

EXAMINATION		NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE	
GRADE		12	
DATE		NOVEMBER 2025	
SUBJECT		ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE	
PAPER		1	
MARK TOTAL		70	
DURATION (HOURS)		2	
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.

significance of research that suggested sugar could play a role in coronary heart disease. In some cases, the scientists alleged investigator incompetence or flawed methodology. Another issue, was that the researchers applied different standards to different studies, rendering the outcome of the review inconclusive and dubious. 35

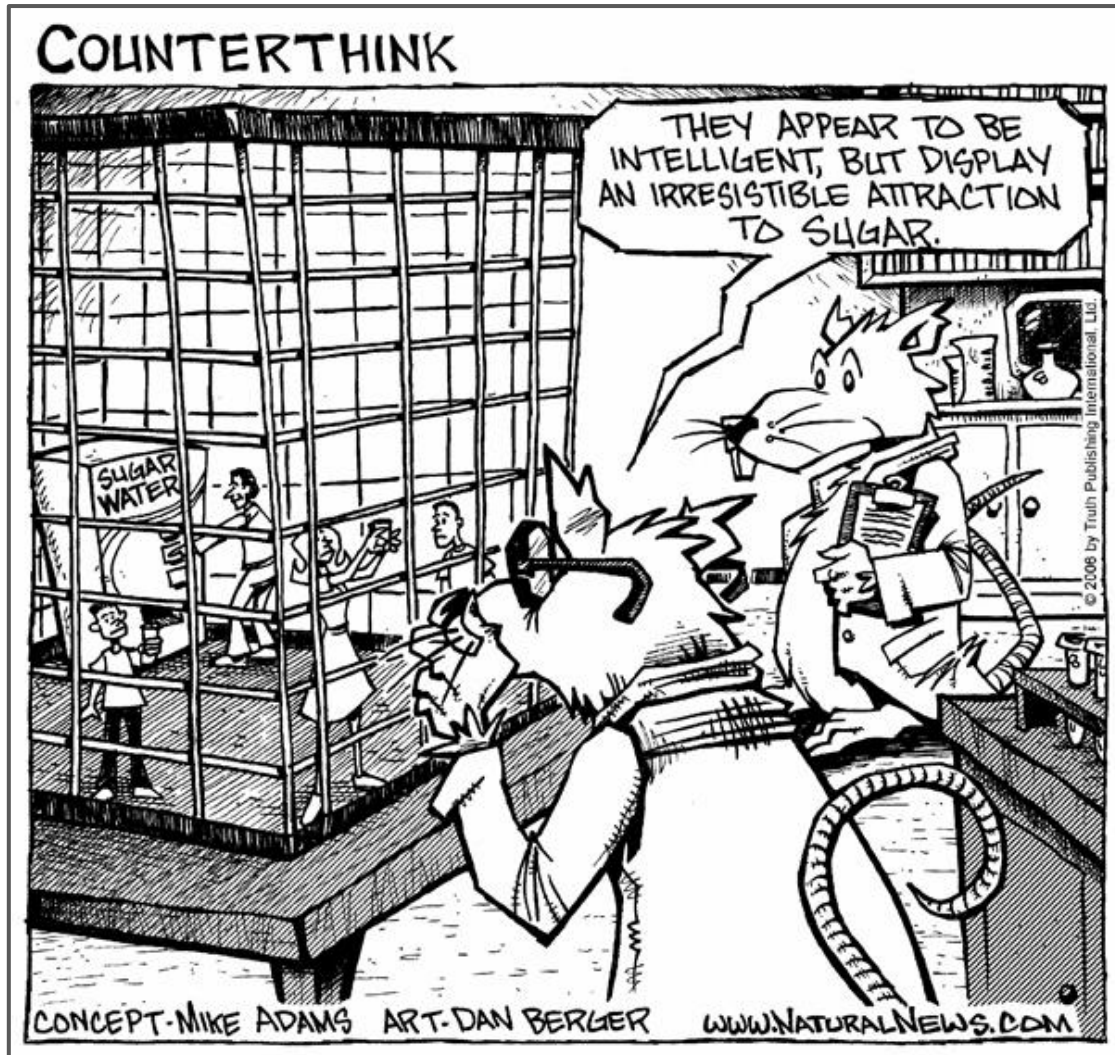
- 5 Epidemiological¹ studies of sugar consumption – which look at patterns of health and disease in the real world – were dismissed for having too many possible factors getting in the way. Experimental studies were dismissed for being too dissimilar to real life. One study suggesting benefits from reducing sugar and increasing vegetable intake was rejected as impractical. Another, in which rats consumed a low-fat high-sugar diet, was dismissed on the grounds that ‘such diets are rarely consumed by man’. However, when evaluating fat, the researchers relied on the same epidemiological studies they had previously discredited. 40 45
- 6 Despite providing ‘few study characteristics and no quantitative results’, the Harvard researchers concluded that reducing fat was ‘no doubt’ the best dietary intervention for preventing coronary heart disease. Though the documents date back five decades, the issue remains relevant today. As nutrition expert Marion Nestle noted in the *JAMA Internal Medicine* article, corporations continue to manipulate scientific research in their favour. She cited a 2015 New York Times investigation revealing Coca-Cola’s financial ties to researchers who downplayed the role of sugary drinks in obesity. Similarly, the Associated Press exposed a confectionery trade association’s funding of studies suggesting children who ate sweets had healthier body weights than those who did not. 50 55
- 7 The sugar industry’s historical influence on scientific literature underscores the need for transparency in research funding. The authors of the *JAMA Internal Medicine* article advocate for further investigation into links between added sugars and coronary heart disease. This case serves as a reminder that scientific research is not immune to corporate influence and that funding sources must be disclosed to maintain credibility and public trust in dietary recommendations. 60

