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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 1 – CONTINUOUS WRITING 1310/1

Friday **16 MAY 2025** 9:00 A.M.–10:10 A.M.
(1 hour plus 10 minutes
reading and planning time)

Additional materials:
Answer booklet

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

BAHAMAS GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Write your school number, candidate number, surname and initials in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.

Write a composition based on **ONE** of the topics overleaf.

You should write between **350** and **500** words.

You should pay attention to punctuation, spelling and handwriting.

You will have **10** minutes to read and plan your topic. You should **NOT** begin to write your composition during this time. However, you should write your plan.

At the beginning of your composition write the number of the topic you have chosen.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Dictionaries are **NOT** permitted.

This paper accounts for 40% of the total marks available for the examination in this subject.



This question paper consists of 4 printed pages.

Choose **ONE** of the following topics. Your writing should be planned on your answer paper.

1. *"Every time I see the two of them, it makes me think that I too can succeed!"*
Write a story that is based on this sentence.
2. Regular exercise is essential. Discuss.
3. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of being popular.
4. Write a story that includes the following sentence: *He looked back and hesitated, but only for a moment.*
5. Describe an outdoor event that was interrupted by a change in weather. Include as many sensory details as possible.
6. Write a composition based on the following lines of poetry. You may write about any ideas that the poem suggests to you, or you may write a story or a description based on the subject of the poem. You should **NOT** write a poem.

*"So, I set my heart out on a paper boat
hoping it would brave all the storms
and drift off to a place
where flowers grow."*

"Paper Boat"—Nadha Ibrahim Zuhair

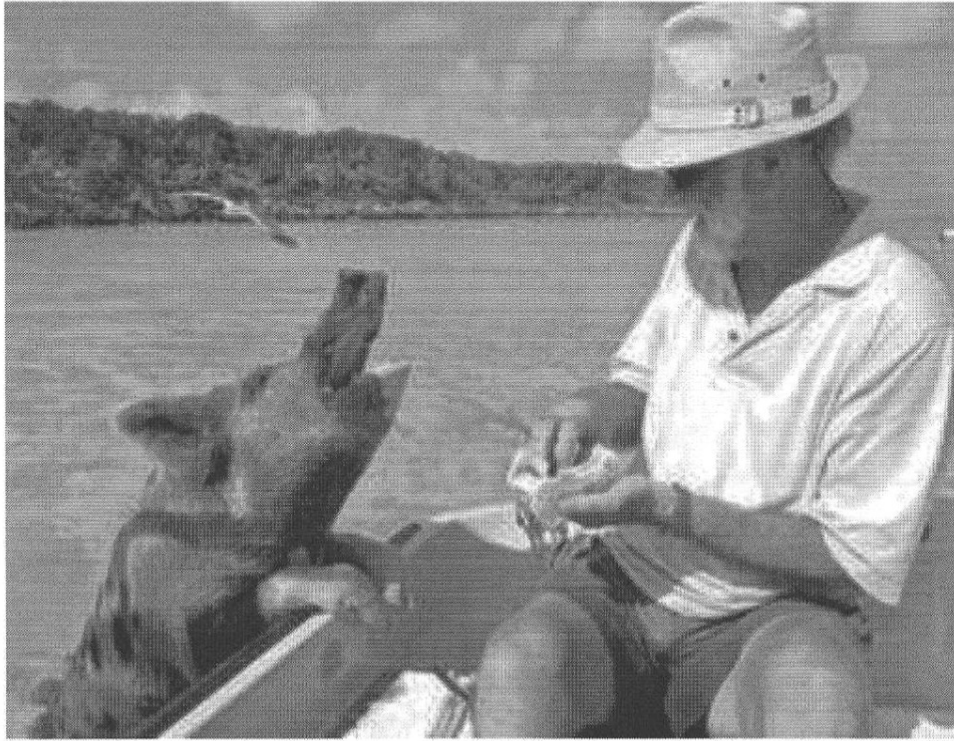
7. Many countries are considering changing the legal driving age to 18. Do you agree or disagree with this? Give **THREE** reasons for your opinion.



