their way through the hard, cold ground. Jason felt his spirits soar. He couldn't wait for the new season to begin. He was so focused on the grass that he hadn't noticed Coach Fowler walk up behind him. "Won't be long now," Coach Fowler said.

Jason looked up. "It sure was a long winter," he said, looking back at the field.

"Yes, it was," Coach Fowler said, "but I'm seeing signs of change." When Jason looked up again, though, Coach Fowler wasn't looking at the new spring grass. He was looking at Jason.

Choose the correct answer from the following questions:

1. **What does the word "bantering" mean in the second paragraph?**

   (a) chatting (b) practicing
   (c) disagreeing (d) competing

(1)

2. The author uses a third-person's limited point of view because:

(a) Jason's thoughts provide the main conflict.
(b) Jason's actions are not important to the plot.
(c) Coach's thoughts can be expressed by dialogue.
(d) Coach's actions are not important to the theme.

(1)

3. How will Jason most likely be described in the upcoming baseball season?

(a) Dedicated (b) Courageous
(c) Generous (d) Patient

(1)

4. Which excerpt from paragraph 2 contains a metaphor?

(a) Jason could almost hear the slap of leather . . .
(b) The stands behind him had been a sea of parents . . .
(c) The winner would play for the city's . . .
(d) Jason felt wonderful, joking with his teammates . . .

(1)

5. Which sentence best shows that Jason intentionally ignores Coach Fowler's warnings?

(a) As the game progressed, though, Jason began to worry.
(b) He strutted up to the plate, grinned, and gave a thumbs-up sign to the cheering crowd.
(c) As Jason looked back, he saw the ball coming at him fast.
(d) Besides apologizing to his coach and teammates, he had worked hard to improve his skills.

(1)

6. The italics in the story are primarily used to:

(a) emphasize the coach's instructions
(b) highlight unfamiliar baseball terms
(c) create the voice of the announcer
(d) identify the main character's thoughts

(1)

7. Why does Coach Fowler decide to put Jason in the game?

(a) The team has begun to lose the game.
(b) Jason has finally focused on the game.
(c) One of the players has started to feel sick.
(d) Jason has promised to stop clowning around.

(1)

8. The author includes details about baseball in paragraph 8 to:

(a) explain the game
(b) create humour
(c) develop the characters
(d) build suspense

(1)

9. Choose an antonym for "antics" from the answers below:

(a) foolishness (b) passivity
(b) pranks (d) misbehaviour

(1)

10. Find a word that demonstrates the use of onomatopoeia in the passage. **(1)**

(10)

QUESTION TWO: VERBS

Change the following sentence from the **present tense** to the **present continuous tense.**

a) I live with my Aunt. **(1)**

Change the following sentence from the **future tense** to the **future continuous tense.**

b) This time tomorrow I will have a hamburger with David. **(1)**

Change the following sentence from the **past tense** to the **past perfect tense.**

c) Jenny married Sam ten years ago. **(1)**

Change the following sentence from **ACTIVE to PASSIVE voice.**

d) Peter's dog is biting the postman. **(1)**

(4)

QUESTION THREE:

Name the kind of pronouns that are underlined in the following sentences.

a) This is the problem that I told you about.
b) The Swiss are the skiers who won most of the medals.
c) The president expressed himself with clarity.
d) What car did they use?
e) He must have stolen the sweets but we do not know whose.

(5)

QUESTION FOUR:

Each phrase below is a type of figurative language. Match the phrase to the correct type by matching the number to the letter.

1) Alliteration	A. His heart was a block of ice.
2) Simile	B. open secret
3) Metaphor	C. pink and purple popsicles
4) Onomatopoeia	D. The cup danced joyfully across the table.
5) Oxymoron	E. heavy as a rock
6) Hyperbole	F. She was humming a song.
7) Personification	G. Everyone knows that!

(7)

QUESTION FIVE:

(a) Identify the subject, object and predicate in the following sentence:

"Later the jugglers performed brilliant tricks." **(2)**

(b) What part of speech is each of the underlined words in the sentence below?

"We went to the circus yesterday." **(2)**

QUESTION SIX:

Underline the correct word from the word in brackets to complete these sentences.

1) Nathan started to lose his hair in his teens, and now he is completely (bald/bawled).
2) In my family, we prefer to eat (rye, wry) bread.
3) Tie the sticks together in a neat (bail/bale) and put them on the lorry.
4) The bridegroom was waiting patiently in the (aisle/isle) of the church.
5) Prince William is the (air/heir) to the British throne.

(5)

QUESTION SEVEN: LOGIC

A man, his wife, and their son are in a car accident. They are all rushed to the hospital and the doctor says, "I can't operate on him; he's my son."

