



# basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSESSMENT 2015 GRADE 8 ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE TEST

MARKS: 90

MARKS

TIME: 2 hours

PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCUIT \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

EMIS NUMBER (9 digits)

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CLASS (e.g. 8A) \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER (✓)

BOY	
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GIRL	
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DATE OF BIRTH

C	C	Y	Y	M	M	D	D
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This test consists of 22 pages, excluding the cover page.

### **Instructions to the learner**

The teacher should read the instructions to the learners and do the practise exercise with them.

1. Read all the instructions carefully.
2. Answer all the questions in the spaces provided.
3. Where there are multiple-choice questions, circle the letter of the correct answer.
4. Where one word is required, write only the word in the space provided.
5. Write neatly and legibly.

**Practice exercises**

1. Which country does the soccer team Bafana Bafana represent?

- A Australia
- B South Africa
- C Cameroon
- D Nigeria

You answered the question correctly if you circled the letter **B** .

2. Identify the noun in the following sentence:

The book is interesting.

\_\_\_\_\_

You answered the question correctly if you answered “book” on the line.

3. Give **two** reasons why you think you will enjoy school this year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

You should have written similar to the response below, in full sentences, in the spaces provided.

This year I shall enjoy school because my English teacher is very friendly.

I shall also enjoy it because my old friend has come back to our school.

**The test starts on the next page.**

**Read the article below and answer questions 1–17**

**Teenagers and Phones: How to Be Smart About It**

- 1 Do you ever really think about this crazy new world in which every teenager (and most tweens) has a cellphone and instant access to mobile technology and social media of all kinds?
- 2 It's a pretty amazing world and it's changing by the minute. It's hard to keep up with all the new technologies that spring up seemingly overnight. Think about it: smart phones with easy texting and Internet access have only been around for a little over five years now. The iPad just came out three years ago! 5
- 3 So the bottom line is that these technologies are SO new that researchers have barely had time to study their effects on kids' brain and social development. But one thing we DO know for sure: the wrong kind of cellphone use can have some frightening consequences for our tweens and teens. 10
- 4 These days most parents give their children cellphones when they are between the ages of 8 and 13 – far too young, in my humble opinion.
- 5 But I understand why: parents want to be able to connect with their kids easily – anytime, anywhere. And since all the OTHER kids have cellphones, it's very hard to say "NO" to their own tweens and teens. 15
- 6 So, like lemmings, we all go over the cliff together, hoping that the landing will be soft. But here's the problem: research shows that most tweens and young teens do not have the judgment and good sense to be careful about what they are texting and saying online in places like Facebook, Snap Chat, Twitter, and Instagram. And the number of social media sites where they can hang out and express themselves is growing daily. 20
- 7 Research proves that the part of the teenage brain responsible for reasoning, self-reflection, decision-making, and impulse control just isn't well-developed yet; in fact, it's not fully developed until their mid-to-late-20s! 25

8

Therefore, often tweens and teens just can't think AHEAD about the long-term consequences of what they say and do online - even though what they say and do can be PERMANENTLY recorded and broadcast to millions of people instantly!

9

When parents give kids cell phones, they often think they're protecting them by keeping in close contact. But the reality is, when tweens or young teens have cell phones, parents need to be even MORE protective than usual. And monitoring their texts and social media usage is a HUGE job – one that no generation of parents has ever been asked to do before! 30

10

As I said, it's a crazy new world, but whether you like it or not, it's probably here to stay. 35

[Adapted from *Parentinggoddess.com* by Kerry Traylor, 30 April 2013]

**Glossary:**

*lemmings*: animals that look like large mice and live in cold, northern areas (line 17)

*impulse*: sudden desire to do something (line 24)

*consequences*: things that happen as a result of an event or action (line 27)

*monitoring*: observing closely and recording/controlling something (line 31)

1. In this article the author has a major concern. Which of the following best describes what the author is concerned about?
- A The inability of parents to protect their children
  - B The advantages presented by social media sites
  - C The need for tweens and teens to use cellphones responsibly
  - D The lack of research being done on cellphone usage
- (1)

2. Which of the following best describes the tone of the writer?

- A Unbiased
- B Unfair
- C Uncaring
- D Unsure

(1)

3. Read the lines below and answer questions 3.1 and 3.2.

"And since all the OTHER kids have cellphones, it's very hard to say "NO" to their own tweens and teens." (Paragraph 5, lines 15 and 16)

3.1 Give a reason for the use of the apostrophe in "it's".

\_\_\_\_\_

(1)

3.1 Why are inverted commas used in "NO"?

\_\_\_\_\_

(1)

4. Which of the following best describes the expression "spring up"? (Paragraph 2, line 5)?

- A Extremely fast development of new technology
- B The world growing at an amazingly fast rate
- C High number of teenagers with cellphones
- D Increasing sales of cellphones to teenagers

(1)

5. Do you think that children between the ages of 8 and 13 are too young to have cellphones? Based on the text, give **one** reason for your answer.

