



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GENERAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (GEC)

2023 GRADE 9 PILOT STUDY

Subject: English Home Language

Marks: 70

Duration: 150 Minutes
excluding 15 minutes reading time

This test consists of **23** pages, excluding the cover page.

Instructions to the learner

1. You will receive 15 minutes reading time before you begin answering this test.
2. Read all the instructions and questions carefully.
3. Answer all questions.
4. Use the provided answer booklet to write all your answers.

The test starts on the next page.



Do not turn the page until you are told to do so.

Question 1: Comprehension

Read the text below and answer the questions set.

Thuso Mbedu is *The Woman King*'s Crown Jewel

1 Thuso Mbedu is off to a flying start in 2023, with another international award under her belt. If this South African actress' recent social media posts of *The Woman King* trailer didn't get you all patriotic, then her most recent post surely will.



- 2 "We want our work to spark conversations," said the South African actress, who made her feature-film debut as the star of Sony's action film about a group of African woman warriors.
- 3 Thuso broke hearts and raked in accolades as Cora in Barry Jenkins' limited series, *The Underground Railroad*. Now the rising South African star makes her big-screen debut in the historical drama, *The Woman King*, opposite Viola Davis. "Being surrounded by such strong, fierce women is amazing," says Thuso.
- 4 The KwaZulu Natal-born star won the Outstanding Breakthrough Actress award for her stellar performance in *The Woman King* at the 23rd Annual Black Reel Awards. Fans and co-actors agreed that Mbedu deserved the award. The film is based on the real-life, all-female army called the Agojie, who protected the West African kingdom of Dahomey. It centres on Mbedu's character Nawi, a young woman who hopes to join the Agojie, under the leadership of the fearless General Nanisca, played by Viola Davis, the award winning *The Help* star.
- 5 Mbedu is the first artist in her family. "My mother wanted to be a geologist, but due to apartheid laws she couldn't realize her dream." She lost her parents when she was very young, so Mbedu's grandmother raised her and her sister. Sadly, her grandmother passed on three days before her onscreen debut.
- 6 After graduating from drama school in Johannesburg, she couldn't afford to fail and go back home. Failing was not an option. Her big break came in the form of

the series *Is'Thunzi*. She persevered and went on to receive two consecutive international Emmy nominations for her role in *Is'Thunzi*, after which she decided to audition for the *Underground Railroad*.

- 7 She turned down a major franchise to do *The Woman King* but working with the amazing cast made the sacrifice worth it for her. “The film has an all-star cast,” says Mbedu, “We are all introverts, except for John Boyega, who is a complete clown and a joy to work with.” She and Davis also formed a special bond. “Viola said that if her story was turned into a biopic, she would love me to play her.” I asked, “Can I audition?” And she said, “No, why audition if you can play the role?”
- 8 Our superstar is making waves in the United States by planting her roots deep in the international film industry. She says, “I can take on any challenge. I also have a theatrical background and now I’m going to be working on a sci-fi project. I never imagined that I could find myself in a sci-fi world, but it’s an amazing script. It’s about looking for an amazing character who will grow, change, and inspire some sort of change in those who watch it.”
- 9 Now Mbedu is producing, with a deal at Paramount to make socially conscious content. “I want to create opportunities for other people, and I’m grateful I’m able to.”

Adapted from Vanity Fair: August 2022

1.1 Which company produced the movie, *The Woman King*?

- A Sony
- B Paramount
- C Barry Jenkins
- D Black Reel

(1)

1.2 Who plays General Nanisca in the film, *The Woman King*?

- A Thuso Mbedu
- B Agojie
- C Viola Davis
- D Dahomey

(1)

1.3 Which word in Paragraph 3 tells us that Thuso was acknowledged for her achievements?

- A accolades
- B historical
- C amazing
- D strong

(1)

1.4 Refer to paragraph 4.

For which film did Thuso win the Outstanding Breakthrough Actress award?

- A *The Underground Railroad*
- B *The Woman King*
- C *Is'Thunzi*
- D *The Help*

(1)

1.5 Thuso's grandmother did not live to see Thuso's dream being realised.

(Paragraph 5)

Which of the following sentences supports the above statement?

