

ENGLISH KCPE 2009

Questions 1 to 15

Read the passage below. It contains blank spaces numbered 1 to 15. For each blank space, choose the best alternative from the choices given.

I was sitting on a beach one day, 1 two children, a boy and a girl, playing 2 the sand. They were hard at work, building 3 beautiful sand castle by the water's 4. It had gates and towers and internal passages. 5 when they had nearly finished their 6, a big wave came along and knocked it down, reducing it to a heap of 7 sand. I expected the children to burst into tears, disappointed by what had happened. 8, they ran up the shore away from the water, laughing while 9 hands and sat down to build another castle. I realised that they had taught me 10 lesson. All the things in our lives, all the complicated structures we 11 so much time and energy creating are built on sand. Only our 12 with other people endure. Sooner or later, the wave 13 come along and knock down what we 14 so hard to build up. 15 that happens, only the person who has somebody's hand to hold will be able to laugh.

1. A. seeing B. viewing C. watching D. inspecting
2. A. on B. over C. in D. about
3. A. a B. the C. some D. that
4. A. boundary B. line C. end D. edge
5. A. Suddenly B. Just C. Immediately D. Now
6. A. project B. task C. duty D. scheme
7. A. watery B. wet C. sticky D. muddy
8. A. Then B. Yet C. Moreover D. Instead
9. A. joining B. holding C. uniting D. touching
10. A. a serious B. a necessary C. an important D. an interesting
11. A. give B. have C. spend D. use
12. A. relationships B. contacts C. unity D. harmony
13. A. must B. may C. shall D. will
14. A. had worked B. have worked C. had been working D. have been working
15. A. If B. Since C. Whenever D. When

Read the passage below and then answer questions 26 to 38.

The day before Jennifer Bell had made a solemn vow that was going to change her life forever, no one else knew about it yet, but people were going to notice sooner or later. Right then it was a kind of a secret and she loved secrets. Grover Middle School was her sixth new school in eight years. If you are as shy as she was, it was tough to be the new kid all the time. But it was not going to be tough anymore because she had read a book called *Instant Ways to Instant Friends*. She was starting with lesson number one that day. It said 'Change your whole attitude. Think of yourself as somebody that everyone wants to get to know!'

That was right and she was going to have fun, and lots of it! Jennifer, aged twelve-and-a-half, had decided to break out of her old, shy nature at last.

Her mother was driving her to school the first day.

"Scared?" she asked.

"No way," she answered, wondering if she had time to take her mirror out of her purse for one last peek at her hair. She was a little nervous, but she wasn't going to admit that to her mum.

"That is the right spirit," her mother said. "Remember, this may be a new school, but you've got a head start on the problem this time."

Her mother wasn't thinking about Jennifer's solemn vow and her book on making friends. Those were secrets and there was no way Jennifer was going to tell her mother, they were too personal and who tells secrets to their mothers, anyway?

"I know, I know," she said. "This is the school where you were a *pom pom* girl and Dad was in the Maths club, and you fell in love in the eighth class."

"Don't forget your dad was the chairman of the Maths club," her mother said with a laugh.

Jennifer loved to listen to her mum's bubbly laugh. In fact, she decided to imitate it as a part of the new her.

"My mum, the *pom pom* queen," Jennifer said, imitating her mum's laugh. She wondered if it sounded okay, or if it sounded fake. She decided she would have to work on it. "Do you think there is anyone in the school who still remembers you and Dad?"

"Hey, don't make it sound like we went to school in the Dark Ages! We're not that old."

Jennifer's mother stopped in front of the school to let her out. Then she said, "Blow them away with the Bell family charm, honey."

"No problem, mum," Jennifer answered. When she opened the door, a rush of cold air hit her. She then realized that she definitely needed a heavier jacket. The Octobers here were a lot colder than in California, where they had just moved from.

"I like your change of attitude, Jennifer," Jennifer's mother said as she leaned over to look at her through the car window. "What brought it on?"

"I don't know. Instant maturity, I guess," she said with a grin. "Thanks for the ride, mum. See you later."

"Do you want me to pick you up after school?"

"No thanks," she said. "I'll walk home."

Her mum drove off and Jennifer turned away to start her new life as the new her.

(Adapted from *Can You Keep a Secret* by Elizabeth Van Steanwyk)