[Source adapted from: <https://n.pr/4imPSMZ>]

Glossary

¹ Epidemiological: Relating to **epidemiology**, which is the study of how diseases spread, who they affect, and how they can be controlled or prevented in groups of people.

TEXT B



[Source: <https://blog.dnevnik.hr/kamaci/>]

QUESTIONS: TEXT A

1.1 Refer to the title of the article, “How a multibillion dollar ‘poison’ was sold to us for 50 years.”

Explain the impact that the phrase “How a multibillion dollar ‘poison’” is intended to have on the reader. (2)

1.2 Refer to paragraph 1.

State, in your own words, the main issue that *JAMA Internal Medicine* raises against the SRF, in this paragraph. (2)

1.3 Refer to paragraph 2: ‘Authors of the ... in the process’ (lines 10–12).

Explain what you understand by this statement, in the context of the paragraph. (2)

- 1.4 Refer to paragraph 3: ‘... if Americans adopted ... with something else’ (lines 21–22).
Discuss how this underlying belief influenced the actions of the SRF. (2)
- 1.5 Refer to paragraph 4: ‘Let me assure ... of the project’ (lines 31–33).
Discuss how the language in these lines conveys the attitude of the speaker, Hickson, toward the outcome of the research project. You must discuss at least TWO examples of language use, in your response. (3)
- 1.6 Refer to paragraph 5.
In your view, would the outcomes of the various studies be credible? Justify your response by making close reference to this paragraph. (3)
- 1.7 Refer to paragraph 6.
Critically discuss the effectiveness of this paragraph in exposing the relationship between corporate funding and scientific bias. (3)
- 1.8 Comment on how the writer’s style in the passage as a whole is intended to influence the reader. You must draw on at least TWO examples from the passage in your response. (3)

QUESTIONS: TEXT B

- 1.9 Refer to the written text of the cartoon.
- 1.9.1 What does the word ‘irresistible’ suggest about human behaviour? (1)
- 1.9.2 Discuss the irony of ‘They appear to be intelligent’ in the context of the cartoon. (2)
- 1.10 Evaluate how the visual elements of the cartoon contribute to its overall message. You must make reference to at least TWO different visual elements, in your response. (3)

QUESTIONS: TEXT A AND B

- 1.11 In your opinion, does TEXT B support the views expressed in TEXT A? Justify your response by making reference 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 research evidence about the **impact of sleep on cognitive function**.

Summarise, in your own words, the positive impact that sleep has on a student's cognitive function.

