

## English FAL

### Grade 11 – Comprehension and Language Task 2

#### Section A: Comprehension

##### Question 1

###### *How I got wise*

It was love – joyous, glorious first love – that launched me on wisdom’s path. Little did I know where it would lead.

- 1 Youngsters commonly believe that their teachers were intelligent at school. Only a bookworm would grow up to be a teacher.
- 2 I tried to tell my pupils that their image of me as a devotee of homework was somewhat incorrect. I hated school with a passion and my marks were low.
- 3 However, in my second year of high school, something beautiful and exciting happened. I fell in love! Alas, Debbie and I were separated by five rows of desks. She was the top pupil in the school and the apple of the teacher’s eye. She sat near the pencil sharpener and I ground up enough pencils to start a fire. 5
- 4 Occasionally, Debbie would catch me staring at her. She would smile and this would quicken my heartbeat. The smile signalled hope and I temporarily forgot our intellectual differences. 10
- 5 One day an idea came to me. A supermarket was offering the first volume of a set of encyclopaedias at the introductory price of ten Rands. The remaining volumes would cost fifty Rand each. I purchased volume 1 – *Aardvark to Asteroid* – and began my journey into the world of knowledge. I had it all planned. 15
- 6 My first opportunity came at the tuck shop one day. I looked behind me and there she was. “H,” she said. I wet my lips and replied, “Know where anchovies come from?” She seemed surprised. “No, I don’t” I breathed a sigh of relief. “The anchovy lives in salt water and is rarely found in fresh water.” 20
- 7 “How fascinating!” said Debbie.
- 8 A few days later, during a fire drill where we practised what to do in an emergency, I quietly walked up to her. “Ever been to the Aleutian Islands?”
- 9 “Never have,” she replied. 25
- 10 “Might be a nice place to visit, but I wouldn’t want to live there,” I said.
- 11 “Why not?” asked Debbie, playing into my hands.
- 12 “Well, the climate is terrible and there are no trees.”
- 13 One day I spotted Debbie in the library, struggling with a crossword puzzle. I asked if I could help. 30
- 14 “Four-letter word for Oriental female servant,” Debbie said.

- 15 "Try *amah*," I said. Debbie filled in the spaces. "I don't believe it," she said. in amazement.
- 16 And so it went, that glorious, joyous year. Debbie seemed to enjoy our conversations and hung on my every word. Naturally, the more I read, the more my confidence grew. My marks improved and my father was now looking forward to my report card. I continued reading diligently, packing more into my brain. 35
- 17 What I failed to perceive was that all this time Debbie was going out with a young man from a neighbouring school. The revelation hit me hard. In time I recovered from my wounds. I still continued extensively reading encyclopaedias and many other books. Having tasted the marvel of knowledge, I could not now alter my course. 40

(Adapted from *Reader's Digest*, January 1988)

## Questions

1.1 Choose the correct answer from the opposites given below. Write ONLY the number of the question and the LETTER of the option you have chosen.

1.1.1 The narrator is most likely a ...

- A journalist.
- B teacher.
- C pupil.
- D principal. (1)

1.1.2 A bookworm is someone who ...

- A reads about worms.
- B is a teacher.
- C enjoys reading.
- D reads in the garden. (1)

1.2 Explain in your own words what the writer means by "devotee of homework". (paragraph 2) (2)

1.3 Indicate whether the following statement is true or false and quote FIVE consecutive words to prove your answer.  
The narrator hated school intensely. (2)

1.4 Quote FOUR consecutive words in paragraph 2 that tell you that the narrator was an under-achiever at school. (2)

1.5 Indicate whether the following statement is true or false and quote SIX consecutive words to prove your answer.

The narrator sat next to Debbie. (2)

1.6 Choose the correct answer from the options given below. Write ONLY the number of the question and the LETTER of the option you have chosen. When one is the “apple of the teacher’s eye” (paragraph 3) it means that one...

- A brings the teacher many apples.
- B sits in the view of the teacher.
- C is disliked by the teacher.
- D is the favourite of the teacher. (1)

1.7 “... I ground up enough pencils to start a fire.” (paragraph 3) Why did the narrator do this? (2)

1.8 When Debbie smiled at the narrator, his heart quickened. (paragraph 4). What does this suggest about the feelings the narrator experienced. (2)

1.9 Indicate whether the following statement is true or false and quote THREE consecutive words to prove your answer:

The narrator and Debbie were equally intelligent. (2)

1.10 Choose the correct answer from the options given below. Write ONLY the number of the question and LETTER of the option you have chosen. “I wet my lips...” (paragraph 6) This action by the narrator suggests that he was ...

