

KZN DEPT. OF EDUCATION

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GREENBURY SECONDARY SCHOOL

FIRST QUARTERLY TEST: 2017

ENGLISH: GRADE 12

DURATION: 1 Hour

MARKS: 35

EXAMINER/MODERATORS: LM/LG

DATE: 16/02/2017

NAME:-----

GRADE/DIV.-----

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. This paper consists of 8 pages and 2 sections.
2. Read all instructions carefully.
3. Answer both questions.
4. Number the answers correctly
5. Write neatly and legibly.

PTO....PAGE 2

QUESTION 1: READING FOR MEANING AND UNDERSTANDING

Read TEXTS A, B AND C below and answer the questions set

TEXT A

Comic Book Culture: The Influence of Superheroes

1. Comic book culture has had a profound effect on adults and children alike. In ancient times, people told myths and folktales as a form of entertainment and as a way to build imaginations. However, in this new generation, comic books have replaced folklore and myths. There has been a dramatic change as a result of the surge of comic book culture. Although this surge can be attributed to recent films that have taken over the box office, their foundation cannot be denied. The groundwork for the success of comic book movies lies within the comic books themselves.
2. The grandfather of all superheroes is 'Superman'. Created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, 'Superman' debuted in 1938 setting the stage for the Golden Age of superheroes. Since then, comic book stories have influenced people globally.
3. "The cult of the hero became a thing. I grew up with this idea of the guy who is super strongwho can stand up to anything and anyone....a guy who reflects our cultural ideals about the perfect man: confident, honest, a heroic defender of the weak—willing to do battle with evil — and, of course, good with the ladies. Superman stands out in all the ways we men wish we could. The idea of a superhero was what inspired me to join the Marine Corp," said the writer.
4. "As a kid I would say that my favourite was Superman, but as I grew up, I preferred Batman, not necessarily because he was depicted as a real human being, but because he was a self-made person. Unlike most superheroes, Batman does not possess any superpowers; he relies on his intellect, martial arts ability, detective skills and indomitable will. Batman shows us that it takes hard work to make a difference." Comic books have given us a new definition of what it means to be a man.
5. Originally, comic books were aimed at children as a portable means of entertainment, but they soon became useful for adults. In November 1945, a **Yank Weekly** article cited the estimates of a research company which found that about "70 million Americans, roughly half of the U.S. population, read comic books. Whilst the readers heavily favoured children, with 95% of boys and 91% of girls between the ages of six and eleven, the study also revealed a high percentage of adults."

6. To most people, superheroes would be worthy of emulation, but psychologist Dr Sharon Lamb of the University of Massachusetts says that modern superheroes, especially those found in movies, aren't good role models. She believes that these heroes are too much like action heroes: sarcastic, aggressive and violent. Heroes like Iron Man, exploit women, flaunt bling and convey their manhood with high-powered guns. If society wants to promote kinder, less stereotypical behaviours, then watching superheroes beat up villains may not be the best image for boys to see. Clearly, there is a huge difference between the movie superhero of today and the comic book superhero of yesterday.
7. The superhero universe continues to widen with the emergence of a comic book series from South Africa. *Kwesi*, which means 'star' in Xhosa and Zulu is the brainchild of designer and fine-artist Loyiso Mkize who describes the series as "a coming of age story about finding one's heritage'. The comic's dialogue is peppered with street slang and pop culture references that place the story in a familiar context. This self-published comic took three years to develop after local publishers balked at the idea that a South African superhero could be a successful endeavour. Mkize shared his motivation behind this unique series 'we have never had a superhero that speaks like us and shares the same experiences and environment'.
8. Unfortunately, comic books in South Africa are still at crawling stage. The market hasn't been tapped into and activated. This is a challenge to overcome.

ADAPTED: ONLINE ARTICLES

YOU SEE, GIRLS, THERE'S NOTHING TO IT - ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH!



