



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI  
Eswatini General Certificate of Secondary Education

CANDIDATE  
NAME

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CENTRE  
NUMBER

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NUMBER

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**6873/01**

Paper 1 Reading and Directed Writing

**October/November 2023**

**2 hours**

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No Additional Materials are required.

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided.

Write in **blue** or **black ink**.

Do **not** use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use	
Exercise 1	
Exercise 2	
Exercise 3	
Exercise 4	
Exercise 5	
<b>Total</b>	

This document consists of **11** printed pages and **1** blank page.

## Exercise 1

Read the following passage and then answer the questions on the opposite page.

### MY LOYAL COMPANION

Fifteen years ago I fell in love. My husband knew all about it although he did warn me not to get involved. I did not listen; I was a woman possessed. I drove to a nearby town to meet him. The first time he saw me, he jumped and licked my ear. When I put him in the car, I called home. "You don't understand. He's so cute," I said. "Of course he's cute!" snapped my husband. "Cute is the job description of a puppy."

I figured once the family saw the little red poodle – a bunch of tawny fluff that did not stop moving up and down like a yo-yo – there would be no need to send him back. In this, I was correct. The kids loved Django and their father pretended not to. That first night, Django was so nervous that I slept on the couch with him. He lay on my chest, paws splayed and nose tucked under my chin. From that moment on, the poodle was my shadow. Sometimes he stayed so close to my heels that I panicked and thought he was lost whenever he wandered off. Django satisfied a need in me that I didn't know existed. Deep down, I suppose I had yearned for a third child but I had started the baby-making business late. I counted myself lucky to have had a healthy girl and boy by the age of forty. Getting Django was a way of adding to my brood and remaining needed as the kids grew up.

I quickly bonded with Django because he was gentle, intelligent and almost too empathetic. When I was depressed, he lay staring at me with sad eyes or rested his head on my lap. It was worth going out just for the rapturous welcome I would receive when I got home. He adored me and the feeling was mutual. So many people are equally passionate about their pets, particularly women. An empty nest can be full again with an excitable small creature who is grateful to receive

all the love we still have to give. Some people admit that they cannot bear the death of their beloved pet. I also never thought of Django dying. He was full of abounding life!

A year later, Django started struggling to jump into the car or go for a walk. I assumed he was an old boy then. I added a fish oil supplement to his food and got him some painkillers. However, it took quite some time before he could improve. On some mornings he struggled to get up and was helplessly splayed on the floor until we tried to help, and in indignation, he resisted. He was always very proud.

It turned out Django needed surgery. Post-surgery healing, however, took long. I was told about training my dog using the positive reinforcement method. This was going to help Django's recovery. Everyone was helpful in this as the whole family loved him dearly – even my husband. This took three months but I must say it was the longest three months of my life.

One day I took Django to the vet. At the vet's, I noticed people glancing at him and I suddenly saw our wonderful Django as others saw him. His wandering eyes had straightened, he had gained weight, and his gait had returned to normal. He was his bubbly self again. Axel and Lily, who now fully believe in miracles, spend every available moment with their best friend. We are back on the routine of taking walks and Sunday afternoon drives. Just this afternoon when I entered our living room, I knelt down and called him to me. He gave a quick bark before lowering his ears, tucking in his tail, and wiggling onto my lap. He clawed my chest like he wanted to climb on top of my shoulders and kissed my face.

**Questions**

- (a) What was the companion's initial reaction when he first met the writer?  
..... [1]
- (b) Why do you think the writer's husband snapped at the news?  
..... [1]
- (c) What breed was Django?  
..... [1]
- (d) What was the writer's need that was satisfied by Django?  
..... [1]
- (e) How did the writer assist Django when he got old?  
.....  
..... [2]
- (f) Why did Django resist any form of help?  
..... [1]
- (g) Why are the writer's children said to 'believe in miracles'?  
.....  
..... [2]
- (h) Explain why the writer started to view Django differently at the vet.  
.....  
..... [1]
- (i) Give **four** details that show that the writer and Django had a strong bond.  
.....  
.....  
.....  
..... [4]

**[Total: 14 marks]**

## Exercise 2

Read the following article on lack of motivation and irresponsibility, and then complete the notes on the opposite page.