- A She was raised by her grandmother.
- B She lost her mother at a very young age.
- C Her grandmother passed away before her onscreen debut.
- D Her grandmother accompanied her to her onscreen debut.

(1)

- 1.6 Which sentence best summarises Paragraph 6?
- A Thuso did not have money to go home.
 - B Thuso was ready to admit defeat.
 - C Thuso graduated from drama school.
 - D Thuso would not accept failure. (1)

- 1.7 What does the use of the word 'international' in Paragraph 1 suggest?
It suggests that the award shows recognition from ...
- A her own country.
 - B another country.
 - C the entire world.
 - D the entire continent. (1)

- 1.8 'The KwaZulu Natal star won the Outstanding Breakthrough Actress award.'
(Paragraph 4)
What is the significance of the word 'Breakthrough' in the above statement?
- A She had succeeded in the industry a long time ago.
 - B She has been recognised for her recent work in the industry.
 - C She is an extremely experienced actress in the film industry.
 - D She is now being recognised for her exceptional beauty. (1)

- 1.9 Thuso Mbedu is the Crown Jewel of '*The Woman King*'.
What figure of speech is used in the above sentence?
- A simile
 - B irony
 - C metaphor
 - D alliteration (1)

- 1.10 What is the possible benefit of Thuso having a theatrical background?
(Paragraph 8)
- A She could only perform drama at the university.
 - B She could perform any acting role.
 - C She can perform only in South Africa.
 - D She can only perform theatre roles. (1)
- 1.11 What is the meaning of the word 'biopic' in Paragraph 7?
It means a film dramatising the ...
- A real-life experiences of a famous person.
 - B fictional account of a historic person.
 - C account of a famous organisation.
 - D unreal story of a cartoon character. (1)
- 1.12 Which of the following statements is true?
- A Viola Davis produced her biopic *The Underground Railroad*.
 - B Apartheid prevented her grandmother from being a geologist.
 - C *The Woman King* was Thuso's first feature film role.
 - D Nawi leads the fearless all-female Agojie army. (1)
- 1.13 How are John Boyega and Thuso's personalities different? (Paragraph 7)
- A Thuso is outspoken and John is shy.
 - B John is funny and Thuso is serious.
 - C Thuso is shy and John is talkative.
 - D Thuso is fearful and John is brave. (1)

1.14 'Thuso Mbedu is off to a flying start in 2023 with another award under her belt.'
(Paragraph 1)

What is the meaning of the idiom 'under her belt'?

- A She proudly wears the award.
- B She received another award.
- C She proudly wears the belt.
- D She received a belt award. (1)

1.15 "No, why audition if you can play the role?" (Paragraph 7)

What is Viola's intention in this statement?

She is trying to ...

- A confuse Thuso.
- B welcome Thuso.
- C disrespect Thuso.
- D motivate Thuso. (1)

1.16 What is the main idea of this article?

- A Perseverance leads to success.
- B Despair is a must for success.
- C Love yourself to achieve success.
- D Losing parents leads to success. (1)

1.17 'The film is based on the real-life, all-female army called the Agojie'
(Paragraph 4)

What is the purpose of the hyphen in 'real-life'?

It is to ...

- A form a complex word.
- B form a compound word.
- C simplify the two words.
- D separate the two words. (1)

1.18 What is the implication of the words '*Crown Jewel*' in the title?

- A Thuso is respected and valued in the industry.
- B Thuso is respected and valued by royalty.
- C Thuso is honoured with a crown and a jewel.
- D Thuso is honoured with a crown of jewels. (1)

1.19 Which word best describes the author's attitude towards Thuso?

- A resentful
- B objective
- C disrespectful
- D enthusiastic (1)

1.20 The author says that Thuso's recent posts should 'get you all patriotic'.

(Paragraph 1)

To whom would this statement appeal?

