



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GENERAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (GEC)

2025 GRADE 9

Subject: English Home 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.

Space Travel ... Let's Explore

- 1 "That's one step for man, one giant step for mankind," Neil Armstrong said on that momentous day in 1969, when Apollo 12 made its lunar landing and he stepped onto the moon. People were in awe as they witnessed this monumental achievement. This moment sparked a renewed interest in space exploration and encouraged people to dream big about future possibilities.
- 2 For centuries humans have been fascinated by the mysteries of the universe. As most of the world's population continues to grow and the resources become strained, the idea of human occupation of outer space is evolving from being merely a dream, to a potential solution for ensuring the long-term survival of our species. Some people believe that space exploration should uncover opportunities to establish human occupation beyond Earth. Perhaps, one day we might see a space settlement on Mars or other planets that could be made open to human life.
- 3 Numerous technological products used for space travel, such as cell phone cameras and solar panels, have become everyday technologies used by most of the world's population. A prime example is the global positioning system which relies on satellite navigation to provide location information. Cordless headphones, that make our listening experiences a mobile breeze, were invented to prevent astronauts from getting tangled up in wires in spacecrafts.
- 4 However, not everyone is excited about space travel. One of the biggest concerns is the possibility of polluting space with space junk. Some people argue that we are destroying space with all the old satellites, pieces of equipment and rocket launch boosters that float around aimlessly in space. We are already polluting the earth, which has caused many problems. We cannot let the same thing happen in space.

- 5 Space travel is enormously expensive. Time and money were spent on investigating if there was water on Mars long ago, but for what purpose? In 2023, scientists discovered the existence of twelve new moons around Jupiter. This discovery caused much excitement, but take a second to think: how much does this knowledge truly benefit humankind? Is it truly more important than ending poverty and homelessness? Two billion people live without access to clean water, yet many countries would rather support blasting off to another planet than helping people on Earth.
- 6 Opponents of space exploration believe that before spending another cent on giant leaps for mankind in outer space, we should focus on the small steps we can take for humanity here on earth. Fixing our world will take time, money and effort, but it is more beneficial than expensive trips into space. Being human should mean prioritising our planet over the enormous universe above us. If we cannot do this, we will have failed future generations.
- 7 We should never undermine the curiosity that humans have had about the unknown since the dawn of humanity. Perhaps, we should be exploring ways to make our very own planet a better place to live in first and then investigate what is out there in space. Should we not first look at where our feet stand?

Adapted from theperennial.org

1.1 What is a 'lunar landing'? (Paragraph 1)

- A a landing on Jupiter
 - B a landing on Mars
 - C a landing on the moon
 - D a landing on a satellite
- (1)

1.2 What is the meaning of the word 'strained' as used in Paragraph 2?

- A concerning
 - B depleted
 - C fatigued
 - D unnatural
- (1)

- 1.3 Why, according to Paragraph 2, has space travel become more than just discovering the unknown?
- A Explorers must find places for human habitation in space.
 - B Explorers should be searching for life in outer space.
 - C Explorers need to uncover the mysteries of outer space.
 - D Explorers believe that survival in space is impossible. (1)
- 1.4 '... the idea of life in space must evolve from being merely a dream ...'
(Paragraph 2)
What is implied by the word 'dream'?
- A Living in space is every person's desire.
 - B Mankind can survive in space.
 - C Young people fantasise about space.
 - D Humans cannot live in space yet. (1)
- 1.5 What is the main idea of Paragraph 3?
- A Cordless headphones are used by astronauts in spacecrafts.
 - B Satellites in space are used to give us location information.
 - C Technology used in space has benefits for people on earth.
 - D Most of the world's population use cell phone cameras. (1)
- 1.6 Which invention from space exploration helps us to find places when travelling?
- A cell phone cameras
 - B global positioning systems
 - C cordless headphones
 - D solar panels (1)

- 1.7 '... make our listening experiences a mobile breeze.' (Paragraph 3)
What is the figurative meaning of the word 'breeze' as used in the above line?
Something that is ...
- A gentle.
 - B quick.
 - C light.
 - D easy. (1)
- 1.8 Which group of people will be interested in the content of Paragraph 4?
- A people with an interest in technology
 - B people concerned about the increase in space pollution
 - C people with an interest in space settlement
 - D people concerned about the cost of rocket launches (1)
- 1.9 What is 'space junk' (Paragraph 4)?
- A rocks in space
 - B litter on Earth
 - C unused satellites
 - D rocket fuel (1)
- 1.10 The writer does not agree with costly space exploration.
Identify the sentence that supports the above statement.
- A The discovery of the moons of Jupiter created excitement.
 - B Two billion people will be living with access to clean water.
 - C We should never undermine human curiosity about space.
 - D Fixing our world is more beneficial than trips into space. (1)

1.11 'Two billion people live without access to clean water.' (Paragraph 5)

What effect is created by the inclusion of this statistic in the text?