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(2)

6. What is the main idea of paragraph 6?

- A Using a cellphone today is like jumping off a cliff.
- B Not enough research has been done on cellphone usage.
- C Teens are unable to be careful when they use social media.
- D All teens and tweens are careful when using social media.

(1)

7. Choose the most suitable synonym for "hang out" as used in line 21:

- A Resort
- B Spread
- C Meet
- D Separate

(1)

8. What do the words "impulse control" mean as used in line 24?

- A The rules parents have for teens using cellphones.
- B The control parents have over teens' cellphone use.
- C The tendency to do something without thinking carefully.
- D The ability to think carefully before doing something.

(1)

9. What is the superlative form of "more" (line 31)?
- A Many
  - B Most
  - C Much
  - D Much more.
- (1)

10. Is the following statement fact or opinion? Quote **one** phrase from the text to support your answer.

"... the part of the teenage brain responsible for reasoning, self-reflection, decision-making, and impulse control just isn't well-developed yet..."

(Paragraph 7, lines 23 and 24)

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(2)

11. The writer states that parents should monitor the text and social media usage of their teenage children.

Do you agree with this view? Give **one** reason based on the text for your response.

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(2)

12. Select the meaning of "tweens" as used in paragraph 3, line 11.

- A Teenagers about to be adults
- B Children about to be teenagers
- C Immature, childish teenagers
- D Reckless, irresponsible teenagers

(1)



13. Join the following simple sentences into one complex sentence by using the conjunction "although".

Parents monitor their children's text and social media usage.

Parents need to be even more protective than usual.

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(2)

14. Give a synonym for "crazy" as used in paragraph 10, line 34.

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(1)

15. Will parents protect their children enough by giving them cellphones to keep in close contact? Give **one** reason for your answer from the text.

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(2)

16. In paragraph 2 the writer is amazed by how fast technology is developing. Quote a phrase from paragraph 2 that shows this amazement.

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(1)

17. How does the writer create sympathy for parents in lines 31-33 of paragraph 9?

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(2)

Study the advertisement below and answer questions 18–23.

Design your life  
to reach your goals



**Introducing a perfect partnership.**  
The new Samsung **Note 3**+Gear work together to create an ideal business tool. Calls to your Note 3 can be answered with a simple motion of your wrist, and the conversation can be had via the GALAXY Gear. Amazing starts now.

GALAXY Note 3 + Gear

Official Smartphone Supplier to SARU and  
The National Team

  [www.samsung.com](http://www.samsung.com) 0860 726 7864

18. The advertisement refers to a “perfect partnership”. Which **two** advertised products make the “perfect partnership”?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

(2)

19. Why is the sentence, "Design your life to reach your goals", typed in larger font than the rest of the advertisement?

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(1)

20. Answer questions 20.1 and 20.2 on the target audience of the above advertisement.

20.1 At whom is the advertisement aimed?

- A Businessmen
- B Unmarried men
- C Married men
- D Cellphone users

(1)

20.2 Give **two** reasons, from the advertisement, for your choice in 20.1.

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(2)

21. The advertisement contains the Springbok emblem and states: "Official Smartphone supplier to SARU and the National Team". Why will these references increase sales of the GALAXY Note 3 + Gear? Give **one** reason.

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(2)

22. Why are “GALAXY **Note 3** and **Gear**” repeated in the advertisement? Give **two** reasons.

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(2)

23. The advertised products make it easy and convenient to do business. Provide **three** reasons from the advertisement to support this statement.

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(3)

Read the poem below and then answer questions 24-28.

**Inside my computer**

by Karen Ruff

My computer—disassembled 1  
is a maze of cables, drives  
chips and ports--an array  
of connections, silver solderings,  
twisting wires. 5

But when the satiny case  
is latched in place  
coils and cables disappear.

The smallest particle of matter  
is not an atom, but a byte-- 10  
a particle of magic that combines  
and multiplies unseen  
inside the blinking box.

