

(70 MARKS)

Answer three questions in all: Questions 1 and 2 from Section A and one question from Section B.
Credit will be given for clarity of thought and orderly presentation of work.

SECTION A

Answer both questions in this section.

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on each question.

1. COMPREHENSION (20 MARKS)

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow it.

Children of today are said to be the future leaders. It is therefore very important that all children get the chance to be educated. Education helps to prepare children to play useful roles in their communities in particular and in the nation as a whole. Education will also prepare them well for their future careers and save them from the cycle of poverty experienced by most families in the country.

Unfortunately, it is common these days to see children of school going age out of the classroom working for money or for food. In many cities of the country like Accra, Cape Coast, Tamale or Kumasi, we see a lot of young people who should be in school on our streets. They do petty trading, selling pure water, chewing gums, dog chains and other items everywhere on the streets. It is common, too, to see these children run after moving vehicles to sell their wares. This is a very dangerous thing to do. These vehicles can easily knock them down. In fact, some have been knocked down and killed, while others have been seriously injured.

In some situations, we see some of these young people carrying heavy loads at the various markets and some lorry stations like Agbogbloshie and Makola markets in Accra, and Kejetia in Kumasi. Such children are called porters but in Accra, they are popularly called Kayayee. Other young people are seen leading beggars on our streets to beg for money. Others even beg with impudence when they come to beg people in vehicles under traffic.

Some others are used by their own parents or guardians to break stones and do other laborious work either for monies or for survival. One may ask why these young people are not in school but are doing all these things. The children themselves give different reasons for doing such risky jobs. In some cases, these young ones are forced by their parents to go out and work to help make ends meet in some families.

All these practices are known as child labour, as the children involved are not old enough to be working for money. They have the right to be in the classroom to receive education. It is also the duty and responsibility of parents and guardians to educate their children. The government has the responsibility to ensure that all children in the country, no matter the distance or their location, receives education by any means whatsoever. Child labour is not good. In the first place, it denies children good education. Secondly, it is dangerous for their health and lives. It impedes their growth and development for their future roles. Thirdly, it is dangerous for their lives. Those who break up stones for instance, could get tuberculosis and lung disease.

- a. State two reasons why child labour should not be encouraged.
- b. '... make ends meet...'?
What is the meaning of the above expression?
- c. How do moving vehicles pose a danger to street hawking children?
- d. '... who break up stones for instance....'
i. Give the grammatical name for the above expression.
ii. What is its function?

- e. Mention one activity we see children do on the street.
- f. For each of the following words or phrases underlined in the passage, give another word or phrase which means almost the same and can replace it in the passage.
 - i. career
 - ii. injured
 - iii. laborious
 - iv. risky
 - v. impedes
- g. Why is the education of children so important?
- h. When it comes to the education of children, what are the major responsibilities of
 - i. parents or guardians
 - ii. the government

2. SUMMARY (20 MARKS)

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow it. Your answer should be in your own words as far as possible.

The rate of accidents on our roads has reached an unbearable proportion. Many politicians over the years have been promising policies aimed at curtailing the phenomenon, yet people are dying on our roads in an alarming proportion, many have given divert causes of these accidents on our roads.

Many people believe that most drivers are unable to afford the right spare parts to keep their vehicles in shape. Spare parts are so expensive of late that many vehicle owners and drivers have no option but to go for weak parts which are not road worthy. Many vehicles therefore can break down unexpectedly, causing road accidents.

Getting a driving licence in the past was extremely difficult as applicants had to go through rigorous test and procedures to secure one. These days however, one can get even an international driver's licence from the comfort of one's home or office. One only has to know somebody who knows somebody at the licence office and that settles it. No test is conducted and yet the licence is issued.

Many others also believe that most of our roads are not motorable and some are also characterized by sharp and unusual curves and unnecessary bumps. Road markings are not where they are supposed to be. Some markings too have been rubbed off, making it difficult to know whether to overtake or not. The department in charge of roads and highways seems to be on a virtual holiday and yet receive salary from tax payers' money every thirty days.

