



Index Number: .....

# NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

March / April 2021

## 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.
3. Any rough working should be done in this booklet.
4. Answer **ALL** questions.
5. This document consists of **10** questions printed on **17** pages.
6. The number of marks for each question is given in brackets ( ).
7. The total of the marks for this paper is **100**.

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

**Question 1 (15 marks)****For items 1 to 5, circle the correct answer.**

1. We will hurt \_\_\_\_\_ if we are not careful.  
**A** yourself  
**B** himself  
**C** themselves  
**D** ourselves
  
2. My grandmother will be 70 years old tomorrow. We will celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ birthday at home.  
**A** my  
**B** your  
**C** her  
**D** his
  
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ ate nor drank anything.  
**A** neither  
**B** too  
**C** or  
**D** either

4. The pen \_\_\_\_\_ is on the table is mine.
- A whose
  - B which
  - C who
  - D whom
5. Jamie did not \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone for a long time.
- A spoke
  - B speaking
  - C speak
  - D speaks

**For each of items 6 to 8, circle the letter showing the correct sentence.**

6. A She will be working tomorrow.  
B She was working tomorrow.  
C She had worked tomorrow.  
D She has worked tomorrow.
7. A Each one of us have homework to do.  
B Everyone has to be present for the meeting.  
C Dad and I has planned to watch the game tonight.  
D My sister have given me a nice present.
8. A She stood up and waves at me.  
B She stood up and had waved at me.  
C She stood up and is waving at me.  
D She stood up and waved at me.

For items 9 to 15, follow the instructions given.

Marks

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

the plane will reach rodrigues at 3 o'clock.

10. **Re-write the following sentence in the plural.**

The knife is old.

.....  
.....

11. **Re-write the following sentence in its interrogative form.**

She has left for school.

.....  
.....

12. **Separate the following sentences properly. Add capital letters and full stops where required.**

Lennie went behind the tree he was playing hide and seek

.....  
.....

13. **Punctuate the following.**

did neha have her mobile phone with her

.....  
.....

14. **Use the word in brackets to link the following sentences. Remember to make all necessary changes.**

Elizabeth was far away. She could see Darcy watching her. (although)

.....  
.....

15. **Re-write the sentence below in the passive voice.**

Riva left a bag.

.....  
.....

**Question 2 (5 marks)**

**Marks**

**For each item, circle the letter which shows the correct answer.**

1. She is very \_\_\_\_\_. She never lies nor cheats.  

<b>A</b> generous	<b>C</b> honest
<b>B</b> humble	<b>D</b> polite
  
2. Have you \_\_\_\_\_ him about the outing?  

<b>A</b> said	<b>C</b> shared
<b>B</b> told	<b>D</b> argued
  
3. The horses are resting in their \_\_\_\_\_.  

<b>A</b> aquarium	<b>C</b> kennel
<b>B</b> nest	<b>D</b> stable
  
4. Can you please tell us what's on the \_\_\_\_\_ for dinner tonight?  

<b>A</b> menu	<b>C</b> receipt
<b>B</b> bill	<b>D</b> recipe
  
5. Jane is the most \_\_\_\_\_ girl in the school. We all like her.  

<b>A</b> nervous	<b>C</b> impatient
<b>B</b> surprising	<b>D</b> popular

Question 3 (10 marks)

Marks

Read the advertisement below and fill in the information sheet that follows.

# VICTORIA SCHOOL

Curepipe



**We are looking for an Educator of English to teach Grades 7 to 9.**

Interested candidates must:

- be between 30 and 45 years of age
- have at least 5 years of teaching experience
- have a degree in English

The successful applicant will be expected to join as from 7 June 2021.  
He/She will be paid Rs 30,000 monthly.

Interested candidates should send their application to the Director of Victoria School on the following e-mail address: [dvs@intnet.mu](mailto:dvs@intnet.mu)

**The deadline for the submission of applications is 10 April 2021.**

1. Name of the school: .....
2. Job advertised: .....
3. Applicant will teach pupils of Grades: .....
4. Minimum age of the applicant: .....
5. Number of years of experience required: .....
6. Qualification required: .....
7. Date to start work: .....
8. Salary being offered: .....
9. E-mail address of the Director: .....
10. Last date for applying: .....

