



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSESSMENT  
GENERAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (GEC)**

**2024 GRADE 9 PILOT STUDY**

Subject: English First Additional Language

Marks: 70

Duration: 150 minutes  
**excluding** 15 minutes reading time

This test consists of **22** pages, excluding the cover page.



### **Instructions to the learner**

1. You will receive 15 minutes reading time before you begin answering this test.
2. Read all the instructions and questions carefully.
3. Answer all questions.
4. Use the provided answer booklet to write all your answers.

**The test starts on the next page.**



**Do not turn the page until you are told to do so.**

## Question 1: Comprehension

Read the text below and answer the questions set.

### **The South African Choir That Brought Simon Cowell to Tears**

By Jackie Prager, CNN

Published 2:46 AM EDT, Tue August 22, 2023

- 1 On a stage more than 16,000 kilometres away from the small township of Soweto in Johannesburg, South Africa, the members of the Mzansi Youth Choir saw their dreams come true before their eyes. Confetti rained down at the ‘America’s Got Talent’ show. “Coming to the United States of America to perform on the world’s biggest stage, ‘America’s Got Talent,’ (AGT) is a dream come true,” choir member Zoe Gulwa, 21, told CNN during a recent interview in Johannesburg.
- 2 During their first audition, the choir performed a version of *It’s OK*. This performance was tribute to former ‘AGT’ contestant, Jane ‘Nightbirde’ Marczewski who died from cancer in 2022.
- 3 Emotions were running high, even for one of the more critical judges, Simon Cowell. After their audition, the teary record executive told the group that their performance was “perfect,” saying, “it brought back memories.”
- 4 “The judges cried. They said that the tribute took them back to the moment when Nightbirde sang on that stage,” Gulwa said. “They said that she would’ve been so proud, and she would’ve cried as well, witnessing that moment.”
- 5 It was a moment she and other members of the choir say they will never forget. Marina Zaيمان, one of the co-founders of the choir, said, “When the audience went mad, we looked at each other and all three of us started to cry and smile. We couldn’t believe what was happening around us. It was just amazing.” Marina was humbled to receive such positive comments.

- 6 When Zaaiman and her husband, Jannie, created the choir in 2003, they had no idea the group would become an international sensation. She says their intention was simply to create an environment of “unconditional love and safety.”
- 7 The couple established the group after they were carjacked by a group of young people. Rather than being angry, they wanted to create a sense of purpose for underprivileged children, ensuring that they kept these youngsters off the street by doing something meaningful.
- 8 The Mzansi Youth Choir has performed alongside musical talents including Shakira, Beyonce and South African flutist, Wouter Kellerman. “I hope that the choir brings hope to many people,” said Gulwa. “That is our goal as a choir to reach out to the hearts and souls of people around the world.” Now 45 members strong, they have their sights set on what would be one of their biggest accomplishments to date – winning ‘America’s Got Talent.’

**Glossary:**

**Confetti** – small bits of coloured paper usually thrown at celebrations.

*Adapted from cnn.com>Africa/2023*

1.1 Who is the writer of this newspaper article?

- A Marina Zaaiman
- B Jackie Prager
- C Zoe Gulwa
- D Simon Cowell (1)

1.2 Where is the Mzansi Youth Choir based?

- A Cape Town
- B United Kingdom
- C Johannesburg
- D America (1)

1.3 Quote one word that shows that Jane Nightbirde Marczewski was honoured by the Mzansi Youth Choir. (Paragraph 2)

- A audition
- B version
- C performance
- D tribute (1)

1.4 ‘... the choir performed a version of *It’s OK*.’ (Paragraph 2)  
What is the meaning of the underlined word in the above statement?

- A audition
- B tribute
- C interview
- D interpretation (1)

1.5 Which statement shows that the Mzansi Youth Choir achieved stardom? (Paragraph 1)

- A The choir came from a small township.
- B The choir performed on the world’s biggest stage.
- C The choir could not believe what was happening.
- D The choir had a recent interview in Johannesburg. (1)

1.6 ‘Emotions were running high,’ is an example of ...

- A figurative language
- B literal language
- C indirect speech
- D direct speech (1)

1.7 Choose a word that best describes Simon Cowell. (Paragraph 3)

- A perfect
- B judgmental
- C sentimental
- D lenient (1)

1.8 Refer to Paragraph 3.

Which statement shows that Simon Cowell was pleased with the choir's audition?

- A He acknowledged the choir.
- B He recommended the choir.
- C He criticised the choir.
- D He praised the choir. (1)

1.9 "... it brought back memories" for him. (Paragraph 3)

What is the purpose of the inverted commas in the above phrase?

- A to highlight informal language
- B to quote direct speech
- C to show a literal phrase
- D to indicate indirect speech (1)

1.10 "... she would have cried as well, witnessing that moment." (Paragraph 4)

To whom does this statement refer?

