

**BEST BRAIN EXAMINATIONS KONSORTIUM**  
**SPECIAL PRIVATE MOCK EXAMINATIONS FOR BECE CANDIDATES – SEPTEMBER 2021**  
**MARKING SCHEME – ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**PAPER 2 [70 MARKS]**

**PART A – COMPOSITION [30 MARKS]**

**GENERAL PREAMBLE**

1. **There are three parts- A, B and C.** Candidates are expected to answer **three questions in all**, ONE question form PART A and all the questions in PARTS B and C. If a candidate attempts more than one question from PART A, mark BOTH and choose the better of the two.
2. The required length of each composition is **250 words**.
3. **Mark Allocation:** Each composition is to be marked out of a total of 30 marks distributed as follows:
  - (a) **CONTENT** **10 MARKS**  
*Ensure that the candidate presents a set of relevant points or details that are central to the theme or essay topic.*
  - (b) **ORGANIZATION** **5 MARKS**  
*The writing must be judged as whatever it is intended to be: an article, a speech, a letter, a debate, etc. The qualities to look for are suitable layout, suitable opening, adequate development, good paragraph, balance, coherence and a suitable conclusion.*
  - (c) **EXPRESSION** **10 MARKS**  
*Look out for correct usage of language, clarity and general appropriateness of style, variation of sentence structure and type, judicious use of figurative language, and skillful use of punctuation. In arriving at the mark for expression, the examiner must not be unduly influenced by mechanical errors.*
  - (d) **MECHANICAL ACCURACY** **5 MARKS**  
*Look out for undeniable errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling and capitalization.*
4. If a candidate writes on a topic other than the one set, award zero (0) for Content and mark Expression out of 5. The mark allocations for organization and Mechanical Accuracy remain unchanged.
5. Each ring should attract a deduction of half a mark ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ). Formal features of letters should have two rings only counted against Mechanical Accuracy. Subsequent errors in the formal features should be underlined only.
6. In general, the principle of positive marking should be applied, i.e., give credit for what the candidate has done right and then penalize for errors. These penalties are not, in all cases, numerical deductions but often the reward of a lower mark than would have been earned if there were no blemishes.
7. The candidate is expected to know the simple mechanics of the English Language. These include spelling, punctuation, subject-verb concord, noun-pronoun agreement and the use of the capital letter. He or she should also be able to control the use of determiners, quantifiers, prepositions, etc.
8. **Penalize**
  - (i) **Each Grammatical Error:** These include the omission of an essential sentence element (eg. Subject, predicate, complement);
    - wrong tense;
    - misuse or omission of the article;
    - misuse of modal operators eg. (may/might, can/could, etc)
    - confusion or ambiguity in the use of pronouns;
    - misuse of countable and uncountable nouns;
    - wrong prepositions;
    - misuse of relatives, subordinators and conjunctions;
    - errors in concord;
    - intransitive verbs for the transitive and vice versa;
    - active for passive and vice versa;
    - faulty construction.
  - (ii) **The wrong amalgamation or breaking up of words e.g.**
    - "inspite" for in spite
    - "infront" for in front
    - "every where" for everywhere
    - "to day" for today
    - "every body" for everybody
    - "ofcourse" for of course
    - "infact" for in fact
    - "never the less" for nevertheless
    - "how ever" for however
    - "more over" for moreover
    - "now a days" for nowadays, etc.
  - (iii) **Wrong Spelling** – the wrong spelling of the same word should be penalized only once. American spelling, if consistent, should be accepted.

(iv) **Punctuation Error and the Wrong Use of the Capital Letter**

- Each full stop, question mark or exclamation mark omitted or wrongly used; the misuse or omission of quotation marks. Both single and double quotation marks are accepted, but consistency is to be demanded.
- The insertion of a comma between subject and verb, subject and object, verb and complement, in simple structures only, i.e., where phrases or clauses do not intervene.
- The insertion of comma between adjective and noun, or verb and adverb; the omission of a comma used to separate items in a list of words, phrases or clauses.
- The use of a small letter for the pronoun 'I'; the use of a small letter at the beginning of a proper noun or sentence.
- Where a proper noun consists of more than one element, each of which is expected to begin with a capital letter, eg. Electricity Company of Ghana, there should be only one penalty for the group.
- Initials in abbreviations with or without full stop should be accepted, eg G.C.B or GCB, W.A.E.C or WAEC.

First and last letters: both forms should be accepted, eg. Dr and Dr.; Mrs and Mrs.

NB: This list is not exhaustive. Its is merely to indicate the type of undeniable errors to be penalized.]

**ASSESSMENT GUIDE**

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Below Average	Illiterate
Content	9 - 10	7 - 8	6	5	3 - 4	0 - 2½
Organization	5	4 - 4½	3 - 3½	1½ - 2	1 - 1½	0 - 1
Expression	9 - 10	7 - 8	6	5	3 - 4	0 - 2½

**Number of words**

5 words on a line	=	50 lines
6 words on a line	=	42 lines
7 words on a line	=	36 lines
8 words on a line	=	31 lines
9 words on a line	=	28 lines
10 words on a line	=	25 lines
11 words on a line	=	23 lines
12 words on a line	=	21 lines
13 words on a line	=	19 lines

**Number of Words**

250 words	=	5
225 words	=	4½
200 words	=	4
175 words	=	3½
150 words	=	3
100 words	=	2
75 words	=	1½
50 words	=	1
25 words	=	½

**Mechanical Accuracy**

**QUESTION 1**

**CONTENT (10 marks)**

The candidate is expected to his/her uncle who stays abroad the career chosen and two reasons why he should support the choice. Examples of career are teaching, medicine, nursing, and engineering. The question has two parts: career choice (for 4 marks) and reasons for the choice (for 6 marks). A candidate who gives only one point should score a mark out of three (3) marks only, only two points should score a mark out of six (6) marks only. A candidate who explains all the three points **fully** should score a good mark of six (6) or above.

