

Name: _____ class: _____

MZUZU DIOCESE SCHOOLS

2021 MALAWI SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION MOCK EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

Subject Number: M052/II

Tuesday, 3rd August

Time Allowed 1 hr 45mins

10:00 am-11:45 am

PAPER II

(60 marks)

Instructions

1. This paper contains 9 printed pages.
Please check.
2. This paper has **two** sections: **A** and **B**.
3. Answer **all** questions in both sections.
4. Use the space provided to answer questions in the paper.
5. Follow the instructions for each section carefully.
6. Fill in your **name** at the top of **each page** of the question paper.
7. In the table provided on this page, **tick** against the question number you have answered

| Question number | Tick if answered | Do not write in these columns | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | | | |
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Section A (20 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and afterwards make a summary of it in NOTE-FORM. In your summary:

- a. Provide a suitable title for the passage
- b. Give the main points
- c. Supply supporting points for each main point.

Marks will be awarded for content, note-style, and fair-copy layout. Candidates who simply copy the passage will be penalised.

Termites are a highly nutritive insect. Many people have intentions to commercialise this valuable natural product. However, it would not be a good idea to venture into such a move. Commercialising termites would have many negative effects.

Firstly, termites contain a hard cuticle. This is the outer covering of termites. The cuticle is mainly composed of chitin which is resistant to enzymes that digest proteins. Eating a lot of termites may create health problems as the cuticle remains undigested. This may have unspecified health problems. It is therefore beneficial that termites be eaten on a very small scale.

Secondly, termites contain uric acid. This is a by-product resulting from the breakdown of nucleo-proteins in the tissues. The uric acid is relatively soluble, and when ingested may have injurious effects by forming 'stones', for example in the kidney or the blood vessels. Furthermore, the gut of the insect may be carrying a bacteria load which may be transferred to the consumer.

Apart from the nutritional disadvantages, it seems likely that the cost of production may be too high. The trapping vehicles would be expensive, and would have to move to different zones to trap enough insects for large scale production. Moreover, during the trapping process, it is not impossible that other undesirable nocturnal insects like moths might be caught along with the termites. These would have to be removed and the process would be expensive.

Finally, the whole process may cause an environmental disaster. Catching the insects on a large scale may involve the use of chemicals. Such chemicals may be used to prevent the termites from flying or to make them drowsy so that they are easily caught. Such chemicals may end up polluting the environment. In

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addition, the use of machines in catching and processing the termites might lead to noise pollution in area where such activities are done.

For all these reasons, it is necessary not to rush into commercialising the termite industry. The negative consequences may outweigh the benefits that such an industry can bring to our societies. Let us focus more on other insects which are already commercialised. These are already doing many disadvantages to our society. We cannot afford to add one more insect industry.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

Section B (40 marks)

Comprehension

Read the following passage carefully and afterwards answer the questions that follow

‘Oduche’s box is moving,’ he said, out of breath with excitement. The **tumult** in the compound grew louder. As usual, the voice of Ezeulu’s daughter, Ukueke, stood above all the others.

‘What is called ‘Oduche’s box is moving’?’ Ezeulu asked, rising with deliberate slowness to belie his **curiosity**.

‘It is moving about the floor.’

‘There is nothing that a man will not hear nowadays.’ He went into his inner compound through the door at the back of his *obi*. Nwafo ran past him into the group of excited women outside his mother’s hut. Akueke and Matefi did most of the talking. Nwafo’s mother, Ugoye, was **speechless**. Now and again, she rubbed her palms together and showed them to the sky.

Akueke turned to Ezeulu as soon as she saw him. ‘Father, come and see what we are seeing. This new religion ...’

‘Shut your mouth,’ said Ezeulu, who did not want anybody, least of all his own daughter, to continue **questioning his wisdom** in sending one of his sons to join a Christian church nearby.

