



*Let the mind manage the body
Que l'esprit gère le corps*

Index Number:

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

2023

ENGLISH (N500)

TIME: 2 HOURS 15 MINUTES

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Write your index number in the space provided above.
2. Write in dark blue or black ink. Do not use correction fluid.
3. Any rough working should be done in this booklet.
4. Answer **ALL** questions.
5. For Question 10, answer either Option A or Option B.
6. This document consists of **10** questions printed on **21** pages, numbered **2** to **22**.
7. The number of marks for each question is given in brackets ().
8. The total mark for this paper is **100**.

For Examiners' use												
Question No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Signature
Examiner												
Team Leader												
CE/ACE												

Question 1 (15 marks)

For items 1 to 9, circle the correct answer. Each item carries one mark.

1. Jane is the girl at school.
A taller
B tallest
C as tall
D so tall

2. My sister had a smile on face after winning the race.
A his
B their
C her
D my

3. We stayed my uncle's place.
A in
B by
C for
D at

4. Yesterday, my cousins to visit me.
A are coming
B have come
C come
D came

5. The film will start half an hour.
- A in
 - B on
 - C at
 - D by
6. Kevin and his brother make their bed
- A herself
 - B himself
 - C ourselves
 - D themselves
7. does this road go?
- A How
 - B Why
 - C What
 - D Where
8. If I eat fruits and vegetables, I healthy.
- A was
 - B were
 - C will be
 - D was being
9. There is too sugar in my tea.
- A many
 - B plenty
 - C lots
 - D much

For items 10 to 15, follow the instructions given. Each item carries one mark.

10. **Underline the words which should begin with a capital letter.**

mary has gone to england.

11. **Punctuate the following:**

Tim bought three apples two oranges and one kiwi.

.....
.....

12. **Re-write the sentence below in its negative form.**

The match will be organised.

.....
.....

13. **Use the words in brackets to link the following sentences. Remember to make all necessary changes.**

His father comes home. He will prepare dinner. (as soon as)

.....
.....

14. **Re-write the sentence below in the past tense.**

John walks to school.

.....
.....

15. **Re-write the sentence below using direct speech.**

The teacher asked us if we were hungry.

.....
.....

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Question 3 (10 marks)

Read the poster below and answer the questions that follow.



SUMMERHILL SECONDARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL FOOD & FUN DAY

Summerhill Secondary School is organising its annual food and fun day!
All members of the public are invited!

DATE: Sunday 19th February 2023

LOCATION: The playground of Summerhill Secondary School

TIME: 10 00 to 16 00

There will be many activities!

Entry Fee: Rs 50

MUSIC CORNER	FOOD CORNER	GAMES CORNER
Concert by Grade 9 Students	Pizza	Playstation
Dancing	Burger	Football
Karaoke	Chips	Volleyball
	Fried noodles	Horror Chamber

For any further information, please call the headmaster, Mr Cyril Goupille, on 674 4321

Summerhill Secondary School
Royal Road, Curepipe
info@summerhill.com

- 1. Which event is being organised?
..... [1]
- 2. Which school is organising this event?
..... [1]
- 3. Who is invited to the event?
..... [1]
- 4. On which date will this event be held?
..... [1]
- 5. At what time will the event start?
..... [1]
- 6. How much is the entry fee?
..... [1]
- 7. Name one food item available in the Food Corner.
..... [1]
- 8. Which activity will be performed by Grade 9 students?
..... [1]
- 9. Name one activity available in the Games Corner.
..... [1]
- 10. What is the name of the headmaster of the school?
..... [1]

E
TL
CE

Question 4 (5 marks)

Write the correct form of the words in brackets. The first one has been done for you.

The Mauritian sega **is** **(to be)** very well-known in the world. It is often **(perform)** at family events or in public places. Segal songs are **(popularity)** because they often talk about love. Women dancers wear **(tradition)** long skirts. The men wear rolled-up trousers and **(colour)** shirts. Segal is known for **(bring)** people together.

(Adapted from <https://ich.unesco.org>)

E
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Question 5 (5 marks)

Read the text below and correct the underlined mistakes. An example is given.

Vaco Baissac was an incredibel artist. He was one of the greatest Mauritian painter.

incredible

He liked portraying life on a island in his work. Very often, she painted about Mauritian

flora and fauna. His works have showed how beautiful Mauritius is. Baissac has

represented Mauritius on many international competitions.

E
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Question 6 (5 marks)

Complete the following text by writing one suitable word in each blank space.

An example is given.

In some countries, letting babies sleep outside in cold weather is a **normal**
practice. First, by sleeping outside, babies the sounds of nature.
Thus, sleep better. Second, babies who sleep outside
..... sick less often. Of course, when they are placed outdoors to sleep,
they are kept warm. They are made to a woollen hat on their head.
They are also with a thick blanket.

