

EXAMINATION	NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE
GRADE	12
DATE	MAY/JUNE 2026
SUBJECT	ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE
PAPER	1
MARK TOTAL	70
DURATION (HOURS)	2 hours
NUMBER OF PAGES	13



SOUTH AFRICAN COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT INSTITUTE
SUID-AFRIKAANSE KOMPREENSIEWE ASSESSERINGSINSTITUUT



INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. This question paper consists of **THREE** sections:

SECTION A: Comprehension (30 marks)

SECTION B: Summary (10 marks)

SECTION C: Language structures and conventions (30 marks)

2. Read **ALL** the instructions carefully.
3. Answer **ALL** the questions.
4. Start **EACH** section on a **NEW** page.
5. Rule off after each section.
6. Number the answers correctly according to the numbering system used in this question paper.
7. Leave a line after each answer.
8. Pay special attention to spelling and sentence construction.
9. Use the following time frames as a guideline:
SECTION A: 50 minutes
SECTION B: 30 minutes
SECTION C: 40 minutes
10. Write neatly and legibly, in **BLUE** ink only.



SECTION A: COMPREHENSION

QUESTION 1: READING FOR MEANING AND UNDERSTANDING

Read TEXTS A and B and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT A

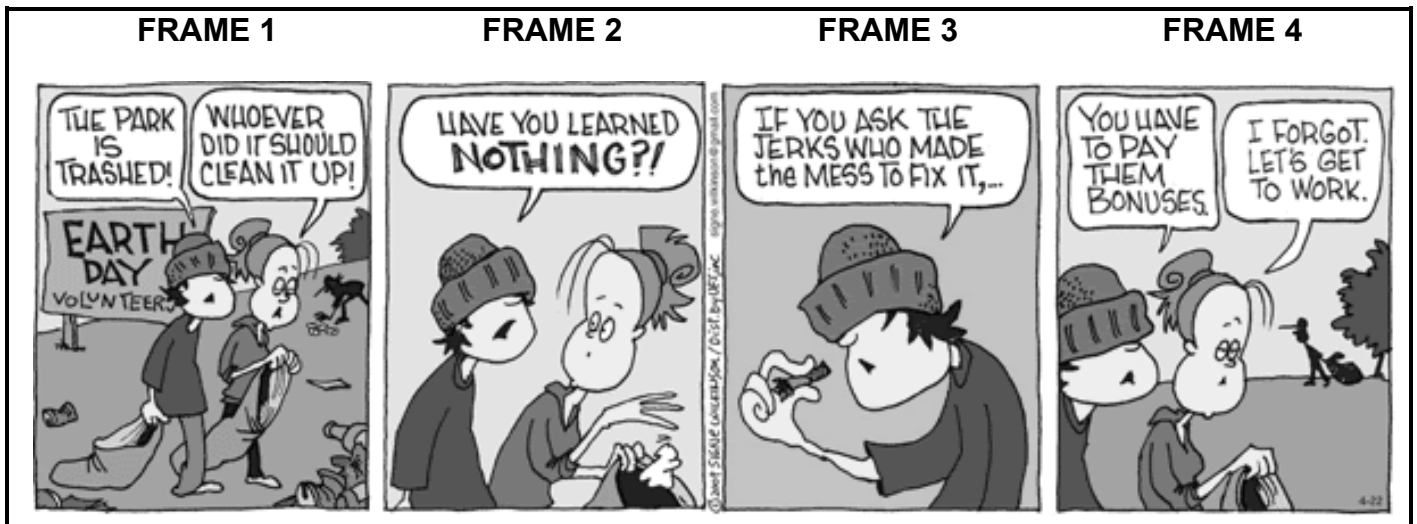
Selfless service: Help others to unlock your own fulfilment

