

# TEACHERS WITHOUT BORDERS PROGRAMME

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In Bill Gates words, at the Mandela Day 'Living Together' address: "Maintaining the quality of this country's higher education system while expanding access to more students will not be easy. But it's critical to South Africa's future" – working together, we can help achieve this."

## Contributing schools to date:

Clifton School	Milnerton High	Rustenburg Girls' High	St Peter's
Durban Girls'	Northwood High	St Anne's DC	St Stithians
Fairmont High	Roedean	St John's DSG	Wynberg Boys' High
Herzlia High	Rondebosch Boys'	St Mary's DSG Kloof	Wynberg Secondary

**GRADE 9 ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE**

**TASK 3 – TERM 1 TEST 1**

**MARCH 2014**

**Time: 1 hour 30 minutes**

**Total marks: 55**

**MEMO**

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**INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION**

1. This question paper consists of TWO sections, namely:
  - a. SECTION A: COMPREHENSION (25)
  - b. SECTION B: LANGUAGE STUDY (30)
2. START EACH SECTION ON A NEW PAGE.
3. Leave a line open after each answer.
4. Draw a margin down the right hand side of EVERY page.
5. Number the questions correctly according to the numbering system used in this question paper.
6. Please make sure you have written your name on the question paper.

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**SECTION A: COMPREHENSION**

**QUESTION 1**

Read the Text A below and answer the set questions

**TEXT A**

**STUDY FINDS KIDS HAVE THREE TIMES TOO MUCH HOMEWORK! WHAT'S THE COST?**

**By Kelly Wallace**

- 1 Nothing quite stresses out students and parents about the beginning of the school year as the return to homework, which for many households means nightly battles centred around completing after-school assignments.
- 2 Now a new study may help explain some of that stress.
- 3 In the study involving questionnaires filled out by more than 1,100 English and Spanish speaking parents of children in kindergarten through grade 12, researchers found children in the first grade had up to three times the homework load recommended by the National Education Association (NEA) and the National PTA.
- 4 Parents reported first-graders were spending 28 minutes on homework each night versus the recommended 10 minutes. For second-graders, the homework time was nearly 29 minutes, as opposed to the 20 minutes recommended. Kindergartners spent 25 minutes a night on after-school assignments, according to the study carried out by researchers from Brown University.
- 5 "It is absolutely shocking to me to find out that particularly kindergarten students (who) are not supposed to have any homework at all ... are getting as much homework as a third-grader is supposed to get," said Stephanie Donaldson-Pressman, the clinical director of the New England Centre for Paediatric Psychology.

- 6 "Anybody who's tried to keep a 5-year-old at a table doing homework for 25 minutes after school knows what that's like. They want to be out playing, and that's what they should be doing."
- 7 Donaldson-Pressman says the NEA (and the National PTA) made their recommendations after a number of studies were done on the effects of homework and the effects on families of having too much homework.
- 8 She said, "The data shows that homework over this level is not only not beneficial to children's marks, but there's evidence that it's detrimental to their attitude about school."
- 9 In fact, a study last year showed that the impact of excessive homework on high schoolers included high stress levels, a lack of balance in children's lives and physical health problems such as ulcers, migraines, sleep deprivation and weight loss.
- 10 The correlation between homework and student performance is less clear cut.
- 11 Previous research found a link between time spent on homework and achievement but also found it was much stronger in high school versus primary school. Another study did find a positive link between homework and performance on exams.

#### **What can parents do?**

- 12 There are specific things parents can do to make the entire homework experience less anxious for everyone in the household, parenting experts say.
- 13 Lahey, the author of the book "The Gift of Failure", recommends that if parents are concerned about how much time their children are spending on homework, they first look at how and where their child is doing their homework to see whether that's a contribution to how long it takes. For instance, are the children being distracted by smartphones?
- 14 If a parent has done that and determined the child is still spending too much time on homework, contact with the teacher makes sense, said Lahey.

#### **Biggest mistakes parents make?**

- 15 Lahey recommends parents set really clear expectations at the beginning of the school year about the homework getting done and ending up in the teachers' hands. But that's really as far as parents should go, she says. She highly discourages parents from correcting their kids' homework -- and doing it themselves.
- 16 Homework is meant to help children and the teacher know which skills are missing and what needs improvement. Secondly, and something that is crucial to the success of our children later in life, is the importance of letting our kids learn how to make mistakes, letting them fail and find the motivation for their own success.
- 17 "In order to be invested in our own learning or anything we're doing, we need to feel like we have some control over the details of it. We need to have control. We need to feel competent," said Lahey. "And if parents are fixing the homework, the kid never really gets to feel competent because the parent's the one fixing it."