The writer ...

- A encourages habitation on other planets.
- B emphasises the extent of the problems on Earth.
- C supports his positive beliefs about space travel.
- D suggests that there is water on other planets. (1)

1.12 'Space travel is enormously expensive.' (Paragraph 5)

What figure of speech is reflected in the line above?

- A hyperbole
- B personification
- C euphemism
- D onomatopoeia (1)

1.13 '... but take a second to think: how much does this knowledge truly benefit mankind?' (Paragraph 5)

What is the purpose of the colon as used in the above line?

The colon ...

- A indicates irrelevant information.
- B encourages an interjection.
- C provides further elaboration.
- D separates a phrase from a clause. (1)

1.14 'Being human should mean prioritising our planet ...' (Paragraph 6)

What is the writer's attitude towards Earth in the above sentence?

- A gratitude
- B indifference
- C allegiance
- D pessimism (1)

1.15 What is the meaning of the word 'dawn', as used in Paragraph 7?

- A beginning
- B arrival
- C morning
- D unfolding

(1)

1.16 The writer believes that all space exploration should cease.

Is the above sentence true or false?

- A True, because he thinks that travelling to space is too expensive and a waste of time.
- B False, because he acknowledges that space travel has improved technology on Earth.
- C True, because he believes that exploring other planets makes life on Earth better.
- D False, because he finds the research resulting from space exploration useless.

(1)

1.17 '... our very own planet' (Paragraph 7)

What is the significance of the words 'our' and 'own' as used in the article?

The writer wants the reader to ...

- A agree that more money should be spent in space than Earth.
- B feel love and loyalty for Earth as the only planet with humans.
- C believe that life on other planets is none of our business.
- D stop being curious about the unknown on other planets.

(1)

1.18 According to the text, what does Earth have in common with space?

- A Life is possible on Earth and all planets.
- B Earth has more moons than Jupiter.
- C There is pollution on Earth and in space.
- D There is water on Earth and in space.

(1)

1.19 Which sentence demonstrates the writer's cynical tone?

- A However, not everyone is excited about space travel and exploration.
- B Some countries would rather support blasting off to another planet than helping people on Earth.
- C Time and money were spent investigating if there was water on Mars.
- D One of the biggest concerns is mankind's widespread pollution of space. (1)

1.20 **'Space Travel ... Let's Explore'**

What does the writer want the reader to **'Explore'** in the title?

- A the overwhelming benefits of space travel
- B the evidence of life on other planets
- C the negatives and positives of space travel
- D the pros and cons of living on other planets (1)

1.21 'That's one step for man, one giant step for mankind.' (Paragraph 1)

Why are Neil Armstrong's words considered iconic?

- A Armstrong's movement on the surface of the moon is described.
- B Mankind will be prohibited from further space exploration.
- C Armstrong is proud of being the first man to walk on the moon.
- D Mankind will benefit greatly from this significant moment in space. (1)

1.22 'We will have failed future generations.' (Paragraph 6)

According to the above sentence, what is the writer's prediction about future generations?

Future generations will ...

- A suffer due to unsolved problems on this planet.
- B discover new forms of life on other planets.
- C prioritise leisure trips into space.
- D be unsuccessful in space research. (1)

1.23 'Should we not first look at where our feet stand?'(Paragraph 7)

What is the effect of the rhetorical question?

The writer wants to persuade the reader to ...

- A show no interest in space travel.
- B determine where they live in space.
- C support exploration on Mars.
- D reflect on the problems on Earth. (1)

1.24 What is the main idea of the text?

- A Space travel will solve the problem of over-population on Earth.
- B Space travel from Earth is a waste of time and should be stopped.
- C Space travel has benefits, but Earth should be the priority.
- D Space travel has resulted in giant leaps for technology on Earth. (1)

1.25 What impact is the text meant to have on readers?

The text ...

- A discourages readers from considering space travel.
- B encourages readers to be more concerned about Earth.
- C discourages readers from learning more about space.
- D encourages young readers to become astronauts. (1)

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Question 2: Visual Literacy

2.1: Advertisement

Read the text below and answer the questions set.