8. Write a story, description, or any form of composition suggested by **ONE** of the photographs.

Your composition may be directly about the subject of the photograph or take some suggestions from it. There must be some clear connection between the photograph and your composition.

(a)



travel.spotcoolstuff.com



(b)



www.eacprime.com



End]

School Number	Candidate Number
Surname and Initials	

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 2 – AURAL COMPREHENSION CANDIDATE'S COPY 1310/2b

Thursday **10 APRIL 2025** 9:00 A.M.–10:15 A.M.

Additional materials:
Compact disc recording
Compact disc player

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

BAHAMAS GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

DO NOT open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Write your school number, candidate number, surname and initials in the spaces provided on the booklet.

The recording will be played **TWICE**.

FIRST PLAYING

Listen carefully to the **FIRST PLAYING** to gain a general impression of what is being said. **DO NOT** look at the **NOTES SECTION** or the **QUESTIONS** during the first playing.

AFTER THE FIRST PLAYING, turn to the **NOTES SECTION** of the paper. Read through the suggested points. Make any notes you wish on the points listed. Your notes will not be marked. **You will have 3 minutes.**

SECOND PLAYING

Listen again to the recording. You may make additional notes as you listen.

AFTER THE SECOND PLAYING, complete your note making. You will have 3 minutes. **You will be allowed a total of 45 minutes to complete your answers to PART TWO** of the test. Answer **ALL** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks available for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

Dictionaries are **NOT** permitted.

This question paper consists of 9 printed pages and 3 blank pages.

PART ONE

You have just heard a recording in which Ms. Rolle and her Science class discuss *'The sun – its benefits and side effects'*.

Make some detailed notes on the **EIGHT** points below. **REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL NEED THESE NOTES IN THE SECOND PART OF THE TEST**; therefore, make them as full and as accurate as you can.

LISTEN CAREFULLY

YOUR NOTES ON THE RECORDING

1. Details given about the skin at the beginning of the lesson

2. Functions of the skin



3. (a) How a heat or sunstroke occurs

- (b) Symptoms of a heat or sunstroke

4. (a) Definition of epidermis

- (b) Definition of cataracts



5. Ways to protect the body from harmful sun rays

6. Ways that sun rays harm the body

7. Benefits of the sun

(a) to tourism and farming

(b) to the body



8. Methods used in the recording, to capture and hold the listeners' attention

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There is no handwriting or printed text on the page.

DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO



PART TWO

Write your answers to the following questions. Base your answers on the notes you took when you listened to the recording in **PART ONE**.

1. What is the skin?

 [1]

2. From the information introduced at the beginning of the lesson, what are **THREE** (3) important functions of the skin?

 [3]

3. (a) What is a heat or sunstroke?

 [1]

- (b) Identify **TWO** (2) symptoms of a person experiencing a heat or sunstroke.

 [2]

4. Give a definition for:

(a) Epidermis

[2]

(b) Cataracts

[2]

5. How can the skin be protected from ultraviolet sun rays?

[3]



6. How are sun rays harmful to the body?

[5]

7. How are sun rays beneficial?

[5]



8. Identify **THREE** methods used to capture and hold the listeners' attention. Place your ideas in the chart that follows, supporting each one with details from the recording.

METHODS USED	SUPPORTING DETAILS

[6]



[End

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 3 – WRITTEN COMPREHENSION & DIRECTED WRITING

Tuesday **20 MAY 2025** 9:00 A.M.–11:10 A.M.
(including 10 minutes
reading time)

Additional materials:
Answer booklet

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

BAHAMAS GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Write your school number, candidate number, surname and initials in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.

Answer **ALL** the questions in the answer booklet provided.

Number your answers clearly.

Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

Work should be neat and well-organised.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks available for each question or part question is shown in brackets.

Dictionaries are **NOT** permitted.



This question paper consists of 6 printed pages and 2 blank pages.

Read the following passage carefully before you attempt any questions.

Artificial Intelligence

When you hear the words “artificial intelligence” or “AI”, you may assume that they have nothing to do with you. You might even believe that AI only concerns those who work in big technology companies like Google, Apple, or Microsoft. However, if you are a young adult living in The Bahamas, you use artificial intelligence every day. “How?”, you may ask.