- A United States movie stars
- B International film critics
- C South African movie lovers
- D KwaZulu Natal film fanatics (1)

1.21 Thuso won an award for her stellar performance in the film *Woman King*.

(Paragraph 4)

What is the author trying to achieve by describing her performance as 'stellar'?

The author is ...

- A trying to convince people that it is a good series.
- B trying to persuade people to watch the movie.
- C trying to advertise the movie for the Emmy Awards.
- D trying to influence the panel to award Thuso. (1)

1.22 'Fans and co-actors agreed that Mbedu deserved the award.' (Paragraph 4)

What is the tone of this statement?

- A admiration
 - B sarcasm
 - C concern
 - D politeness
- (1)

1.23 Refer to Paragraph 8.

Thuso is making waves by planting her roots deep in the film industry.

What does the above statement predict about her career in future?

She will ...

- A give up her rights as a producer in the industry.
 - B make movies about the railroad industry.
 - C say goodbye to the entertainment industry.
 - D be well established in the entertainment industry.
- (1)

1.24 Why can the introduction of this article be regarded as appropriate?

- A It captures a trend in the entertainment industry.
 - B It encourages South African youth.
 - C It encourages readers to become actors.
 - D It captures the interest of the readers.
- (1)

1.25 Which one of the following best describes the effectiveness of the text?

- A The text inspires readers to be less patriotic.
 - B The text encourages readers to be geologists.
 - C The text inspires readers to be determined.
 - D The text encourages readers to be extroverts.
- (1)

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Question 2: Visual Literacy

2.1: Advertisement

Read the text below and answer the questions set.



SUNSHINE HOLIDAY CLUB

The **BEST** things in life are the
PLACES we've been & all the
MEMORIES we've made along the way.



SEASIDE HOLIDAYS ARE THE BEST!

**Spoil yourself, friends, family and loved ones with a
SUN-SOAKED getaway. Take advantage of our holiday
accommodation specials on the extraordinary,
AMAZING KZN South Coast!**

**Looking for an excuse to escape the cold?
You are in luck because our epic Midweek & Weekend Special
Accommodation offers are SIZZLING HOT!**



sunshineholidayclub.co.za
Where the sun always shines!
031 3088792/ 0872254414

[IMAGE SOURCE:www.shutterstock.com]

2.1.1 What is being advertised?

- A swimsuits
 - B holidays
 - C memories
 - D sunglasses
- (1)

2.1.2 To whom do you think this advertisement would appeal?

- A people who are wealthy
 - B people who enjoy beach holidays
 - C people who like staying indoors
 - D people who like cold weather
- (1)

2.1.3 Why is  an appropriate logo for the product being advertised?

- A It reflects the name of the product.
 - B It makes the reader feel warm.
 - C It creates suspense.
 - D It evokes reader sympathy.
- (1)

2.1.4 What sound device is used in the words 'sun-soaked'?

- A personification
 - B onomatopoeia
 - C alliteration
 - D assonance
- (1)

2.1.5 Which words in the text are best supported by the picture?

- A club, sizzling, accommodation
- B memories, seaside, cold
- C seaside, sunshine, getaway
- D midweek, advantage, excuse

(1)

2.2: Cartoon

Read the text below and answer the questions set.

ZITS: MESSY ROOM BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BOROMAN

FRAME 1

FRAME 2

FRAME 3

FRAME 4

FRAME 5

Adapted from <https://ru.pinterest.com/pin/218917231872648941/>

2.2.1 In which part of the house are the two characters in Frame 1? (1)

2.2.2 What is the relationship between the two characters in the cartoon? (1)

- 2.2.3 What tone is conveyed by the “WOW!” being repeated in Frame 1? (1)
- 2.2.4 Refer to Frames 2 and 3.
Explain the irony of the boy’s reaction in relation to the woman’s words
“THEN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!” (2)
- 2.2.5 Describe the change in the woman’s emotions from Frame 4 to Frame 5. (2)
- 2.2.6 What do the boy’s actions in Frames 3 and 4 indicate about his attitude
to the woman’s request? (1)
- 2.2.7 What message does the cartoon convey about stereotypical teenage
behaviour? (1)
- 2.2.8 Refer to the question “Better?” in Frame 5.
Has the boy made the situation better? Explain your answer. (1)

[15]

Question 3: Summary

Read the text below and write a summary on **how to be safe during floods**.