- 1 In today's fast-paced world, many people find themselves caught in a relentless cycle of deadlines, ambition and personal striving. Life becomes a blur of tasks and targets, often leaving individuals feeling disconnected, stressed or unfulfilled. Ironically, the very pursuit of personal success can sometimes push people away from what truly matters: meaningful human connection. Amid this, one powerful and often overlooked remedy stands out – helping others without expecting anything in return. This simple, but profound act, has been shown not only to change lives, but also to restore balance and well-being in the person who gives. 1 5
- 2 The concept of helping others selflessly – without seeking recognition, reward or any return – is often called selfless service. It may sound idealistic, but it has deep roots in both ancient traditions and modern psychology. Rather than being transactional, selfless service is about giving with an open heart without any agenda. The surprising result is that while such service benefits the recipient, it also transforms the one offering help. Science supports this idea. Various studies have found that volunteering or serving others is linked to improved mental health, reduced stress, and even better physical well-being. 15
- 3 Acts of service do not need to be dramatic or time-consuming to be impactful. Whether you offer an hour a week at a local charity, lend a hand to a struggling neighbour, or simply listen attentively to someone in distress, the benefits are twofold. Helping others has been shown to trigger the release of brain chemicals such as dopamine and oxytocin, which are associated with pleasure and bonding. These chemical shifts can elevate your mood and give you a renewed sense of purpose. When you serve others, you are not just supporting them – you are also nurturing yourself. 20
- 4 Many individuals find that selfless service brings clarity during confusing or difficult periods in their lives. Doing something for someone else can interrupt cycles of overthinking and worry. It provides a grounding experience and offers perspective on one's own challenges. For instance, one volunteer might spend a morning delivering food parcels and return home with a newfound sense of gratitude for what they have. In moments like these, service becomes a mirror, reflecting back not only the struggles of others, but also the strength and empathy within ourselves. 25 30



- 5 Examples of this are found in countless organisations around the world. Volunteers at food distribution charities, for instance, often report a deep sense of satisfaction that goes beyond simply 'doing good as it feels more like a sacred duty'. One such organisation is White Pony Express, a volunteer-powered group that collects surplus food and shares it with those in need. The emotional impact of seeing someone's relief or gratitude is often more lasting than any material reward. As the organisation's leader once said, service is a form of putting love into action. In this way, selfless service becomes more than just assistance – it becomes a form of healing, growth and unity. 35
- 6 One of the most powerful aspects of selfless service is that it helps individuals reconnect with others in a meaningful way. It builds bridges between people who might otherwise remain strangers. In an age where digital interactions often replace face-to-face contact, serving others reawakens the importance of community. In serving, people begin to see one another not through the lens of status or success, but as equals sharing the human experience. This shift in perspective encourages empathy, compassion and deeper social bonds, all of which contribute to a stronger, healthier society. 40 45
- 7 Starting a journey of selfless service does not require grand gestures. It begins with small, thoughtful steps. Identifying a cause that aligns with one's values is a helpful place to start. Whether it is environmental clean-up, supporting education or simply helping elderly neighbours, the key is to act with sincerity and consistency. Those who serve regularly often find themselves feeling more grounded and purposeful. Their sense of self is strengthened not through achievement, but through connection. Furthermore, joining a group or team of volunteers can add a social dimension to the experience, making it more enjoyable and sustainable. 50
- 8 Ultimately, selfless service is not about sacrifice – it is about fulfillment. When individuals move beyond their own needs and extend themselves to help others, they often find exactly what they were missing: connection, purpose and peace. In a world where people are encouraged to put themselves first, choosing to help someone else becomes a quiet act of courage. It is an approach that not only uplifts others, but has the power to reshape your own life in subtle, but lasting ways. Far from being an act of loss, serving others is a path to gaining something far more valuable – inner contentment. 55 60

[Source – adapted from: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/>.]

**TEXT B**

[Source – adapted from: <https://bit.ly/4mNYgHr>.]

QUESTIONS: TEXT A

- 1.1 Refer to lines 3–5: 'Ironically, the very ... meaningful human connection.'

Using your own words, explain the meaning of this statement in the context of paragraph 1.

(2)

- 1.2 Refer to paragraph 2.

Identify the two types of evidence the writer uses to support the value of selfless service.

(2)

- 1.3 Refer to paragraph 3.

Describe how the writer presents the benefits of selfless service as being both emotional and biological.

(2)

- 1.4 Refer to paragraph 4.

Explain how the example of the food parcel volunteer helps clarify the main idea of the paragraph.

(2)

- 1.5 Refer to paragraph 5.

Discuss how the diction in this paragraph enhances the emotional impact of selfless service.

(3)

- 1.6 Refer to paragraph 6.

Critically discuss how the writer uses contrast in this paragraph to highlight the value of selfless service.

(3)



1.7 Refer to paragraph 7.

In your view, is the writer's differentiation between selfless service motivated by personal gain and selfless service motivated by authentic connection, convincing? Support your answer with evidence from a careful reading of the paragraph.

(3)

1.8 Refer to paragraph 8.

Comment on the writer's choice of style, supporting your response with evidence from a close reading of paragraph 8.