**NEW
HIGH
GLASS**

Always here for you

An Intelligent Balance

At NEW HIGH GLASS, we understand the unique quality standards required for different markets. With over 30 years of experience in packaging, we offer the ideal balance of price, quality, and reliability to meet the needs of your next project - whether it's luxury or mass production.

GLASS PLASTIC BOTTLES JARS CLOSURES DISPENSERS DECORATING SERVICE

www.newhigh.com

[Source: <https://www.behance.net/gallery/23287209/Classic-Black-White-Ad>]

2.1.1 What product is being advertised?

- A perfumes
 - B accessories
 - C packaging
 - D cosmetics
- (1)

2.1.2 Who is the intended audience?

- A people who prefer no-name brands
 - B people who are looking for new projects
 - C people who want to look and smell good
 - D people who need bottles and jars for storage
- (1)

2.1.3 Identify the characteristics conveyed by the image of the woman.

- A elegance and sophistication
 - B originality and productiveness
 - C uncertainty and doubt
 - D reliability and balance
- (1)

2.1.4 What impression is created by the words 'over 30 years of experience'?

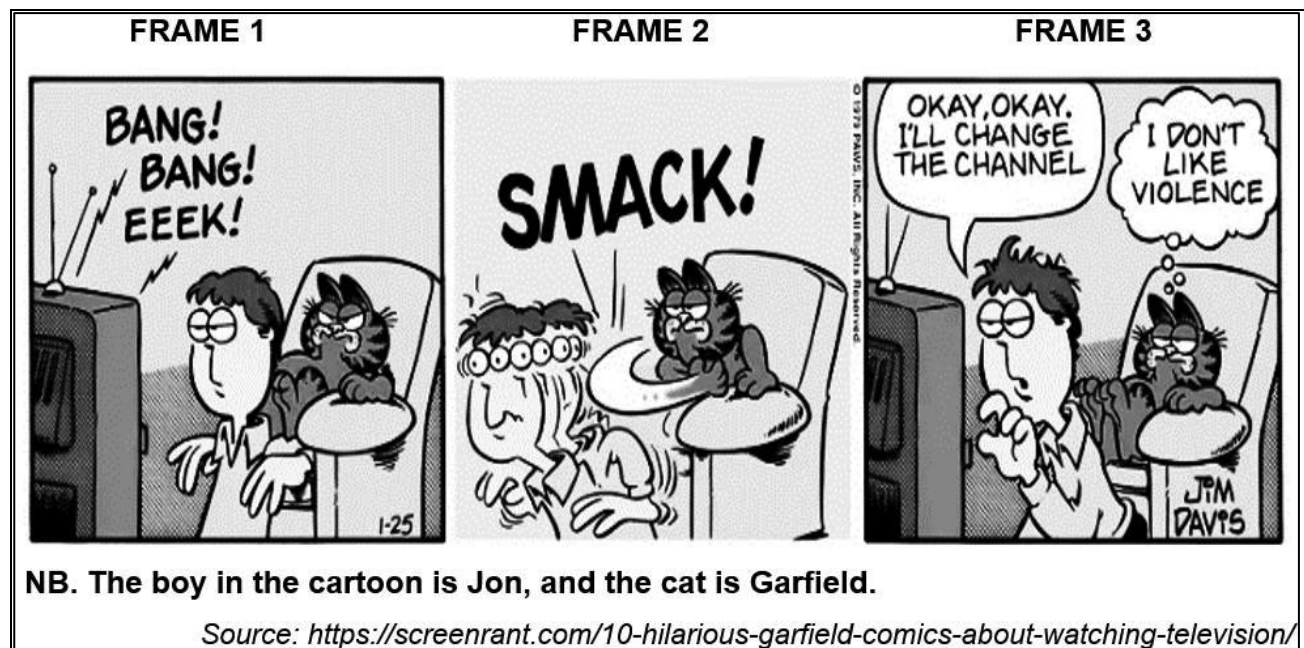
- A The company is run mainly by older women.
 - B It is a trusted and dependable company.
 - C It is a new and inexperienced company.
 - D The company is resistant to change.
- (1)

2.1.5 What is conveyed by the slogan 'Always here for you'?

- A It surprises the reader.
 - B It personalises the message.
 - C It suggests a sense of urgency.
 - D It creates a feeling of insecurity.
- (1)

2.2: Cartoon

Read the text below and answer the questions set.



