



**First Year Entrance Exam
English curriculum**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EVALUATION

Duration: 2hrs

Anonymat _____

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage carefully and answer the question below it. (10 marks)

Aunty Bih's pregnancy came like a sudden sound in still night. She arrived at the flat wearing a sequined bou-bou that caught the light, glistening like a flowing celestial presence, and said she wanted to tell Nchang's parents about it before they heard the gossip. "I am pregnant," she said simply.

Nchang's mother burst into tears, loud dramatic cries, looking around as though she could see lying around her, the splintered pieces of her own story. "My God, why have you forsaken men!"

"I did not plan this, it happened" Aunty Bih said. I fell pregnant for Ngwa in the university. I had an abortion and I am not doing it again." The word "abortion", blunt as it was, scared the room because they all knew that what Nchang's mother did not say was that surely, there were ways to take care of this. Nchang's father put his book down and picked it again. He cleared his throat. He soothed his wife.

"Well, I cannot ask about the man's intentions", he said finally to aunty Bih, "so I should ask what your intentions are."

"I will have the baby." He waited to hear more, but aunty Bih said nothing else and so he sat back assailed. "You are an adult. This is not what I hoped for you Ngia Bih but you are an adult."

Aunty Bih went over and sat on the arm of his sofa. She spoke in a low, pacifying voice, strange for being formal, but saved from falseness by the soberness of her face. "Brother, this not what I hoped for myself either, but it has happened. I am sorry to disappoint you after everything you have done for me, and I beg you to forgive me. But I will make the best of this situation. The General is a responsible man. He will take care of his child."

Nchang's father shrugged wordlessly. Aunty Bih put an arm around him as though it were he who needed comforting.

Later, Nchang would think of the pregnancy as symbolic. It marked the beginning of the end and made everything else seem rapid, the months rushing past, time hurtling forward. There was aunty Bih, dimpled with exuberance, her face aglow, her mind busy with plans as her belly curved outwards. Every few days she came up with a new girl's name for the baby. "My Man is happy," she said. "He is happy to know that he can still score a goal at his age, an old man like him!" The General came more often, even on some weekends, bringing her hot water bottles, herbal pills; things he has heard were good for her pregnancy.

He told her, "Of course you will deliver abroad," and asked which she preferred, America or England. He wanted England so that he could travel with her, the Americans had barred entry to high-ranking members of the military government. But aunty Bih chose America because her baby could still have automatic citizenship there. The plans were made, a hospital picked, a furnished condo rented in Atlanta. "What is a condo, anyway?" Nchang asked. And aunty Bih shrugged and said, "Who knows what Americans mean? You should ask Che, he will know at least it is a place to live. And my Man has people there who help me." Aunty Bih was dampened only when her driver told her that the general's wife had heard about the pregnancy and was furious; there had apparently, been a tense family meeting with his relatives and hers. The General hardly spoke about his wife, but aunty Bih knew enough: a lawyer who had given up working to raise their four children in Yaounde, a woman who looked portly and pleasant in newspaper

photographs. "I wonder what she is thinking" aunty Bih said sadly, musingly. While she was in America, the General had one of the bedrooms repainted a brilliant white. He bought a cot, its legs like delicate candles. He bought stuffed toys and too many teddy bears. Sirri, the housemaid, propped them in the cot, lined some up on a shelf and, perhaps she thought nobody would notice, she took one teddy bear in the back. Aunty Bih had a boy. She sounded high and elated over the phone. "Nchang, he has so much hair! Can you imagine? What a waste?"

She called him Dike, after her father, and gave him her surname which left Nchang's mother agitated and sour.

The baby should have his father's name, or is the man planning to deny his child?" Nchang mother's asked, as they sat in their living room still digesting the news of the birth. "Aunty Bih said it was just easier to give him her name, Nchang said. "And is he behaving like a man that will deny his child? aunty told me, he's even talking about coming to pay the bride price."

"God forbid", Nchang's mother said, almost spitting the words out, and Nchang thought of all those fervent prayers for aunty Bih's mentor. Her mother, when aunty Bih came back, stayed in Kribi Estate for a while, bathing and feeding the gurgling, smooth-skinned baby but she faced the General with a cold officiousness. She answered him in monosyllables, as though he had betrayed her by breaking the rules of her pretense. A relationship with aunty Bih was acceptable, but such flagrant proof of the relationship was not. The house smelled of baby powder. Aunty Bih was happy. The General held Dike often, suggesting that perhaps he needed to be fed again or that a doctor needed to see the rash on his neck.

For Dike's first birthday party, the General brought a live band. They set up in the front garden near a generator house and stayed until the last guests left, all of them slow and stated, taking food wrapped in foil. Aunty Bih's friends came, and the General friends came too, their expression determined as though to say that no matter the circumstances, their friend's child was their friend's child. Dike, newly walking, tottered around in a suit and red bow tie, while aunty Bih followed him trying to get him to be still for a few moments with the photographer. Finally, tired, he began to cry, yanking at his bow tie and the General picked him up and carried around. It was the image of the General that would endure Nchang's mind, Dike's arms around his neck, his face up, his front teeth jutting out as he smiled, saying, "He looks like me o, but thank God he took his mother's teeth".

The General died the next week, in a military plane crash. "On the same day, the very same day, that the photographer brought the pictures from Dike's birthday," aunty Bih would often say, in the telling story, as though this held some particular significance.