(3)

QUESTIONS: TEXT B

1.9 Refer to frame 2.

Account for the use of the double punctuation marks in, 'Have you learned **NOTHING?!'**

(1)

1.10 Refer to frame 1.

Discuss how the **visual features** in this frame emphasise the contrast between the 'Earth Day' sign and the actual state of the park.

(2)

1.11 Refer to frames 3 and 4: 'If you ask ... get to work.'

Comment on the effectiveness of the technique used by the cartoonist in these utterances to highlight the overall message of the cartoon.

(3)

QUESTIONS: TEXT A AND B

1.12 In your opinion, does Text B support the views expressed in Text A? Justify your response by referring to both Text A and Text B.

(4)

TOTAL SECTION A: [30]



SECTION B: SUMMARY

QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS

TEXT C provides information about the **benefits of hobbies on one's well-being**.

Summarise, in your own words, the benefits hobbies can have on a person's overall well-being.

NOTE:

1. Your summary should include SEVEN points and NOT exceed 90 words.
2. You must write a fluent paragraph.
3. You are NOT required to include a title for the summary.
4. Indicate your word count at the end of the summary.

TEXT C

Why having a hobby is so good for you, according to science

- 1 Most people have practised some form of an extramural activity at some stage of their lives. Hobbies offer more than just a way to pass time; they contribute significantly to mental and physical well-being. Engaging in hobbies triggers the brain's reward system, releasing feel-good chemicals that provide immediate satisfaction. Activities like gaming, painting or gardening serve as enjoyable escapes from daily pressures, helping participants to alleviate stress.
- 2 Studies show that hobbies help reduce the negative effects of long working hours. Individuals who engage in leisure activities outside of their day-to-day working hours report better mental health, as hobbies provide a necessary break from professional demands. Research involving over 93 000 older adults found that those who engaged in hobbies reported higher levels of health, happiness and overall life satisfaction. Making time for leisure activities is an investment in long-term well-being.
- 3 Hobbies enhance mental resilience and self-perception. They can boost mood, increase self-esteem and promote mindfulness, helping individuals manage anxiety and depression more effectively. Certain hobbies, such as sports, exercise and outdoor activities, improve physical health by enhancing endurance, strengthening the immune system and even reducing pain levels. These activities contribute to a healthier lifestyle.
- 4 Hobbies that involve group participation, such as board games, dance classes or community gardening, foster social interaction and help develop stronger communication skills. This reduces feelings of isolation and strengthens relationships, often leading to the formation of long-term friendships. Some hobbies encourage structure and consistency, promoting discipline in other areas of life. Activities like journalling, meditation or creative writing can improve focus, organisation and time management.



- 5 Even the process of trying out new hobbies can have benefits. Experimenting with different activities provides opportunities for self-discovery and can lead to greater personal satisfaction. The key, of course, is to engage in hobbies for enjoyment rather than productivity. In essence, hobbies contribute to a well-rounded, fulfilling life by enhancing both mental and physical health while also providing joy and relaxation.

[Source – adapted from: <https://www.self.com/story/hobbies-health-benefits>.]

TOTAL SECTION B: [10]



SECTION C: LANGUAGE STRUCTURES AND CONVENTIONS

QUESTION 3: ANALYSING ADVERTISING

Study the advertisement (TEXT D) and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT D

Vegetables

Buy them as you buy fruits

Insist on DEL MONTE! It always pays.

For remember—it takes more than raw material to insure quality. Only the skill, care and experience of the canner himself can bring that quality to your table.

In vegetables, as well as fruits, DEL MONTE stands for dependable, uniform goodness—the result of over 60 years' experience in the canning of fine foods.

**peas
asparagus
corn
spinach
tomatoes
string beans
pimientos
sauerkraut
pumpkin
carrots
beets
etc.**

Just be sure you say
DEL MONTE

[Source – adapted from: <https://i.pinimg.com>.]

The text on the right hand side of the advertisement reads:

Buy them as you buy fruits

Insist on Del Monte! It always pays.

For remember – it takes more than raw material to insure quality. Only the skill, care and experience of the canner himself can bring that quality to your table.

In vegetables, as well as fruits, DEL MONTE stands for dependable, uniform goodness – the result of over 60 years' experience in the canning of fine foods.

