ENGLISH

OPENER TERM 3 2026

NAME:……CLASS:……

TIME: 2HRS 15MINS

TASK 1: LISTENING AND SPEAKING (30 MARKS)

PART A- COMPREHENSION (20 marks)

READ THE DIALOGUE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

Journalist: Good afternoon, Gloria. Thank you for agreeing to talk to me. To start with, what concerns you the most about the lives of the young girls in your village?
Gloria: Thank you for having me. (Sighs) It breaks my heart to see so many young girls in my village still being forced into marriage before they even finish school. Some are only thirteen or fourteen years old.
Journalist: That must be hard to witness. (Leans forward slightly) Can you tell me more about these early marriages?
Gloria: (Voice breaks, almost in tears) These girls have no choice. Their families are poor, and they believe that marrying the girls off to well-off old men will secure their futures.
Journalist: (Shakes head sadly) So, you are saying that poverty pushes families to marry off their daughters, thinking it is the best option for them?
Gloria: Yes. However, it often makes things worse for the girls. They drop out of school and have children at a very young age, and some even die during childbirth. Moreover, a majority of these girls depend completely on their husbands, and if the marriage becomes unhealthy… (pauses, voice trembling) they have nowhere to go. I have been there, and it was the hardest thing I have gone through.
Journalist: (Gently places a hand on Gloria's arm) That must have been a difficult experience. Do you mean to say that you were also a victim of early marriage? If so, how were you able to escape that situation?
Gloria: Yes, I was married off at thirteen years old. Luckily, a few other girls and I were rescued by a women's rights organisation and taken back to school.
Journalist: (Smiles warmly) It is good to hear that you found help. It sounds like education is an important factor in curbing early marriages.
Gloria: Definitely! Education is the reason I can make my own choices today and also help my family. Allowing young girls to stay in school and eventually get jobs will help them stand on their feet. This is a more effective way to get their families out of poverty than sacrificing the girls' futures through early marriage.
Journalist: That is a great point. How else do you think we can do away with early marriage for goo
Gloria: I believe that if more people understood the emotional and physical harm early marriages cause to young girls, they would stop practising it. Women's rights organisations can create awareness campaigns around the country against this practice.
Journalist: (Nods) Education and awareness can truly make a difference.
Gloria: Indeed. My dream is for all the young girls in my community to have a chance at a better life.
Journalist: Every girl deserves that chance. That is why we must continue to speak out against practices that endanger their future.