E
TL
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Question 7 (10 marks)

You are moving to a new school. Write a goodbye card to your favourite teacher.

Write about 50-75 words based on the following:

- Why are you moving to another school?
- Why is he/she your favourite teacher?
- Your feelings about moving to a new school.
- How do your friends feel about you moving to another school?
- Promise to write to your teacher regularly.

Dear

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Yours

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E
TL
CE

Question 8 (20 marks)

Read the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

1 “Let’s go to the fancy fair!”

When we were young, these were magic words which sent a surge of excitement through our family. But tastes change over time and we had started to feel the burden of age! My wife and I looked at each other, **glanced** at our one-year old Tina sleeping peacefully in her pram, and then told our four-year old Noah, “All right then, come on, let’s go!” 5

2 As we drew closer to the open field where the fancy fair was being held, we could hear the murmur of the crowd while the smell of hot greasy cakes drifted towards us and pulled us onwards. A path opened in the crowd. I pushed the pram where a bouncing and giggling baby was sitting and my wife walked an eager toddler, holding his hand tightly. After I had paid the entrance fee for two adults at the ticket booth, we were ready to try out some fun 10 activities.

3 As soon as he noticed the huge aquarium tank under the open green tent, Noah became curious. He steered us in that direction cleverly. At the bottom of the tank full of pinkish water were a few tiny glasses. They contained 50-cent coins. To play the game, participants drop a coin in the water. If it lands in one of the glasses, they win a prize of 15 their choice. I paid for the game and Noah was provided with three 50-cent coins. He carefully hovered one of the coins on top of a glass before releasing it. At his last try, the coin floated down and landed into the glass. Noah had won! As prize, he chose a rainbow-coloured bracelet and proudly slipped it onto Tina’s **chubby** wrist.

4 We moved from tent to tent, watching people try different games and attempting some 20 ourselves. Finally, we stopped at the food tent and searched for a free table. I sat Noah on a plastic chair and pushed Tina’s pram, with her seated in it, next to Noah. I wiped the table clean. One can never be too careful! Meanwhile, my wife went to buy some snacks and drinks: a portion of potato chips and a bottle of water for Tina and Noah, and a small 25 tray of vegetarian samosas and sweet strong coffee for us.

5 It was getting dark and the children looked tired, so we decided to head back home. I went to throw our used, disposable paper cups and plates into the nearby waste bin. Meanwhile, my wife quickly checked the metro timetable on her mobile phone. When I came back, I stared at my wife, “Where’s Noah?”

6 Noah had been there just a few seconds before, but now, there was no sign of him. 30 I quickly scanned the tent but could not see him! My wife stayed at the table with the pram, while I extended my search further into the tent, then outside the tent. He could not have gone far in just a few seconds. I asked a few people whether they had seen a little boy. No one had.

7 I made my way back to the food tent to comfort my wife, who was probably panicking and 35 in tears by now. However, she needed no comforting, for Noah was sitting in her lap.

“Do you know where this little rascal was?” she asked. “He had climbed into the pram beside Tina, had pulled the blanket over himself and had gone straight to sleep.”

I was **speechless**. I looked at the culprit. His face was that of an angel – a very tired 40 angel.

From Paragraph 1

1. What were “the magic words” (line 2) the narrator refers to?

..... [1]

2. Why did the narrator feel **less** excited about going to the fancy fair now? Give two reasons.

(i)

(ii)

[2]

From Paragraph 2

3. What was the first thing the narrator heard when approaching the fancy fair?

..... [1]

4. What “pulled” (line 7) the narrator towards the fancy fair?

..... [1]

5. According to you, why did the narrator’s wife hold Noah’s hand “tightly” (line 9)?

.....

..... [1]

From Paragraph 3

6. Which word shows that it was Noah who led his parents in the direction of the aquarium?

..... [1]

7. Explain fully what should be done to win a prize in the coin game.

.....

..... [2]

8. Noah chose a bracelet and gave it to Tina. What does this show about his feelings for his sister?

.....

..... [1]

From Paragraph 4

9. What did the narrator do as he moved “from tent to tent” (line 20)? Mention two things.

(i)

(ii)

[2]

From Paragraph 5

10. Why did the family decide to go home? Give two reasons.

(i)

(ii)

[2]

11. “I stared at my wife” (line 29).

Why did the narrator stare at his wife?

.....

[1]

From Paragraph 6

12. The narrator thinks that Noah could not have gone very far (lines 32-33).

Explain why.

.....

.....

[1]

From Paragraph 7

13. “His face was that of an angel” (line 39).

Do you agree with this description of Noah? Why?

.....

.....

[1]

From the entire passage

14. Give the meaning of the following words or expressions as they have been used in the passage.

(i) glanced (line 4):

(ii) chubby (line 19):

(iii) speechless (line 39):

[3]

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Question 9 (15 marks)

Write an essay of about 200-250 words on one of the following:

- (i) Describe the scene in your house on the day of an important event.

