SOUTHERN AFRICAN ENGLISH OLYMPIADS

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SOUTH AFRICAN HIGH SCHOOLS
ENGLISH OLYMPIAD HOME LANGUAGE (HL)
GRADE 9

DATE: 06 AUGUST 2026
TIME: 75 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 7 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 following text and then answer the questions that follow.

Environmental Awareness

In recent years, the issue of climate change has become increasingly prominent across the globe. Scientists around the world have warned that human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, are leading to significant changes in weather patterns. The consequences of these changes can be seen through various phenomena such as more intense storms, rising sea levels, prolonged droughts, and shifting ecosystems. For instance, areas that once enjoyed a stable climate are now experiencing extremes, leading to agricultural challenges and threats to food security.

Governments worldwide are beginning to recognize the urgency of the situation and have started to take action by setting ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Countries are investing in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, which offer promising solutions to decrease reliance on fossil fuels. Transitioning to these sustainable practices not only helps the environment but also creates new jobs in emerging energy sectors.

Community efforts play a critical role in restoring the environment. Initiatives such as tree planting, local clean-up events, and recycling programs engage citizens in meaningful ways that foster a sense of ownership over their surroundings. These grassroots movements can galvanize large segments of the population, leading to collective action that amplifies the impact on climate recovery.

However, individual actions are equally vital. Simple steps, such as reducing waste by opting for reusable products, conserving water by fixing leaks or using efficient fixtures, and utilizing public transportation or carpooling, can cumulatively lead to significant environmental benefits. By making small lifestyle changes, individuals can reduce their carbon footprints and contribute to a healthier planet.

Education on sustainable practices is essential to foster a sense of responsibility among younger generations. Schools and communities can empower students by teaching them about environmental issues, hands-on approaches to conservation, and the importance of biodiversity. Integrating these topics into the curriculum ensures that the next generation is well-equipped to tackle the challenges of climate change and advocate for solutions.

As climate change continues to impact our planet, threatening ecosystems and human health, it is crucial that everyone plays a part in protecting our environment. Together, through local initiatives and personal responsibility, we can work towards a sustainable future for ourselves and generations to come.

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

1.1 What human activities are mentioned as core contributors to climate change?

(a) Gardening and farming
(b) Burning fossil fuels and deforestation
(c) Recycling and waste management
(d) Fishing and hunting **(1)**

1.2 According to the passage, what has been a noticeable change due to climate change?

(a) Decrease in temperature
(b) Increased snowfalls
(c) More intense storms
(d) More plant growth **(1)**

1.3 What are some solutions mentioned in the passage to combat climate change?

(a) Increased fossil fuel burning
(b) Renewable energy sources
(c) Building more roads
(d) Ignoring the problem **(1)**

1.4 Why are community efforts important according to the passage?

(a) They are costly and time-consuming.
(b) They restore the environment.
(c) They create more waste.
(d) They provide entertainment. **(1)**

1.5 What role do individual actions play in environmental preservation?

(a) They are insignificant.
(b) They help in rebuffing government policies.
(c) They greatly contribute to environmental protection.
(d) They only benefit the government. **(1)**

1.6 What is essential for fostering a sense of responsibility among young generations?

(a) Education on sustainable practices.
(b) Ignorance of climate issues.
(c) Avoidance of practical solutions.
(d) Criticism of environmental organizations. **(1)**

1.7 What is the main idea of the passage?

(a) Climate change is a myth.
(b) Climate change is caused solely by natural processes.
(c) Everyone has a role to play in combating climate change.
(d) Environmental issues only concern specific countries. **(1)**

1.8 Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a solution to climate change in the passage?

(a) Solar power
(b) Wind power
(c) Increased plastic production
(d) Tree planting **(1)**

1.9 What outcome of climate change is specifically linked to rising sea levels?

(a) Creation of new habitats
(b) Increased biodiversity
(c) Flooding of coastal areas
(d) Decrease in global temperatures **(1)**

1.10 The tone of the passage can best be described as:

(a) Pessimistic
(b) Informative and encouraging
(c) Indifferent
(d) Critical (1)

1.11 Give a synonym from the passage for the word, “changing”. (1)

1.12 Give an antonym of your own choosing for the word “shifting” as it has been used in paragraph 1. (1)

Total: 12

QUESTION TWO: VISUAL LITERACY

Analyse the text below and answer the questions set:

2.1 What is the purpose of the advertisement?

(a) It informs people that miracles do happen.
(b) It persuades people about the health benefits of the shoes.
(c) It attracts people with the special money-back guarantee.
(d) It asks people to wear the shoes for sixty days.

(1)

2.2 Who is the target market for this advertisement?

(a) Individuals who are awaiting miracles.
(b) People who can participate in research studies.
(c) Individuals who are very fashion conscious.
(d) People who require pain-relieving shoes.

(1)

2.3 How does the picture of the shoe NOT contribute to the effectiveness of the advertisement?

(a) It shows the shock absorption feature of the shoes.
(b) It has the brand name printed on the front of the shoe.
(c) It includes the logo of the advertisement.
(d) It demonstrates the ugliness of the shoe.

(1)

2.4 What is the slogan of the advertisement?

(a) A 60 day “try defy” money-back guarantee!
(b) Experience the miracle.
(c) They are truly miracle shoes!
(d) Patented Versoshock.

(1)

2.5 Why is the word “miracle” written in larger, curly font? The advertiser wants to…

(a) convince the buyer that the brand eliminates pain.
(b) emphasise the importance of buying the brand.
(c) indicate the name of the brand advertised.
(d) explain the affordability of branded shoes.