- A Nightbirde
- B Marina
- C Cowell
- D Gulwa (1)

1.11 What is the figurative meaning of the phrase ‘the audience went mad’?  
(Paragraph 5)

- A The audience was excited.
- B The audience was shocked.
- C The audience was motivated.
- D The audience was insane.

(1)

1.12 “... all three of us started to cry and smile.” (Paragraph 5)  
How did the speaker feel in that moment?

- A humbled
- B amazed
- C defeated
- D regretful

(1)

1.13 What is the meaning of ‘unconditional’ in Paragraph 6?

- A uncommon
- B unrestricted
- C unselfish
- D unaware

(1)

1.14 Which word best describes Marina and Jannie’s relationship? (Paragraph 7)

- A youngsters
- B group
- C children
- D couple

(1)



1.15 Which of the following statements is false?

- A Zoe Gulwa is one of the Mzansi Youth Choir members.
- B Simon Cowell enjoyed the choir's performance.
- C Zaaiman and Jannie are the founders of the choir.
- D Mzansi Youth Choir won the America's Got Talent final. (1)

1.16 'They had no idea that the group would become an international sensation.'  
(Paragraph 6)

What does the phrase 'international sensation' imply about the group?

- A They are very popular across the world.
- B They are a successful local choir.
- C They are very popular in South Africa.
- D They are the world's biggest choir. (1)

1.17 What does the word 'underprivileged' tell you about the children? (Paragraph 7)  
They are ...

- A talented.
- B disadvantaged.
- C fortunate.
- D irresponsible. (1)

1.18 What lesson can youth learn from this article?

- A Music can prevent carjacking.
- B Music can be a distraction to your career.
- C Music can change lives for the better.
- D Music can create a negative environment. (1)

1.19 The word 'carjacked' in Paragraph 7 implies that their car was ...

- A sold.
- B given.
- C stolen.
- D borrowed.

(1)

1.20 The writer's feelings can be described as...

- A optimistic.
- B proud.
- C sceptical.
- D pessimistic.

(1)

1.21 Who is the target audience for this article?

- A young people
- B car hijackers
- C critical judges
- D news reporters

(1)

1.22 'The South African Choir That Brought Simon Cowell to Tears'

What effect does the title have on the reader?

- A It makes them curious to read the article.
- B It makes them feel friendly towards Cowell.
- C It makes the article unpleasant to read.
- D It makes them angry at Cowell.

(1)

1.23 'The Mzansi Youth Choir has performed alongside musical talents including Shakira, Beyonce ...' (Paragraph 8)

The statement shows that ...

- A the choir has longevity.
- B the choir is talented.
- C the choir lacks ability.
- D the choir is resilient. (1)

1.24 How did the youth benefit by being part of the Mzansi Youth Choir?

- A They got to travel the world and have new experiences.
- B They won the 'America's Got Talent' show.
- C They continued to live a life of poverty and crime.
- D They became part of the panel of judges. (1)

1.25 The purpose of the article is to ...

- A report Jane "Nightbirde" Barczewski's performance at AGT.
- B show the high rate of carjacking in Soweto.
- C welcome the Mzansi Youth choir from AGT.
- D celebrate the Mzansi Youth Choir's performance at AGT. (1)

**[25]**

Question 2: Visual Literacy

2.1: Advertisement

Analyse the text below and answer the questions set.

**ANY 2  
LARGE PIZZAS**

**ONLY  
R99**

Traditional Base

Deep Pan Base

**ROMAN'S  
PIZZA**  
BEST PIZZA, BEST VALUE

**SUNDAY – WEDNESDAY**  
FROM 11 JANUARY 2015 – LIMITED OFFER

**Call & Collect**

[romanspizza.co.za](http://romanspizza.co.za)

*Adapted from showme.co.za*

2.1.1 What is the purpose of the advertisement?

It is to promote ...

- A the sale of deep pans.
- B sales of pizzas.
- C traditional culture.
- D pizza from Rome. (1)

2.1.2 Who will be interested in buying this product?

- A health conscious people
- B people who enjoy home meals
- C people who like fine-dining
- D families who enjoy fast food (1)

2.1.3 What is the purpose of the large speech bubble in the advertisement?

It is to ...

- A draw attention to the deal.
- B draw attention to the pan base.
- C point to the ingredients.
- D point to the traditional base. (1)

2.1.4 Identify the slogan of this advertisement.

- A Best pizza, Best value
- B Best pizza, Large pizzas
- C Traditional base, Best value
- D Deep pan base, Best Pizza (1)

2.1.5 How could the advertised price impact sales from Sunday – Wednesday?

There will be ...