5 Well, take this quick test. Have you ever used face ID or your fingerprint to unlock your smartphone? That’s artificial intelligence. Have you ever used apps like Netflix, YouTube, or Tik Tok? If so, you’ve probably been recommended videos, shows, and movies that suit your interests. Weird? Not at all. That’s artificial intelligence. What would you do if you were invited to a party, but you had no idea how to get to the address? Would you miss the party altogether? Absolutely not! More than
10 likely, you would WhatsApp a friend and ask for the location. Then – like a fairy godmother – Google Maps would give you step-by-step directions to your destination. This isn’t magic, though. These are just a few examples of how AI has become a natural part of our everyday lives.

 Artificial intelligence is the use of a computer or machine to do things that would normally require the intelligence of a human’s brain, like solving puzzles or driving a car. Since the 1970s, data
15 scientists and machine-learning specialists have been developing artificial intelligences to perform tasks that humans either don’t do, don’t want to do, or cannot do efficiently. When these specialists train the computer correctly, artificial intelligence can carry out many jobs with human-like precision. It’s no wonder that the world is both excited and terrified about what else AI can do.

 So, what can artificial intelligence do? Programs like ChatGPT, an AI, can write stories
20 and create art. VoxBox imitates the voices of dead musicians like Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac to perform new songs, but this is **miniscule** when compared to the bigger, more important tasks that AI may one day be able to perform.

 Take, for instance, education. Artificial intelligence presents a huge advantage for humans in teaching and learning. Teachers can use AI to design lesson plans for each of their students to
25 fit individual needs. AI can also gather information on how well students are learning by tracking their progress. Teachers can use this information to change their teaching techniques based on which methods the artificial intelligence says are working and which aren’t. Already, schools are investing in AI programs that customize learning activities and content for students in real time. This gives students the ability to skip ahead of lessons when they excel at a skill, or receive extra support in skills
30 that they struggle with. Teachers are also grateful for the extra help with marking and grading, as AI can automate that process.

 In addition to improving education, artificial intelligence has the potential to **revolutionize** the medical field. Because AI can think faster than humans, it could be used to detect and diagnose illness much earlier than doctors could on their own. AI could also develop new cures for diseases like
35 cancer. AI robots might soon be able to perform difficult surgeries on sensitive organs and tissues that surgeons have trouble with. This will help reduce blood loss, infection, and pain after surgery. Some researchers say that artificial intelligence could even predict a patient’s future medical problems. With



the help of AI, doctors can test if someone is at risk of developing a disease years before they start feeling sick and use that information to prevent patients from developing those illnesses. This is why
40 medical professionals are so excited about incorporating more AI technology into their practices.

Another way artificial intelligence can help in science is by fighting climate change and global warming. Climate scientists are hopeful about the thinking power of AI, which they believe will develop clean energy alternatives so that the world can let go of its dependence on fossil fuels. It could also create ways to produce more energy efficient airplanes, cars, and trains. AI could even help
45 scientists come up with ways of removing carbon dioxide from the air. This technology is still just a possibility, but already AI has improved climate monitoring. AI is much more accurate in predicting the weather, so meteorologists use it to track changes in the atmosphere. This helps scientists spot storms faster, which means people can be warned earlier so that they can prepare.

Lastly, artificial intelligence can potentially change the world by fully automating everyday
50 tasks. With the right programming and training, AI can drive cars and airplanes, making travel a breeze. AI could also boost the manufacturing industry, coming up with designs for new products. AI robots could make the products and even stock the shelves of department stores. In agriculture, AI can reduce the amount of work done by humans and the time taken to do the work. Farmers can use driverless tractors to plow fields and plant seeds. Smart irrigation systems can monitor crops and
55 determine exactly how much water the plants need and when they should be watered. AI robots can even do the harvesting. Compared with farm workers, artificial intelligence is far more efficient.

But herein lies the fear that many people have. If artificial intelligence can do what humans can, what happens to us?

