

Name: _____ SCHOOL: _____ Day ☐ Open ☐

THYOLO DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOLS

EXAMINATIONS

2026 JUNIOR CERTIFICATE MOCK EXAMINATION

ENGLISH

Monday

Subject Number: J052/II

30 March, 2026

Time Allowed: 1 hour 45 Minutes

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm

PAPER II

(50 marks)

Instructions

1. This paper contains 8 **pages**, please check.
2. Answer all questions in section **A, B** and **C** and any **two questions** in section **D**
3. Write all your answers in the spaces provided on the questions paper.
4. In the table provided on this page, **tick** against the questions number you have answered

Question Number	Tick if Answered	Do not write in these columns	
1			
2			
3			
4			
Total			

Turn Over



SECTION A (20 MARKS)

1. 1. Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

After a rather futile hunting experience, Pherani thought of travelling home. The day had been somehow unusual; a chilling weather despite the day being hot, and a sense of nervousness about him. Was anything amiss? The sun had just set, making it difficult to see everything in the dim light of the dusk. As he moved closer to the outskirts of the forest, he stumbled against something. It was not that hard, so it could not be a tree stump. It seems to be a body of a person.

As he bent down, he noted that it was a body of a young girl, seemingly lifeless. He recognised her as Thambie Wanja. This, he did, thanks to the National Identity card in the pocket of her skirt. At least he knew the girl's parents but as a matter of protocol, he had to go to the Chief first, just in case. "This one is finished," he said as he **heaved** the girl on his shoulders. His instincts told him that the girl was gone. What a bad day!

Chief Mambo, a wise woman with a kind face, examined the girl. "She is not dead yet. She is still breathing, Pherani. Let us get her to the hospital at once." The idea was to make quick arrangements to take the girl to the hospital in town but Mambo Village had transport problems. Over the years, this had been a very busy route before the cruel cyclone which had washed away several bridges, making the road almost impassable. No significant attempts had been made to construct new bridges and the vehicles had to use an alternative route. They would have to travel on foot for almost fifty minutes to Chekani, where one would find a minibus and even then, the timing of the incident was unfortunate. Consequently, she had to be ferried on a bicycle because under the circumstances, it was their quickest mode of transport.

The journey to the hospital took them almost two hours. Upon arriving, they could not be helped on pretext that they needed a medical report from police first. When everything was done, the girl was admitted at the hospital. Days turned into weeks, and by God's grace, Thambie slowly regained consciousness. She was weak, bruised, and had no memory of who she was or how she ended up there. Her mother took care of her, fed her, and taught her how to walk again.

"Who are you?" Thambie asked her mother one day, in her weak voice.

"I am Naphiri, your mother, and you are my daughter," she replied. "You were found in the forest. Don't worry, you will get your memory back," she assured her. Thambie nodded, still confused.

When she finally got her strength back, she started getting some bits and pieces of her past. Yes, she was a Form Two girl, eighteen years of age. At Mwandanje Community Day Secondary School, she was one of the hard working girls in her class as she was nursing ambitions of becoming a police officer one day. She was

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particularly motivated by the beauty of the ladies in uniform. That police uniform would suit her best, she always thought of herself.

As she tried to recollect her past, she remembered that one day as she was coming from school, she was travelling home alone. Angella, her best friend was absent that day so she was all alone. At a deserted part of the road, she remembered having been ambushed by two young men who attacked and dragged her to a nearby forest. She tried to scream but no sound came out her mouth. She felt devastated. In her struggle, she managed to unmask one of them. He had one eye. In fear of being recognised, they mercilessly beat her up and in turn, did with her what she could never have imagined. She passed out and was left for the dead. Tears flowed through her eyes as she remembered all this.

With the support and encouragement of her friends, especially Angella, she took a bold step to disregard the shock and stigma that she faced and decided to go back to school. She worked hard, excelled in her studies, and eventually became a police officer. With hard work coupled with experience, she rose through the ranks and became a prominent figure. One day, while going through the crime files in her office, she saw one written: THAMBIE WANJA'S CASE. Her heart jumped as she picked it up.

