INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION TO CANDIDATES

• Write your answers in the separate Answer Book provided.
• Write your Candidate Number and Name in the spaces on the answer book.
• Write in dark blue or black pen.
• Do not use correction fluid.

• Answer one question from Section A and one question from Section B.

• Answer all the subsections of each question.
• Start each question on a separate page.
• Do not write in the margin.
• Write clearly and legibly.

• The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
1 From *The Kiss*, by Walter Macken

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

‘Nice boat,’ she said.

He raised one eyebrow to look at her. He didn’t smile, but he was pleased that she knew a beautiful thing when she saw it. ‘Huh,’ he said.

‘Could you carry my horse across the river?’ she asked. She asked that as if it were an impossible thing.

Jimmy considered it. He knew she thought he couldn’t possibly do such a thing, so he said, with scorn, ‘Of course! Bring the horse down to the dock.’

She rose from her squatting, and very carefully pulled the horse to the edge of the ramp. She wished to show him that she could handle a horse well. As the boat was then in midstream, he had to turn it with finesse.

He used the string gently, so that when the boat turned, it didn’t even go under the water.

Like a master mariner, he brought it safely to port.

‘You will have to back the horse onto the ship,’ he said. ‘Careful. You might swamp the boat and there is no insurance on her.’

‘I’ll be careful,’ she said. She put her small red tongue between her teeth and held it there as she started backing the horse on board. The horse would take up a lot of room – nearly the whole width and length of the boat. She was conscious of a critical eye watching her and when finally the horse stood on the boat, she clapped her hands and said, ‘Now!’

‘That was easy,’ the boy said. ‘Now it is hard.’

The weight of the horse was almost submerging the vessel, so he was very cautious. He gently eased the boat and its burden into the water with his little finger, and as the flow of the stream caught the boat he loosed the guiding string with extreme care. They held their breath. The boat went out the full length of the string. It wobbled a bit. The girl bit at her finger.

‘Crossing the rapids is the worst part,’ the boy said as he delicately began turning the boat and its burden around. Slowly it came around, little by little, and then, after a few terrible moments of anxiety, it started to come back to them. They were standing by,
tense, as he brought it in. Finally, it scraped against the ramp. He bent down, pulled the horse on the ramp, and then, standing up, he said, ‘Now you will have to pay.’

(a) In which country is this story set? [1]

(b) Why does the girl want to play with Jimmy, even though she knows he actually wants her to go away? [1]

(c) In line 3 we are told that Jimmy sees his boat as “a beautiful thing”. Why does Jimmy think that his boat is beautiful? [1]

(d) “Like a master mariner, he brought it safely to port.” (Line 13) What figure of speech is used in the above sentence? Write down the correct answer.
   A metaphor  B onomatopoeia  C personification  D simile [1]

(e) In line 31 Jimmy tells the girl, ‘Now you will have to pay.’ How does the girl “pay” Jimmy for helping her? [1]

(f) Who is watching the children and what joke does the watcher play on the children? [2]

(g) Why does Jimmy take the joke seriously? [1]

(h) (i) Whom does Jimmy blame for his problem? [1]
   (ii) If anyone is to be blamed, whom should he rather blame? [1]

(i) After the joke, what does Jimmy do with his beautiful boat? [1]

(j) After Jimmy leaves the girl, what does he go looking for and why does he think that he needs it now? [2]

(k) Is Jimmy’s search successful? First answer either Yes or No, then give a reason for your answer. [1]

(l) Whom do Jimmy and his father visit in the hope that this person will be able to solve the problem, and how does this person solve the problem? [3]

(m) Is Jimmy’s father a good parent? First answer either Yes or No, then give a reason for your answer. [1]

(n) Is this story fiction or non-fiction? First answer either Fiction or Non-fiction, then give a reason for your answer. [2]

[20]

OR
From *Power*, by Jack Cope

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

He used to lie and listen to the marvellous hum of the powerline, the millions of volts flowing invisible and beyond all one’s ideas along the copper wires that hung so smooth and light from ties of crinkled white china looking like Chinese lanterns up against the sky. Faint cracklings and murmurs and rushes of sound would sometimes come from the powerline, and at night he was sure he saw soft blue flames lapping and trembling on the wires as if they were only half peeping out of that fierce river of volts. The flames danced and their voices chattered to him of a mystery.

In the early morning when the mist was rising and the first sun’s rays were shooting underneath it, the powerline sparkled like a tremendous spiderweb. It took his thoughts away into a magical distance, far – far off among gigantic machines and busy factories. That was where the world opened up.

So he loved the powerline dearly. It made a door through the distance for his thoughts. It was like him except that it never slept, and while he was dreaming it went on without stopping, cracking faintly and murmuring. Its electricity hauled up the mine skips from the heart of the earth, hurtled huge green rail units along their shining lines, and thundered day and night in the factories.

Now that the veld’s green was darkening and gathering black-and-gold tints from the ripe seeds and withering grass blades, now that the clear warm autumn days were coming after the summer thunderstorms, the birds began gathering on the powerline.