- 2.2.1 What do the words in **FRAME 1** suggest about the television programme? (1)
- 2.2.2 What can be inferred about Garfield's mood in **FRAME 1**?
Provide a visual clue to support your answer. (2)
- 2.2.3 What is the effect of writing the word '**SMACK**' in bold capital letters in **FRAME 2**? (1)
- 2.2.4 Refer to **FRAME 2**.
Explain why Garfield's action is inappropriate? Justify your answer. (2)
- 2.2.5 What is the reason for Garfield's smug attitude in **FRAME 3**? (1)
- 2.2.6 What does the cartoon imply about Jon and Garfield's relationship? (1)
- 2.2.7 Explain the irony of Garfield's words in **FRAME 3**. (2)

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Question 3: Summary

Read the text below and write a summary **giving seven reasons for watching less television.**

1. Write **SEVEN** sentences in point-form or in a fluent paragraph.
2. Use your own words and do not merely quote from the passage.
3. Your summary should be **70 – 80** words in length.
4. Indicate the total number of words you have used in brackets at the end of your summary.
5. You do not require a title for your summary.

Reduce TV Time

Television is a big part of life, but too much of it can be harmful. Instead of watching how others live, focus on activities and events in your own life and connecting with the world around you.

Jobs like being a doctor, lawyer, or police officer are shown in movies and series in unrealistic ways. TV gives a false picture of reality, making people expect things that are not true. These shows also make people believe in perfect relationships, leading to disappointment. The characters on TV are not real, but your family and friends are. It is important to spend more time with real people instead of getting attached to fictional characters. TV also makes things seem simpler than they really are, which can make it harder to solve real-life problems.

Furthermore, companies spend huge amounts of money on advertising because they know that they can influence what you buy. Television advertisements are designed to make you want things you do not need. Watching TV costs money too: electricity bills, fibre or streaming subscriptions, and extra gadgets add up.

Too much television can also harm your health. Sitting for long hours increases the risk of obesity and other health problems. Studies show that people who watch too much TV often feel less happy and more anxious.

Cutting down on screen time saves money and helps you find better ways to spend your time. Spending less time in front of a screen lets you be more creative and develop new skills. Watching too much TV makes it harder to focus on creative activities like reading or learning new skills. Life is short, and those hours could be better used for learning, playing sports, or being with loved ones.

By watching less television, you gain more time, energy, and enjoyment in life. Step away from the screen and start living!

Adapted from: <https://www.becomingminimalist.com/ten-reasons-to-watch-less-television/>

Question 4: Language Structures and Conventions

Read the text below and answer the questions set.

The Smart Way to Learn from Failure

- 1 Many of us repeat mistakes, but new insights can help us learn valuable lessons from failure. Failure is often seen as a stepping stone to success, and motivational speakers encourage us to 'fail forward'. However, research shows that most people struggle to learn from post-failure experiences. Instead of improving, they downplay or ignore their mistakes, hindering their growth. Understanding these habits can help us learn from our failures more effectively.
- 2 Why do we struggle to learn from failure? One common response is the 'sour-grape effect', where we convince ourselves that something we failed at, was not important. Psychologist, Professor Hallgeir Sjøstad and a team of researchers found that people who believed that they had failed were less likely to value future success by protecting self-esteem and preventing improvement. In real life, learners who are reminded of their low achievement often believe high marks are not important, thus retarding their motivation and effort. Another response is the 'ostrich effect', where we avoid confronting mistakes. Research has proven that many people ignore their failures, such as investors avoiding bad financial results or proficient learners forgetting incorrect answers instead of learning from them.
- 3 Fortunately, there are ways to overcome these habits. One method is self-distancing — viewing the situation from an outsider's perspective. Also asking, "Why did I fail?" helps to reduce emotional reactions and promotes logical thinking about mistakes. Another powerful technique is to teach others. Studies show that people who give advice to others about overcoming failure end up learning from their own mistakes. For example, people struggling with weight loss improved by offering dieting tips to others, and learners who advised their peers on motivation completed more homework.

4 Psychologists often agree that failure is a natural part of life. Instead of ignoring mistakes, we should use them as learning opportunities. By changing how we think about failure and helping others, we can turn setbacks into valuable lessons and increase our chances of success.

Adapted from <https://www.bbc.com>

4.1 '... research shows that most people struggle to learn from post-failure experiences.' (Paragraph 1)

What does 'post' in 'post-failure' mean?

- A forward
 - B before
 - C after
 - D present
- (1)

4.2 'Instead of improving, they downplay or ignore their mistakes, hindering their growth.' (Paragraph 1)

Choose the phrase that means the same as 'hindering'?