She followed her case. Later, she came to learn that the police had done their own investigations and arrested the culprits. In court, they were sentenced to twelve years of hard labour and sent to Mlangeni Prison. As luck would have it, Angella, her best friend, who was now working as a prison warder, had just been transferred to the same station. She made all the necessary arrangements and finally met the men who had nearly made her kiss the earth goodbye. When she met them, she did not feel anger towards them, just a sense of calmness.

"Do you remember me?" She asked in a calm but firm voice. They exchanged glances, shame and guilt clearly written all over their faces.

"Sorry, *bwana*, we do not remember you at all," they responded.

"I was the one you raped and left for dead in the forest, remember that day?" Thambie said. They could not believe what they saw or heard. They looked at each other; one of them, a young boy, barely out of his teens, and the one eyed man, who she came to learn, was known as Dogo. He was **robust** and had a scar above his eyebrows.

"Eee, sorry, sorry, Madam, we didn't mean to...", Dogo ran short of words.

"I have forgiven you. I am alive, and I am doing well. You wanted me dead but as you can see, God had other plans for me. Maybe it's time you thought about mending your ways," Thambie said. She could not help but shed a tear. Being not only a key member of her church but also an ardent Christian, she believed that only God has the **ultimate** right to judge and punish someone. Her heart was at peace.



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Questions

- a. What was Pherani doing in the forest?
_____ (1 mark)
- b. What helped Pherani manage to identify that the girl in the forest as Thambie?
_____ (1 mark)
- c. Why did Mambo Village have transport problems?

_____ (2 marks)
- d. In what way is the advice given by Angella of particular significance in the story?

_____ (2 marks)
- e. Explain how Thambie managed to find the men that had raped her in the forest.

_____ (2 marks)
- f. Give meanings of the following words as used in the passage.
- (i) **heaved** _____ (1 mark)
- (ii) **robust** _____ (1 mark)
- (iii) **ultimate** _____ (1 mark)
- g. Describe any **one** character of Chief Mambo as portrayed in the passage.

_____ (2 marks)
- h. Suggest a suitable title of the passage.

_____ (2 marks)
- i. Summarise the first two paragraphs of the passage. The length of your summary should be between **40 - 50** words.

_____ (5 marks)

SECTION B: GAP FILLING (10 Marks)

2. Fill each gap with one appropriate word. Each question carries 1 mark.



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Most students fail to do better during examinations because they lack preparations. To prepare for examinations, it is essential _____ create a study schedule that balances study time with breaks. First, gather all _____ study materials, including notes and textbooks. Next, review each subject and make a _____ of key topics to focus on. Practice with past examinations _____ to get familiar with the nature of the paper. Also make _____ you get familiar with the format. Then try to get enough sleep each night to keep your _____ fresh. On the day of the examinations, arrive _____ to the examination centre and take a few moments to relax before _____. Read each question carefully, and manage your _____ wisely. Don't forget to review your answers _____ submitting.

SECTION C: POEM (20 MARKS)

3. Read poem below and answer the questions that follow.

In our home, where love dwelled
A stranger's face, now takes the bed
Your eyes, once bright, now distant cold
A heart, that's broken, like a sad story untold

What did I do, to deserve this pain?
Was my love, not enough to sustain?
You took my trust, and crushed it with ease
Like a careless hand, that breaks a fragile tease

In our village, whispers spread like fire
A wife battered, betrayed, a heart that's lost its lyre
You choose another name, and another, and then another
A wound so deep, cutting like a sharpened flame

Did I not love you, with every breath?
Did I not cherish, our life, our death?
Yet you repaid me, with secrets and lies
Leaving me to wonder, was I just a disguise?

Like the Shire River, my tears flow deep
A sorrow so strong, it threatens to sweep
But I will rise, like the morning sun
And find my strength, in the day that's begun

I'll pick up the pieces, of my shattered heart
Finding my way, to a brand new start
Your betrayal, will not define me
I'll rise above, and set my spirit free

Questions

- a. (i) Identify the persona in the poem. _____ (1 mark)



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(ii) Justify your answer in a (i) above _____ (1 mark)

b. What is the tone used by the persona in the poem? Give a reason for your answer.