**ORGANISATION (5 marks)**

This is an informal letter and the following features are expected:

1. Address of writer (without name)
2. Date
3. Salutation
4. Subscription -- Yours sincerely, friend, etc.
5. First name of writer

There should be coherent and well-developed paragraphs.

**EXPRESSION (10 marks)**

The language should be chatty to show intimacy. Contracted forms and familiar vocabulary could be used. The candidate is expected to vary sentence pattern and masterfully use punctuations.

**MECHANICAL ACCURACY (5 marks)**

The candidate must get the spellings of all used words, and all punctuations used right. The candidate must avoid grammatical mistakes and use capitalization accurately. The candidate is expected to avoid other mistakes such as wrong breaking of and amalgamation of words, dangling pronouns and sentences, inconsistency in punctuating initials or abbreviations.

**QUESTION 2**

**CONTENT (10 marks)**

The candidate is to write a debate speech on the motion: "Students should be permitted to use mobile phone on school compound". Any candidate who fails to clearly declare a stand either for or against the motion should not score a mark more than six (6) under CONTENT. Whatever stance a candidate take should be definite either in

support of or in opposing the motion. The candidate is expected to give three (3) cogent point that is consistent with the specific stand taken. A good presentation of three such points should score not less than 6 marks. Two points should not score more than 6 marks. One point should not score more than 3 points.

**ORGANISATION (5 marks)**

This is a debate (to a gathering at inter-school level). The candidate should show these main features: Introduction, Main Content, and Conclusion. The introduction should include the official and appropriate vocatives only which are The Chair, Panel of Judges, Accurate Time-Keeper, Co-debaters/Fellow Debaters, Ladies and Gentlemen. The introduction and conclusion should be suitable. Each paragraph should be well-developed. Paragraphs should be linked properly. Speech techniques such as attention getters (eg. occasional referring to audience) and sustainers (eg. rhetorical questions), inclusive terms (ie. you and I, all of us, and none of us), must be present.

**EXPRESSION (10 marks)**

The language should be formal. Diction should be appropriate. The candidate is expected to use appropriate register and idioms or figurative expressions. Other techniques that must be present include imagery, symbolism, occasional referring to audience, persuasive terms, exaggeration and hyperbole, repetition, rhetorical question, and picturesque words. The candidate should vary sentence pattern and masterfully use punctuations.

**MECHANICAL ACCURACY (5 marks)**

As in Question 1

**QUESTION 3**

**CONTENT (10 marks)**

The candidate is to give a vivid description of a fight that broke out between two rival groups in their school so that the reader can have a clear mental picture of the said experiences. The candidate is expected to present the events or activities in chronological order as they had happened since, for such experiences, the events or activities tend to follow some order. A good such description should score a good mark of 6 or more.

**ORGANISATION (5 marks)**

This is a descriptive essay. The following formal features must be present: Heading / Title; Introduction; Main content; Conclusion

The candidate should show a good introduction and a good conclusion. Each paragraph should be internally-developed properly. Paragraphs should be linked properly.

**EXPRESSION (10 marks)**

The language essentially should be descriptive. The use of literary and linguistic techniques that describe such as simile, metaphor, personification, imagery, symbolism, picturesque words, and onomatopoeic words is expected. He or she is expected to use register and idioms appropriately. The candidate should vary sentence pattern and masterfully use punctuations.

**MECHANICAL ACCURACY (5 marks)**

As in Question 1

**PART B – COMPREHENSION**

**PENALTIES FOR QUESTION 4**

- (a) Deduct half a mark for any grammatical/expression error(s) at each scoring point.
- (b) Where a candidate gives two answers to a question and one of them is wrong, award zero. If, however, both answers are correct award full marks.
- (c) Where words /expressions are expected to be given to replace words /expressions in the passage, they must fit in perfectly. Otherwise, award zero.
- (d) Answers need not be written in sentences, unless otherwise stipulated.
- (e) An answer, taken as a whole, must make sense before any part of it may be accepted for scoring.

**QUESTION 4**

**COMPREHENSION [30 MARKS]**

- (a) (i) Nurturing their children [2 marks]  
(ii) Disciplining their children [2 marks]
- (b) (i) Only one parent taking responsibility for discipline  
(ii) Different backgrounds of parents/views and methods of discipline  
(iii) Unresolved disagreements over disciplinary procedure [Any 2 correct x 2 = 4 marks]
- (c) (i) Investing in the training of their children  
(ii) Being good examples  
(iii) Making children aware of the importance of discipline [Any 2 correct x 2 = 4 marks]
- (d) (i) Finding out why something happened the way it did/a child misbehaved [2 marks]  
(ii) It will make the disciplinary process work effectively. [2 marks]
- (e) Children will become good adults. [2 marks]