GRADE 9 END OF TERM 2 EXAMINATION 2026

MARKING SCHEMES

1. ENGLISH PAPER 1 — MARKING SCHEME

Section A: Multiple Choice Answers

Passage 1 (1–9): 1.B 2.B 3.C 4.B 5.B 6.C 7.C 8.B 9.C

Passage 2 (10–17): 10.C 11.B 12.A 13.C 14.B 15.C 16.B 17.B

Passage 3 (18–22): 18.A 19.B 20.B 21.B 22.B

Grammar (23–50): 23.A 24.A 25.C 26.B 27.B 28.B 29.C 30.B 31.B 32.C 33.A 34.B 35.B 36.D 37.C 38.B 39.C 40.C 41.B 42.B 43.A 44.C 45.C 46.C 47.C 48.A 49.B 50.C

2. ENGLISH PAPER 2 — MARKING SCHEME

Task 1 — Argumentative Composition (20 marks)

Marking Bands:

• Content & Argument (8 mks): Clear stance taken; at least 3 well-supported arguments; logical reasoning; addresses counter-arguments; convincing conclusion.

• Language & Style (6 mks): Formal register; varied vocabulary; complex sentence structures; rhetorical devices used effectively.

• Organisation (4 mks): Clear introduction with thesis statement; developed body paragraphs each with a topic sentence, evidence and analysis; satisfying conclusion.

• Mechanical Accuracy (2 mks): Correct spelling, punctuation, grammar. Deduct ½ mark for each error beyond 5.

Penalise off-topic essays by 50%. Reward sophistication, originality and command of language.

Task 2 — Oral Literature (10 marks)

a. Type: Animal fable/origin story/aetiological tale (1 mk). Features: Animals/spirits have human qualities (1 mk); explains the origin of a community practice (1 mk). (3 mks)

b. Development of Kariuki: Begins as greedy and powerful — diverts entire river, laughs at elders (1 mk). Suffers consequences — loses everything (1 mk). Undergoes remorse and transformation — asks forgiveness at river's edge (1 mk). (3 mks)

c. Theme: Communal ownership/stewardship of natural resources; greed is punished; justice prevails (1 mk). Evidence: 'no individual could own the water. It belonged to the community' — the decree makes the theme explicit (1 mk). (2 mks)

d. The proverb 'Maji ni uhai wa wote' crystallises the theme in memorable traditional language; gives the story authenticity; links to broader Agikuyu cultural wisdom; gives the audience a takeaway message. (2 mks for any 2 well-explained points)

Task 3 — Poetry (10 marks)

a. Central theme: The examination experience as a rite of passage / self-discovery under pressure (1 mk). Evidence stanza 1: 'Palms damp, faces pale, emotions sealed' — the physical reality of anxiety (1 mk). Evidence stanza 4: 'It was the self we met before it was done' — the deeper significance beyond grades (1 mk). (3 mks)