

**2014 ENGLISH OLYMPIAD**  
*Language, Literature and Laughter*

**MAINSTREAM PAPER**

**SECTION B: THE LANGUAGE OF HUMOUR (40 MARKS)**

**ANSWER SHEET**

School Number: ..... Examination number: .....

Answer all of the following questions on this ANSWER SHEET.

*(Note: The shaded sections on this Answer Sheet are for the examiner's use only.)*

1. Read the following items and answer the questions below. The first one has been done for you as an example.

A Theseus: *The iron tongue of midnight hath told twelve.*

B Newspaper headline: **PUPIL SUSPENDED BY HEAD**

C ~~Old teachers never die, they just grade away.~~

D *Dear Teacher*  
*I know Jacqueline has had some time off with a runny tummy and I think this is because she was worried about her music exam. She is now better and you will be pleased to know that she passed the piano.*  
*Yours truly*  
*Mrs van der Poel*

E Sign on a farm:

<p><b>HORSE MANURE</b></p> <p><b>R50 PER PRE-PACKED BAG</b></p> <p><b>R20 DO-IT-YOURSELF</b></p>
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Each of the above items contains either a *pun* or a straight *ambiguity*. For each

- tick whether it is a pun or an example of ambiguity;
- quote the word or phrase which contains the pun or ambiguity; and
- each time indicate what the intended meaning is and
- what the unintended meaning is.

			Quote word or phrase that contains the pun	intended meaning	unintended meaning	Marks
A	Ambiguity		told	toll / counted	announced	
	Pun	√				
B	Ambiguity					
	Pun					
C	Ambiguity					
	Pun					
D	Ambiguity					
	Pun					
E	Ambiguity					
	Pun					

(4 x 4 = 16)

2. The following are extracts from excuse notes written to school. Write down the *malapropism* in each, along with the word which should have been used:

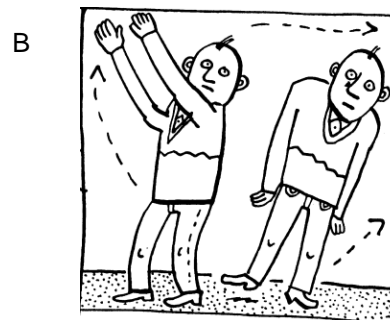
- A Ayanda couldn't come to school because of her loose vowels.  
 B Milton was absent because he had an abness on his knee.

	Malapropism	Correct word	Marks
A			
B			

(2 x 2 = 4)

3. In each of the following, humour is created by the fact that a *figurative* saying has been drawn in a *literal* way. Below the pictures is a list of key words (in scrambled order) for the figurative sayings. Write down the appropriate saying for each picture each time using the relevant key word.

(4 x 2 = 8)



**KEY WORDS:** party; march; weight; apple

Figurative saying		Marks
A		
B		
C		
D		

4.1 Each of the following contains *irony*:

A Report from *Time* magazine:

In a Tanzanian village, an anti US parade was said to have been led by a brass band which, having been trained by American missionaries, could play only one tune: ‘The Stars and Stripes Forever.’”

B Line from *The King of Laughter*:

JEROME: (*hinting at himself*) What if someone has no sense of humour?

In both cases above (A & B) the irony is an example of		Tick	Marks
	Verbal irony		
	Situational irony		

(1x1 = 1)

4.2 Explain the irony in each of A and B above.

Explain the irony		Marks
A	<p>The irony is that .....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	
B	<p>The irony is that .....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	

(2 x 2 = 4)

5. Read the quotations below from *The King of Laughter* and then tick the box that most aptly names the kind of humour captured in the underlined phrases in each.

			Tick	Marks
A	<b>BARRY</b> <i>(taking it in)</i> I'm being hoofed. <b>NATASHA</b> Well, you're 55. I would prefer to see it as an early retirement.  (p.35)	parody		
		ambiguity		
		pun		
		euphemism		
B	<b>BARRY</b> I had my first child when I was 21. <b>JEROME</b> Really ... was it planned? <b>BARRY</b> Yes, Jerome. After months of discussion and debate, my young girlfriend and I decided to raise a family that we could call our own ...  (p. 45)	sarcasm		
		innuendo		
		Malapropism		
		repartee		

(2 x 2 = 4)

6. The following lines are from the Prologue to the Mechanicals' play in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*:

*Our true intent is. All for your delight  
We are not here. That you should here repent you,*

Theseus comments as follows on Quince's rendering of these lines:

*This fellow doth not stand on points.*

Rewrite the two lines with correct punctuation. This will entail removing or deleting the three punctuation marks in the original which provide the unintended humour on the part of Quince.

Punctuation marks changed	Marks
<p><i>Our</i>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	

(3)

Total marks for Section B = \_\_\_\_\_ 40