At evening he would see the wires like necklaces of blue-and-black glass beads when the swallows gathered. It took them days and days, it seemed, to make up their minds. He did not know whether the same swallows collected each evening in growing numbers or whether a batch went off each day to be replaced by others. He did not know enough about them. He loved to hear them making excited twittering sounds, he loved to see how they simply fell off the copper wire into space and their perfect curved wings lifted them on the air.

They were going not merely beyond the skyline, like the power, they were flying thousands of miles over land and sea and mountains and forests to countries he had never dreamt of. They would fly over Everest, perhaps they would see ships beneath them on blue seas among islands. They would build nests under bridges and on chimneys where other boys in funny clothes would catch them. The birds opened another door for him and he liked them too, very much.
(a) Why does Andre spend so much time watching the powerline and the birds and imagining things about them?

(b) In line 29, Andre imagines that the swallows “would fly over Everest”. Andre has already climbed and conquered two “Everests” of his own. What were these two imaginary mountain peaks?

(c) What happens to one of the swallows, one morning when Andre is watching them?

(d) How does Andre feel about this swallow?

(e) What is Andre’s parents’ greatest fear?

(f) How does his parents’ different attitude affect Andre’s relationship with them?

(g) Why doesn’t Andre help the swallow on his own?

(h) How does the swallow stay alive?

(i) When Andre sees the butcher-bird, why does that force him to ask for help at the power station?

(j) How is the problem of the swallow solved?

(k) What happens to the swallow in the end and how does Andre feel about it?

(l) This story is entitled “Power”. Which two different kinds of power appear in the story?

(m) “...the powerline sparkled like a tremendous spiderweb”. (Line 9) What figure of speech is used in the above phrase? Write down the correct answer.

   A metaphor
   B onomatopoeia
   C personification
   D simile

(n) In the reading passage, there are several words describing sounds: “hum” (line 1), “cracklings” (line 4), “murmurs” (line 4), “chattered” (line 7), “cracking” (line 14), “murmuring” (line 14) and “twittering” (line 24).

What figure of speech is used in all these words? Write down the correct answer.

   A alliteration
   B metaphor
   C onomatopoeia
   D simile
SECTION B

The Other Presence, by Dr Francis Sifiso Nyathi

Answer only one question from this section.

3 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The beams and rays of the morning sun filtered through the tall gangling trees of the Zambezi. Somewhere very close by was a tree unbeknown to him. As he tried to examine it, he quickly learnt that it was in fact a Mopane tree. Something conspicuous flapped in its upper trunk. Sinvula drew closer to scrutinize its posture. He drew closer and closer to lessen the strain on his eyes. Just at the helm of the junction below the tree, the animals were busying themselves. They were not foraging for food. They were not fighting. It was not a fight at all. It was a black cat that comforted itself on the back of another black. They were not shy at all of their deed. They confidently went on with the act without any fear of the human presence. This was indeed a rarity to Sinvula. Very few people would tell you they had ever seen something of this nature.

Transfixed for a while, and Sinvula a lone figure in front of this despicable rarity, he reached for his knobkerrie and flung it at the cats. The cats were too clever for him to become the effective recipients of his harmful intent and hopped away before suffering any damage. They ran towards the river, climbed the bigger trees just at the edge of the water, sprang from one tree to another like monkeys and disappeared in the shadows of the leaves.

Elder Sinvula retrieved his knobkerrie from the thickets and came back to the path that ran along the banks of the river. As he took a few steps from the theatre of the cats, a huge owl lifted itself from a branch in front of him and flew to the highest part of the tallest tree of this mini forest. It hooted for a while and flew away across the river to some other part of the territory.

It was difficult to tell whether elder Sinvula was now in a state of confusion or insanity. His fears of these eccentric happenings had now changed to anger. He was angry at his failure to understand what was actually happening to him, seeing all these strange creatures that were traditionally ominous of bad spells. He was not sure whether to throw questions to his ancestors or simply call on the powers of the Heavens. Then a little voice called from inside, “walk on”.

He took a few steps forward and sank into an ocean of unanswered questions. Why would an owl that rules the night hoot at him under the morning rays of a fresh day? Why would he be a victim of this coincidental spell of portentous events? Why?