[Adapted from *Poetrysoup*]

24. Which word best describes the style of writing in the first stanza?

- A Narration
- B Description
- C Argument (1)
- D Reflection

25. Which word best describes the poet's tone in the second stanza?

- A Amazement
- B Affection
- C Apathy
- D Sympathy (1)

26. Refer to stanza 1 to answer questions 26.1 to 26.3.

26.1 Identify the figure of speech in line 2.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

26.2 What are the two things being compared in this figure of speech?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

26.3 Why is the above comparison suitable? Suggest **two** reasons.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

27. Refer to stanza 2 and answer questions 27.1 and 27.2.

27.1 Identify the figure of speech in line 13.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

27.2 Explain the figure of speech in line 13.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

28. Do you think that the poet is exaggerating the power contained within computers? Give **two** reasons for your answer.

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(2)

**Read the text below and answer questions 29–41.**

### **Bootcamp for kids addicted to the internet**

- 1 Japan is planning to introduce Internet “fasting” camps run by education experts who will help children overcome their addiction to the online world.
- 2 More than 500 000 Japanese children between the ages of 12 and 18 are believed to be “addicted” to the internet, though the Japanese Education Ministry says it is difficult to get accurate figures on the scale of the problem. 5
- 3 The Ministry is planning a research project on internet addiction in the next year and had asked the government for funding. These programmes will be designed to get children away from their computers, cellphones and hand-held gaming devices.
- 4 “We want to get our children out of the virtual world and want them to have real communication with other children and adults”, said a Ministry spokesman. 10
- 5 The youngsters will be encouraged to take part in outdoor activities, team sports and games. Psychiatrists and psychologists will be on hand to give counselling if the change back into the real world proves too traumatic for any young person.
- 6 Internet addiction is blamed for sleep and eating disorders in a growing number of young people in Japan. 15

7 In extreme cases, children show signs of depression. Some can develop deep-vein thrombosis which is generally associated with cramped passengers on long-distance aeroplane flights. Studies suggest that an online obsession also affects school performance.

[Adapted from *The Daily Telegraph*]

29. Rewrite the following sentence in reported (indirect) speech. Make all the necessary changes, including punctuation marks.

"We want to get our children out of the virtual world and want them to have real communication with other children and adults," said a Ministry spokesman. (Paragraph 4)

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(4)

30. What is the meaning of the word "fasting" as used in paragraph 1?

- A To avoid eating and drinking
- B To stop all use of the internet
- C To use the internet infrequently
- D To use the internet responsibly

(1)

31. Select the meaning of "addiction" as used in paragraph 6.

- A Internet users generally also use drugs.
- B Youngsters cannot go online frequently.
- C People cannot stop using the internet.
- D Only sick people use the internet.

(1)



32. Rewrite the following sentence after correcting the concord error.  
"Studies suggest that an online obsession also affect school performance."  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

33. Give a synonym for "on hand" as used in paragraph 5, line 12.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

34. Give an antonym for "growing" as used in paragraph 6, line 14.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

35. Correct the spelling error and incorrect verb tense in the following sentence.  
Rewrite the corrected sentence.  
  
"The Ministry is planning a reserch project on internet addiction in the next year  
and had asked the government for funding."  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

36. Why is the hyphen used in the following example?  
"hand-held" (paragraph 3)?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

37. Give the adverbial form of the underlined word to correct the following sentence.

Internet use is becoming problem.

(1)

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38. Give the noun form of the underlined word to correct the following sentence.  
The Ministry is not sure about the accurate of the figures.

(1)

\_\_\_\_\_

39. The word "cellphone" (Paragraph 3, line 8) is an abbreviation. Write the word in full.

(1)

\_\_\_\_\_

40. Identify the main clause and subordinate clause in the following sentence.  
"Some can develop deep-vein thrombosis which is generally associated with cramped passengers on long-distance airplane flights."

Main clause: \_\_\_\_\_

Subordinate clause: \_\_\_\_\_

(2)

\_\_\_\_\_

41. Read the last two paragraphs of "**Bootcamp for kids addicted to the internet**" carefully. Summarise the **five** negative effects of internet addiction.

- The summary must be in point form.
- Each point need **not** be a complete sentence.
- The length of your summary should **not** be more than 20 words.
- Write the number of words used at the end of your summary.
- The title has been provided for you.

**Negative Effects of Internet Addiction**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

(5)

42 Choose either 42.1 or 42.2 and write an appropriate dialogue. Write down the question number of the topic you have chosen.