Who is the doctor?

(1)

QUESTION EIGHT: CROSSWORD: VOCABULARY

Read the clues below and then fill in the crossword. Find the relevant word for the phrase or clause for each clue. There is a word bank below to assist you.

Across:	Down:
1. The beggar's clothes were very old and torn.	1. The taste of fried sausage.
5. He gave the girl a scolding.	2. The comparative form of the word "good"
8. The law stops you from using a cell phone while driving.	3. Name for all the signs for each month of the year
9. The stocks and shares were set to drop today.	4. Very glittery jewellery as opposed to plain jewellery
10. The company was taking advantage of a loophole.	6.The opposite of practical
11. The father took an interest in his son's progress.	7.Complete disregard for the law
12. The highest point that the sun reaches.	11.The surface of the lake was very smooth, not rough

ENGLISH OLYMPIAD:

GRADE:8 - 9

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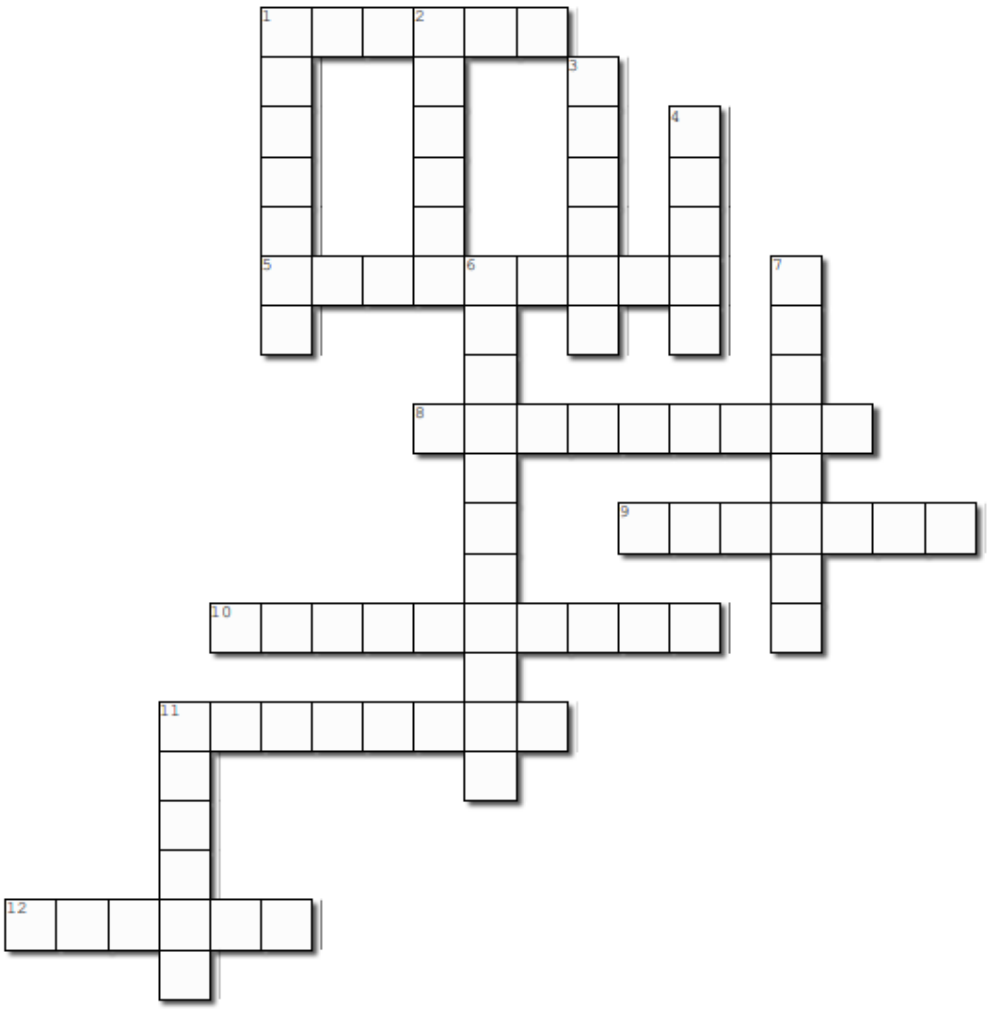
Complete the crossword puzzle below



(14)

Word Bank:

contempt	**prohibits**	**paternal**	**gaudy**
shabby	**gaily**	**zodiac**	**better**
height	**savoury**	**exploiting**	**plummet**
reprimand	**impractical**	**pooled**	**zenith**
placid	**plunder**		

Total for paper: 50