**QUESTIONS: TEXT D**

- 3.1 Explain the phrase: 'Buy them as you buy fruits' in the context of the advertisement. (2)
- 3.2 Discuss how the font style of the word 'Vegetables' influences the tone and appeal of the advertisement. (3)
- 3.3 In your view do the visual images support the written text, '... it takes more ... of fine foods.' (3)
- 3.4 Identify the tense used in: 'DEL MONTE has taken responsibility for the quality of its food.' (1)
- 3.5 Identify the modal verb in the sentence: 'You can be certain of the canning of fine foods.' (1)

[10]



QUESTION 4: UNDERSTANDING OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MEDIA

Study the cartoon (TEXT E) below and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT E

FRAME 1 **FRAME 2** **FRAME 3** **FRAME 4**

FRAME 5 **FRAME 6** **FRAME 7** **FRAME 8**

Sherman: The Shark **Hawthorne: The Crab**

[Source – adapted from: <https://bit.ly/42vh71P>.]

QUESTIONS: TEXT E

4.1 Refer to frames 1–3.

Account for the crab's comment in frame 3.

(2)

4.2 Refer to the visual features in frame 4.

Discuss ONE technique the cartoonist employs, in this frame, for conveying the mood.

(3)

4.3 Refer to frames 6–8.

Comment on how the build-up to the situational irony in frame 8, creates an effective punchline.

(3)

4.4 Refer to frame 4: 'I have made him feel alive ...'.

4.4.1 Identify the part of speech of the word 'alive' in this frame.

(1)

4.4.2 Explain the effect of the ellipsis at the end of the sentence in this frame.

(1)

[10]



QUESTION 5: USING LANGUAGE CORRECTLY

Read TEXT F, which contains some deliberate errors, and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT F

Scientists trying to bring back the woolly mammoth have created a woolly mouse

- 1 Colossal Biosciences announced in 2021 its plans to revive the woolly mammoth and later the dodo, attracting investors, media attention and critics. On Tuesday, the company revealed that its researchers has edited seven genes in mice embryos, creating a 'colossal woolly mouse' with thick, woolly hair. The company aims to modify Asian elephants to give them mammoth-like traits, but critics argue this is not true de-extinction. 5
- 2 Christopher Preston, a wildlife expert, stated that altering an Asian elephant's hair or cold adaptation does not bring back a mammoth but simply changes the existing species. The results have not yet been published or reviewed by independent scientists. Vincent Lynch, a biologist, acknowledged the feat as 'technologically pretty cool'. 10
- 3 In addition to its woolly coat, Colossal Biosciences stated that the modified mouse had also gained the mammoth's accelerated fat metabolism which could contribute to cold tolerance. The company's chief scientist, Beth Shapiro, explained that these genetic traits already exist in some mice and were combined into a single specimen. While some see this as a major step forward in the right direction, others remain sceptical about whether such genetic modifications truly bring a species back from extinction. 15

[Source – adapted from: <https://bit.ly/3EnEt1q>.]



QUESTIONS: TEXT F

- 5.1 Refer to the phrase, 'Scientists trying to bring back the woolly mammoth', in the title.
Rewrite this phrase in the passive voice. (1)
- 5.2 Correct the error of concord in paragraph 1. (1)
- 5.3 Correct the spelling error in paragraph 1. (1)
- 5.4 Refer to lines 9–10: 'The results have not yet been published'.
Rewrite the above sentence in the past perfect tense. (1)
- 5.5 Refer to lines 12–14: 'In addition to ... to cold tolerance.'
- 5.5.1 What is the grammatical function of the comma in this sentence? (1)
- 5.5.2 Provide a synonym for the word 'tolerance' in the context of the sentence. (1)
- 5.6 Identify the part of speech of the word 'combined' (line 16) in paragraph 3. (1)
- 5.7 Refer to lines 16–18: 'While some see ... back from extinction.'
Quote an adverbial phrase from this sentence. (1)
- 5.8 Correct the redundancy found in paragraph 3. (1)
- 5.9 Choose the correct option, provided below, that rewrites the following sentence in indirect speech. Write down only the letter corresponding to your choice of answer.
Beth Shapiro said, 'These genetic traits already exist in some mice.'
- a) Beth Shapiro said that those genetic traits already existed in some mice.
 - b) Beth Shapiro said that those genetic traits already exist in some mice.
 - c) Beth Shapiro said that these genetic traits had already existed in some mice.
 - d) Beth Shapiro says that these genetic traits already existed in some mice. (1)

[10]

TOTAL SECTION C: [30]

GRAND TOTAL: [70]