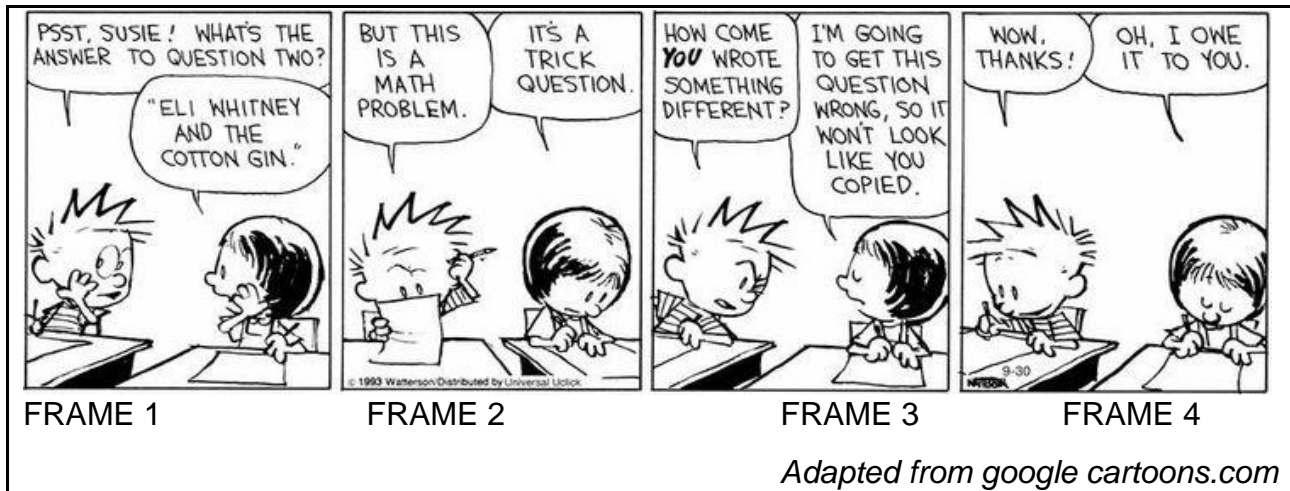
- A a drop in sales due to calls.
- B a drop in sales due to collections.
- C an increase in sales due to the special price.
- D an increase in sales due to weekend demand.

(1)

## 2.2: Cartoon

Analyse the text below and answer the questions set.

Calvin and Hobbes: Bill Waterson



2.2.1 What is the name of the female character in Frame 1? (1)

2.2.2 Identify a visual clue that indicates that the boy and the girl are talking to each other in Frame 1. (1)

2.2.3 What is the setting of the cartoon?  
Provide a visual clue to justify your answer. (2)

2.2.4 Describe the girl's behaviour in Frame 2 using one word. (1)

2.2.5 Describe the boy's change in emotions from Frame 3 to Frame 4. (2)

2.2.6 What is the message of the cartoon? (1)

2.2.7 Explain the humour in Frames 1 and 2. (2)

[15]

### Question 3: Summary

Read the text below and write a summary on how to present an impromptu speech.

1. List SEVEN points in full sentences.
2. Number your sentences from 1- 7.
3. Use your own words as far as possible.
4. Your summary should be 50-60 words in length.
5. Indicate the total number of words you have used in brackets at the end of your summary.
6. You do not require a title for your summary.

#### **Public Speaking**

For many of us the worst-case scenario is having to suddenly deliver an impromptu speech. Being asked to speak in public is a major challenge for many. Being asked to speak spontaneously is even worse.

Be confident – look up, breathe deeply and, say something positive to yourself. Focus on the audience. Every presentation, including impromptu ones, needs to be audience-centric. Avoid the tendency to ramble. An audience is far more likely to listen if you stay on target and are brief. In fact, they will love you for it. Remember the Power of 3 – stick to three key points. Have a structure. Get to the point.

The audience will remember the first and last things you say. Make sure these are powerful and linked to your key message. Use a conversational style. Imagine you are speaking to your best friend and let yourself be natural.

Personalise your speech and have a relevant story. There is no need to research, no need to investigate, and no need to memorise anything. When in doubt about what to say, just tell a story from your past, related to the situation. Demonstrate powerful body language. Stand tall, resist the urge to slump or fiddle, use big gestures, smile and maintain eye contact with your audience. Use a credible tone of voice.



Hurrying will increase any feelings of unease you have. Take your time. Breathe deeply. Deliver your words slowly and use pauses. You now know what to do when confronted by the impromptu speech.

*<https://jeremycassellcoaching.com/keynote/impromptu-speeches>*

#### Question 4: Language Structures and Conventions

Read the text below and answer the questions set.

