SOUTH AFRICAN INTERMEDIATE PHASE
ENGLISH OLYMPIAD (HL)
GRADE 4

DATE: 19 AUGUST 2026
TIME: 60 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 6 questions.
2. Answer on the sheets provided.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering.
4. Visit the website: www.saolympiads.co.za.

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

QUESTION ONE:

Read the text below and then answer the questions that follow:

The Sun and the Moon

A long time ago, the Sun and the Moon shared a home deep in a cave. Because they were hidden away, the only light that shone in the sky came from the twinkling stars.

After a while, the Sun and the Moon grew tired of living together in the small cave. The Sun, whose fiery personality made him *impatient* and sometimes bossy, said, "I need to live by myself in this cave. Go and find a new home for yourself."

The Moon, who was gentle and patient, said, "Where can I possibly go?"
"Just go in the sky," answered the Sun. "There is plenty of room there."

The Moon felt a bit sad and scared as she left the cave, but she bravely set out to live in the sky. Being only a thin, silver moon, she shyly hid behind some clouds. Slowly, little by little, she showed more of her face each day. Before long, her whole bright face lit the sky. Everyone began talking about how beautiful she was and how much they enjoyed her soft light.

Hearing this, the jealous Sun became very angry. Running out of the cave, the Sun jumped into the sky. When the Moon saw the Sun coming up into the blue sky, she ran away. She kept looking back at the Sun. After a while, nobody saw the Moon.

Now the Sun had the whole sky to himself. He proudly sent his bright sunlight in all directions. The Sun warmed the cold Earth and helped the green plants and beautiful flowers grow. People began to praise the Sun, and he became boastful.

But soon he became very lonely with no one to talk to. So the Sun decided to look for the Moon. The Moon felt it was safe to hide in the cave. As the Sun came near the cave, the Moon ran out. She leaped into the sky.
"Oh, Moon," shouted the Sun. "Please wait. I'm sorry."

The Moon did not trust the Sun for he had been unkind to her. When the Sun came into the sky, the Moon hid in the cave.

Even now, the Sun cannot catch up with the Moon. The Moon hides in the cave when the Sun is up in the sky. She jumps into the sky only after the Sun comes back to the cave.

1. Choose the correct answer from the options that follow:

1.1 If you wanted to know more about why the moon appears to change throughout a month, which would be the *best* question to ask?

(a) How close is the moon to the Earth?
(b) Why are parts of the moon dark at certain times?
(c) When was the first time people travelled to the moon?
(d) Why is the moon sometimes visible during the daytime?

(1)

1.2 If you wanted to understand how the Moon feels at the beginning of the story, you should think about:

(a) How it feels when someone else is boastful and bossy.
(b) Why the sun warms the Earth and helps the plants to grow.
(c) Why the shape of the moon changes each night.
(d) How it feels when someone is lonely.

(1)

1.3 According to the story, the Sun could best be compared to:

(a) A shy and young child.
(b) A proud peacock.
(c) A busy little bee.
(d) A sweet mouse.

(1)

1.4 In paragraph 2, the Sun is described as *impatient*. Which of the following is a definition for "impatient" as used in the story?

(a) Peaceful
(b) Bashful
(c) Restless
(d) Bossy

(1)

1.5 What clues help the reader to know that the Sun is NOT nice?

(a) The Sun sends his shining light in all directions.
(b) The Sun warms the cold Earth and helps plants to grow.
(c) The Sun is described as being boastful and does not consider the moon's feelings.
(d) The Sun jumps into the sky after the Moon goes into the cave.

(1)

1.6 Why did the Sun jump into the sky?

(a) He was jealous of the attention the Moon was getting.
(b) He wanted to warm the Earth and help the plants grow.
(c) He no longer felt safe hiding inside the dark cave.
(d) He was shy and wanted to hide behind the clouds.

(1)

1.7 Read the sentences from the story in the box below.

> Being only a thin, silver moon, she shyly hid behind some clouds. Slowly, little by little, she showed more of her face each day. Before long, her whole bright face lit the sky.

What do these sentences describe about the moon?

(a) The colour of the moon.
(b) The distance of the moon from the Earth.
(c) The changes of the moon over a month.
(d) The beauty of the moon.