1. List **SEVEN** points in full sentences.
2. Number your sentences from 1 to 7.
3. Write only **ONE** point per sentence.
4. Use your own words as far as possible.
5. Your summary should be **70-80** words in length.
6. Indicate the total number of words you have used in brackets at the end of your summary.
7. You do not require a title for your summary.

Be Flood-wise!

With climate change, we are experiencing more frequent floods and other natural disasters. Rather than just waiting for disaster to hit, how can you be *flood-wise*?

Remember the phrase: "Turn Around, Don't Drown!" Do not drive through flooded roads or through rivers: in no time at all, cars can be swept away in only two feet of moving water. If your vehicle is trapped in moving water, and the water is rising inside the vehicle, climb onto the roof.

Electrocution is a danger in floods as electrical currents can travel through water. Therefore, stay away from electrical wires if they are lying on the streets or under water. Be careful of where you step because debris, including broken bottles and nails can cover the ground after a flood and mud-covered floors and stairs can be slippery. With so many obstacles and dangers, you could be in real trouble if you are not careful.

If you live or work in an area that is prone to flooding, you should be prepared to evacuate. Work out a route and have a plan to get to safety as quickly as possible. Listen to your local radio or television station and keep an eye on social media for warnings and reports about changing weather and flood conditions.

Create an emergency kit, or 'Go-Kit' in an easy-to carry backpack with emergency supplies such as food and water, a change of clothes, fire-making material, a torch and chargers. Remember to keep important documents in a waterproof container.

Getting caught in a flood is a scary experience and can create uncertainty and understandable fear, but just remember to be as positive as possible, and know that eventually the water will recede and the sun will shine again.

Adapted from: <https://hsseworld.com/photo-of-the-day-flood-safety-tips/>

[10]

Question 4: Language Structures and Conventions

Read the text below and answer the questions set.

What can we learn from animals?



- 1 The remarkable skills that animals possess offer great lessons. Adopting and practising those qualities in our daily life would certainly add to our personal growth.
- 2 Many animals, like birds of prey, are very watchful and good observers. They are very curious but cautious too, so they can scan situations and act accordingly, moving closer or away, as the situation demands.
- 3 Eagles have very sharp vision which allows them to find their prey on the ground when they are soaring high in the sky. They are also able to avoid danger with this special ability.
- 4 From them, we can learn the lesson of being watchful in our daily lives. Observation sharpens the memory by helping us to remember places, people and many other things, which also helps us to avoid dangers.
- 5 According to the WCT, animals like the lion, cheetah and crocodile (that they protect) display amazing concentration and focus. It is this concentration which helps them get their prey easily. These animals teach us to stay focused on our target.
- 6 Honey bees and ants display order and discipline by working jointly in an organised manner, which helps to get their work done easily and efficiently. Their strength and success lie in unity and teamwork.
- 7 The spirit of friendship in some animals is remarkable. This teaches us to have strong bonds of friendship to live a happy life. The chirping sparrows show

gentleness and joyfulness and just like them, we must also spread happiness as we interact with each other.

8 The turtle moves very slowly, dragging its body along but moving constantly. They are said to be shy animals. They hide in their shells at any sign of danger. This indicates that there is no need to do something quickly and carelessly, because 'haste makes waste.'

9 Ants are also always on the move, in search of food, which shows that we must continue exploring opportunities with patience. We must not get disappointed if it takes too long to achieve success.

Adapted from Dawn, Young World, May 2019

4.1 'Adopting and practising those animal qualities in our daily life would certainly add to our personal growth.' (Paragraph 1)

Which word in the above sentence is an abstract noun?

- A our
- B growth
- C animal
- D add

(1)

4.2 'Eagles have very sharp vision.' (Paragraph 3)

The sentence above is a/an ...

- A command.
- B exclamation.
- C statement.
- D question.

