

2024 SHS2 END OF SEMESTER EXAMS – ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PAPER 2
COMPREHENSION

The road ran straight in many places but in others, it was curvy, winding its way around hills that would otherwise be impossible to climb in a car. **My brother, Dan** took his time to search for the squiggle sign that preceded each snaky bend. We could drive for miles through shady forest on both sides of the road and suddenly come out into sunny clearings created by farming activities. These changes in vegetation were all so pleasing to the eye.

The music from the car tape recorder, a Sonia spence piece, together with the soft purring of the engine, were enough to lull one to sleep and I caught myself nodding a few times, struggling to stay awake.

"That's crazy!" Dan suddenly exclaimed, startling me out of one of the sleepy moments.

"What is it?" I asked. But my question was unnecessary, as the answer emerged in the shape of a Nissan "Urvan" bus loaded with passengers, tearing past us at **breakneck** speed. The stretch of road was bad and in trying to avoid a pothole, it veered towards our car. I held my breadth **momentarily** waiting for what I thought was the inevitable. Somehow, it avoided us and went on its way. We continued on our way, cruising at 90km/h, humming to the music from the stereo and admiring the scenery. A few moments later, as we negotiated a bend, we were greeted by a gory sight. An articulated truck loaded with bags of cement was almost blocking the road. Beside it in the gutter was the Nissan bus that had overtaken us a few moments earlier. Its shattered windscreen lay on the road, and the front part of the roof was torn off. The writing on the back was **bespattered** with the blood of the passengers, some of who lay **immobile** on the road while others groaned in agony.

We got out of ours, stopped other motorists and together we put both the sick and the dead on a bus to the hospital. The driver of the truck said the Nissan Urvan drove directly into him and there was little he could do. Of course, we had to believe him, considering the Nissan driver was never going to give his side of the story. As we drove away, I turned and cast a final look at the words on the bus. It was indeed covered by blood: but whose blood.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Dan take his time to search for the squiggle sign?

.....

2. In one sentence, describe the vegetation.

.....

3. "I held my breath momentarily." Why did the speaker hold his breath?

.....

4. ".... The Nissan driver was never going to give his side of the story." Why?

.....

5. What can lull one to sleep in the course of a journey according to the passage?

.....

6. What was the 'gory sight' they were greeted by?

.....

7. "**My brother, Dan** took his time....."

a) What is the grammatical name of the underlined?

.....

b) what is its grammatical function?

.....

For each of the words, find a word or phrase that is nearly same in meaning and can replace it in the passage.

i) momentarily

ii) bespattered

iii) breakneck

iv) immobile