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

The Impact of Sleep on Cognitive Function

- 1 Many students believe that pulling all-nighters helps them study better, but research shows that sacrificing sleep negatively affects learning and memory. A 2019 MIT study found a direct link between sleep and test scores – students who slept less throughout the semester performed worse on exams. This suggests that sleep is not just about feeling rested but plays an active role in learning.
- 2 One reason sleep is so important is its impact on the brain's ability to absorb new information. When we learn, the hippocampus temporarily stores this knowledge. Scientists believe that, like any storage system, the hippocampus has a limit. Once it reaches capacity, learning new information becomes more difficult. However, sleep – especially during Stages 2 and 3 – helps refresh this capacity. A study tested this by having 44 participants complete intense learning sessions at noon and again at 6:00 PM. Half of the group napped between sessions, while the other half stayed awake. The napping group learned just as effectively in the second session, while the non-napping group struggled, proving that sleep replenishes learning ability.
- 3 Beyond learning, sleep also strengthens memory. This idea has been recognised for centuries – Roman rhetorician Quintilian noted that a single night of sleep improves recall. Modern studies confirm this, showing that sleep enhances memory retention by 20 to 40 percent. Scientists believe Stage 3 sleep (Slow Wave Sleep) is key in this process, as it transfers information from the hippocampus to long-term storage in the brain. Neuroscientist, Matthew Walker, describes this process as a 'courier service', moving memories to more permanent locations for better retention.
- 4 Sleep also plays a crucial role in creative problem-solving. Many exams test critical thinking, and research suggests that REM sleep significantly enhances this ability. In one study, participants solved anagram puzzles before sleeping. Throughout the



night, they were woken up and asked to solve more. Those woken during REM sleep performed 15 to 35 percent better than those woken in other sleep stages or during the day.

- 5 Ultimately, sleep does more than just restore energy. It enhances learning, strengthens memory, and improves problem-solving skills. The MIT study confirms that prioritising sleep only before a test is not enough – students must maintain good sleep habits throughout their studies to see real improvements. Staying up late to study simply does not pay off.

[Source adapted from: <https://bit.ly/4jBcp9P>]

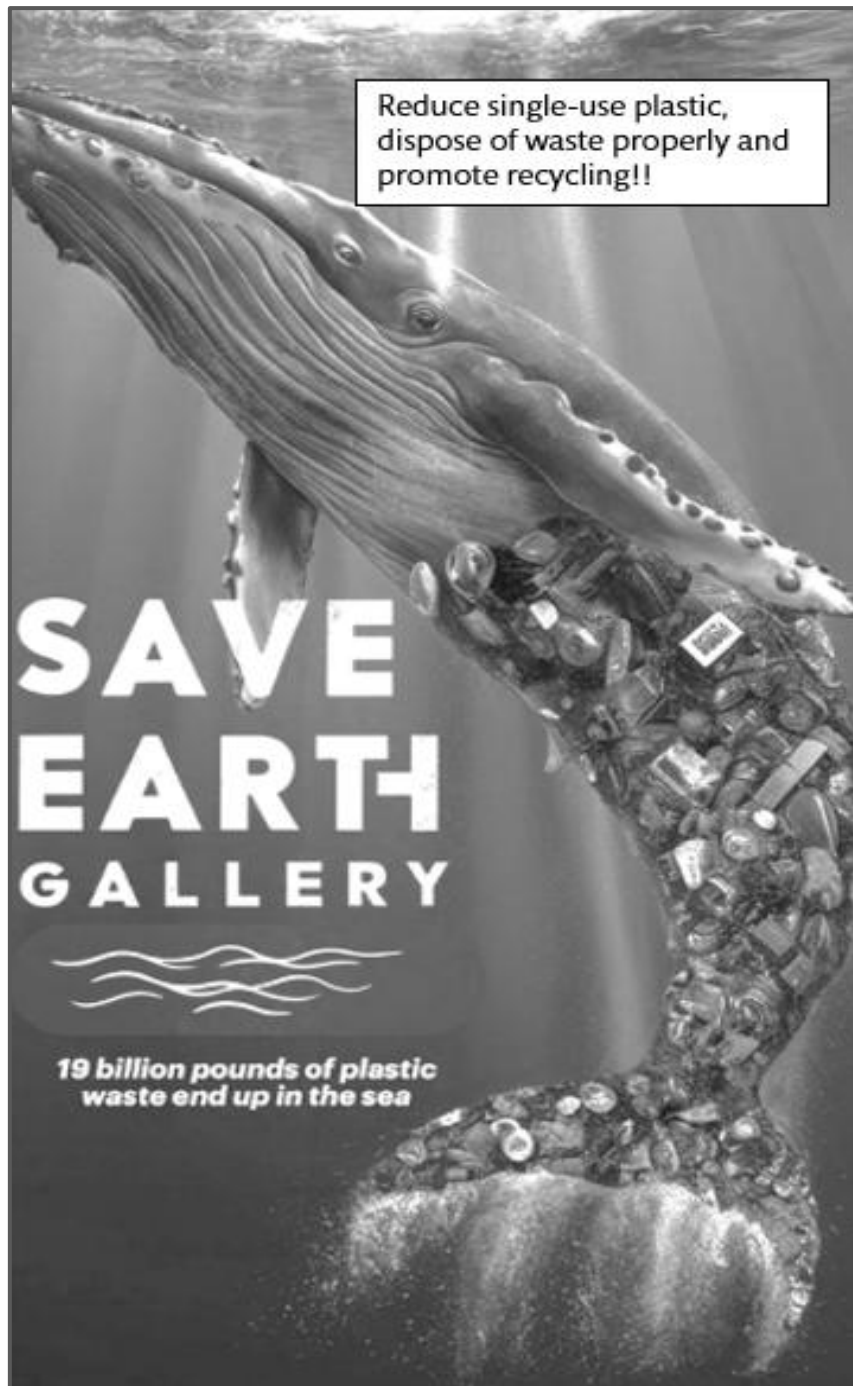
TOTAL SECTION B: [10]