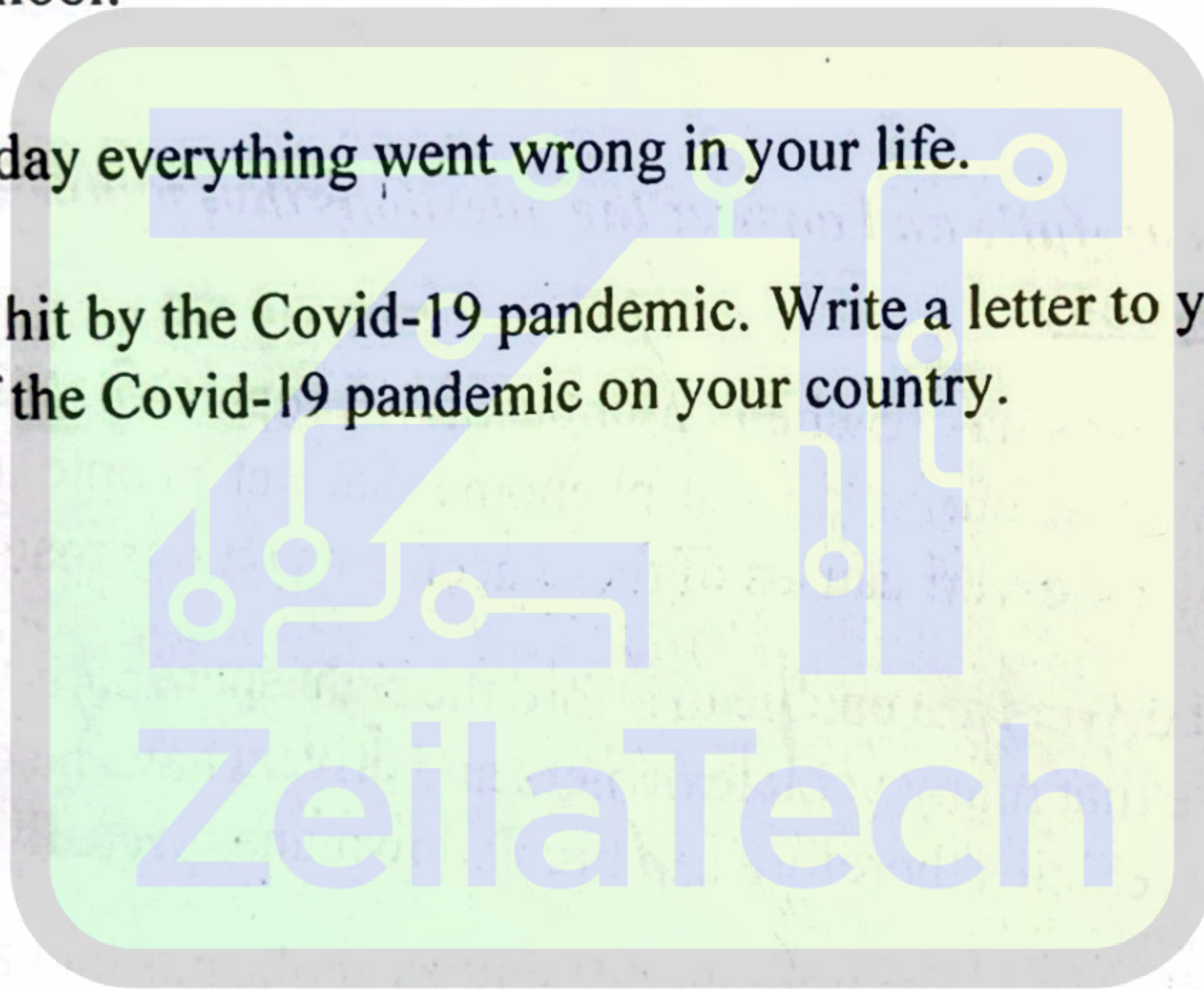
Our roads too are full of extremely old vehicles which are not road worthy. Police visibility is weak, so checks on the roads for weak vehicles are non-existing. All these are some of the causes of the prolific road accidents on our roads. It is this writer's view that for our roads to be safe, pragmatic lifesaving policies must be thoroughly engineered to arrest this social menace before Ghanaian road users are totally annihilated through road accidents. God save our nation.

- a. Summarize in one sentence why a driving licence is not credible in Ghana.
- b. In three sentences, one for each, summarize the major causes of road accidents according to the passage.

SECTION B**(30 MARKS)**

Answer one question only from this section. Your essay should be at least 400 words long.

3. Ghana is faced with a serious unemployment problem. Write an article to be published in a national newspaper, discussing the need to improve technical and vocational education as a means to reduce the unemployment situation in the country.
4. Write a speech to be delivered at a school gathering on the dangers of premarital sex.
5. Write a letter to the head of your school complaining about some issues that must be remedied before catastrophe hits your school.
6. Give an account of the day everything went wrong in your life.
7. In 2019, the world was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. Write a letter to your friend abroad, telling him or her about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on your country.



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