(1)

1.8 What does this story try to explain?

(a) Why there are four different seasons of the year.
(b) Why the sun always shines brighter than the moon.
(c) Why the sun warms the Earth and helps the plants grow.
(d) Why the sun and moon are seen at different times of the day.

(1)

1.9 Name the parts of speech in the following words taken from the story.

(a) fiery (line 4)
(b) bravely (line 8)
(c) no one (line 19)
(d) to (line 26)

(4)

1.10 What figure of speech is: "the Sun jumped into the sky"?

(a) simile
(b) metaphor
(c) personification
(d) hyperbole

(1)

1.11 What is the most suitable antonym for "jealous" (line 13)?

(a) content
(b) happy
(c) proud
(d) joyful

(1)

1.12 What would you call this kind of story?

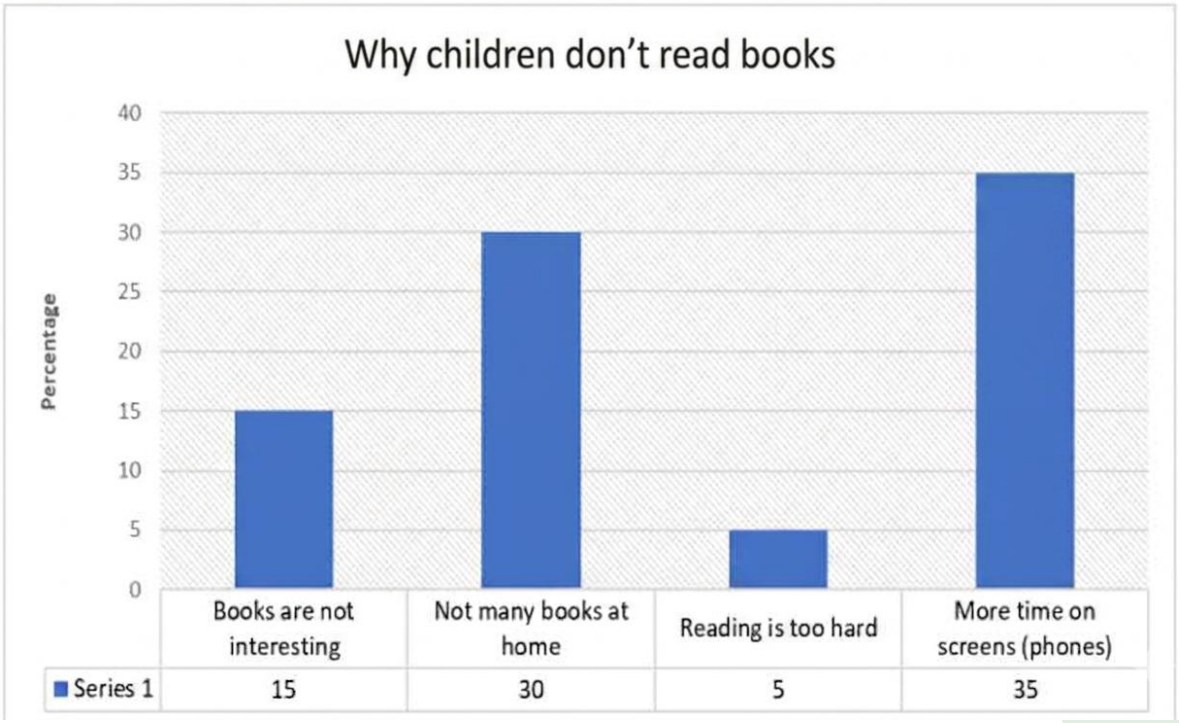
(a) A legend
(b) A myth
(c) A poem
(d) A non-fiction tale

(1)

Total: 15

QUESTION TWO: **Look at the following visual text and answer the questions that follow:**

The graph below represents the responses of 50 Grade 4 learners interviewed from Tinkies Primary School



2.1 In what grade were the learners who were being interviewed? **(1)**

2.2 What school did these learners attend? **(1)**

2.3 How many learners were interviewed? **(1)**

2.4 How many more learners spent time on their screens than reading books because they felt that books were not interesting? **(1)**

2.5 What was the biggest reason that children are not reading? **(1)**

Total: 5

QUESTION THREE:

