



GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA

STUDENT EDUCATION NUMBER									

Samoa School Certificate

ENGLISH

2023

QUESTION and ANSWER BOOKLET

Time allowed: 3 Hours & 10 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

1. You have 10 minutes to read **before** you start the exam.
2. Write your **Student Education Number (SEN)** in the space provided on the top right-hand corner of this page.
3. **Answer ALL QUESTIONS.** Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet.
4. If you need more space, ask the Supervisor for extra paper. Write your SEN on all extra sheets used and clearly number the questions. Attach the extra sheets to the appropriate places in this booklet.

STRAND: READING AND WRITING		Pages	Time (min)	Weighting
SECTION 1	READING COMPREHENSION	2 – 10	60	40
SECTION 2	WRITING	11 – 16	80	36
SECTION 3	RESPONSE TO LITERATURE	17 – 25	40	24
	TOTAL		180	100

Check that this booklet contains pages 2 - 26 in the correct order and that none of these pages are blank.

HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

INSTRUCTIONS: There are **FOUR** parts to this Section: A, B, C, D.
 Answer **ALL** parts.
 Spend about **ONE** hour on this Section.

A. Read the passage below to answer Questions 1 to 8.

FIRST DAY

by Charlize Fesili-Ng Lam

The day had finally arrived, after many years of dreaming and hoping of reaching this day. I was jealous at seeing my older sister receive what I had not yet achieved. I was jealous at seeing my mother cry tears of joy and my father call in from the City of Sails with a **jovial** voice. I was jealous that my grandmother drowned my sister in leis of **pungent** smelling ylang-ylang and cellophane-wrapped necklaces of chocolate delights. I was beyond jealous that she had got into this school free of doubt from our family. I was upset when Pa spoiled her rotten with papers of green while my **achievements** were left unacknowledged. Pa had always loved her more.

Today was my day and I could finally be proud of my hard work throughout the year. I had many sleepless nights and tired mornings for this day. I was sure I would get in. I was sure about myself whereas everyone was **sceptical**. **“I pushed away my troubling thoughts and swallowed the lump in my throat.”** I walked towards the list of names, my eyes frantically searching. I found it. In bold letters my name stood, tenth on the list. I had done it. I got in.

I was showered in love, joy and an abundance of food for making it in. I was glad. My first day arrived, and I came early, excited but scared as well. Upon arrival, I stood in a bunch of other students. The air was filled with ecstatic whispers and fearful whimpers. Then the names were called out. I stood trembling with fear, awaiting my name to be called, awaiting my class. This was my first introduction to a public school in a developing country. My first introduction to Samoa College.

(Retrieved from “Samoa for Tomorrow Volume 1” Produced and published by the Curriculum Design and Materials Division, MESC 2019)

For Questions 1 to 4, choose and write the LETTER of the correct answer in the box provided

1. Which of the words below from the passage is a synonym of the word **“Cheerful”**?

- A. Jovial
- B. Pungent
- C. Achievement
- D. Sceptical

SL 1

2. The author was jealous of:

- A. her mother.
- B. her father.
- C. her sister.
- D. her Pa.

SL 1

3. How is the passage being told?

- A. In first-person narrative.
- B. In second-person narrative.
- C. In third-person narrative.
- D. In both first and second-person narratives.

SL 1

4. One of the following does not reflect something that happened in the story.

- A. The author was accepted at Samoa College.
- B. The author was nervous during the first day.
- C. The author's family believed she couldn't make it.
- D. The author's family hated her very much.

SL 1

SHORT ANSWERS: Read each question carefully and then write your answer in the spaces provided.

5. In your own words, describe what the passage is about.

SL 2

6. Outline **TWO** reasons why the author was jealous.

SL 2

7. Explain the meaning of this phrase as applied in the passage. **“I pushed away my troubling thoughts and swallowed the lump in my throat”**.

SL 3

8. Analyze the author’s intention of telling this story and what your conclusion is about the author.

SL 4

B. Study the advertisement below to answer Questions 9 and 10.



SHORT ANSWERS: Read each question carefully and then write your answer in the spaces provided.

9. Identify the product on sale and provide evidence to support your answer.

SL 2

C. Read the following extract then answer Questions 11 and 12.

Black Friday is a colloquial term for the Friday after Thanksgiving in the United States. It traditionally marks the start of the Christmas shopping season in the United States.

Black Friday is a great time to get good deals. The problem is that there are not enough low-priced items to go around. Each store may only have a few. These items are in high demand. People stand in long lines to get such great deals. They may line up hours before a store opens. They may be hoping to get a low price on a TV or laptop, but not everyone who wants one will get one. Some people leave disappointed.

The situation can be tense. Some Black Friday events have been violent. Large, eager crowds have trampled workers. Fights have broken out over toys or people cutting in line. People have shot one another over parking spots. But most Black Friday events are safe and fun. Still, if you plan on going, expect large crowds and a bit of shoving.

SHORT ANSWERS: Read each question carefully and then write your answer in the spaces provided.

11. Describe the main purpose of the above passage.

SL 2

12. Picture a holiday, event or special occasion in Samoa that has a similar consequence. Compare and describe their similarities.

SL 4

D. Read the following poem to answer Questions 13 to 16.

Sunday Sadness

By Konai Helu Thaman

Smell the adour
Of the Sunday 'umu
Empty, the coals smoking
From killer waters.
The day's haunting eerie idleness
Envelopes papa's heap
Of breadfruit crusts
Scarred remains of future attempts
Of teeth less gums;
Piece of kiwi mutton flaps
Flavor market-grown taro leaves,
Welcoming change to
Tinned 'Ocean' fish Savior of now
dormant fisherman And statistical farmers.
Cold manioc, once famine famed
Now daily bread,
Stare from, mama's shrunken dish
At tearless people with velvet shoes
Who have ceased to walk
The good rich island earth
Of yam harvests And
plentiful Sundays....