D. released

21. The neighbours managed to put out the fire.

- A. cool
- B. extinguish
- C. defeat
- D. cover

26. How many schools had Jennifer attended in the last eight years?
- Eight
 - Five
 - Twelve
 - Six.
27. The phrase "a solemn vow" means a
- serious promise
 - change for better
 - great step
 - big decision.
28. Why did Jennifer find it tough to be the new kid all the time?
- She loved secrets.
 - She was young.
 - She was shy.
 - She would be noticed.
29. What was Jennifer's secret?
- To change her attitude.
 - To make friends with everyone.
 - To practise all the lessons.
 - The special book she had read.
30. What in the passage shows that Jennifer was not really open with her mum?
- She thought her secrets were too personal.
 - She didn't want her mother to pick her up.
 - Nobody is really open with their mothers.
 - No one else could know her secrets.
31. What word would best replace the word "attitude" in the passage?
- thoughts
 - views
 - feelings
 - behaviour.
32. The phrase "you've got a head start on the problem this time" means
- she already knows how to behave
 - her parents had learnt there
 - she had decided to imitate her mother
 - she had acquired the right spirit.
33. According to the passage it is correct to say that
- Jennifer was more prepared for her new school than before;
 - Jennifer wanted to be exactly like her Mum;
 - Jennifer's mum got married at a very young age;
 - Jennifer was going to use the Bell family charm.
34. Why was Jennifer's mum's laugh important to Jennifer?
- It was going to be part of her new self.
 - It made Jennifer's mum a queen.
 - It sounded funny to listen to.
 - It made Jennifer as important as her mum.
35. In your own opinion, why did Jennifer change schools?
- She was too indisciplined to stay in one school.
 - She wanted to go where she was not known.
 - Her parents wanted her to be in their old school.
 - Her parents never stayed in one place for long.
36. Jennifer's mum said they never went to school in the Dark Ages. This implies that
- they never liked being thought of as old
 - they were not very old
 - they were very young
 - they were known by everyone in the school.
37. Which one of the following best describes Jennifer's character?
- shy, disrespectful, determined
 - intelligent, determined, proud
 - shy, determined, cheerful
 - cheerful, proud, disrespectful
38. Which of the following best summarises the passage?
- The journey to a new school.
 - Jennifer the new girl.
 - Jennifer's new school.
 - Jennifer and her mum.

Read the passage below and then answer questions 39 to 50.

Why do we go to school? Why do we strive to get an education? Well, perhaps you will say that we spend so much time and resources in the classroom so as to acquire skills for which society will be willing to pay. This will enable us to earn a living and eventually improve our standard of living. While it is definitely true that education arms us with the necessary tools to be able to put bread on our tables, there are more benefits that come from education.

Education makes you a better person in many ways. It broadens your understanding of various issues that are likely to affect your life. These include health, economic, social and political matters. An educated person is able to independently access information on how to live a healthier life. Similarly, the educated person is empowered to make sound economic and political decisions based on ideas obtained through different channels of information.

Your thinking abilities are also sharpened through education. With the rapid development of technology today it is easier to get information. There is always so much information that it is often difficult to distinguish between the true and the false; the important and the trivial; the relevant and the irrelevant. An educated mind is, however, able to critically examine the information and decide what to make of it.

Society too reaps benefits when its individuals are educated. Where would society be without doctors, teachers, engineers, drivers or lawyers? People in different occupations have their roles to play in making society a better place to live. Indeed, many inventions that have improved society have sprung from the minds of educated individuals. A truly educated person is always thinking of how to make society better by introducing more effective and efficient ways of doing things.

What of peace and harmony? When we get educated, we learn about other people and their cultures. This makes us understand and accept them as part of our society. In this way, unnecessary conflict is avoided and we become willing to join hands with others in order to achieve certain goals for the good of us all. Evidently, there is so much to be gained from education. It is therefore not surprising that governments and households put aside substantial amounts of their income to spend on books and other support materials, teachers and development of educational facilities.

39. According to the first paragraph, education
- gives us higher standards of living
 - provides us with our daily food
 - helps us to gain more benefits in life
 - equips us with skills to live better lives.
40. How does education enable an individual to live a healthy life?
- There is enough information on healthy living.
 - One can distinguish between important and trivial things.
 - One can examine the available information properly.
 - There is enough money to go to hospital.
41. The expression "put bread on our tables" implies
- enjoying life in the society
 - meeting our basic needs
 - providing food for ourselves
 - earning enough money.
42. The word "sound" as used in the passage means:
- clear
 - perfect
 - clever
 - informed.
43. A sharpened thinking ability enables one to
- get information more easily
 - get a lot of information
 - choose information wisely
 - decide what to do with information.
44. In society, truly educated individuals
- are more efficient and effective
 - always think of improving society
 - reap benefits from society
 - invent things from their minds.
45. Peace and harmony are achieved when we
- understand and accept others
 - avoid unnecessary conflict
 - achieve certain goals
 - join hands with others.
46. Which of the following is not a result of higher levels of technology according to the third paragraph?
- Our thinking ability is improved.
 - There is more knowledge available.
 - Getting information is quite simple.
 - Selecting information is more challenging.
47. The word "substantial" as used in the passage means
- large
 - meaningful
 - important
 - reasonable.
48. Educated people
- are always independent
 - are healthier than others
 - understand things more widely
 - make wiser decisions.
49. From the passage, it is evident that education
- satisfies our needs
 - is the key to improved life
 - gives us information
 - prevents conflict in society.
50. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?
- Education and Society.
 - Books and Teachers.
 - Education for a Better Society.
 - The Benefits of Education.