

First Term – First Assessment: 2025-26

English – Grade 11

Duration: 1 hour

Name: _____ **Section:** _____ **Date:** _____

(1) BP... Shell ... Honda ... Coca-cola... Signs in front of garages and great box-like metal, brick and concrete buildings flashed by on either side. Stretching his neck, Siphso saw people milling through gates and doorways. It reminded him of when Ma was working. Her pay from working at the café hadn't been much, but with payday every Friday, his stepfather wasn't always so angry then. Even so they had argued. Like when Ma needed extra money for Siphso's school uniform. [5]

(2) But the really bad rows started when the café owner had sacked her. Perhaps if she was still working, he wouldn't be running away now... Suddenly the driver swerved as another taxi pulled out in front of them. The passengers bumped against each other and the old lady opposite was jolted into talking. 'Why is there so much fighting, my children?' The old lady sighed heavily, her face so creased with deep lines that it looked to Siphso like bark on a very old tree. [10]

(3) As more people joined in Siphso only half listened. He needed to see where he was going. The garages and factories had given way to a mixture of shops and houses of different shapes and sizes. There were no shacks here. The early morning sun shone on bright white walls and red roofs of houses, all with gardens and pavements between them and the tarmac streets. Not like the township, where lots of houses and shacks spilt right onto the dusty, stony roads. [15]

(4) Springing up ahead, a mass of buildings reached upwards to the sky. One was taller and slimmer than all the others. Siphso recognized the concrete drum with the saucer eyes. The tower slipped from view and Siphso's fingers tightened their grip on the man who had taken Siphso's fare signalled to him. The taxi jerked and whined as the driver pulled in to the left. Trying not to step on feet or parcels, Siphso squeezed his way out of the taxi. [20]

(5) He could feel the old lady's eyes on his back. The sliding door wasn't even closed behind him before the vehicle was hurtling off on its way to the city centre. Standing at the corner where he had alighted, he tried to take in where he was. Traffic was coming from all directions and the smell of petrol was almost overpowering. 'Move over!' A large hand pushed him roughly to one side. 'You'll make us late for work!' [25]

(6) Another taxi had pulled up at the corner with people clambering out. Within seconds, it had swung back out into the road. Siphso looked around to see which way he should go. It could be any way. Apart from a garage opposite him, all around were tall buildings with the sun glinting on glass windows high above. The streets were lined with shops, and street sellers were setting up stalls along the pavement. Close by, a woman sitting on a blanket was laying out plastic plates with an orange, an apple and banana on each. [30]

(7) In between were small piles of sweets. Feeling in his pocket, he pulled out the remaining coins. There was a one-rand coin which he put back in his pocket. Offering all the others, which came to

ninety-seven cents, he was allowed to take one of the piles. Unwrapping the sweet which was the brightest red, Siphso savoured its cherry flavour. Why not go down this street? There was no. [35]
need to hurry now.

(8) Where would he hurry to? No one knew him and he knew no one. All he knew was what his friend Gordon had told him. Children lived on the streets here. Gordon had been to Hillbrow and seen them asking for money and doing jobs. That way they got something to eat. Well, if they could do it, so could he. And if he was lucky, some of them might be friendly too. [40]

(9) He walked slowly, examining the shop windows on the way. In a furniture shop he gazed at a mattress marked R475. Almost 500 rand just for a mattress! Ma had struggled to find twenty rand to buy his old one from the man who sold goods from his cart. Behind the mattress was a chest of drawers marked R600. This place was expensive. At home they use cardboard boxes for their clothes.

(10) These shops were quite different from the local township ones where everything was [45]
stuffed together in one small place. Nearly every shop here had something different: clothes...
electrical things... medicines... even a shop just for books. But it was a window full of cameras that held the best surprises. The lenses stared out at Siphso like detectives behind dark glasses. The streets were filling up with people.

(11) Waiting for the traffic lights to turn green, Siphso took note of the cars passing by. Some [50]
were very sleek and shiny. Like the shimmering pale blue Benz turning the corner which suddenly pulled up on the next block. As if from nowhere, two boys of about Siphso's age appeared, one on the pavement, the other on the road, and began hurling directions. They whirled their hands and pointed as the car moved backwards and forwards, finally coming to a halt.