(Remember you must describe what you see and hear, the atmosphere, the people, and what you feel.)

Or

- (ii) It is important for children to learn to do house chores (e.g. washing the dishes, sweeping the floor, etc.). Do you agree?

Or

- (iii) Write a story based on the following line:

“I had never been so disappointed ...”

Option chosen:

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Question 10 – Answer either Option A or Option B

Option A – Poetry (10 marks)

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.

A Poison Tree

I was angry with my friend;
I told my wrath¹, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe²;
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And I watered it in fears,
Night & morning with my tears:
And I sunned it with smiles,
And with soft deceitful wiles³.

And it grew both day and night,
Till it bore an apple bright.
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine.

And into my garden stole,
When the night had veiled⁴ the pole⁵;
In the morning glad I see;
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.

Glossary:

1. *wrath*: extreme anger
2. *foe*: enemy
3. *wiles*: tricks / traps
4. *veiled*: clouded
5. *pole*: the sky

(Adapted from *A Poison Tree*, by William Blake)

1. Which one of the following is a pair of **rhyming words**?

- A friend, foe
- B night, bright
- C sunned, smiles
- D apple, stole

[1]

2. (a) Which **narrative voice** is the poet using in this poem?

- A First-person
- B Second-person
- C Third-person
- D Fourth-person

[1]

(b) Give one piece of evidence from the poem to support your answer.

.....
.....

[1]

3. (a) Which one of the following is a **metaphor**?

- A I was angry with my friend
- B And I watered it in fears
- C And he knew that it was mine
- D In the morning glad I see

[1]

(b) Give an example of another metaphor used in the poem.

.....
.....

[1]

4. What do you understand by the following lines from the poem?

(i) "I told it not, my wrath did grow."

.....
..... [1]

(ii) "My foe outstretched beneath the tree."

.....
..... [1]

5. According to you, what is this poem about?

Support your answer with close reference to the poem.

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..... [3]

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Option B – Prose (10 marks)

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow.

Early one morning as we were beginning our day's play in the backyard, Jem and I heard something next door in Miss Rachel Haverford's yard. We went to the wire fence to see if there was a puppy; instead, we found someone sitting and looking at us.

"Hey. I'm Charles Baker Harris," he said. "I can read."

"So what?" I said.

5

"I just thought you'd like to know I can read. You got anything that needs reading, I can do it..."

"How old are you," asked Jem, "four-and-a-half?"

"Nearly seven."

"It's no wonder, then," said Jem, jerking his thumb at me. "Scout has been reading ever since she was born. You look right puny for nearly seven."

10

"I'm little but I'm old," he said.

Jem brushed his hair back to get a better look. "Why don't you come over, Charles Baker Harris?" he said.

"People call me Dill," said Charles Baker Harris, struggling under the fence.

15

"It's better if you go over it instead of under it," I said. "Where'd you come from?"

Dill was visiting his aunt, Miss Rachel. He planned to spend every summer there from now on. His mother had entered his picture in a contest and won five dollars, which she gave to Dill. He used the money to go to the movies twenty times.

"Don't have many movies here," said Jem. "Ever see anything good?"

20

Dill had seen *Dracula*¹, a revelation that moved Jem to eye him with the beginning of respect. "Tell it to us," he said.

Dill was a curious sight with blue linen shorts buttoned to his shirt, and with snow-white hair. Although he was one year older than me, I still towered over him. His blue eyes would change, his laugh was sudden and joyful, and he often tugged at a lock of hair on his forehead. Dill reduced *Dracula* to dust, and Jem said the show sounded better than the book.

25

I asked Dill where his father was: "You haven't said anything about him."

(Adapted from Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*)

¹Dracula: A horror film based on a famous novel of the same name, written by Bram Stoker. Dracula is a vampire in the story.

1. (a) Which **narrative voice** is the narrator using in this extract?

- A First-person
- B Second-person
- C Third-person
- D Fourth-person

[1]

(b) Give one piece of evidence from the extract to support your answer.

.....
.....

[1]

2. (a) Which one of the following is a **metaphor**?

- A We went to the wire fence to see if there was a puppy...
- B I just thought you'd like to know I can read.
- C Jem brushed his hair back to get a better look.
- D Dill reduced Dracula to dust...

[1]

(b) Give an example of a metaphor found between lines 20-25.

.....
.....

[1]

3. What do you understand by the following lines from the extract?

(i) "Scout has been reading ever since she was born" (lines 10-11).

.....
.....

[1]

(ii) "You look right puny for nearly seven" (line 11).

.....
.....

[1]

(iii) "Dill was a curious sight..." (line 23).

.....
.....

[1]

4. Based on your reading of the extract, describe Dill's character. Support your answer with close reference to the extract.

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.....

[3]

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