Many people fear that artificial intelligence will force humans out of work. In fact, experts
60 say that only thirty jobs are safe from AI. These ‘safe’ jobs include those in construction and mechanics. Surprisingly, the jobs being threatened the most by AI are ‘desk jobs’ like accounting, journalism, and mathematics. The deep-thinking power of AI can outperform humans, and its calculations are much more accurate. Researchers predict that AI could replace lawyers, architects, and teachers. Already, bank tellers and cashiers in grocery stores are being replaced by artificial intelligence. Of course,
65 when one door closes, another one opens. Experts believe that AI will open new careers for people, careers in technology and computer science. AI will require engineers, computer programmers, and trainers – jobs that only humans can perform.

However, not everyone is going to want to work in these industries. What about people who love to draw and paint? What about people who love to dream of fantastic worlds and write
70 books? Unfortunately, another disadvantage of artificial intelligence is that fun, creative jobs are becoming obsolete. Instead of paying talented people to create new and interesting literature or art, customers are using AI programs to do the work themselves – no matter how poorly. AI art generators like Imagine and writing programs like ChatGPT make cheap, often free, art; and while an artist or writer may take months to create a piece, artificial intelligence can create images and text in seconds.
75 Customers do not seem to care about the quality of the art they are buying, at least not right now. They care about price and how quickly they can get new products. Artificial intelligence is crushing art and literature. This is even more frustrating when you consider the unethical ways AI is trained.

Artificial intelligence requires training, and most of that training happens online. AI programmers have been accused of taking art from websites like Pinterest, DeviantArt, and Tumblr to program their artificial intelligence. That means that the art that AI generates is based on real art by real people. The same goes for writing. Artists and writers are angry that their work is being stolen and used to train the very technology that will take their jobs. In fact, successful writers like Stephen King and Jodi Picoult have had their books used to train AI without their permission. Lines from their novels have popped up in AI-generated short stories and books, which means that AI is plagiarising. Some science-fiction magazines have had to stop accepting stories submitted by writers because so many used AI that copied the works of famous books. Lawmakers are now saying that taking the work of humans to train AI is stealing. But stealing is only a part of the problem. Imagine if ten people asked an AI to write a fantasy story like Harry Potter. How different will those stories be if they are all generated by artificial intelligence? More than likely, they will all have similar plots and similar characters, all copies of Harry Potter that lack originality and creativity.

Researchers agree that the biggest disadvantage of artificial intelligence is lack of creativity and critical thinking. Artificial intelligence is a technology that is completely based on data that programmers load into the computer. While AI can think for itself, it cannot create like humans can. Sadly, many people would prefer to take the easy road and use AI to think for them. Consider this: would you rather cook a meal or buy fast food from a restaurant? While the home-cooked meal would be better for you and taste more delicious, the fast food is so much easier. AI is like fast food – it provides people with fast results. However, like fast food has few benefits for the body, AI doesn't benefit critical thinking or creativity. Frustrated teachers say that artificial intelligence has become a huge problem in schools because of how easy it is to use AI to write essays and solve problems. Rather than studying, more and more students are using AI to complete their assignments. In the past, it was easy for teachers to identify essays written by AI. The sentences were simple and clunky, the vocabulary was repetitive, and evidence like dates and names would be fake. However, as AI advances, teachers are finding it difficult to figure out if an essay was written by a student or a computer. This overreliance on artificial intelligence has hindered developing minds from thinking for themselves, which could be devastating in the long run.

There are many advantages and disadvantages of artificial intelligence, but no matter how we feel about AI, it is here to stay. Some people see it as a tool for progress. Some believe that, like the Terminator or the Matrix, AI will conquer the world. However, lawmakers suggest that the best way to handle artificial intelligence is by setting rules and creating regulations that will decide how it should be used. Another way to handle artificial intelligence is by understanding how it can assist rather than replace humans in developing the world, combining the thinking power of artificial intelligence with the heart of a human being.

Information in this passage was gathered from the following articles:

[Artificial intelligence \(AI\) | Definition, Examples, Types, Applications, Companies, & Facts | Britannica](#)

[What is Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) ? \(ibm.com\)](#)



Unless otherwise indicated, **ALL** answers must be based on the information presented in the passage.

In answering questions 1 – 4, write down the letter A, B, C or D in the answer booklet provided to indicate the most appropriate answer.

