

PAPER II
SECTION A
CONTINUOUS WRITING
[50 MARKS]

You are required to answer only **one** question from this section. Your answer should **not** be less than **450** words. All questions carry equal marks. You are advised to spend about **45** minutes on this section.

1. Write an article suitable for publication in a national daily on the effects of flood in some parts of your country and suggest ways of preventing its reoccurrence.
2. Narrate a story that illustrates the saying: *Hard work pays*.
3. You are the chief speaker in a debate on the topic: *The Social Media has done more Harm than Good to the Academic Performance of Secondary School Students in your Country*. Write your argument *for* or *against* the motion.
4. Write a letter to the principal of your school complaining about the poor condition of your school library and suggesting ways of improving on it.

SECTION B
COMPREHENSION
[20 MARKS]

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.

5. Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions on it.

Afella came to school looking downcast. Aminu noticed his friend's *melancholic* disposition and asked, "You look dispirited today. Is anything the matter?" At first, Afella was *reluctant* to disclose his family secret to his friend but, after much persuasion, he yielded to this request.

"My parents always fight at home. This upsets me. I wish I could stop them, but there is nothing I can do about it." Aminu thought of what to do to help his friend out of this *predicament*. "I think you should see the school counsellor and inform him about it," he advised. Afella did not welcome the idea at first. Informing the school counsellor of his parents' incessant *altercation* would amount to reporting them and this would expose them to public ridicule, he reasoned. But Aminu quickly explained that the school counsellor was trained to advise students on academic, emotional and social problems that could *impede* their learning. "He is the right person to confide in on issues like this," he concluded.

Afella finally agreed to see the school counsellor the following day. After listening to his story, the counsellor advised, "It is not your responsibility to reconcile your parents in times of conflict since you are not responsible for what is happening. You should also not take sides with either of them. *Anytime your parents fight*, go to another room or anywhere that is safe and engage yourself in anything that will take your attention away from the situation. For instance, you can listen to music, play a game, read a book or do some drawings. These activities are *discrete* and will not attract any extra attention to you."

"You can also seek support from someone you trust such as a relative, a friend or a counsellor. Don't think that talking to someone could get you in trouble with your parents or break up your family," the counsellor added.

The next time his parents fought, Afella reported the matter to his paternal grandmother who came and settled his parents once and for all. Never again was the couple involved in domestic violence.

- (a) Why was Afella sad? (1 mark)
- (b) Why was he reluctant to tell his friend about his problem? (2 marks)
- (c) What advice did his friend give him? (2 marks)
- (d) State the duties of a school counsellor according to the passage. (2 marks)
- (e) How did Aminu convince his friend to see the school counsellor? (2 marks)

(f) *Anytime your parents fight...*

(i) What grammatical name is given to this expression?

(1 mark)

(ii) What is its function in the sentence?

(2 marks)

(g) What was the counsellor's first advice to Afella?

(2 marks)

(h) Find one word or phrase which is *nearest in meaning* to and can at the same time replace each of the following words as used in the passage:

(i) melancholic

(ii) reluctant

(iii) predicament

(iv) altercation

(v) impede

(vi) discrete

One mark for each correct answer i.e. 1 mark x 6 = 6 marks

SECTION C

SUMMARY

[30 MARKS]

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.

6. Read the passage below carefully and answer the question on it.

Back in the days of our fathers, reading was part and parcel of the learned such that those who were not well educated strove to go to college in order to acquire more knowledge. Reading then was the bedrock of greatness in every individual, regardless of age and gender. It is alarming how this practice which used to be widespread among Nigerian students, youths and even adults is fast eroding in our society at a jet speed.

Reading stimulates imagination, encourages quick learning, curiosity and expands horizons. It also enhances acquisition of skills for handling complex ideas or issues and it is the mother of strategic planning. Every piece of write-up is the manifestation of experience garnered by a writer overtime. As important as education is, it hurts to know that the sharp decline in our reading culture is attributed to a number of factors in the society.

Looking at the present-day society, there is no doubt that poverty is a great challenge to the reading culture in Nigeria. In a country where about 70 percent of the population lives with less than one dollar per day, it automatically means that a larger proportion of the population cannot afford the basic educational foundation that will enable them read and write. Such people are more interested in what to eat rather than seeking materials to read and get knowledge.

A good learning environment calls for a quiet study centre. Most of our schools are associated with noisy environments and full of distractions that are hindrances to the smooth flow of learning and reading. In the past, schools/learning centers were built in isolated places or, better still, they were built in the outskirts of the town which were usually serene. But the reverse is the case today as schools are mostly found in the Central Business District (CBD) of towns and cities. This is occasioned by the fact that school owners see the institutions more as business venture. Hence, their location in the CBD where they can be accessed easily.

The poor reading culture can also be attributed to the high level of illiteracy in our society which conforms to the recent report by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) that there are 62 million illiterates in our beloved country. This statistics actually underscores the level of illiteracy in the country. It is no gainsaying that the many years of neglect of our educational institutions, especially adult literacy education, have come to hurt us in the face at a time the world is becoming a global village. This is, therefore, a clarion call to the federal and state ministries of education to declare a state of emergency in the education sector. The fight against illiteracy is a very crucial one because of the aftermath in our society. Illiteracy is worse than any kind of oil spill. Thus, all and sundry should rise to make it a thing of the past in the shortest possible time.

One cannot overlook the fact that the pursuit of materialism, fame and fortune among Nigerian youths has contributed to the drastic fall in the reading culture. Youths now attach undue importance to fame and wealth such that the place of reading has been relegated.

Lastly, paying lip service to education especially by the government and stakeholders in the education sector has adversely affected the reading culture among Nigerian youths.

In five sentences, one for each, state the factors responsible for poor reading culture in Nigeria.