

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL, ACCRA



**BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION FOR
SCHOOL CANDIDATES**

JUNE 2025

ENGLISH 2

FINAL MARKING SCHEME

THE WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION, 2025
SCHOOL CANDIDATES
FINAL MARKING SCHEME
ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2

PREAMBLE

1. There are three parts- A, B and C. Candidates are expected to answer three questions in all, **ONE** question from part A and Questions 4 & 5. If a candidate attempts more than one question from Part A, mark both and choose the better of the two.
2. The minimum length of each composition should be **250** words.
3. Mark Allocation: Each composition is to be marked out of a total of **30** marks distributed as follows:

CONTENT	-	10 marks
ORGANISATION	-	5 marks
EXPRESSION	-	10 marks
MECHANICAL ACCURACY	-	5 marks

4. If a candidate writes on a topic other than the ones set, award **0** for Content and mark Expression out of **5**. The mark allocations for Organization and Mechanical Accuracy remain unchanged.

NB: The script of a candidate who writes on a topic other than the ones set should be referred to the Team leader or the Chief Examiner.

5. Each ring should attract a deduction of half a mark ($\frac{1}{2}$). Formal features of a letter should have two rings only counted against the marks for Mechanical Accuracy. Subsequent errors in the formal features should be underlined only.
6. The candidate is expected to know the basic rules of English Language. These include concord: subject – verb, noun – pronoun agreement, etc.; the proper use of letters (capital / small) and correct spelling of words. The candidate should also be able to use determiners and prepositions correctly and be capable of constructing sentences with all their vital components.
7. **PENALIZE**
(i) each grammatical error.

- (ii) wrong spelling – the wrong spelling of the same word should be penalized only once.
- (iii) faulty construction.
- (iv) punctuation error and the wrong use of the capital or small letter.
- (v) the pronoun 'I' if written as a small letter (i).

8. Each of these errors should be ringed and half a mark ($\frac{1}{2}$) deducted up to a total of 5 marks.

9. ASSESSMENT GUIDE

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Below average	Illiterate/Unintelligible
Content	9 – 10	7 – 8	6	5	3 – 4	0 – $2\frac{1}{2}$
Organization	5	4 – $4\frac{1}{2}$	3 – $3\frac{1}{2}$	2 – $2\frac{1}{2}$	1 – $1\frac{1}{2}$	0 – $\frac{1}{2}$
Expression	9 – 10	7 – 8	6	5	3 – 4	0 – $2\frac{1}{2}$

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 Mechanical Accuracy (out of)

250 words	=	5
225 words	=	$4\frac{1}{2}$
200 words	=	4
175 words	=	$3\frac{1}{2}$
150 words	=	3
125 words	=	$2\frac{1}{2}$
100 words	=	2
75 words	=	$1\frac{1}{2}$
50 words	=	1
25 words	=	$\frac{1}{2}$

PART A
[30 MARKS]

Question 1

A new curriculum has been introduced for Junior High Schools, but your school offers only a limited number of subjects. Write a letter to your head teacher suggesting two new subjects that should be taught in your school. Give two reasons for your choices.

CONTENT: 10 marks

The candidate is expected to state clearly:

- (i) the two subjects (4 marks) and
- (ii) how they will help the students in pursuing further studies or getting jobs. (6 marks)

The candidate could discuss how handicapped or restricted they are now because those two subjects are not taught in the school. If a candidate discusses only one subject and gives one reason, mark content out of **5 marks**. If a candidate merely mentions two subjects, award not more than 2 marks.

ORGANIZATION: 5 marks

The official letter format is mandatory here.

- i. Writer's address
- ii. Date
- iii. Recipient's designation and address
- iv. Salutation
- v. Heading/ Title
- vi. Subscription
- vii. Writer's signature
- viii. Writer's full name

Paragraphs should be well-developed and properly linked. If a candidate does not write a letter, mark this aspect out of 3 marks.

EXPRESSION: 10 marks

The language should be formal. Slang, colloquialism and contracted forms are out of place here. There should be clarity of expression and varied sentence patterns.

MECHANICAL ACCURACY: 5 marks

Ring all errors in concord (subject-verb, noun-pronoun), tense, determiners, prepositions and punctuation whenever they occur. Ring the wrong spelling of the same word once. Subsequently, underline them. Each sentence and proper noun should begin with a capital letter. Ring the use of "i" instead of "I" for the first-person pronoun.

Question 2

The government has announced the addition of new public holidays. Write an article to be published in a national newspaper on two effects of public holidays on teaching and learning.

CONTENT: 10 marks

The candidate should discuss the positive or negative effects of public holidays. At least two points, well discussed and illustrated, should be used to support or oppose the observance of public holidays.

ORGANIZATION: 5 marks

The essay should have the following features:

- i. Title/Heading
- ii. Writer's name (either after the title or at the end of the article)
- iii. Writer's address

Paragraphs should be well developed and properly linked. Mark this aspect out of **3 marks** if the candidate writes any feature of a letter.

EXPRESSION: 10 marks

The use of formal, decent and polite expressions is expected. There is no room for slang and colloquialism. Sentence patterns should vary and the vocabulary should be appropriate.

MECHANICAL ACCURACY: 5 marks

As in Question 1

Question 3

You once doubted your abilities, but an experience changed your mindset completely. Write your story, ending with the statement, "I will never compare myself with anyone again."

CONTENT: 10 marks

The candidate is expected to narrate a story which ends with the statement, "I will never compare myself with anyone again." The candidate is expected to show a clear understanding of the statement in his/her composition. To earn 6 marks or higher, the candidate should give a background of events that would culminate to justify the statement "I will never compare myself with anyone again."