##### **Show Me Your Friends and I'll Show You Your Future**

1. I absolutely, positively cannot stress this enough: the people around you have a direct impact on what happens to you.
2. They cannot control you. They are not in charge of your happiness and you are not in charge of theirs. We are all responsible for ourselves but, the attitudes of others is going to rub off on you whether they are positive or negative. Whether others are reactive or respond with wisdom, the words that come out of their mouths will, more than likely, in some way, come out of your mouth too.
3. The way they handle themselves, treat others or view their close relationships; it all matters. The way they spend their time, the books they read and the things they love are all going to have an impact on you.
4. Their confidence is likely to give you confidence in yourself, but their insecurity is probably going to give you insecurity about yourself too. Their focus is going to change yours, even if it's just the teeniest, tiniest bit. Their moral compass may not become your moral compass completely, but it is very likely going to influence you.
5. So, when you're choosing your buddies, it is esential that you choose people who are like-minded and like-hearted. Ultimately, while we are responsible for our own choices and actions, the company we keep plays a crucial role in shaping our experiences and who we become. Your social circle is important and actively nurturing, supportive friendships can lead to a happier, healthier and more fulfilled life.

*Adapted from [https://www.facebook.com/sisteriamwithyou/posts/checkpoint\\_src=any](https://www.facebook.com/sisteriamwithyou/posts/checkpoint_src=any)*

4.1 'The people around you have a direct impact on what happens to you.'

(Paragraph 1)

Identify the common noun in the above sentence.

A impact

B people

C what

D happens

(1)

4.2 Which sentence is an example of a compound sentence?

A They do not have control over your life choices.

B You are responsible for your life and for creating your own happiness.

C Are their negative attitudes going to rub off on you?

D The way people treat others will always have an impact on your life.

(1)

4.3 '... the attitude of others is going to rub off on ...' (Paragraph 2)

Which word has a similar meaning in context to the underlined phrase ?

A erase

B charge

C affect

D judge

(1)

4.4 'We are responsible for ourselves ...' (Paragraph 2)

Select a prefix to show the antonym of the underlined word.

A ir

B un

C mis

D dis

(1)

4.5 'We are all responsible for ourselves but, the attitudes of others is going to rub off on you.' (Paragraph 2)

The underlined words are an example of a/an ...

- A object.
- B phrase.
- C subject.
- D clause. (1)

4.6 Your friends can influence your future. You should choose them carefully.  
Select the conjunction that best joins the two sentences.

- A although
- B unless
- C therefore
- D however (1)

4.7 'The company we keep plays a crucial role ...' (Paragraph 5)  
Choose the adjective in the above sentence.

- A company
- B keep
- C crucial
- D role (1)

4.8 'Ultimately, while we are responsible for our own choices ...' (Paragraph 5)  
Select the adverb in the above sentence.

- A our
- B responsible
- C own
- D ultimately (1)

4.9 Their confidence changes you.

Select the sentence correctly written in the passive voice.

A You are changed by their confidence.

B You are being changed by their confidence.

C Their confidence changes them.

D Their confidence will change you.

(1)

4.10 A kind friend is one of a kind.

The underlined words above are examples of ...

A synonyms.

B homonyms.

C homophones.

D antonyms.

(1)

4.11 'Show Me Your Friends and I'll Show You Your Future'

Explain the meaning of the cliché above.

A Your friends will influence your life.

B Your friends will always be unfaithful.

C Your friends will help with your homework.

D Your friends will not read books.

(1)

4.12 'https://www.facebook.com'

Choose the full form of the abbreviation 'www'.

A wide web world

B web world wide

C world web wide

D world wide web

(1)

4.13 Select the correctly punctuated option from the sentences below.

- A My friend and i have a lot in common.
- B My friend and I, have a lot in common?
- C My friend and I have a lot in common.
- D My friend and i have a lot in common! (1)

4.14 Your social circle is important and can lead to a happier life.

Identify the possessive pronoun in the above sentence.

- A your
- B circle
- C and
- D lead (1)

4.15 ‘... is esential that you choose people who are like-minded ...’ (Paragraph 5)

Identify the correct spelling of the underlined word.

- A esential
- B essentiall
- C esencial
- D essential (1)

4.16 Which sentence is correctly written in the present continuous tense?

- A Nurturing friendships can lead to happier, healthier lives.
- B Many people are choosing like-minded buddies.
- C Their moral compass may not become your moral compass.
- D We are responsible for our own choices and actions. (1)

4.17 She said, "I am a good friend."

The above sentence is an example of ...

- A indirect speech.
- B direct speech.
- C active voice.
- D passive voice.

(1)

4.18 Which sentence is an example of a generalisation?

- A They cannot control you.
- B Be kind to your friends.
- C All friends are good friends.
- D I am a good friend.

(1)

4.19 Describe the style of writing used in paragraph 5.

- A emotive
- B descriptive
- C narrative
- D reflective

(1)

4.20 'So, when you're choosing your buddies, it is important that you choose people who are like-minded and like-hearted.'

Which word is an example of informal language?

- A like-minded
- B buddies
- C people
- D like-hearted

(1)

**[20]**

**End of test**