(Culled from Africanah by Chimanda Ngozi Adichie)

QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer from the alternatives A, B, C and D for each question. (0.5 x 16)

- 1) From the text, the pregnancy is described "Like a sudden sound in a still night" because it was _____ (a surprise/ unacceptable/ long waited/ highly expected).
- 2) Aunty Bih's "sequined bou-bou that caused the light, glistening like a flowing celestial presence..." is an example of _____ (pun/ simile/ personification/ metaphor).
- 3) Nchang's mother's reaction to the pregnancy can be said to be _____ (elated/ satisfied/ indifferent/ dissatisfied).
- 4) The word "abortion", blunt as it was, scared the room, because they all knew that what Nchang's mother did not say was that, surely there were ways to take care of this. This statement _____ (portrays the harm abortion causes/ shows Nchang mother's frustration/ points an accusation finger to Nchang's mother/ shows Mbih's irresponsibility).
- 5) Nchang's father "waited to hear more" suggests that he was _____ (tense/ angry/ eager/ excited).

- 6) "Aunt Bih said nothing else and he sat back, **assailed**." "Assailed" means _____ (upset/ confused/ pleased/ withdrawn).
- 7) The blood relationship between Bih and Nchang is _____ relationship. (mother- daughter/ sister- sister/ aunty- sister/ aunty- niece)
- 8) "Nchang's father shrugged wordlessly". **Wordlessly** is used as a _____ (noun/ adverb/ adjective/ verb).
- 9) The expression "he is happy to know that he can still score a goal at this age, old man like him" suggests _____ (fertility/ virginity/ virility/ impotence).
- 10) The relationship between aunt Bih and the General can be described as _____ (one-on- one relationship/ a cordial relationship/ reciprocal relationship/ extra-marital relationship).
- 11) The General's wife is a _____ (a full time house wife)/ a working mother/ a prospective career woman/ a star for newspaper).
- 12) In the passage, Nchang's mother faces the General with "cold officiousness". This suggests that she _____ (disapproved of him/ respects him/ ridicules him/ admires him).
- 13) The General's friends remarked "their friend's child was their friend's child". The element indicated here is that of _____ (surprise/ certainty/ confidence/ doubt).
- 14) From the passage it can be concluded that the General had _____ set of teeth. (clean/ dirty/ malformed/ well arranged).
- 15) The narrator's tone in the story is _____ (humorous/ sarcastic/ critical/ appreciate).
- 16) The text is a satire of societal ills but for one below, which is the irrelevant one, _____ (premarital sex/ extra- marital relationship/ corrupt military leaders/ abortion).
- 17) What do you think about the relationship between aunt Bih and the General? Is it a good one? Why? (2mks) _____

SECTION B: GRAMMAR (10 marks)

I- Choose the alternative that best completes the sentence below.

- 1) Julian was alarmed _____ the thought of Bessem being left on her own. (at/ with/ on/of)
- 2) We have a break at school _____ the morning only. (from/ on / during/at)
- 3) There _____ news in the press today. (are very much/ are very many/ is not much/ are not many).
- 4) Che, the potter starts making a pot with _____ clay. (a bundle of/ a ball of/ a bunch of/ a pot of).
- 5) The farmers _____ their plan to grow more plantains, and they had a very good crop last year. (held up/ carried out/ gave up/ ran out of)
- 6) When our teacher reached the scene of the accident, the injured student _____ carried to the car. (has been/ is being / is/ was being)
- 7) When Agbor wanted Jeanne to marry him, he _____ her presents almost every week. (had brought/ would bring/ was bringing/ will bring)

- 8) Louisa _____ sounds so hostile. (**hadn't needed to / better not to/ hasn't need to/ didn't need to**).
- 9) If I had been you, I _____ the truth. (**had told/ have told/ would have told/ told**)
- 10) There's not much petrol, so we _____ stop and buy some more. (**had rather/ had better/ would better/ better**)
- 11) Neh ordered Arouna to show her what he had just written. (**Put in direct speech**)

- 12) Ngeh asked Dop whether she might borrow his pen. (**Put in direct speech**)

- 13) "What was the date?" Nagwah asked Ijang. (**Put in indirect speech**)

- 14) Lum asked Ngono: "Is there time to do it now?" (**Put in indirect speech**)

- 15) "The electricity was cut off about an our ago". This means
_____ (**the electricity is on again now/ we had electricity for an hour now/ we had the electricity on for an hour/ there's no electricity at the moment**).
- 16) Old men are usually dyeing cloths in dye pits. (**Put in passive**)

- 17) By May 2nd most of us _____ (**will be waiting, will wait, will have been waiting**)
for the results of this exam _____ quite some time. (**during/ for/ since**)
- 18) Help me with these bags, _____? (**could you/ would you/ will you/ do you**)
- 19) The police officer ordered that all the _____ (**steal**) goods must _____ (**bring**)
back by the thieves immediately. (**give the correct form of the verbs**)
- 20) It will not be easy for these children to fast since they _____ three times
every day. (**choose: used to eat/ are used to eating**).

SECTIONC: VOCABULARY (10 marks)

I- Complete the passage with appropriate words chosen from the box (5marks)

Shop, ridden, logging, embezzle, governance, paid, their, developed, stricken, instance, Africans, money, in addition

Africa is the continent that has suffered the most. The United Nations Organization is not doing enough to help Africa.

We Africans do not make things any better. We _____ public funds and save the money in European banks. Africa is under _____ because the continent is disease _____, conflict stricken, and because of bad _____. _____, the developed countries exploit every aspect of our economy. For _____, they own most of the _____ companies that cut timbers for exportation. To make the situation worst, these companies are sweat _____ because their workers are under _____ or paid a pittance and are over worked. Many African governments keep their population in the dark. The population is not informed on how money is spent. In fact, they don't feel for _____ people.

[illegible]