If the story does not relate to the statement, award zero. Fables (stories with animal characters) are not acceptable.

ORGANIZATION: 5 marks

The story should have a title, a setting and a plot. It should have a beginning, a climax and a conclusion that ends in the given statement. The paragraphs should be well developed, and there should be intra- and inter- paragraph cohesion. Appropriate linking words should be used to connect ideas. A candidate who makes an effective use of storytelling techniques (dialogue, flashback, etc.) should be adequately rewarded.

EXPRESSION: 10 marks

The language should be decent and the register appropriate to the subject matter. There should be a blend of varied sentence patterns. The effective use of figurative language, direct speech etc should be adequately rewarded with six marks or higher. Reward candidates who are able to create the right atmosphere in their composition.

MECHANICAL ACCURACY: 5marks

Refer to Question 1 and Preamble

PART B

Reading

[20 Marks]

PENALTIES FOR QUESTION 4

- a. Deduct half a mark ($\frac{1}{2}$) 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 is accepted for scoring.

Question 4e

- f. i. Award zero (0) if any content/ main word in the expression being tested is repeated in the candidate's answer.
ii. Award zero (0) if a candidate uses fixed expressions (idioms, phrasal verbs ... etc) in the candidate's answer.

g. Question 4g (Summary)

- i. Award half the allocated mark if the answer is not written in a complete sentence.
- ii. Apt lifting within the stipulated number of words is allowed.
- iii. Deduct $\frac{1}{2}$ if an answer exceeds the required number of words (extraneous material)
- iv. Deduct $\frac{1}{2}$ for any grammatical/ expression error in a correct answer.
- v. Deduct $\frac{1}{2}$ for any extraneous material in a correct answer.

Question 4

- a. **What is the difference between the narrator and Lugu, according to the passage?**
The narrator is (loyal/trustworthy/faithful) while /whereas/ whilst/but Lugu is disloyal/not trustworthy/unfaithful.

OR

The narrator can be trusted but Lugu cannot be trusted.

2 marks

NB: There must be any of the contrasting words to score.

- b. **Why didn't the narrator's uncle let him or her go back to his or her parents' house after Senior High School?**

He / She was hardworking/ respectful **OR** He/ She lived up to expectations. **1 mark**

- c. **Why didn't the narrator agree to Lugu's suggestion?**
He/She had decided to make loyalty (and decorum) his/her hallmark(s) OR
Loyalty and decorum had become characteristic of him/her. **1 mark**
- d. **"Until the unexpected happened"**
What do you think happened?
The narrator's uncle died/ Gidi died/ The uncle died
NB: Accept any word or euphemism related to death **2 marks**
- e. **Explain in your own words the following expressions as used in the passage:**
- Be as good as my words:** Live according to/ go by (what I say/ my principles/ my beliefs) **2 marks**
 - In search of greener pastures:** to look for a better (job/ life)/ to look for a (better-paid/ more lucrative job/ more profitable job) **2 marks**
 - The best part of a year:** more than six months/ for a while/ for some time/ for a little while/ close to twelve months/ (almost/ barely) twelve months/ for a greater part of twelve months/ a little less than twelve months. **2 marks**
✓NB: Do not accept "one year" or any specific month e.g., seven months.
- f. **For each of the following words, give another word or phrase that means the same and can fit into the passage:**
- Promptly:** instantly/ there and then/ immediately/ at once/ without delay/ without wasting time/ quickly/ instantaneously/ right away/ straight away **1 mark**
 - Stewardship:** control/ care/ protection/ supervision/ custody/ custodianship/ responsibility/ **1 mark**
 - Burgle:** steal/ rob/ steal from/ break into/ raid **1 mark**
 - Substantially:** considerably / greatly/ very much/ a great deal/ handsomely/ abundantly/ generously **1 mark**
- g. **In two sentences of not more than ten words each;**
- summarize a lesson the narrator learnt based on the last paragraph**
(The narrator/ he/she) has learnt that (loyalty/ honesty) pays OR He/ She has learnt that it pays to be loyal/ honest OR It pays to be loyal/ honest. **2 marks**
 - give a suitable title to the passage**
It pays to be loyal/ honest OR There is a reward for loyalty/ honesty **2 marks**
- NB: Reward for loyalty (honesty) = 2-1

PART C

Literature

[10 marks]

PENALTIES FOR QUESTION 5

- a. Deduct $\frac{1}{2}$ mark for any grammatical/ expression error at each scoring point.
- b. Where a candidate gives two answers and one of them is wrong, award zero (0). If, however, both answers are correct, award full marks.
- c. An answer taken as a whole must make sense before it may be accepted for scoring.
- d. Award zero if a candidate spells a name, a literary device etc. wrongly.

Question 5

- a. First Woman and Second Woman
- b. Because of the sorrow Ato's marriage has caused her/ She is heartbroken because her grandson has married the descendant of slaves/ Because of Ato's marriage to Eulalie.
- c. Sad/ sorrowful/ depressed/ unhappy.
- d. Dirge/ eulogy/ tribute/ elegy/ apostrophe
- e. Humble/simple/ modest
- f. Hyperbole/ metaphor
- g. Metaphor
- h. Schatz refused to sleep / relax; / He was not interested in anything/ He told his father to leave him alone.
- i. He took his dog for a walk/ He hunted (for quails)/ He killed two birds (coveys)
- j. He felt relaxed/ relieved.

1 mark each