Remember to show evidence of planning.

Pay careful attention to the following:

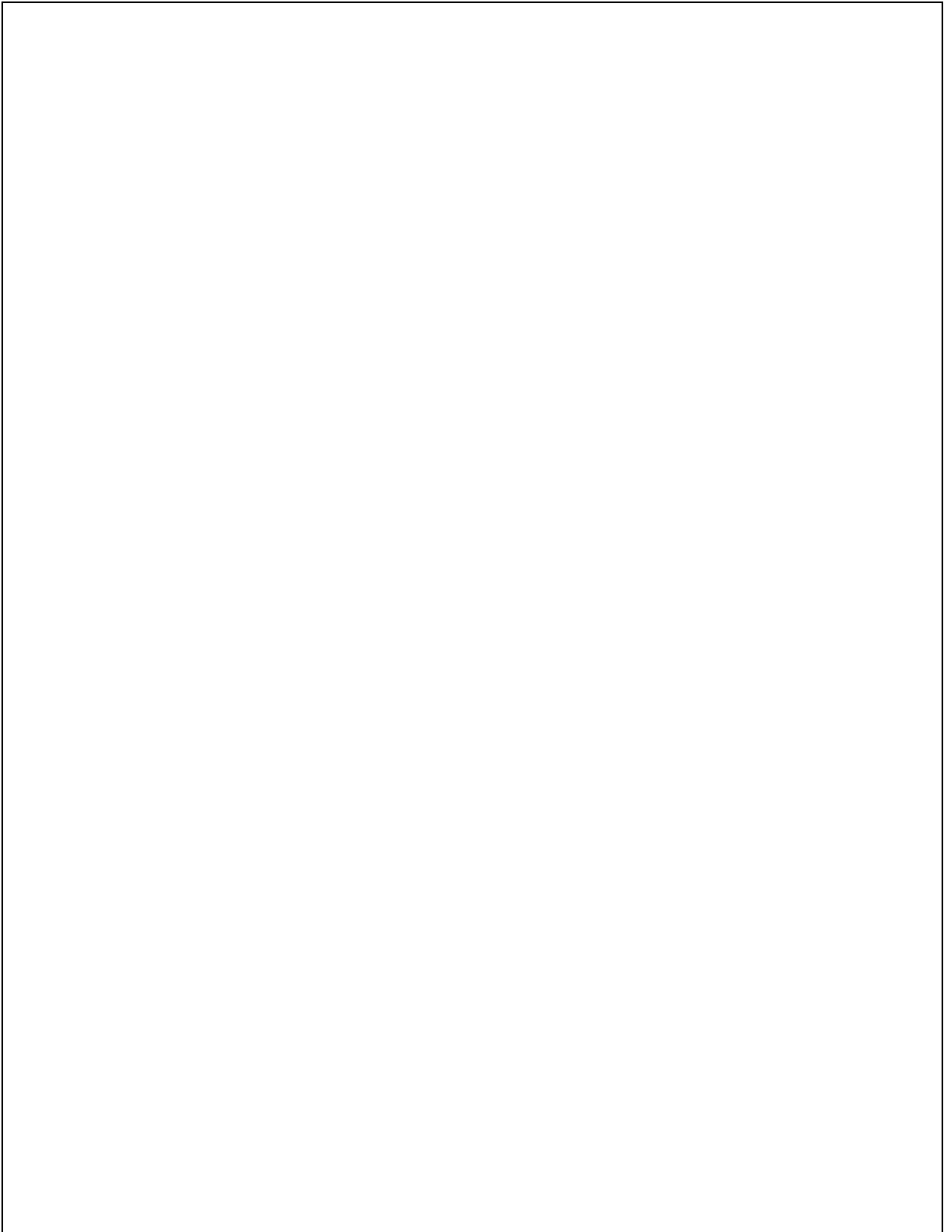
- Audience, register, tone and style
- Choice of words and language structure
- Dialogue format.

42.1. You have performed poorly in your last examination. Your parent/guardian has decided to take away your cellphone as he/she feels you spend too much time on your cellphone and not enough on your studies. Write a dialogue of 140-160 words between yourself and your parent/guardian. Try to convince him/her to let you keep your cellphone.

**OR**

42.2. Your parent/guardian has asked you what present you would like for your birthday that is coming up shortly. Write a dialogue of 140-160 words between yourself and your parent/guardian in which you request a cellphone. Try to convince him/her to buy you a cellphone with internet access.

## Planning

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for students to write their planning for the test.