1. “...*like a fairy godmother*...” (line 10) What figure of speech is being used in this phrase? [1]
 - A. hyperbole
 - B. personification
 - C. simile
 - D. understatement
2. Based on information given between lines 57 to 67, which **ONE** of the following statements is correct? [1]
 - A. All ‘desk jobs’ are considered safe from the impact of AI.
 - B. Computer engineers, trainers and programmers are all safe jobs.
 - C. Researchers predict that jobs in the legal profession will be safe.
 - D. The deep-thinking power of AI is no match for cashiers and tellers.
3. What does the word **miniscule** mean in paragraph 4 ? [1]
 - A. creative
 - B. small
 - C. strange
 - D. unimportant
4. Which **ONE** of the following phrases in paragraph 8 tells us that artificial intelligence can replace many of the jobs that humans do? [1]
 - A. “can drive cars and airplanes”
 - B. “can reduce the amount of work done by humans”
 - C. “fully automating everyday tasks”
 - D. “potentially change the world”
5. According to paragraph 6, “AI has the potential to *revolutionize* the medical field.”
 - (a) What does the word **revolutionize** mean? [1]
 - (b) Explain **TWO** ways in which AI can make this possible in the medical field. [2]
6. How were teachers able to tell the difference between essays written by students and those written with the assistance of artificial intelligence? [2]
7. Give **TWO** reasons why writers have not sold as many books since programs like ChatGPT became available to the public. [2]
8. The discussion surrounding AI in this passage has evoked a range of emotions in individuals. Write a paragraph in which you identify **FOUR** of these emotions and briefly describe the Situation that causes each emotion. [8]

[Turn over

9. Using information from the passage, summarize the numerous tasks that artificial intelligence can perform to help make life easier for humans. Write one or two paragraphs, using **no more than 180 words**. [10]
10. Your senior high school is celebrating Technology Week and is hosting a debate on the topic “*Be It Resolved that Artificial Intelligence Is a Danger to Mankind.*” Your team has been invited to participate. Prepare a speech discussing at least five **disadvantages** and the **negative** impact of AI on our society.

In the SPEECH, you should **BE SURE TO**:

- demonstrate a sense of audience and use an appropriate tone – persuasive and informative;
- clearly convey the purpose of the speech – to discuss the **disadvantages** and the **negative** impact of AI on our society;
- provide support for each content point – move beyond merely listing points by identifying and **explaining the disadvantages** and the **negative impact** of AI on our society.

Your **speech** should be **no more than 400 words** and should be based on ideas from the passage. [16]

PAPER TOTAL MARKS [45]



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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 4 – EXTENDED COMPREHENSION & DIRECTED WRITING 1310/4

Friday **23 MAY 2025** 9:00 A.M.–11:30 A.M.

Additional materials:
Answer booklet

(including 10 minutes
reading time)

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

BAHAMAS GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until you are told to do so.

Write your school number, candidate number, surname and initials in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.

Answer **ALL** the questions.

Number your answers clearly.

Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

Work should be neat and well-organised.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks available for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

Dictionaries are **NOT** permitted.



This question paper consists of 7 printed pages and 1 blank page.

SECTION A

Read the following short story, and then answer the questions that follow. In this fictional tale, a father goes to unimaginable lengths to protect his daughter from slavery.

Tribal Scars

"She's a fine piece and worth several iron bars," said one of the men, congratulating himself.

"I know, I examined her," replied the lieutenant. "She can't be more than 12, but buyers will pay to get their hands on a beautiful, unblemished jewel like that."

"Have you seen her father? I captured him," boasted another. "He is a strong, vigorous man with rippling muscles, fit for any manual work. He'll fetch several iron bars and... at least four kegs of whiskey."

The men laughed hilariously and resumed boasting of their conquests and drinking bouts. Meanwhile, the lieutenant continued down the line with his inspections.

Kofie listened intently to this banter, his muscles taut. The rage in his heart seethed through his pores with every drop of sweat.

Finally, the lieutenant interrupted, "Release these two!"