SECTION C: LANGUAGE STRUCTURES AND CONVENTIONS

QUESTION 3: ANALYSING ADVERTISING

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

TEXT D



[Source adapted from: <https://za.pinterest.com/>]

QUESTIONS: TEXT D

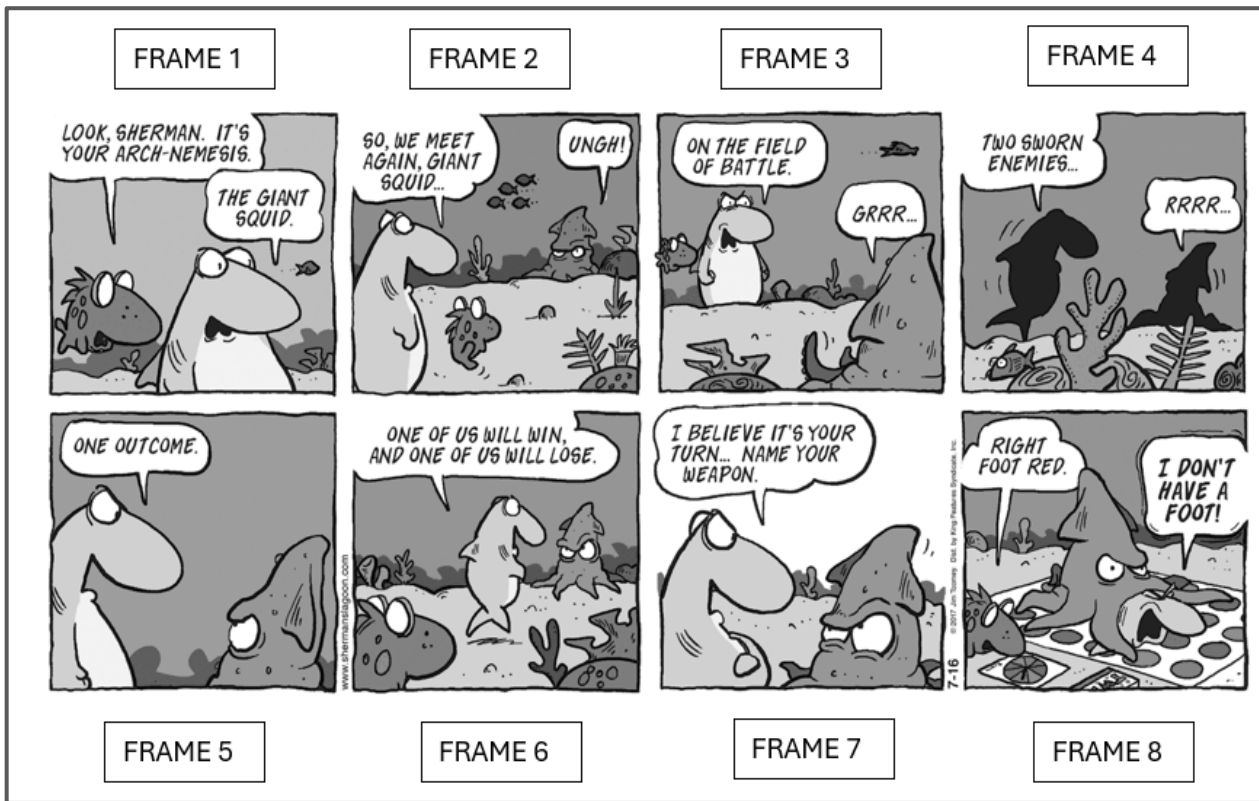
- 3.1 Refer to the written text: '19 billion pounds of plastic waste end up in the sea'.
Explain how the numerical value provided, highlights the crisis of plastic waste in the ocean. (2)
- 3.2 Refer to the written text: 'Reduce single-use plastic, dispose of waste properly and promote recycling!!'
Discuss how the language used in this text acts as a persuasive technique. (3)
- 3.3 In your view, is the visual image of the whale effective in reinforcing the message of the advertisement?
Justify your response by a close examination of the visual image. (3)
- 3.4 Refer to the written text: 'Reduce single-use plastic, dispose of waste properly and promote recycling!!'
- 3.4.1 Provide the homophone of 'waste'. (1)
- 3.4.2 What purpose does the hyphen in 'single-use' serve in the context of this sentence? (1)