- A slowing down growth
 - B encouraging progress
 - C learning from failure
 - D ignoring mistakes
- (1)

4.3 What sound device is used in 'fail forward' (Paragraph 1)?

- A assonance
 - B oxymoron
 - C onomatopoeia
 - D alliteration
- (1)

4.4 'We convince ourselves that something we failed at, was not important.'

(Paragraph 2)

What type of pronoun is 'ourselves' in the above sentence?

- A possessive
- B reflexive
- C indefinite
- D personal (1)

4.5 If we understand these habits, we can learn more effectively from our failures.

What type of sentence is the above sentence?

- A interrogative
- B compound
- C complex
- D simple (1)

4.6 Research has proven that many people ignore their failures.

Identify the verb phrase in the above sentence.

- A has proven
- B many people
- C people ignore
- D their failures (1)

4.7 Most people struggle to learn from failure. ... They ignore their mistakes.

Choose the appropriate conjunction to join the above sentences.

- A that
- B until
- C unless
- D because (1)

- 4.8 Which is the correct abbreviation of the word 'Professor'? (Paragraph 2)
- A Prof.
 - B Pros
 - C Proff.
 - D Profr
- (1)

- 4.9 'One method is self-distancing — viewing the situation from an outsider's perspective.' (Paragraph 3)
- What is the function of the dash in the sentence?
- It is to ...
- A indicate a pause for dramatic effect.
 - B introduce an explanation.
 - C separate two independent clauses.
 - D create a compound word.
- (1)

- 4.10 'Fortunately, there are ways to overcome these habits.' (Paragraph 3)
- What type of adjective is 'these'?
- A possessive
 - B descriptive
 - C demonstrative
 - D interrogative
- (1)

- 4.11 'Psychologists often agree that failure is a natural part of life.' (Paragraph 4)
- 'often' is an adverb of ...
- A frequency.
 - B degree.
 - C place.
 - D time.
- (1)

4.12 People can learn valuable lessons from failure.

Which of the following words is an abstract noun?

- A valuable
- B people
- C learn
- D failure

(1)

4.13 What is the figurative meaning of 'sour-grape effect' (Paragraph 2)?

- A feeling defeated by failure
- B believing that failure is unimportant
- C using failure to try harder
- D learning from mistakes and failure

(1)

4.14 Choose the sentence with the correct noun form of the word 'avoid'.
(Paragraph 2)

- A Avoidense will not make the problem disappear.
- B Avoidanse will not make the problem disappear.
- C Avoidance will not make the problem disappear.
- D Avoidence will not make the problem disappear.

(1)

4.15 Identify the stereotype about 'people who fail'.

People who fail ...

- A are lazy and unmotivated, showing no interest in improving.
- B often downplay or avoid addressing their mistakes.
- C are usually better equipped to handle future challenges.
- D convince themselves that the mistake wasn't important.

(1)

4.16 Which of the following sentences contain an example of cliché?

- A Self-distancing helps us to learn from failure.
- B We should use our failures as stepping stones for success.
- C 'Falling forward' is a positive way to achieve success from failure.

D The 'ostrich-effect' can help learners to forget their mistakes. (1)

4.17 Research shows that most people struggle to learn from post-failure experiences.

Choose the sentence written in the future perfect tense.

A Research would have shown that most people struggle to learn from post-failure experiences.

B Research will have shown that most people struggle to learn from post-failure experiences.

C Research will had shown that most people struggle to learn from post-failure experiences.

D Research would had shown that most people struggle to learn from post-failure experiences. (1)

4.18 'Learners who advised their peers on motivation completed more homework.'
(Paragraph 3)

Which sentence is written correctly in the passive voice?

A More homework would be completed by learners who advised their peers on motivation.

B More homework was being completed by learners who advised their peers on motivation.

C More homework has been completed by learners who advised their peers on motivation.

D More homework was completed by learners who advised their peers on motivation. (1)

4.19 What type of paragraph is Paragraph 4?

It is a ... paragraph.

A descriptive

B concluding

C persuasive

D introductory

(1)

4.20 “Has research shown that people ignored their failures?” Professor Sjøstad asked.

Which of the following sentences is correctly written in indirect speech?

- A Professor Sjøstad asked whether research showed that people ignored their failures.
- B Professor Sjøstad asked whether research has shown that people ignored their failures.
- C Professor Sjøstad asked whether research had showed that people ignored their failures.
- D Professor Sjøstad asked whether research had shown that people ignored their failures. (1)

[20]

End of test