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/12/health/homework-elementary-school-study/>

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- Read the questions carefully. Some questions consist of more than one part.
- Answer the questions in **FULL SENTENCES** unless otherwise asked. Marks **will not be awarded** for one-word answers or fragments.
- Answer the questions in your own words. Answers taken directly from the text will not be considered, unless you have been specifically asked to quote.
- Use the mark allocation to guide the required length of your answers.

### **Paragraph 1**

- 1.1 What, according to this paragraph, causes arguments at home? [1]

#### **Homework**

- 1.2 Is this paragraph a fact or an opinion? Justify (prove / explain) your answer. [1]

**Opinion. (No mark is awarded for this answer.)**

**Not all families fight over homework. ✓**

**Justification must match initial answer to be considered.**

### **Paragraph 3**

- 1.3 Is this study a comprehensive (complete) study of the educational system? Justify (prove) your answer by referring to the text. [1]

**Yes. It ranged from kindergarten to Grade 12.**

**Mark awarded only for justification.**

### **Paragraph 4**

- 1.4 How much more time are Grade 1s spending on homework than they should? [1]

**18 min**

- 1.5 Do you think the information in this paragraph is reliable? Justify (prove) your answer by referring to the text. [1]

**Yes. It comes from a study carried out by Brown University.**

### **Paragraph 5**

- 1.6 The origin of the word 'paediatrics' is:

#### **Origin**

Late 19th century: from paedo- 'of children' + Greek *iatros* 'physician' + -ics.

- Looking at the information above, explain what 'Paediatric Psychology' is. [1]

**Psychology on children.**

### **Paragraph 6**

- 1.7 Look at the following sentence. "Anybody who's tried ... knows what that's like." Describe the behaviour you would expect from a 5-year-old being forced to do their homework, after reading that sentence. [2]

**Crying, temper tantrum, distraction...**

**Accept any TWO reasonable answers.**

- 1.8 Read the following sentence: "They want to be out playing, and that's what they should be doing." Do you agree with that statement? Support (give reasons why) your answer. [2]

**Yes. Exercise is healthy. Children need to develop motor skills ....**

**Accept any TWO reasonable answers.**

#### **Paragraph 9**

- 1.9 List two health problems high school learners can suffer from as a result of too much homework. [2]

**Ulcers, migraines, sleep deprivation and weight loss.**

**Accept any TWO.**

#### **Paragraph 11**

- 1.10 According to this paragraph, which school systems is more likely to benefit from homework? [1]

**High school**

- 1.11 Refer to paragraphs 1 to 11.

What do you think will be the outcome of this study? Support your answer. [1]

**There will be no change. Even though the study has proved otherwise, homework is almost considered a rite of passage. Generations in the past did it and survived. The school day is not long enough to cover all the work done in class...**

**In the future there will be less homework. People will finally learn from the research and make changes, especially**

#### **Paragraph 13**

- 1.12 Discuss the effect of the language used in the title, "The Gift of Failure". [2]

**It is a paradox. √ One does not associate 'failure' with a gift. However, after reconsideration, it is clear that one does learn a valuable lesson from failure.**

- 1.13 In your opinion, what other distractions should parents look for? [1]

**TV, music, friends, ...**

**Accept any reasonable answer.**

- 1.14 Refer to paragraphs 12 to 14.

According to Lahey, what two steps can a parent take if they feel their child is taking too long to do their homework? [2]

**Make sure that their child is not being distracted while doing homework. Speak to the teacher.**

#### **Paragraph 15**

- 1.15 Read the following sentences: "Lahey recommends parents ... as parents should go...".

In your opinion, is this recommended input from parents sufficient (enough) to guarantee that homework is done? [2]

**No / Yes**

**Accept reasonable answer.**

1.16 What does Lahey discourage parents from doing? [2]

**Correcting their child's homework or doing their child's homework.**

**Paragraph 17**

1.17 Do you agree with the following statement: "And if parents are fixing the homework, the kid never really gets to feel competent because the parent's the one fixing it."? Justify your answer. [2]

**Yes. Children will not learn independence and feel the need to rely on their parents for constant affirmation.**

**No. Constantly getting things wrong at school will not do anything to boost a child's confidence. Having assistance from home will help a child feel better about themselves.**

**Accept any reasonable answer. No mark awarded for yes/no.**

**TOTAL [25]**

## SECTION B: LANGUAGE

### QUESTION 2

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- The questions in Question 2 are based on **Text A**. Do not attempt to answer the questions without referring to Text A.
- Read the questions carefully. Some questions consist of more than one part.
- Not all the answers in Question 2 need to be answered in full sentences. Make sure that your answer is clear and that it answers what you have been asked.