(12) Crossing the road, Siphso stopped nearby and watched as a lady with light brown hair [55]
tumbling around her face got out of the car. She ignored the boy on the pavement.

Question 1

(a) From Paragraphs 1 and 2, identify **two** reasons why Sipho ran away from his house.

Any two details from: -- Financial restraint // Ma got sacked
- His parents argued // had bad rows. [2]

(b) From Paragraph 2, give **one** observation that Sipho makes about the old lady.

- Her face so creased with deep lines //
- she had wrinkles. [1]

(c) Using your own words, explain what the text means by 'springing up ahead.' [line 16]

- Springing up: rising, emerging, appearing, shooting up
- Ahead: in front, forward, onward, further on [2]

(d) From Paragraph 5, give **two** details that show how busy the area is when Sipho got out of the car. Any two from:

- "The sliding door wasn't even closed..."
- "the smell of petrol was almost overpowering" // "Traffic was coming from all directions."
- "MOVE OVER! A large hand pushed him..." [2]

(e) Explain why, in Paragraph 7, Sipho puts the one-rand coin 'back into his pocket.' (line 32)

Any mention of :-
- wanted to save it (for the future / later / when in need) [1]

(f) From Paragraphs 8 and 9, how does Sipho feel about his life in the city as compared to the township? Give **two** details from the text to support your answer.

Feeling: either: confused // surprised // shock | Any two details (in concise format:)

- He is shocked to see how expensive items are in the city, such as a mattress costing almost R475.
- He notices that unlike the township where they use cardboard boxes for clothes, city shops have proper furniture-like chests of drawers.
- Children lived on the streets here. [3]

(g-i) In Paragraph 11, the boys had found a way to earn their livelihood. What were the boys doing?

Two boys were hurling directions. [1]

(ii) What made Sipho interested in the boys?

They were the same age as Siphho. [1]

(h) Explain, using your own words, how the writer shows Siphho's different feelings about his new life in the city. Give **three** details from anywhere in the text to support your answer.

Any three from: (not mentioned previously)

- Lonely (para 6) – Unsure which way to go in the new city.
- Uneasy (para 2) – The swerving taxi and bumping passengers unsettle him.
- Determined (para 3) – Focused on finding his way, ignoring distractions.
- Anxious (para 5) – Shoved aside in the crowd, feeling pressured.
- Delighted/happy (para 7) – Savours the cherry-flavoured sweet.
- Curious (para 10) – Fascinated by the variety of shops and items. [3]

[Total: /16]

Question 2

(a) Explain why the writer uses the word 'examining' rather than the word 'noticing' in the expression: 'He walked slowly, examining the shop windows on the way.' [line 41]

look carefully // not just glancing // was interested // focusing on all the details // not a surface-level look. [1]

(b) Read this extract from the text: 'The early morning sun shone on bright white walls and red roofs of houses, all with gardens and pavements between them and the tarmac streets. Not like the township, where lots of houses and shacks spilt right onto the dusty, stony roads.' What contrast does the writer suggest between the city and the township in these lines? [1]

Either: the township is - underdeveloped // messy etc.
Or: city is - more proper/ has better infrastructure etc. [1]

(c) Read this sentence from the text: 'The lenses stared out at Siphho like detectives behind dark glasses.' What effect does the writer suggest about the camera by using the word 'detectives' to describe it? [2] [line 48]

This suggests Siphho is feeling like he is being watched covertly and that he feels the camera lenses are powerful or fascinating and seem alive rather than inanimate.
Synonyms: Investigator, inspector // Associations: Crime, law.
Result: Siphho feels he has done something wrong/ intimidated [2]

(h) The explanation must be predominantly in the candidate's own words. The supporting details can be quoted or paraphrased. [Total: /4]

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- 3 marks for an explanation which shows a secure understanding of the writer's different feelings and opinions
 - 2 marks for an attempt at an explanation which shows some understanding of the different feelings and opinions
 - 1 mark for some awareness of how the writer feels. The explanation may be partial.