TEXT B

TEXT C



QUESTIONS

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- 1.1 Refer to paragraph 1
Explain the origins of the comic book culture. (2)
- 1.2 Why is Superman regarded as 'The grandfather' (line 8) of all superheroes? (2)
- 1.3 Refer to paragraph 4
Discuss the writer's preference for Batman as he (ie. the writer) grew older. (3)
- 1.4 Does the statement 'comic books were aimed at children as a portable means of entertainment' (line 23-24) support the views presented in paragraph 7?
Justify your response. (3)
- 1.5 Account for the writer's inclusion of statistics in paragraph 5. (2)
- 1.6 Refer to paragraph 6
Comment on the effectiveness of the diction used to discuss the modern superhero. (3)
- 1.7 Discuss the writer's intention in informing us that 'local publishers balked at the idea that a South African superhero could be a successful endeavour' (line 42-43). (2)
- 1.8 Choose the correct response from the options provided below. Write down only the letter of your choice.
Refer to paragraph 8 ('Unfortunately, comic books..... to overcome').
The writer's tone is:
A angry
B disappointed
C optimistic
D nostalgic (1)

1.9 QUESTION: TEXT B

Critically comment on the manner in which the female is being presented. (3)

1.10 QUESTION: TEXT A and C

Both TEXT A and TEXT C address the positive and negative influences of superheroes on society. In your opinion, which text is likely to have the **greater** impact on the reader?

Carefully justify your response. (4)

[25]

QUESTION 2: USING LANGUAGE CORRECTLY

Read the following article which contains some deliberate errors and answer the questions set.

AWAY WITH BINGE-VIEWING IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!

- 1 I miss the ritualised rush of old-school tv communion where there was a test pattern followed by the news. Then we would huddle around the box (the broad and bulky television with the bunny antenna) watching patiently to see who would be crowned South Africa's beauty queen. In those days, we all conspired to engage in an event and then patiently waited for the next one. **5**
- 2 On Tuesday nights we watched *Dallas* at my grandfather's house. When it turned out that it was all a dream, and nobody had in fact shot Bobby Ewing in the soapie, we finally all exhaled after what had been an attire week of bated breath. On a day, in 1986, exactly 31 years ago, my school assembled in the hall to watch Andrew marry Fergie. It was televised live via satellite by SABC 3. Although it couldn't compare with Charles and Diana five years earlier, we all watched together in shared excitement. **10**
- 3 Series like *Game of Thrones*, *Suits*, *Empire* and many others that you can binge-watch in a weekend and pause when you like does not gather us together. The timing is out, the pacing is wrong and it's anti-social. I have lost friends due to the rise of the series epedemic. They are also trapped and captured by small screen dragons, vampires and annoying pouty ladies who like wielding their power. They disappear behind closed doors, to emerge days later, bleary-eyed, with matted hair, muttering something about a winter coming. **15**
20

[Source: adapted from the **Sunday Times**]

Questions:

2.1. State the function of the hyphen in **BINGE-VIEWING**. **(1)**

2.2. The pair of brackets in lines 2- 3 could be replaced by a pair of:

- A) inverted commas
- B) dashes
- C) hyphens

Choose the correct answer. Write only the letter. **(1)**

2.3. Give the standard English form of the word "soapie" (Line 8) **(1)**

- 2.4. Correct the malapropism in lines 6-9: "When it turned out ... week of bated breath". (1)
- 2.5. Is the word "watch" (line 10) a:
A) homophone
B) homonym
C) antonym
Choose the correct answer. Write only the letter. (1)
- 2.6. "It was televised live via satellite by SABC 3". (Lines 10-11)
Rewrite the above sentence in the active voice. (1)
- 2.7. "Although it couldn't compare with Charles and Diana five years earlier, we all watched together in shared excitement." (lines 11-12)
Identify the main clause in the above sentence. (1)
- 2.8. Correct the spelling error in paragraph 3. (1)
- 2.9. Identify and correct the concord error in paragraph 3. (1)
- 2.10. "They are also trapped and captured by small screen dragons, vampires wielding their power." (lines 16-18)
Remove the redundancy in the above sentence. (1)

[10]

TOTAL= 25+10=35



HOD - LANGUAGES
S.R. PANDAY