### MOTIVATING CHILDREN

Parents are invested in their children's academic lives because they know it is important for their future. To do well, children need to be motivated. Nevertheless, children would put things like friends or electronic gadgets before their schoolwork. The truth is, most children are motivated, but not by what we think should motivate them. For instance, a child is probably highly motivated and not at all lazy when it comes to things that excite him like video games, music, and fashion. One thing for certain is that if you pressure your child in order to motivate him, it almost always makes things worse. Parents need to understand that children need to buy into the value of doing well in their schoolwork to succeed in life. A child needs to own the importance of doing well.

It is not surprising that some children seem to be self-motivated, have the right attitude, and can do well without much effort. This just comes naturally, but for most children, it is way trickier. It is for this reason that not all children can put aside all other distractions to get down to their studies. The ones who do are typically children who have what is known as good executive functioning skills. Such skills play a significant role in school achievement as it helps with the regulation of emotions, attention span, perseverance, and flexibility. For most children, their executive functioning skills do not develop until much later in their adolescent years. This greatly affects parents who were responsible and motivated at an early age.

Parents need to keep an open, respectful and positive relationship with their children. This will allow them to influence their children, which is the most important parenting tool. Punishing, preaching, threatening, and manipulating will get parents nowhere. This will also be detrimental to their relationship and to the children's ultimate motivation. Feelings of anxiety, frustration, and fear are normal and understandable. However, reacting because of these emotions will be ineffective. If your child is not studying and his grades are dropping, you might be invited to his school whether he wants you there or not. Again, you are there to help set up a structure that he is not able to create for himself. The structure might include scheduled study times and not allowing video games or television until after homework is done.

Teachers are always available to parents who want to discuss their child's progress at school. If a child's grades and work habits are not up to standard, a parent can set up a meeting with the child and his teachers. This might also help the child to get better at managing his time, completing his work, and reviewing his subjects before tests. Once the child has mastered this, a parent might want to back off. A parent can sit with their child while they are doing their work or at least nearby to help them stay on track. However, parents are sometimes tempted to do the work for their children. Instead, they can review their child's work and help where necessary.

You are preparing to do a presentation on motivation for adolescents to parents of high school students. Using the information from this article, make short notes under each heading to use as a basis for your talk.

**Benefits of motivation**

- ..... [1]
- ..... [1]

**Characteristics of self-motivated children**

- ..... [1]
- ..... [1]

**Ways parents can motivate their children**

- ..... [1]
- ..... [1]
- ..... [1]
- ..... [1]

**[Total: 8 marks]**

### Exercise 3

Read the following article about female radio DJs and answer the questions on the opposite page.

#### A. Delani 'Lady D' Costa

I stumbled across radio in the 70s while working as a professional nurse. I became a regular contributor on Jabula FM where I spoke on health issues. My caring nature caught the attention of Jabula FM management who approached me to present a women's programme from 2-3pm on weekdays. However, I met some resistance as older male presenters could not understand how a young woman like me would be given her own show. There are still women in radio who are not given big slots and a lot of this has to do with the listeners who are still culture-bound. This puts immense pressure on young women who are then side-lined in promotions.

#### B. Luthando 'LKG' Khumalo

My earliest memories of radio are of people such as Beatrice Manana, who was on Langa FM with whom I immediately fell in love. I was inspired by her voice and fortunately, I won auditions to do commercial broadcasting on prime-time television. This brought me closer to radio and after earning my stripes on television, the opportunity to join Langa FM presented itself in 2016. I am not afraid of getting raw and honest with my listeners and a lot of the topics I discuss often shock my listeners. I've spoken openly about my challenges in life, especially about how broke I've been before, once even to the point of almost getting my car repossessed.