#### Question 4 (5 marks)

Marks

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

Coconuts probably originated (originate) from South East Asia. They are one of the most important \_\_\_\_\_ (crop) of the tropics. The liquid found in the coconut is \_\_\_\_\_ (usual) consumed as a drink. Oil extracted from the dried kernel produces very \_\_\_\_\_ (health) vegetable oil. Coconut flesh can be \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) dried or fresh. Dried coconut can be grated and mixed with water to make coconut milk. Coconut milk is used in \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) or as a substitute for cow's milk.

Adapted from <https://www.britannica.com/plant/coconut>

#### Question 5 (5 marks)

Read the extract from a diary below. It contains some mistakes. They have been underlined for you. Correct them. An example is given.

The beach was a few hour's drive away. Mom told Rodrick to drive as dad didn't wanted to.  
\_\_\_\_\_ hours'

After a while, Mom passed around a bag containing some snacks she has packed and I

\_\_\_\_\_ grabbed some biscuits. Just then, I saw a bird looked at me miserably. I threw a biscuit out

\_\_\_\_\_ and I was impress when the bird caught it in mid-air. However, the bird flied in the car and

\_\_\_\_\_ couldn't get out!

Adapted from *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul* by Jeff Kinney

**Question 6 (5 marks)**

**Marks**

**Complete the following text by writing one suitable word in each blank space. An example is given.**

In the Netherlands, many people use their bicycles to travel. Cycling is beneficial for the economy, the environment and society. Riding a bicycle costs little compared \_\_\_\_\_ driving a car. Cycling does not \_\_\_\_\_ air pollution, thus improving air quality. Cycling is silent and helps to \_\_\_\_\_ traffic noise. In addition, cycling helps people to save \_\_\_\_\_ as they do not get stuck in traffic. Finally, cycling boosts physical fitness so people are less likely to \_\_\_\_\_ sick.

Adapted from <https://bicycledutch.wordpress.com>



**Question 7 (10 marks)**

**Marks**

**Your school recently organised an important event. Write a short note to your aunt telling her about the event.**

Write about 50-75 words based on the following:

- Which event did your school organise?
- When did it take place?
- Which activities were organised?
- What did your friends and teachers do?
- How was the event important for you and your school?

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### Question 8 (20 marks)

Read the passage below and answer the questions which follow.

*In the following passage, the narrator, Saroo, recalls how he ended up getting on a train alone and got lost when he was five.*

- |   |  |    |
|---|--|----|
| 1 | One night, when I was five years old, I was at home, tired from a day playing out in the streets. Despite being tired, I was excited that the whole family was gathered for dinner. My mother was home from work and, more unusually, my brother Guddu had come back to see us. As he was the eldest, I looked up to him. He hadn't come home for some time and I missed hanging out with him.   | 5  |
| 2 | When our mother went out – perhaps to see whether she could get us some more food – Guddu announced that he was going back to Berampur, where he lived. I immediately got up and said, "I'm coming with you!" I didn't want to be left behind with nothing to do. He thought about it for a moment and then agreed – I was thrilled.   |    |
| 3 | We walked to the station to wait for the train. By the time the train arrived and we had furtively got on board, I was already becoming sleepy. I don't know if Guddu was having second thoughts about letting me come. However, I was starting to feel a bit guilty because my mother usually needed me to babysit my baby sister while she was at work and I didn't know when I would be back.   | 10 |
| 4 | By the time we got off at Berampur, I was so exhausted I slumped into a bench and told Guddu I couldn't go on without a rest. "Just sit down and don't move. I'll come back in a little while and we can find somewhere to sleep." I lay down, shut my eyes and must have fallen asleep straightaway.  | 15 |
| 5 | When I woke up, it was very quiet and the station was deserted. Still sleepy, I looked around for Guddu but couldn't see him anywhere. There was a train at the platform where we had got off with its carriage door open, but I didn't know if it was the same one or how long I had been asleep. My thoughts were muddled. Guddu wasn't around but he'd said he wasn't going far – maybe he had got back on the train? I got on the train in front of me to have a look. Guddu had said I should stay put, but he was probably on board in a different carriage, working, sweeping underneath the seats. What if I fell asleep on the dark platform again and the train pulled out and I was left alone? | 20 |
| 6 | I looked into a different carriage and found no one, but the empty wooden bench seats were more comfortable and felt safer than the quiet station. In a few moments, I was sleeping peacefully again. This time, I must have slept properly. When I awoke, it was broad daylight and the full sun was glaring straight into my eyes.   | 25 |
| 7 | I jumped up. There was still no one in my carriage and my brother was nowhere to be seen. I had been left undisturbed, a small boy asleep, alone on a speeding train... I screamed, banged the windows, cried, cursed. I ran up and down, yelling my brother's name, begging him to come and get me. I called for my mother too, but all in vain. No one answered and the train didn't stop. I was lost.   | 30 |
|   |  | 35 |

(Adapted from *Lion* by Saroo Brierley)

*From Paragraph 1*

- 1) Why was Saroo tired on that day?