3.1 Write down the subject and object in the following sentence:

The police found a secret room. **(2)**

3.2 Underline the adjective in the sentence below.

The room was used for illegal activities. **(1)**

3.3 Join the following two sentences using the conjunction in brackets (because).

The detective approached the witnesses. The detective was looking for help. (1)

3.4 Choose the correct word in brackets.

The building (was/were) abandoned. **(1)**

Total: 5

QUESTION FOUR:

4.1 Rewrite the sentence below using the correct punctuation.

did vuyo buy eggs milk and bread from the shop **(2)**

4.2 Rewrite the following sentence in the Simple Past Tense.

Mrs. Rametse bakes a cake. **(1)**

4.3 Rewrite the following sentence in the Future Tense.

Vuyo waited for Maya. **(1)**

4.4 Write the plural form of the underlined word in the sentence below.

I found a leaf in the garden. **(1)**

Total: 5

QUESTION FIVE: Parts of speech

5.1 Read the sentence below and identify the parts of speech that are underlined.

The suit protected Holly from the worst of the elements, but she could still feel the chill sinking into her bones.

(a) Holly
(b) the
(c) elements
(d) but
(e) she
(f) still
(g) bones
(h) sinking
(i) into
(j) her

(10)

Total: 10

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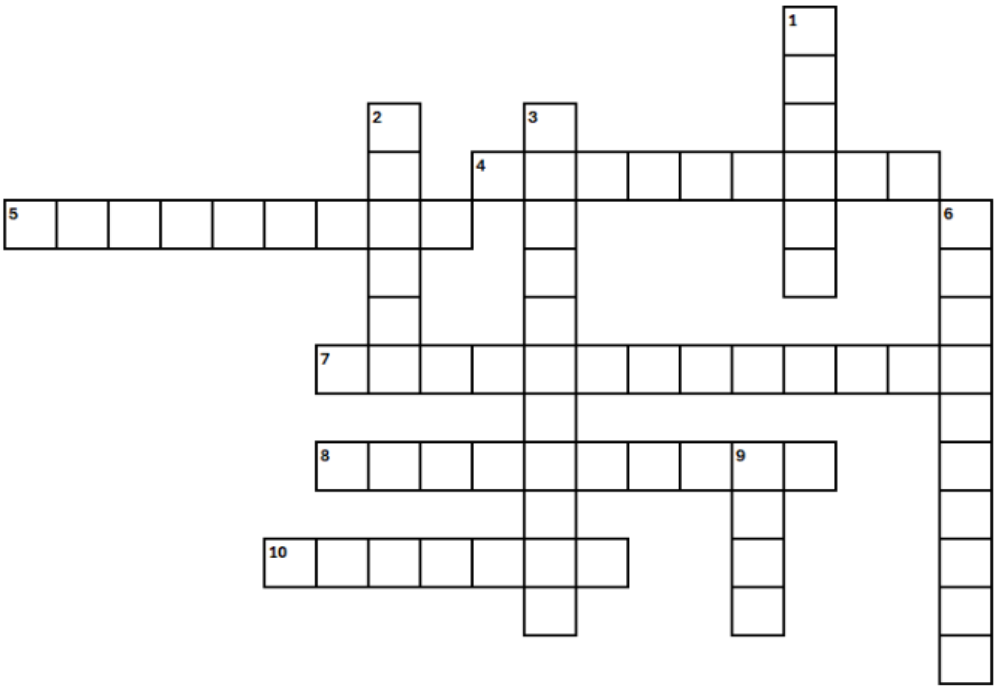
QUESTION SIX: **Crossword: Parts of speech**



CLUES:

Across:	Down:
4. This is what we call everything in a sentence that comes after the subject.	1. This group of words does not have a verb in it.
5. This word describes a noun.	2. This tells you more about the verb.
7. This type of noun names an idea, feeling or concept. It is two words long with a block left in between the two words.	3. A name of a specific person, place or thing. It is two words long with a block left in between the two words.
8. "To jump" is an example of an _____.	6. This kind of verb has an object to receive that action.
10. This is used in place of a noun to avoid repetition.	9. This is a doing word.

(10)

Total: 10

Total for paper: 50