Kofie's heart fluttered expectantly, but his hopes soon vanished when he saw two young women being put aside. There was no mistaking which tribes they were from. One was a Mursi girl who had started the process of stretching her bottom lip with a circular plate, an act seen as proof of perseverance and bravery. In Mursi culture, female lip stretching is non-negotiable, as a woman who does not wear a lip plate is considered lazy and will not fetch a high bride price. The other fortunate soul was a Fulani woman whose traditional face tattoos were thought to provide protection from evil spirits. Kofie looked on silently and nodded slowly with understanding. His tribe did not have any of these practices.

"Don't waste your time capturing any like these," the lieutenant muttered in disappointment. "We need strong beasts who can work, but they must have no visible defects. These are bound to be rejected. As for the rest, take them aboard and place them in the hold." Rifles were drawn and everyone was ordered to march toward the ship. Kofie shuffled along slowly, Abena in front.

Suddenly, a burst of firing from up in the trees echoed long and far. This was followed by screams and confused fighting. Kofie, taking his daughter by the hand, slipped away into the forest.

They travelled chiefly at night, never in broad daylight, avoiding all human contact. Three days later they arrived at the village—about thirty huts huddled together and hidden behind the bush. When Kofie and Abena reached the threshold of his mother-in-law's hut, the old woman limped out and her cries drew other people, many of them feeble. Tears and questions mingled as they crowded round. Abena's grandmother gathered her up and took her into the hut like a most precious possession, and the girl replied to her questions between floods of tears.



Soon, the elders sent for Kofie to tell them of his adventures.

“Will it ever end?” queried one of the men. “All my life, and since before my father’s life, the whole country has lived in fear of being captured and sold. Some of our men have joined forces with the slave catchers. I can’t say that I blame anyone who chooses to be the hunter, rather than the hunted, but as for me, I’d rather face wild beasts than become a slave hunter. Yes, I would much rather die!”

“Five or six rains ago, we felt safe here,” another lamented. “If we go any farther into the forest, there are the wild beasts and diseases, ... but we must move the village. These are desperate times!”

They fell silent; their wrinkled, worn and worried faces bore the mark of their epoch. Some were in favour, others pointed out the danger of living in the heart of the forest without water, the lack of strong men, and the family graves that would have to be abandoned. Thus, the chief proposed that they should spend the winter where they were but send a group to seek another suitable site. It would be sheer madness to leave without having first discovered and prepared a place to go to. There were also the customary sacrifices to be made. Finally, all the men agreed on this course of action.

The return of Kofie and Abena had put new life into the villagers, and everyone was determined to keep the village safe from those procuring slaves. The men set off for work together and returned together. The women busied themselves too; some did the cooking while others kept a look-out for any surprise visit by slave hunters. Although the villagers went about their work with no visible sign of worry or fear, they were always on the alert for an attack, knowing it was bound to come sooner or later. Kofie now shared his hut with Abena and always slept with a weapon close at hand.

Days and weeks slipped by peacefully, as each one attended to household gods and pleaded for favour and protection from capture. The people were beginning to get in stocks of palm-oil, butter, beans and honey, in fact, everything they would need in the new village. Those sent to search for a new home returned, having discovered an excellent site at the foot of the mountains, and not far from a running stream. The soil was good, there was plenty of pasture, and the children would be safe from the slave catchers.

The patriarch named the day for departure, and everyone was very pleased with the prospect. So pleased were they that the anticipation of safety in the near future led to a subconscious relaxation of precautions. Fires, previously forbidden during the hours of darkness for fear of betraying the village, now glowed at night; laughter rang out, and children dared to wander out of sight of their parents, for the adults were thinking only of the departure. They could count the days now.

Then, on the day of the move, a most glorious day when the tender green leaves of the trees were rustling in the wind, the hummingbirds were gaily seeking food, and the monkeys especially were frolicking in the trees, it happened. On that day, the slave hunters suddenly appeared. Men, women and children gave terrified screams on hearing the firing and scattered in panic, having but one thought, to flee to the only retreat available to them—the forest.

Grasping his axe, Kofie pushed Abena and her grandmother in front of him. But the old woman was practically handicapped and could only make slow progress. At the edge of the village, Kofie came face to face with a lieutenant, but Kofie was the quicker, and struck him down. Now, however, a whole pack was in pursuit.

