

WORKED SOLUTIONS
FOR CSEC® EXAMINATIONS
2012–2016

English A

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1 INTRODUCTION

CSEC examinations are around the corner and you have begun your preparations. We are very pleased that you have selected our guide to form part of your revision materials. We trust you will find it very useful.

Since our last edition of the guide there have been a few changes to the structure of the CSEC English A examination. You now only have to complete one question for each section of the Paper 02 examination. This means you have more time to simply focus on your response to a single question.

Also, a school-based assessment component ('SBA') has been added. The SBA is 21 per cent of your final score. While the SBA is not within the scope of this revision guide, several of the tips and pointers given in our *General Notes* will still prove helpful.

Notwithstanding the changes to the examination format, the examiners' goals remain the same. They are still testing how well you comprehend material and how well you communicate.

In our last issue, we stressed the importance of reading as a primary preparation tool for the examination. Quality reading material, such as this revision guide, exposes you to all the skill areas required to do well in the English A examination. This guide also provides two other elements critical for success in any examination: practice and feedback.

Practice

The guide covers two of the three components of the CSEC A examination: Papers 01 and 02.

Paper 01 is a 60-question multiple choice paper worth 60 marks (29 per cent towards the final assessment). Section one of Paper 01 consists of twenty-five (25) questions. Section two of Paper 01 comprises thirty-five (35) comprehension questions based on four or five passages with at least one passage being poetry.

The guide provides five specimen papers for the Paper 01 examination. Actual Paper 01 questions are not released for circulation by the Caribbean Examination Council as the material and questions are often repeated in subsequent years. These specimen papers therefore afford you the rare opportunity to familiarise yourself with the format, type and level of questioning of the Paper 01 examination.

Feedback

Paper 02 is divided into four sections, testing summary writing, comprehension, story writing and persuasive essay writing skills respectively. Worth 105 marks (50 per cent of the total assessment), it is the most heavily weighted paper of the three components.

The revision guide provides model answers to the **actual** Paper 02 examinations for the years 2012–2016 as well as the answers to the five specimen papers for the Paper 01 examination. (Please note that the format of Paper 02 is subject to slight changes in later years.)

In addition, there are guidance notes and commentary on the various sections of both papers.

The answers, together with guidance notes and commentary, allow you to evaluate the quality of your responses, identify areas of weakness and, ideally, reveal your own readiness for the examination.

It is important to keep in mind that expression is highly individual and that 100 students will write 100 different 'A' responses to a question. The model answers for Paper 02 are therefore just that: a model. They present the sort of response that will attract high marks from the examiner because they are clear, precise and grammatically correct and address in superior fashion the particular skill or area of knowledge being tested by the question.

Examinations are daunting but the CSEC English Language examination need not be. Happy studying!

2 TIME FOR REVISION

School folklore abounds with stories of students who ‘never did any revision and got a grade I in the examination’. Do you believe them? Well, I suppose that every once in a while there might be a really gifted individual for whom this is true, but for the vast majority of us lesser mortals the secret to examination success (and it isn’t really a secret – it’s just common sense) is revision.

A Long-term Plan

Revision is not about sitting down, opening your book at some random page and reading the text. Revision is about dividing the content of a syllabus into manageable sections and spending time specifically revising those sections, so that, over a period of several weeks, you cover all of the syllabus content.

Be honest with yourself and realistic in your expectations. Do you really believe you can leave everything until the last minute and then do well in your examination? Of course not; in order to prepare yourself properly for an examination you need time. How much time depends on how hard you have worked over the period of the course, how much natural ability you have and how well you want to do.

In order to revise efficiently, you might find it useful to keep a record of what you have done. The following table is an example of a record of the revision that could be used by a student preparing for the English Language examination. The topics in the table are taken from the syllabus.

Subject	English General Proficiency							
Topic	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Exam week
Grammar and Mechanics	0.25	0.25	0.25					
Informative Discourse	1	1	1					
Literary Discourse	1	1	1					
Argumentative Discourse	1	1	1					
Total Time	3.25	3.25	3.25					

What advantages does drawing up such a table have for the student?

- It divides the syllabus content up into smaller parts so that each can be focused on.
- It provides a visible record of what you have revised so that no topics are left out or neglected.
- It provides a visible record of how long you have spent revising the subject so that time can be slowly increased as the examination week comes nearer.
- It provides a visible record of what you have achieved to date, which, in turn, increases confidence.

Notice that the amount of time spent revising a topic is between 15 minutes and 1 hour.

3 ENGLISH A – PAPER 01 – MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

The questions in this section are not taken from actual examination papers because these are not available to the public. However, they are similar questions based on the curriculum content and examination style adopted in the English A Paper 01 Examination. Each question is worth one mark.

Paper 01 Test A

Items 1–5

Instructions: Each sentence in this section has ONE underlined word. Choose from the four options the word which is closest to OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word.

- 1 After much debate, there was consensus that the family would travel rather than go camping.
 - A Agreement
 - B Decision
 - C Dissension
 - D Indecision

- 2 The rude remark by Tyrone nullified his great effort at self-control up to that point.
 - A Negated
 - B Supported
 - C Invalidated
 - D Restricted

- 3 Nyra hesitated to accept the offer because of the risk of joining a fledgling firm.
 - A Professional
 - B Established
 - C Novice
 - D Failing

- 4 The machine reaches its optimum functionality when the temperature reaches 100 degrees Celsius.
 - A Weakest
 - B Fastest
 - C Hottest
 - D Highest

- 5 My mother was livid when she saw my report card.
 - A Fuming
 - B Nonchalant
 - C Smiling
 - D Thrilled

Items 6–10

Instructions: Each sentence in this section is followed by four sentences, A, B, C and D. Choose the one NEAREST IN MEANING to the original sentence. Be sure to read all four options before you select your answer.

- 6** The publicised report did irreparable damage to the CEO's image, costing him his future at the firm.
- A** The CEO was forced to pay a huge sum for releasing the report on his reputation to the public.
 - B** The report, which contained an unpleasant picture of the CEO, was made public and he was afraid of what the future would bring.
 - C** The CEO was hurt by the report, which affected his job opportunity at the company.
 - D** The CEO could not recover from the damage the released report caused to his reputation and he lost his job as a result.
- 7** His ability to fabricate accounts made him a high-level con man.
- A** He was great at making up stories and therefore an expert swindler.
 - B** He was a very good garment maker and an excellent trickster.
 - C** He was very capable of fooling people because he was good with words.
 - D** He was very good with numbers and therefore a good crook.
- 8** This was a rather fortuitous turn of events for a rather silly decision.
- A** This was not a strong outcome because the decision was not smart.
 - B** The poor decision led to a rather fortunate end.
 - C** Considering the foolish decision made, the positive result was pure accident.
 - D** This was a great consequence created by a bad decision.
- 9** The decision to reinstate the disgraced judge was unanimous.
- A** There was little objection to the call for the judge to be back on the bench.
 - B** Everyone agreed to return the defrocked judge to his original position.
 - C** No one took issue with the ruling that the dishonoured judge should be compensated.
 - D** The proposal that the shameful judge should be removed was supported by all.
- 10** Prolific athletes gain the best endorsements, hence their drive to be the best.
- A** Quality athletes do their best to get the highest pay.
 - B** Effective athletes want to be the best to attract the most support from the public.
 - C** The best contracts go to the most competent athletes, so they work hard to be the best.
 - D** Top-level athletes aim for the best deals and get them through hard work.