#### C. Zyo Gregory

Radio was the soundtrack to so many family gatherings, which is what makes my time on radio special even now. I now get to be part of people's memories. Despite having worked on television and taking some freelance jobs on radio, I only seriously considered radio when I thought I had something to say. I always thought that there was space for a conversation about allowing oneself to be different. As such, I have always wanted to say to other people, especially young people, that it is okay to be who you are. I always try to give my listeners information that empowers them and I sometimes co-host my shows with a psychologist where I allow listeners to call in and ask questions. It has greatly helped a lot of people.

#### D. Nelly Morama

I was always reprimanded for watching television or listening to the radio instead of joining other kids to play outside. I always listen to the radio and pretend to host my own show. My big break came after I moved to Manzini to live with my mother while finishing high school. After completing Form 5, I was offered a newsreader position on local radio. I worked my way to presenting a breakfast show and an afternoon drive. That was when Hhelehhele FM noticed me and I eventually joined them later in 2011. When I'm on air, I want people to know that they can do whatever they want. Radio is not rehearsed, but it still has an impact. It teaches you that whatever you are doing doesn't have to be perfect for it to mean something.

The questions below are about female radio DJs. Each DJ has been given the letter A, B, C or D. For each question, write the correct letter which corresponds to the correct person, A, B, C, or D on the spaces provided.

### Questions

- (a) Which presenter started on radio by being a newsreader? ..... [1]
- (b) Who landed her dream career on radio after excelling on television? ..... [1]
- (c) Who believes there is gender inequality in radio positions? ..... [1]
- (d) Which presenter joined radio to encourage others to be themselves and be proud of who they are? ..... [1]
- (e) Who started as a health advisor on radio? ..... [1]
- (f) Which presenter shares her life on radio without restriction? ..... [1]
- (g) Who believes that radio is spontaneous? ..... [1]
- (h) Which presenter helps with counselling on her show? ..... [1]

**[Total: 8 marks]**

## Exercise 4

Read the following passage on dreams and answer the questions that follow.

### DREAMS

Dreams are one of the most enigmatic yet exciting experiences of our life. We don't know much about dreaming but we are extremely curious as to what the science behind these dreams is. Every little detail about dreams excites us. Although dreams are somewhat mysterious, they have played a very important role in our lives. In earlier days, most of the governing decisions were taken through dreams. Many works of art have also been inspired by dreams.

Now and again I have had horrible dreams, but not enough of them make me lose my delight in dreams. To begin with, I like the idea of dreaming, of going to bed and lying still and then, by some queer magic, wandering into another kind of existence. As a child, I could never understand why grown-ups took dreaming so calmly when they could make such a fuss about going on holiday. This still puzzles me. I am mystified by people who say that they never dream and appear to have no interest in the subject. It is much more astonishing than if they said they never went out for a walk. Most people do not seem to accept dreaming as part of their lives. They appear to see it as an irritating little habit, like sneezing or yawning. I have never understood this.

My dream life does not seem as important as my waking life because there is far less of it, but to me, it is still important. Some dreams appear as if there were at least two extra continents added to the world, and lightning excursions running to them at any moment between midnight and

breakfast. Then again, the dream life, though queer, bewildering, and unsatisfactory in many respects, has its advantages. The past is there, sometimes all broken and confused but occasionally as fresh as a daisy. Perhaps the future is there too, winking at us.

Dreams are highly personal and have the most significance to the individual having them. This being said, dreams do have psychological significance and they may often be an unconscious reflection of our internal anxieties, fears, desires, hopes, and fantasies. Of course, we can read almost anything into our dreams. As they are constructed within our minds, we can attribute certain ideas or thoughts to dreams and make them mean what we wish them to. However, dreams can give clues to areas of our lives that require attention, our significant relationships, or aspects of ourselves that we are concerned about. The importance of dreams should not be underestimated, nor should we dismiss reoccurring themes.