(1)

4.3 Which word in Paragraph 2 is similar in meaning to 'careful'?

- A cautious
- B good
- C accordingly
- D curious

(1)

4.4 Which of the following words is an antonym for 'sharpens' as used in Paragraph 4?

- A improves
- B worsens
- C smooths
- D flattens

(1)

4.5 'dragging its body along' (Paragraph 8)
The above is an example of ... clause.

- A a verb
- B a noun
- C an adjectival
- D an adverbial

(1)

4.6 Lions will not catch their prey ... they display concentration.
Choose the correct conjunction to join the sentences above.

- A however
- B because
- C unless
- D therefore

(1)

4.7 'Honey bees and ants display order and discipline by working jointly.'
(Paragraph 6)

Which word in the above sentence is used as an adjective?

- A honey
- B jointly
- C display
- D bees

(1)

4.8 'they can scan situations and act accordingly' (Paragraph 2)

'accordingly' is an adverb of ...

- A time.
- B place.
- C degree.
- D manner.

(1)

4.9 'The chirping sparrows show gentleness and joyfulness.' (Paragraph 7)

Choose the sentence written correctly in the passive voice.

- A Gentleness and joyfulness are shown by the chirping sparrows.
- B Gentleness and joyfulness was shown by the chirping sparrows.
- C The chirping sparrows were shown gentleness and joyfulness.
- D The chirping sparrows will be shown gentleness and joyfulness.

(1)

4.10 'concentration which helps them get their prey easily' (Paragraph 5)

In which sentence is the homophone for 'prey' used correctly?

- A The predator will pray on its victim.
- B Pray are caught with concentration.
- C Victims pray on predators.
- D The victims pray for help.

(1)

4.11 The crocodile guarded the river and the cheetah could not reach the edge because he was snapping viciously.

Which answer removes the ambiguity of the above sentence?

A The crocodile guarded the river because the cheetah was snapping viciously.

B The cheetah could not reach the edge because the crocodile was snapping viciously.

C The cheetah was guarding the river because the crocodile was snapping viciously.

D The crocodile could not reach the edge because the cheetah was snapping viciously.

(1)

4.12 The WCT protects animals.

What does 'WCT' stand for in the sentence?

A World Caterpillar Trust

B Worldwide Conversation Tour

C Wildlife Conservation Trust

D Wilderness Christmas Tour

(1)

4.13 'the lion, cheetah and crocodile (that they protect) display amazing concentration and focus' (Paragraph 5)

The purpose of the brackets in the above sentence is to ...

A create a compound word.

B show important information.

C show extra information.

D create a pause.

(1)

4.14 Which word is a personal pronoun?

- A we
- B there
- C hers
- D its

(1)

4.15 Patience and ... are natural instincts of animals.

Which word is spelt correctly to complete the sentence?

- A persistence
- B persistence
- C persists
- D percistance

(1)

4.16 'We must continue exploring opportunities with patience.' (Paragraph 9)

What is the correct tense of the above sentence?

- A present progressive
- B present perfect
- C future progressive
- D future perfect

(1)

4.17 The WCT said that those animals taught them to stay focused on their target.

Choose the sentence that has been written correctly in direct speech.

- A "These animals were teaching us to stay focused on our target," said the WCT.
- B "These animals teach us to stay focused on our target," said the WCT.
- C "These animals have taught us to stay focused on your target," said the WCT.
- D "These animals are teaching us to stay focused on our target," said the WCT.

(1)

4.18 Which sentence from Paragraph 8 is a stereotype about the turtle?

- A Turtles move very slowly.
- B They hide in their shells.
- C They are said to be shy animals.
- D Turtles drag their bodies constantly. (1)

4.19 What type of paragraph is Paragraph 7 of the article?

- A narrative
- B descriptive
- C expository
- D persuasive (1)

4.20 What is the meaning of 'haste makes waste'? (Paragraph 8)

- A Rushing can lead to stress.
- B Rushing can cause mistakes.
- C Being hasty causes litter.
- D Being hasty gets things done faster. (1)

[20]

End of test