[10]

QUESTION 4: UNDERSTANDING OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MEDIA

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

TEXT E



[Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/>]

QUESTIONS: TEXT E

- 4.1 Refer to frame 2.
Explain what the body language of the two speakers in this frame suggests about their relationship. (2)
- 4.2 Refer to frame 4.
Comment on the effectiveness of the use of silhouettes in this frame. (3)
- 4.3 In your view, is the linguistic technique employed in frame 8 effective for conveying humour? Justify your response by making reference to the cartoon as a whole. (3)
- 4.4 Refer to frame 2: 'So, we meet again, Giant Squid ...'.
What purpose does the ellipsis serve in this context? (1)
- 4.5 Refer to frame 5.
What is the part of speech of 'one' in the statement, 'One outcome'? (1)

[10]

QUESTION 5: USING LANGUAGE CORRECTLY

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

TEXT F

The heist of 100,000 eggs in Johannesburg becomes a whodunit that police have yet to crack

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | Police are investigating the unusual theft of 100,000 eggs from the back of a trailer in Johannesburg. The heist, which law enforcement suggest may be linked to the rising cost of eggs, remains unsolved four days after the incident. Johannesburg Metro Police spokesperson, Thandi Madlala, said that no leads have come in yet, and authorities are relying on tips from the community. They are also reviewing surveillance footage and speaking to potential witnesses to identify the culprit. | 5 |
| 2 | Madlala, who has over twelve years of experience with the force, called the theft 'definitely unique', noting that she had never encountered a case involving such a large number of eggs being stolen. The sharp rise in egg prices is partly due to bird flu: farmers have been forced to cull millions of chickens, leading to a significant shortage of eggs. | 10 |
| 3 | In South Africa at large, the price of eggs reached an average of R76,80 per dozen in December, a slight decrease from the record high of R89,20 set two years ago. However, the Agriculture Department predicts a further 20% increase in egg prices this year, leaving many consumers facing even higher costs. | 15 |

[Source adapted from: <https://apnews.com/oddities>]

QUESTIONS: TEXT F

- 5.1 Refer to the title, 'The heist of 100,000 eggs in Johannesburg becomes a whodunit that police have yet to crack'.
- 5.1.1 What does the term 'whodunit' mean in the context of the title? (1)
- 5.1.2 Explain the pun, 'yet to crack' used in the title. (1)
- 5.2 Correct the error of concord in paragraph 1. (1)
- 5.3 Explain the significant difference in meaning between 'theft' (line 1) and 'heist' (line 2). (2)
- 5.4 Refer to paragraph 2: 'The sharp rise ... shortage of eggs' (lines 10–12). Explain the function of the colon in this sentence. (1)

- 5.5 Provide the full form of the word 'flu' (line 11). Your answer must be correctly spelt. (1)
- 5.6 Provide an antonym for the word 'cull' (line 11), in the context of the sentence. Your answer must be correctly spelt. (1)
- 5.7 Identify the participle phrase in the following sentence:
 'However, the Agriculture Department predicts a further 20% increase in egg prices this year, leaving many consumers facing even higher costs.' (1)
- 5.8 Choose the correct option below that best rewrites the sentence in the passive voice. Write down only the correct letter that corresponds with your answer.
 'However, the Agriculture Department predicts a further 20% increase in egg prices this year, leaving many consumers facing even higher costs.'
- A) However, a further 20% increase in egg prices this year will leave many consumers facing even higher costs, as predicted by the Agriculture Department.
- B) However, a further 20% increase in egg prices is predicted by the Agriculture Department this year, leaving many consumers facing even higher costs.
- C) However, many consumers will be left facing even higher costs as egg prices increase by a further 20% this year, according to the Agriculture Department.
- D) However, a further 20% increase in egg prices this year is what the Agriculture Department predicts, leaving many consumers facing even higher costs. (1)

[10]

TOTAL SECTION C: [30]

GRAND TOTAL: [70]