Kofie went deeper into the forest, where the thick undergrowth and overhanging branches made progress even slower. Still, if he had been alone, he could have escaped. But he could not abandon his child. He thought of his wife. She had been taken a few moons after she gave birth to Abena. His mother-in-law reminded him of her. Time and again, the old woman stopped to get her breath; her thick leg was becoming ever weightier to drag along.

Just then, a lightning bolt flashed in Kofie's mind. He stopped, took Abena gently by the chin and gazed at her for what seemed an eternity. His eyes filled with tears.

"Mother," he said hurriedly, "we can't go any farther. Ahead, there's death for all three of us. Behind, there's slavery for Abena and me. Mother, Abena can escape them, and you are old now, you both can. I know what to do so that Abena stays free. What happens to me is my affair. I must do it quickly. They're getting near; I can hear their voices. You mustn't be afraid, Abena."

The old woman nodded in agreement. The child's only answer was to stare at the blade of the knife. She remembered the slave-ship and her father's bloodstained axe.

Swiftly, Kofie gripped the girl between his strong legs and with his knife, began creating an intricate pattern all over her face. Abena was Kofie's only child and though her screams rang through the forest, his only thought was to protect her from slavery. Kofie just had time to finish before the slave hunters seized him.

Abena returned to the village with her grandmother, and thanks to the old woman's knowledge of herbs her face soon healed, but she still bore the scars.

Months later, the slave-hunters returned to the village; they captured Abena but let her go again. She was now worth nothing to them.

The news spread for miles around. People came from the remotest villages to consult the grandmother. And over the years and the centuries since, a diversity of tribal scars appeared on the faces of our people.

Adapted from the short story: "*Tribal Scars*" (1962) by Ousmane Sembene

Your response to the following questions should be based on the information presented in the passage, and should be expressed as far as possible in your own words. You should spend approximately one hour on this section.

1. ***In no more than 150 words***, summarize the measures taken by the villagers to protect themselves and their loved ones from capture by the slave hunters. [10]
2. The writer uses a number of techniques and stylistic devices to make the story come to life for readers. Analyse and discuss these techniques.

Your response should identify specific techniques, provide examples and comment on the likely effect of each technique on the reader. [14]



SECTION B

Read the following passage carefully, and then answer the questions that follow.

Body Modifications

We tend to think of human bodies as simply products of nature. In reality, however, our bodies are also the products of culture, in that all cultures around the world seek to enhance, modify and reshape human bodies. It is no wonder then that Bahamians engage in a number of body modification practices and for many different reasons.

For instance, almost all Bahamian girls have their ears pierced when they are just a few weeks old. Apart from aesthetics, parents see this as an important step for gender socialization. And while earlobe piercing is acceptable to mainstream society, body piercing is generally frowned upon. Regardless of this view, many teens and young adults of both genders pierce the nose, tongue, eyebrows, lips, navel and more. Yes, it is true that most undergo piercings for the sake of fashion, but researchers contend that for some it is a way to showcase individuality, or scream to the world that they are now in control of their bodies.

Whatever the reason, there are dangers associated with all types of piercings. Some potential risks to beware of are: keloids, bacterial infections, an allergic reaction to the metal and bloodborne infections such as Hepatitis B and C, or even HIV. Although these are not always avoidable, it is important to practice good hygiene and take care of the piercing.

Tattooing has likewise grown in popularity. Tattoo enthusiasts, many of whom are simply passionate about art, offer their bodies as living canvasses for an artist to showcase his creativity. For others, tattoos tell the story of their lives, including moments of joy, pain, hardship and triumph. In addition to the personal narrative, more and more Bahamians, be they lovers or lodge members, don tattoos to demonstrate their commitment to a person or allegiance to a group, organization, or ideal.

On the flipside though, tattoos can serve as painful reminders of poor choices. After getting provocative ink designs, some experience embarrassment or discomfort, feelings that eventually contribute to negative body-image and low self-esteem. In fact, some workers identify having a visible tattoo as a major limitation to their employment options and career potential. This should be kept in mind when deciding on the what and where of body art.