- 2.1 At the end of **Paragraph 3**, the abbreviation PTA is used.
- 2.1.1 What type of abbreviation is PTA? [1]  
**Initialism**
- 2.1.2 What is PTA an abbreviation for? [1]  
**Parent Teacher Association**
- 2.2 In **Paragraph 5**, you will find the following punctuation mark: "..."
- 2.2.1 What is this punctuation mark called? [1]  
**Ellipsis**
- 2.2.2 What is the function of this punctuation mark? [1]  
**To show that information has been omitted**
- 2.3 Provide synonyms for the following words:
- 2.3.1 detrimental (**Paragraph 8**) [1]  
**Harmful, dangerous, damaging...**
- 2.3.2 clear cut (**Paragraph 10**) [1]  
**Obvious, apparent**
- 2.4 In **Paragraph 13** you will see the book title, "The Gift of Failure". Rewrite the title, punctuation it correctly in an alternative (different) way. [1]  
**The Gift of Failure**
- 2.5 Miss Baldwin changed the apostrophe in "teachers' " (**Paragraph 15**). Explain the difference in meaning between the original punctuation, teacher's, and Miss Baldwin's, teachers'. Do you think Miss Baldwin was correct? [3]  
**Taechers' – belongs to many teachers**  
**Teacher's – It belongs to one teacher**  
**Considering that there is more likely to be more than one teacher involved, Miss Baldwin would be correct – naturally.**
- 2.6 Read the following sentence from **Paragraph 11**:
- Previous research found a link between time spent on homework and achievement but also found it was much stronger in high school versus primary school.
- 2.6.1 This sentence is a: [1]

- A. simple sentence
- B. compound sentence
- C. complex sentence

Write ONLY the letter that matches the corresponding answer.  
(Please DO NOT rewrite the multiple choice options.)

**B**

2.6.2 Provide evidence to support your answer to 2.6.1 [2]

**Two clauses joined by a co-ordinating conjunction**

2.7 Read the following sentence from **Paragraph 15**:

She highly discourages parents from correcting their kids' homework -- and doing it themselves.

2.7.1 What part of speech is 'highly'? [1]

**adverb**

2.7.2 Identify the finite verb in the sentence above. [1]

**Discourages**

[15]

**QUESTION 3: VISUAL LITERACY**

**TEXT B**



3.1 Identify a spelling mistake in this cartoon. Correct the mistake. [1]

**homework**

3.2 Look at the mother in the first three frames of the cartoon. Do you think she believes her son? Refer to (talk about) her body language and facial expression to support your answer. [2]



**No. She either has her arms folded or her hands on her hips. Her mouth is also pulled into a strange grimace.**

3.3 What is the boy doing in frame 3? How do you know this? [2]

**Watching tv. He is sitting on a couch with a remote in his hand.**

3.4 Rewrite what the mother says in frame 3 in INDIRECT speech. [4]

**The mother asked if he was absolutely sure there was no homework.**

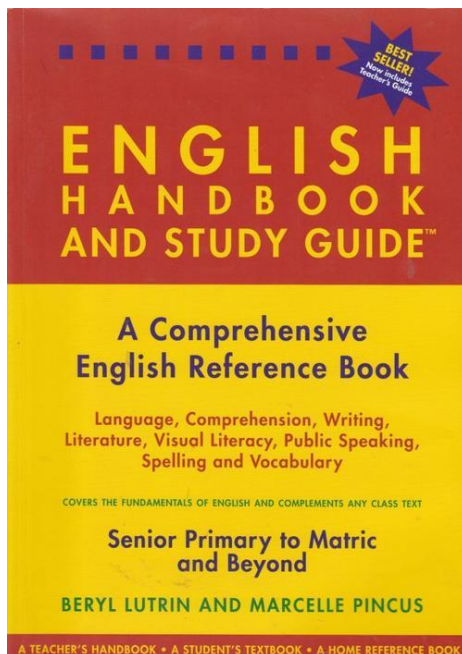
3.5 Refer to Frame 4. 'PM' refers to:

- A. the hours between six o'clock in the morning and midday.
- B. the time between midnight and midday.
- C. the time between midday and midnight
- D. the time between six o'clock in the evening and midnight.

Write ONLY the letter that matches the corresponding answer. (Please DO NOT rewrite the multiple choice options.) [1]

**C**

### TEXT C



3.6 Would you recommend a Grade 3 buy this book? Justify your answer by referring to Text C. [2]

**No. It says it is for senior primary, which would be grade 7 (6).**

3.7 Who is the author of this book? [2]

**Beryl Lutrín & Marcelle Pincus**

3.8 Have many copies of this book been sold? Prove your answer by referring to the text. [1]

**Yes. It says it is a best seller.**

[15]

**TOTAL: [30]**

