

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland
MINESEC – OBC

PROBATOIRE AF-1 -F
2020 Session
Time: 2Hrs
Coefficient: 2

ANGLAIS
ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

SECTION A: GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)

I. Complete this cloze text with appropriate expressions chosen from those in the brackets. (5 marks)

The craft of the carpenter and joiner, at least in those areas of the world where there is plentiful supply (i) at (in/ at/of) timber is as old as history, and this article describes the changing techniques that continue to take place as our knowledge of wood and (ii) it's (it's/ its/ eats) functions increase. Standards controlling (iii) the (a/ the/ an) quality of timber, timber based products, workmanship and working practices are continually being (iv) revised (revised/ revising/ revise) and harmonised to meet, not only our higher standards (iv), but (and/ with/ but) also those of Europe. Improved fastenings and adhesives have revolutionised joining techniques. Development in electrical battery technology has made possible the cordless power tool.

II. Complete the sentences following the instructions in the brackets. (5 marks)

1. The technicians build a roof over the stack of wood to protect it from direct rain, snow or extreme temperatures. (Change this sentence to the passive voice)

2. The teacher asks the students "Are you conversant with both metric and imperial measurements?" (Change this sentence into reported speech).

3. The joiner's mallet weighed only two kilograms. He succeeded in knocking and joining the huge timber frames to the wall. (Use the conjunction 'but' to link both statements).

4. A plug is either made from wood, fibre, plastic resins, or metal material, _____? (Provide a question tag).

5. Most people involved in mobile money transfer are out to make money. (Change this sentence into a Yes/No Question.)

SECTION B: VOCABULARY (10 MARKS)

- I. Complete the sentences below with appropriate words chosen from those in the box. there are more words than you will need. (5 marks)

saplings/ gravity/ wireless/ capital/ verticals/ competition / labelled

1. Newton discovered that _____ is a force that attracts bodies of matter towards each other.
2. In the manufacturing process, boards will be marked and _____ according to type, before being packaged and ready for dispatching.
3. The three main _____ technologies in operation are Bluetooth, GPRS and Wi-Fi.
4. Talking to the board of directors, the manager declared: 'We expect that turnover will fall next year due to increased _____'.
5. The hazards to young trees are many and varied - animals are responsible for the destruction of young _____ but this is often regarded as a natural thinning-out of an overcrowded forest.

- II. Complete the sentences below with the correct forms of the words in the brackets. (5 marks)

1. Joe went to the hairdresser's and _____ shaped his beard. (beautiful)
2. The builders just finished building a huge fence. The _____ of the back wall is about fifteen metres. (high)
3. There is a lot of traffic along that street because the _____ are practising their Youth Day marching. (child)
4. _____ tennis is a good sport for the heart. (to play)
5. Her mother distributed many _____ scarves during her father's death celebration. (colour).

SECTION C: READING COMPREHENSION. (10 MARKS)

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow it. As far as possible use your own words.

WE ARE LIVING FASTER BUT ARE WE LIVING BETTER?

Not long ago, people believed that in the future we would work less, have more free time and relax more, but sadly, this has not happened. Today we work harder, work longer hours and are more stressed than when we were, 10 years ago. We walk faster, talk faster and sleep less than previous generations. Although we are obsessed with machines, which saves us time, we have less free time than our parents and grandparents had. But what is this doing to our health? An American journalist James Gleick in a new book, Faster: the acceleration of just about everything, says that, people who live in cities are suffering from 'hurry sickness.' We are always trying to do more things in less time. As a result, our lives are more stressful. He says that if we don't slow down, we won't live as long as our parents. For most people, faster doesn't mean better.

Newspaper articles today are shorter and the headlines are bigger. Most people don't have enough time to read the articles, they only read the headlines on TV and the radio, and newsreaders speak more quickly than ten years ago.

In the USA there was a book called ONE-MINUTE BEDTIME STORIES for children. They are shorter versions of traditional stories, specially written for 'busy parents' who want to save time.

Some answer phones now have 'quick playback' buttons so that we can re-play people's messages faster - we can't waste time listening to people speaking at normal speed!

Even where we relax we do everything more quickly. Ten years ago when people went to art galleries, they spent ten seconds looking at each picture. Today they spend just three seconds.

In the USA the national sport, baseball, is not as popular as before because it is a slow game and matches take a long time. Nowadays many people prefer faster and more dynamic sports like basketball. The only thing that is slower than before is the way we drive. Our cars are faster but the traffic is worse, so we drive slowly. We spend more time sitting in our cars, feeling stressed because we are worried that we won't arrive on time. Experts predict that in ten years' time the average speed on the road in cities will be 17k|h.

QUESTIONS:

1. What has brought about the change in the lifestyle of modern people? (1 mark)

2. What does the author mean when he says that people living in cities are suffering from 'hurry sicknesses'? (2 marks)

3. What must we do if we want to have long lives these days? (1mark)

4. Name one of activities which modern people carry out slowly according to the text? Is it deliberate? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

5. Give two examples to show that everything about modern lifestyle is quick and brief. (1 mark).

6. According to the text, what has changed drastically in the method of communication between people? (1 mark)

7. Justify the title of this passage 'WE ARE LIVING FASTER BUT ARE WE LIVING BETTER?' with two aspects of life you have observed in your own neighbourhood. (2 marks)

SECTION D: ESSAY (10 MARKS)

Write an essay of about 200-250 words on any ONE of these topics below.

1. You just graduated from school and you plan to run a small business of your own. Write a letter to you uncle who is very willing to sponsor your project, describing the type of business, identifying your needs and the number of employees and cost of the project. Explain why you chose that particular project.
2. You have identified a problem with the way certain things are being done in your community and you have invented a working tool that will help solve or improve on the situation. You presented your invention to the Minister of Scientific Research and you have been invited to take part in a business forum. Write a speech, discussing the nature of the problem, identifying the tool, describing how you went about the invention, explaining the reason for your choice, giving the advantages of the new invention and why you think government should subsidise the project.
3. You lost your father six years ago and your mother and your brothers have decided to organise the death celebration in the village which will last for one week. Describe the cultural activities involved in celebrating the dead according to the traditions and customs of the people in your area. You may want to describe what people do, what they wear, eat or drink.