Though the health risks of tattooing are similar to those associated with piercings, they are not to be overlooked. It is vital for patrons to consider the hygienic practices of the tattoo parlour. For example, they should be using new, disposable gloves, new and sealed needles, and unused ink poured into a new container. Also, for young people who seek tattoos as an act of rebellion to their culture, society, or parents, it is good to remember that tattoos are meant to be permanent. That is why removing a tattoo is costly, time-consuming and far more painful than getting one. Therefore, young people should reflect soberly and be well informed before they decide to emblazon themselves with imagery.

Another type of body modification is skin lightening, also known as skin bleaching. This is a cosmetic process designed to create a generally paler skin tone by reducing or halting the body's production of melanin. There are many reasons why men and women attempt to cosmetically alter their skin complexion,

but for most, it is because they have been brainwashed to believe that those with lighter skin tones are more beautiful.

Though skin-bleaching products are readily accessible to Bahamian consumers, caution is needed, as they can result in serious side effects and complications. Ironically, skin-lighteners promise to boost one's beauty, but can lead to one looking quite hideous due to redness, swelling, burning, flaking, scarring, skin darkening, uneven skin tone, thinning of the skin, and visible blood vessels. Besides these undesirable effects, powerful skin-bleaching concoctions can cause kidney, liver and nerve damage as well as abnormalities in a newborn baby (if used during pregnancy). Thus, it is wise to seek the advice of a doctor first. Many who do so are surprised to learn that there is a medical reason why skin lightening is not appropriate for them.

Finally, cosmetic plastic surgery, a more extreme method of altering one's body, is a booming industry in the United States of America, recording more than \$16.5 billion of revenue in 2018 alone. Despite the fact that cosmetic surgical procedures come with the risks of serious infection, severe bleeding and even death, several thriving plastic surgery clinics are to be found in New Providence. Alternatively, Bahamians have been known to travel to The Dominican Republic, Mexico, Colombia and other regional destinations to have fat suctioned, breasts reduced, waists cinched and buttocks lifted. Why such extremes? Unfortunately, dissatisfaction with one's body is driving this multibillion-dollar industry and some seek the "Mommy Makeover" or "Daddy-Do-Over" to achieve a more youthful physical appearance. It all boils down to this: people are determined to enhance their attractiveness, but they want to do so as quickly and with as little physical effort as possible.

Opinion is divided on the benefits of cosmetic surgery. Some suggest that cosmetic procedures can improve self-esteem and combat negative body image. Others see surgical interventions as proof that society values youth, sexuality and appearance more than experience, character and substance.

Of course, it remains the prerogative of each person to decide what to do with his body. Still, before moving forward with a body modification, it would be best to educate oneself on not just the rewards, but also the risks involved. Sadly, all too many people have ended up with bad piercings, hideous tattoos, blotchy skin and botched procedures that they would rather live without, or illnesses that they did not sign up for. The nightmare of trying to reverse damage or seek medical assistance takes a financial, physical and emotional toll. And sometimes, it's just impossible to go back and fix the problem. Thus, whether an individual decides to pierce, tattoo, lighten or undergo cosmetic plastic surgery, his health and safety should always be the priorities.

This passage is based on the following articles:

1. The Psychology of Body Modification

<https://www.painfulpleasures.com/community/blog/tattoo/psychology-body-modification/>

2. Body Modification and Body Image

<https://www.bradley.edu/sites/bodyproject/disability/modification/>



In answering the questions below, you should write as far as possible in your own words. You should spend approximately one hour on this section.

3. ***In no more than 200 words***, outline the risks associated with each type of body modification presented in the passage. [12]
4. People often engage in body modifications for reasons that have nothing to do with physical beauty or fashion trends. Write an article for the magazine ***“Beyond Beauty”***, in which you enlighten readers on the many profound reasons for body modifications, reasons that have nothing to do with beauty or fashion.

In your response, you are expected to:

- (a) use ideas based on information from both Passages A and B
- (b) include one or two ideas of your own
- (c) develop ideas clearly and logically [16]

TOTAL MARKS [52]



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