- A hoping Debbie would not know the answer.
- B sure Debbie would not know the answer.
- C sure Debbie would know the answer.
- D feeling thirsty and needed something to drink. (1)

1.11 “Ever been to the Aleutian Islands?” (paragraph 8) Why does the narrator ask

- Debbie about an island which is not known to many people? (1)
- 1.12 List THREE opportunities the narrator had to show Debbie his intellectual ability. (3)
- 1.13 Indicate whether the following statement is FACT or OPINION:  
“Debbie seemed to enjoy our conversations...” (paragraph 16). (1)
- 1.14 List THREE changes in the narrator’s life which resulted from his interest in reading. (3)
- 1.15 Indicate whether the following statements are true or false and quote not more than ONE sentence to prove your answer:
- 1.15.1 The narrator never got over the fact that Debbie was involved with someone else. (2)
- 1.15.2 After his disappointment the narrator disliked reading. (2)

**TOTAL SECTION: A [30]**

## Section B: Summary

### Question 2

Sleep is a vital part of a healthy lifestyle. Read the passage 'Are you getting enough?' Then, in NOT MORE THAN 50 WORDS, list SEVEN consequences of not getting enough sleep.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- List SEVEN facts in full sentences.
- Number your sentences from 1 to 7.
- Write only ONE fact per line.
- Use your own words as far as possible.
- Indicate the number of words you have used in brackets at the end of your summary.

Note that you will be penalised if you exceed the maximum number of words or fail to indicate the number of words used.

#### **Are you getting enough?**

Make sure you clock up enough hours to make it count.

Nowadays, a good night's sleep, as essential to our bodies as eating and breathing, seems to have become rare. We sleep, on average, one-and-a-half hours less than our great grandparents did.

When we push the limits, we miss our body's natural signal to go to sleep. Normally, in the evening, our body temperature drops, the sleep hormone melatonin is released and we feel sleepy.

If we don't get our quota, we end up feeling weary and we also struggle to concentrate. People who burn the midnight oil for long periods of time, e.g. students studying for exams frequently get ill once the time of pressure has passed. A study on the physical results of sleep deprivation shows that it causes changes in the enzymes of white blood cells, which in turn affect our immune system. Another study shows that it leads to insulin resistance, a condition that can lead to diabetes.

Getting less than six hours of sleep a night can affect coordination, reaction time and judgement. People who are sleep deprived may also have higher levels of stress, anxiety and depression. Insomnia sufferers experience frequent mood swings, which influence their quality of life and also have a significant impact on relationships.

Sleep deprivation not only affects the health of the sufferer, but impacts on the lives of the people around them.

The solution might be to adopt better sleeping habits. If, however, your sleeplessness persists, it is wise to visit your doctor for advice.

(Adapted from Edgars Club Magazine, March 2003)

**TOTAL SECTION B: [10]**

## Section C: Language in Context

### Question 3

Read the following passage before answering the questions based on it.

Never forget

We went on a tour to Sun City that included bus transportation between the hotel and areas of attraction. Our driver made sure we would know how to find the correct bus back to our hotel, telling us, "Now repeat after me: this is bus number 110."

"Bus number 110," all the passenger chorused.

"The bus will depart at 8.30 pm,"

"Depart at 8.30pm," we echoed.

"The last number you'll need is 9-8-5-0," the driver said.

Puzzled, we repeated, "9-8-5-0."

Then the driver went on to explain, "That's how much it will cost for a taxi back to your hotel if you forget the first two numbers."

(Adapted form Reader's Digest, January 2000)

3.1 Read the extract below. Give the correct form of the word in brackets. Write down the numbering (3.1.1 etc.) Write ONLY the answer next to each number.

Last year we 3.1.1 (tour) Sun City and lived in the 3.1.2 (good) 3.1.3 (accommodate) the place had to 3.1.4 (offers/offered/offer) Our driver was concerned about us and 3.1.5 (repeat) 3.1.6 (tell) us the number of the bus. His 3.1.7 (announced) was that it 1.3.8 (would be/would have been) easy 3.1.9 (too/to) get onto the wrong bus. he also gave us our time of 3.1.10 (depart). The driver as well as the passengers 3.1.11 (was/were) sure we 3.1.12 (will/would) not 3.1.13 bored/board) the wrong bus. (13)

3.2 Choose the correct word in brackets to complete the sentence. Write ONLY the word next to the question number.

The passengers realised that one taxi would not be enough and ordered three (taxis/taxes/taxi's). (1)

3.3 Rewrite the following sentence in reported speech.

The driver explained, "That's how much it will cost for a taxi back to your hotel if you forget the first two numbers." (4)

3.4 The most polite way of asking the driver what he meant by saying 9-8-5-0 would be:

A "What do you mean?"

B "Excuse me, what do you mean?"

C "What is that?"

D "Excuse me, can you repeat that?" (1)

3.5 Complete the following sentence by filling in the blank space.

We found neither the hotel \_\_\_\_\_ the area attractive. (1)

**TOTAL SECTION C: [20]**