He walked on. Sometimes, he found himself walking faster than he had measured his pace. At times, he found his pace severely decelerated by his thoughts. His mental state rambled with voices from unknown origins. Sometimes, he found himself entangled in unknown conversations with nobody. A delirium of conflict of thoughts tormented him.
(a) Where is Sinvula going and what is the name of the person he wants to see there? [2]

(b) What information does Sinvula hope to get from this person? [1]

(c) Does this person give Sinvula the information he wants? First answer Yes or No, then give a reason for your answer. [1]

(d) Why does Sinvula need this information so desperately? [1]

(e) Who accuses Sinvula and of what is he accused? [1]

(f) Why is Sinvula so disturbed at the sight of the black cats and the owl? [2]

(g) When and where does an owl again play an important role in the novel? [2]

(h) “He was not sure whether to throw questions to his ancestors or simply call on the powers of the Heavens.” (Lines 25-26) Which two different beliefs cause Sinvula to be confused? [2]

(i) Which belief does Sinvula decide to act on and what does he do that is in accordance with it? [2]

(j) Who is the protagonist in this novel? [1]

(k) This novel is entitled “The Other Presence”. Who or what is “the other presence”? [2]

(l) This reading passage forms part of which element of the plot? Write down the correct answer.
   A  climax
   B  conclusion/resolution
   C  falling action
   D  rising action
   [1]

(m) “[The cats] sprang from one tree to another like monkeys ...” (Line 15) What figure of speech is used in the above sentence? Write down the correct answer.
   A  alliteration
   B  metaphor
   C  onomatopoeia
   D  simile
   [1]

(n) “He took a few steps forward and sank into an ocean of unanswered questions.” (Line 28) What figure of speech is used in the underlined phrase? Write down the correct answer.
   A  alliteration
   B  metaphor
   C  onomatopoeia
   D  simile
   [1]

OR
4 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

From a distance, one could openly see the agony that the old woman was now going through. She looked so patched and broken. Her loneliness could be felt by all, including the children of the village who would volunteer in helping out in all aspects of her domestic chores. Now, with the passing away of her only remaining son, the scourge of misery in her compound could indeed be noted as the most serious tragedy ever experienced by any known village dweller.

To make matters worse, none of her children had left her any grandchildren. She was now as alone as a tree that had lost all its branches. Customarily, such a widow would be afforded another matrimonial opportunity through her brothers-in-law. However, Sinvula, the only remaining brother-in-law, would be the last person she would give her soul to. Besides, some of the diviners had insinuated that elder Sinvula had strategically taken her husband’s life so that she could marry him. Obviously, this would also mean that she would get married in a polygamous state of affairs. Over her dead body would she do this, she had vowed to herself. On the other hand, elder Sinvula had not shown any interest as well in such kind of arrangements.

In Ma Simanga’s view, the wizard had clobbered one of her own again with an aim to thrive on his retirement fund. She could not live with the thought that after labouring with her children for all those months and years, the so-called relatives could simply walk into her homestead and keep sharing all they had left behind, all in the name of tradition. This time around, she had vowed not to allow anybody to decide the fate of Akapelwa’s inheritance. They had done so with the cattle and other property of the estate left behind by her husband. They had done so with other properties left by those children of hers who had passed on before Akapelwa. And now, they could do the same immediately after the burial of her beloved son. During the time they were sharing these belongings of her husband and children, she was constantly left in the cold without a say. This time, she would put up a fight and she would do so until she won. Such thoughts boiled in Ma Simanga’s brain as she watched the men gather around the morning fire.

Her sight of Sinvula brought sad memories of relatives who had posed as mourners whilst their mission was that of economic predators. Every time she saw him, her bitterness surged and soared through her nerves and drove her extremely mad. She was convinced that this time, the wizard had struck again so as to prey on her son’s pension.
(a) In lines 4-6, we are told that the “scourge of misery” in Ma Simanga’s compound is seen as “the most serious tragedy ever experienced by any known village dweller”.

(i) How did Ma Simanga’s husband die? [1]

(ii) What caused the deaths of all her children? [1]

(b) Does Ma Simanga know the real cause of Akapelwa’s death? First answer either Yes or No, then give a reason for your answer. [1]

(c) What do the villagers traditionally believe about death? [1]

(d) What traditional practice started the family conflict between Ma Simanga and her late husband’s family, especially Sinvula? [1]

(e) What does Ma Simanga’s experience tell us about the role of women in this traditional rural society? [2]

(f) Quote one word from the last paragraph of the passage which shows that Ma Simanga thinks that Sinvula practises witchcraft. [1]

(g) What does this tell us about Ma Simanga’s beliefs? [1]

(h) Which of Ma Simanga’s best friends believes that Sinvula is innocent and why? [2]

(i) At this time, which two recent news items are the villagers gossiping about? [2]

(j) Who are the antagonists in this novel? [2]

(k) This novel is entitled “The Other Presence”. Who or what is “the other presence”? [2]

(l) “She was now as alone as a tree that had lost all its branches.” (Lines 7-8) What figure of speech is used in the above sentence? Write down the correct answer.
   A alliteration
   B onomatopoeia
   C personification
   D simile [1]

(m) “... their mission was that of economic predators ...” (Line 30) What figure of speech is used in the underlined word? Write down the correct answer.
   A alliteration
   B metaphor
   C onomatopoeia
   D simile [1]

(n) “... her bitterness surged and soared through her nerves ...” (Lines 30-31) What figure of speech is used in the underlined phrase? Write down the correct answer.
   A alliteration
   B onomatopoeia
   C personification
   D simile [1]