The wooden box had been brought out of the room where Oduche and Nwafo slept. It was now placed in the central room of their mother’s hut where people sat during the day. This box, which was the only one of its kind in Ezeulu’s compound, had a lock. Only people of the church had such boxes made for them by the mission carpenter and they were highly valued in Umuaro. Oduche’s box was not actually moving; but it seemed to have something inside it struggling to free. Ezeulu stood before it wondering what to do. Whatever was in the box became more violent and actually moved the box around. Ezeulu waited for it to calm down a little, bent down and carried the box outside. The women and children scattered in all directions.

‘Whether it be bad medicine or good one, I shall see it today,’ he said as he carried the box at arm’s length like a **potent** sacrifice. He did not pass through

his obi, but took the door in the red earth wall of his compound. His second son Obika, who had just come in followed him. Nwafo came closely behind Obika, and the women and the children followed cheerfully at a good distance. Ezeulu looked back and asked Obika to bring him a machete. He took the box right outside his compound and finally put it down by the side of the common path. He looked back and saw Nwafo and the women and the children.

‘Everyone of you go back into the house. **The inquisitive monkey gets a bullet in the face.**’ They moved back into the compound but in front of the Obi. Obika took the machete to his father who thought for a little while and put the machete aside and sent for the spear used in digging up yams. The struggling in the box was fierce as ever. For a brief moment Ezeulu wondered whether the wisest thing was not to leave the box there until its owner returned. But what would it mean? That he Ezeulu was afraid of whatever power his son had imprisoned in the box. Such a story must never be told of the priest of Ulu.

He took the spear from Obika and wedged its thin end between the box and its lead. Obika tried to take the spear from him but he would not hear it.

‘Stand aside,’ he told him. ‘What do you think is fighting inside, two cocks?’ He clenched his teeth in an effort to lever the top open. It was not easy and the old priest was covered in sweat by the time he succeeded in forcing the box open. What he saw **was enough to blind a man.** Ezeulu stood speechless. The women and the children who had watched from afar came running down. Ezeulu’s neighbour, Anosi, who was passing by branched in, and soon a big crowd had gathered. In the broken wooden box lay an ancestral python.

‘An abomination has happened, the spirits of our dead ancestors have been attacked,’ said Akueke.

Ezeulu let the spear fall from his hand. ‘Where is Oduche?’ he asked. No one answered. ‘I said where is Oduche? I will kill him today with my bare hands.’ His voice was terrible. ‘Why does he dare provoke the ancestors this way? What does he think he will achieve by doing this abominable act?’

Nwafo said he had gone to church. The ancestral python now raised his head above the edge of the box and began to move in its dignified and unhurried way.

Oduche’s mother began to cry, and the other women joined her. Ezeulu walked slowly back to his Obi with the machete. The python slid into the bush.

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‘Send Oduche away to your kinsmen before his father kills him,’ Matefi consoled Ugoye. ‘We are fortunate the python is not dead. This new religion will bring us nothing but disaster.’

Questions

a. Why is Oduche’s box moving?

(2 marks)

b. Why is Ezeulu against waiting for Oduche to come and open the box?

(2 marks)

c. What advice is given to Ugoye in order to protect her son?

(2 marks)

d. Why is Ezeulu angry with Akueke?

(2 marks)

e. Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage;

i. tumult _____ (1 mark)

ii. curiosity _____ (1 mark)

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iii. speechless _____ (1 mark)

iv. potent _____ (1 mark)

f. Give the meaning of the following expressions as used in the passage;

i. questioning his wisdom

(2 marks)

ii. the inquisitive monkey gets a bullet in the face

(2 monkey)

iii. was enough to blind a man

(2 marks)

g. What abomination has Oduche committed?

(2 marks)

h. What shows that the people in the story are superstitious? Give **two** points.

(4 marks)

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i. Suggest a suitable title for the passage.

(2 marks)

h. Summarise the passage in your own words. Your summary should have **70** to **100** words.

(10 marks)

End of question paper

NB: This paper contains 9 printed pages. Please check.