Dreaming has its gaities, satisfactions, and, at certain intervals, a serene glow or a sudden ecstasy. You can get glimpses of another form of existence altogether that we cannot match with open eyes. Dreams further help us experience another slice of life cut differently, for which, it seems we are never sufficiently grateful. Only a dream! Why only? It was there and you had it. If there were dreams to sell, I would certainly buy more than I could afford!



**Questions**

(a) Why is the writer mystified by people who say they never dream?

.....  
..... [1]

(b) How does the majority of people view dreaming? Give **two** details.

.....  
..... [2]

(c) Explain the following phrases as they are used in the passage:

(i) 'enigmatic yet exciting'

..... [1]

(ii) 'lightning excursions'

..... [1]

(iii) 'as fresh as a daisy'

..... [1]

(iv) 'another slice of life'

..... [1]

(d) Why does the writer feel that dreaming cannot be matched with wakefulness?

.....  
..... [1]

(e) What are the writer's feelings towards dreams? Give **two** details.

.....  
.....  
.....  
..... [2]

**[Total: 10 marks]**

## Exercise 5

**Read the following passage about an activist, Greta Thunberg. Write a summary on the opposite page on the activities that she has engaged in to fight against climate change. You should use your own words as far as possible.**

Your summary should be about 100 words (and not more than 120 words). You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary and up to 4 marks for the style and accuracy of language.

Greta Thunberg, born on 3 January 2003, is a Swedish environmental activist who is universally known for challenging world leaders to take immediate action for climate change mitigation. Thunberg initially gained notice for her straightforward speaking manner, both in public and to political leaders and assemblies, in which she criticises world leaders for their failure to take what she considers sufficient action to address the climate crisis.

The teenage activist behind the renowned School Strikes 4 Climate Action took her campaign to the streets of Davos in 2019, to confront world leaders and business chiefs about the global emissions crisis. She joined a strike by Swiss school children at the World Economic Forum. Thunberg travelled by train for 32 hours to reach Davos and spent the night camped with climate scientists on the mountain slopes – where temperatures plunged to  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$ . As she travelled from Arctic Base Camp, while more than 30000 students were striking in Belgium, Thunberg said the rapid growth of her movement was ‘incredible’.

Thunberg started her activism by striking for three weeks outside the Swedish Parliament, prior to the 2018 elections, lobbying MPs to comply with the Paris Agreement. After the Swedish elections, she continued to strike every Friday, missing class and giving up some of her hobbies. She was now joined by hundreds of people. Students around the world have been inspired by Thunberg, with thousands skipping school to join the protests. On one Friday, there were strikes in Germany, Belgium, and Switzerland where more than 20000 students skipped school. What began as Greta Thunberg’s solo protest outside Sweden’s Parliament had snowballed across the globe.

Her sudden rise to world fame made her a leader in the activist community. Her influence on the world stage has been described by *The Guardian* and other newspapers as the “Greta effect”. She

received numerous honours and awards, including an honorary Fellowship of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, inclusion in *Time*’s 100 most influential people, being the youngest *Time* Person of the Year, inclusion in the Forbes list of The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women (2019), and three consecutive nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Greta has received numerous invitations and seized various platforms to speak about climate change. She gave speeches at the European Parliament as well as in front of the legislatures of Italy, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. To serve as a demonstration of her declared beliefs on the importance of reducing emissions, she travelled on carbon-neutral yachts for her appearances at a UN climate event in New York and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 25) in Madrid, Spain.

Having addressed conferences like the UN Climate Change COP 24 and COP 25, Thunberg is rapidly becoming a voice for a generation that is demanding urgent action to slow the rise in global temperatures. In December 2019, she was part of BBC Radio’s flagship programme, the Today Programme where she featured interviews on climate change with influential people.

Thunberg would like to see more youth joining the strikes because this would have a huge impact. She believes the older generations need to acknowledge that they have failed to protect the environment and they should be held accountable for the mess they have created. She feels it is not fair for the younger generations to live with the consequences of such a mess. Thunberg has taken to world stages to continue to call on business leaders and politicians to commit to ‘real and bold climate action’ and focus on ‘the future living conditions of mankind’ rather than economic goals and profits.