_____ (2 marks)

c. Pick out any **one** example of the following as portrayed in the poem.

(i) personification: _____ (1 mark)

(ii) alliteration: _____ (1 mark)

d. Explain any **one** character of the addressee as portrayed in the poem.

_____ (2 marks)

e. Explain any **one** theme portrayed in the poem.

_____ (2 marks)

SECTION D: SHORT STORY (10 MARKS)

4. Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

Yamikani sat, reading her books at a corner in her Form two classroom at Tsogolo Lathu Private Secondary School. Most of her friends had gone to patronise a disco at the school's hall. At fifteen, her mind kept wandering about the bright future she had always dreamed of; a doctor that would help and make a difference in her community.

However, she got a shock of her life when she discovered that she was pregnant. Her world almost crumbled. She had been in a relationship with a boy in her school, and one night, they had made a stupid mistake. The boy was scared and unsure of what to do so he run away, leaving Yamikani to face the consequences alone.

Her parents, shocked and ashamed, abandoned her in the city, leaving her with no choice but to seek refuge with her aunt in the village. The village was a far cry from the city, with its dirty roads, thatched huts, and limited access to basic amenities. Yamikani felt like her dreams were slipping further away with each passing day. One day, as she sat under the shade of a mango tree, feeling hopeless, Aunt Nabanda tried to comfort her.

"Yamikani, my child, I know you're hurting," she said, her voice soft and gentle. "But don't give up. You have a chance to turn your life around." Just when everything was all but forgotten, something unexpected happened. One day, a group of visitors arrived in the village. They were from a non-governmental organization (NGO) that provided sponsorship to underprivileged girls. Through their



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research in Mwandango Village, Yamikani had been identified as one of those who would benefit from this sponsorship should she be willing to take the offer.

"We're here to offer you a chance to continue your education," one of the representatives, Mrs. Mbewe, explained to Yamikani. "We'll provide you with everything you need – school fees, uniforms, books, and more. That is if you agree to our terms. After graduating from college, you will have to work in this community in the first five years of your career," he said. Yamikani's could not trust her ears on this. The news was too good to be true yet the chance, too delicate to slip through her fingers. Could this be the break she needed? Her aunt, sensing her hesitancy, cut in.

"Yamikani, this is your chance to shine," she said. "Have you not been crying for this opportunity? Don't let anyone or anything hold you back." As far as Yamikani was concerned, she had to grab it with both hands. With newfound determination, Yamikani accepted the offer. She threw herself into her studies, determined to make the most of this second chance.

Years passed, and Yamikani excelled in school. She went on to pursue a degree in medicine, just as she had always dreamed. After graduating, she returned to her village, where she was welcomed as a heroine. She worked tirelessly to improve the healthcare system in her community, providing medical care to those in need.

One day, Yamikani's parents, who had abandoned her years ago, came to the village, seeking her help. They were ill and needed medical attention. Yamikani, now a successful doctor, could have turned them away. However, she chose to forgive and help them.

"I'm glad I can help you," Yamikani said, her voice calm and collected. "But I want you to know that I've forgiven you. I've moved on, and I'm happy."

The parents were overcome with emotion, grateful for their daughter's kindness and forgiveness. As Yamikani continued to serve her community, she never forgot the NGO that had given her a second chance. She worked closely with them, helping to identify and support other underprivileged girls in the village. Her story served as a beacon of hope, inspiring countless young girls to chase their dreams, no matter the obstacles they faced. The girl who had once felt like her dreams were slipping away, had finally achieved her goal.

Questions

- a. What is the geographical setting of this story? Give a reason for your answer.

(2 marks)

- b. Identify the following as portrayed in the story.

(i) tone _____ (1 mark)



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(ii) mood _____ (1 mark)

c. From what point of view is the story told? Give a reason for your answer.

(2 marks)

d. Describe any **one** character of Yamikani as portrayed in story.

(2 marks)

e. Explain any **one** theme portrayed in the story.

(2 marks)

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