.....

.....

[1]

- 2) What was different about dinner on that night?

.....

.....

[1]

- 3) Saroo “looked up” to his brother (line 4). What does this show about how he felt about Guddu?

.....

.....

[1]

*From Paragraph 2*

- 4) Why did Saroo want to go with his brother?

.....

.....

[1]

*From Paragraph 3*

- 5) Explain **fully** why Saroo was feeling guilty.

.....

.....

[2]

*From Paragraph 4*

- 6) Saroo was feeling “exhausted” (line 15) and asked his brother to let him rest. What other piece of evidence in this paragraph shows that Saroo was very tired?

.....

.....

[1]

- 7) Guddu left Saroo alone at the train station.  
What does this say about Guddu's attitude towards his brother?

.....

.....

[1]

*From Paragraph 5*

- 8) What was the first thing Saroo did when he woke up?

.....

.....

[1]

- 9) "My thoughts were muddled..." (line 22)  
Give one piece of evidence that shows that Saroo was confused at this point.

.....

.....

[1]

- 10) What was Saroo worried would happen to him?

.....

[1]

*From Paragraph 6*

- 11) Why did Saroo prefer the "empty wooden bench seats" (line 27) on the train to the bench on the train station?  
Give **two** reasons.

- (i) .....
- .....

- (ii) .....
- .....

[2]

*From Paragraph 7*

- 12) Which two consecutive words from line 31 show that Saroo was shocked when he woke up?

.....

.....

[1]

- 13) "I screamed, banged the windows, cried, cursed." (lines 32 – 33)  
What does this sentence show about Saroo's feelings at this point?

Marks

.....

..... [1]

*From the entire passage*

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

(i) hanging out (line 4) : .....

(ii) thrilled (line 9) : .....

(iii) furtively (line 10) : .....

(iv) deserted (line 19) : .....

(v) speeding (line 32) : .....

[5]

**Question 9 (15 marks)**

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

(i) Describe the scene in a crowded bus.

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

**Or**

(ii) "The internet has improved people's lives." Do you agree?

**Or**

(iii) Write a story based on:

"The situation looked hopeless, but we could not give up..."

Option chosen: .....

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**Marks**

**Marks**

### Question 10 (10 marks)

Marks

Read the poem below and answer the following questions.

Between my finger and my thumb  
The pen rests; snug<sup>1</sup> as a gun.

Under my window, a sound  
When the spade sinks into the ground,  
My father, digging. I look down.

He rooted out tall tops, buried the spade deep  
To scatter new potatoes that we picked,  
Loving their cool hardness in our hands.

By God, the old man could handle a spade.  
Just like his old man.

My grandfather cut more grass in a day  
Than any other man on Toner's bog<sup>2</sup>.  
Once I carried him milk in a bottle.  
He straightened up  
To drink it, then fell to right away  
Cutting and slicing neatly, lifting sods<sup>3</sup>  
Over his shoulder, going down and down  
Digging.

But I've no spade to follow men like them.  
Between my finger and my thumb  
The pen rests.  
I'll dig with it.

#### Glossary:

1. *snug*: fitting comfortably
2. *bog*: an area of wet muddy ground
3. *sods*: pieces from the ground that are covered with grass

(Adapted from *Digging*, by Seamus Heaney)



1. Which one of the following is a simile? Circle the correct answer.

[1]

Marks

- A my finger and my thumb
- B loving their cool hardness
- C rooted out tall tops
- D snug as a gun

2. Which one of the following is a pair of rhyming words? Circle the correct answer.

[1]

- A thumb, gun
- B deep, picked
- C sound, ground
- D day, bog

3 (i) What kind of narrative voice is the poet using in this poem?

[1]

- A first-person
- B second-person
- C third-person
- D fourth-person

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

[1]

.....

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

- (i) "By God, the old man could handle a spade.  
Just like his old man."

[1]

.....  
.....

(ii) "But I've no spade to follow men like them."

[1]

Marks

(iii) "The pen rests.  
I'll dig with it."

[1]

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

Support your answer with close reference to the poem.

[3]

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