Come, look throughout the smoke
Of the dying fire
"At grandpa's ghost weeping"
Quietly crushing
The forbidding sultry silence!

SHORT ANSWERS: Read each question carefully and then write your answer in the spaces provided.

13. Quote any **two lines** from the poem that illustrate the change from being traditional to being modern.

SL 2

14. In your own words explain what this line means and what it refers to:
"At grandpa's ghost weeping"

SL 3

15. Discuss why you think the poet wrote this poem.

SL 4

INSTRUCTIONS: There are **TWO** parts to this Section.

PART A: Personal Writing (Weighting 18)

PART B: Expressing Opinions (Weighting 18)

Read and answer both PART A and PART B as instructed.

PART A: Personal Writing (40 minutes)

- Choose **ONE** of the following in the box below to write a story of 250-300 words.
- You can begin or end your story with it.
- You **MUST** write a **title** for your story.

1. "Sole, let's clear out!" shouted Thomas.
2. It would have been a great day if not.....
3. Then they arrived, and all hell broke loose.
4. "When do you think they are coming?" asked dad.
5. However, my mom was glad to.....
6. The bond was crystal clear, it was just unbreakable.

Personal Writing

Title: _____

PART B:

Expressing Opinions

(40 minutes)

- Choose **ONE** topic from the box below to write an essay of 250 – 300 words expressing your opinion.
- You may **AGREE** or **DISAGREE** with the topic you choose.
- Write the **topic number** of your selected Topic in the space provided below.

TOPICS:

1. Climate Change Government initiated awareness programs should be led by youth.
2. Technology is now the way forward with teaching and improving education status.
3. Many Samoans are dying because of having an unhealthy diet.
4. Samoa is now in the state of experiencing a high cost of living.
5. All human beings no matter what gender **MUST** be treated equal.
6. We must support our Government Tree Planting Project (*planting 3 million trees in 5 years*).

Expressing Opinions

Topic #: _____

A series of horizontal lines for writing.

INSTRUCTIONS: There are **FOUR** GENRES in this Section. **You are to respond to TWO GENRES:**

	GENRE 1	NOVEL
and/or	GENRE 2	SHORT STORIES
and/or	GENRE 3	POETRY
and/or	GENRE 4	DRAMA

- **REMEMBER**, choose only **TWO** GENRES.
- Please write the GENRE number and the OPTION number in the spaces provided at the start of your responses.
- Write your responses in the spaces provided.
- You should spend about 20 minutes on each response.

GENRE 1:

NOVEL

Choose **ONE OPTION** from the list below, and apply it to **ONE novel that you have studied in class.**
Write 200-250 words.

- Use one novel to clearly explain and extend your answer.
- Support your ideas with details, examples and/or quotes from the novel studied.
- DO NOT forget to write the author's name and the title of the novel.

NOVEL OPTIONS: Please choose ONE:

1. Reflect on the ending and then evaluate how it came to be.
2. Picture and detail how some of the events are related to you.
3. Analyze and discuss how a conflict influences the main character/characters.
4. Theorize a solid/vital lesson created by the main character then relate it to others.

GENRE 2:**SHORT STORIES**

Choose **ONE OPTION** from the list below, and apply it to **TWO** short stories you have studied in class. Write 200-250 words.

- Support your ideas with details, examples and/or quotes from the short stories.
- DO NOT forget to write the authors' names and titles of the short stories.

SHORT STORY OPTIONS: Please choose ONE:

1. Reflect on the behaviours of the main characters for each story, then differentiate.
2. Evaluate the language used in each story and define their similarities.
3. Picture how the themes of both short stories are related to you.
4. Theorize why the author/authors wrote each short story.

GENRE 3:**POETRY**

Choose **ONE OPTION** from the list below, and apply it to **TWO** poems. Write 200-250 words.

- You must use poems that you have studied in class.
- Support your ideas with details, examples and/or quotes from the poems you have chosen.
- DO NOT forget to write the poets' names and the titles of the poems.

POETRY OPTIONS: Please choose ONE:

1. Reflect on two poems and how they remind you of an experience in the past.
2. Evaluate how poetic devices clarified and assisted you in understanding the poems.
3. Picture what you can do in the future because of these two poems.
4. Generalize the messages displayed and how they can support our community.

Choose **ONE OPTION** from the list below, and apply it to a DRAMA you have studied in class.

Write 200-250 words.

- Support your ideas with details, examples, and/or quotes from the play.
- DO NOT forget to write the playwright's name and title of the play.

DRAMA OPTIONS: Please choose ONE:

1. Reflect on one scene and how it demonstrates a serious conflict.
2. Compose a number of messages and then relate them to yourself.
3. Describe how the action and words of the minor characters made you understand the play.
4. The message of this play is related to my community.

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE 1

GENRE Number: _____

Option Number: _____

Title(s): _____

Author(s)/Poet(s)/Playwright's name(s):

(1) _____

(2) _____

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE 2

GENRE Number: _____

Option Number: _____

Title(s): _____

Author(s)/Poet(s)/Playwright's name(s):

(1) _____

(2) _____

Blank lined paper with 20 horizontal lines.

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SSC ENGLISH

2023

(For Scorer only)

STRAND: READING AND WRITING		Weighting	Scores	Check Scorer	AED check
SECTION 1	READING COMPREHENSION	40			
SECTION 2	WRITING	36			
SECTION 3	RESPONSE TO LITERATURE	24			
TOTAL		100			