(1)

Total: 5

QUESTION THREE:

3.1 In the following sentence, what type of noun is the underlined word?

"<u>Bonchika</u> was born on the farm long ago."

(a) Common noun
(b) Abstract noun
(c) Proper Noun
(d) Concrete Noun

(1)

3.2 What kind of sentence is the following:

"The doctor nursed him back to health and they developed an amazing relationship."

(a) Simple sentence
(b) Complex sentence
(c) Compound sentence
(d) Interrogative sentence

(1)

3.3 Which of the following is a phrase?

(a) He never showed up
(b) when he returned from work
(c) his tail wagged excitedly
(d) in front of the station

(1)

3.4 What is the function of the word "bad" in the following sentence?

"The puppy was in such bad shape that Jim thought he was dead."

(a) To modify the verb
(b) To modify the adjective
(c) To describe the adverb
(d) To describe the noun

(1)

3.5 What kind of adverb is in each of the sentences below?

(a) We will go to town and buy a dress tomorrow.
(b) He always manages to get the answer correct.
(c) John nearly reached the top of Table Mountain.
(d) The homeless man had nowhere to go.

(4)

3.6 Identify the sentence that contains redundancy.

(a) One day a newspaper reporter noticed him there and wrote about him.
(b) The Doctor had long wanted a purebred Japanese Akita dog.
(c) The Doctor had died suddenly and unexpectedly while at work.
(d) The puppy was in such bad shape that the Doctor thought he was dead.

(1)

Total: 9

QUESTION FOUR: IMAGERY

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

Tiger Tiger Revisited

Gorden J.L. Ramel

Tiger tiger fading fast
in the shadow we have cast,
what brave law or business deal
can thy future's safety seal.

What the future, what the hope
that humankind may learn to cope
with life and maintenance of breath
without this need of needless death.

In what sulphurous cauldron groans
the mind that lives to sell your bones;
and what the moral poverty
of those take thy life from thee?

What the learning, what the thought
that values lives like yours at naught?
What the science or machine
where beauty such as yours is seen?

Who did he hate who sowed the seed
of human ignorance and greed;
and can he smile our work to see
as we who killed the lamb kill thee.

Tiger tiger fading fast
from the present to the past,
how can mere humanity
so quickly still thy majesty?

This work is a serious parody of an earlier poem, "The Tyger", written by William Blake (1757–1827).

Glossary: Cauldron: Three-legged cooking pot. Parody: To copy someone or something in an amusing way.

4.1 What is the tone of the poem?

(a) Sadness
(b) Happiness
(c) Optimism
(d) Jealousy

(1)

4.2 Identify the figure of speech used below:

"sulphurous cauldron groans the mind"

(1)

4.3 Explain the literal and figurative meaning of the word "fading" in the phrase "Tiger, tiger fading fast".

Literal: _____

Figurative: _____

(2)

4.4 What figure of speech is used in the first line? (1)

4.5 Provide an antonym for the word "poverty". (1)

Total: 6

QUESTION FIVE:

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets.

(a) My sister thinks she's _____ (intelligent) than me, but I don't agree!
(b) Avatar is probably _____ (bad) film I've seen.
(c) What is the _____ (wet) month of the year in England?
(d) Do you think the Harry Potter films are _____ good than the books?
(e) Who is the _____ (powerful) person in your country?

Total: 5

QUESTION SIX: LOGIC

(a) If there are three apples and you take away two, how many apples do you have?

(1)

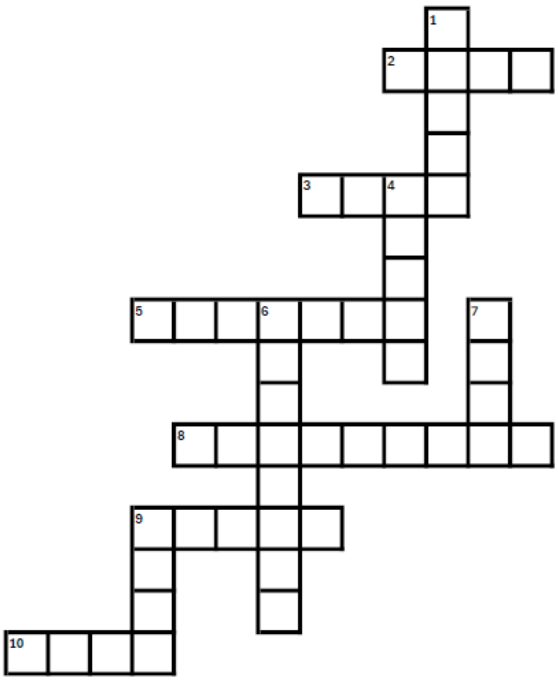
(b) If you had only one match and entered a dark room containing an oil lamp, some kindling wood, and a newspaper, which would you light first?

(1)

Total: 2

QUESTION SEVEN: CROSSWORD – I D I O M S

Read the clues below and fill in the crossword grid.



Across:	**Down:**
2 Between a …… and a hard place	1 Actions speak louder than ……
3 What should you not put into one basket?	4 This is meaningless – it is all …… to me.
5 This paints a thousand words!	6 How many in a baker's dozen?
8 What killed the cat?	7 We are all in the same ……
9 During Covid, people were dropping like ……	9 A …… and his money are soon parted.
10 If you get something correct, you hit the …… on the head.	

Total: 11

Total for paper: 50