

ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE, CAPE COAST

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES

FORM 2 – VACATION ASSIGNMENT

GRAMMAR AND WRITING

1. List a hundred idiomatic expressions with their meanings, and use twenty of them in meaningful sentences.
2. Write an essay using no fewer than ten idiomatic expressions you have identified.

READING AND COMPREHENSION

3. Please read the following books, as there will be tests on them when school reopens:
 - The Girl Who Can – **Ama Ata Aidoo**
 - Weep Not Child– **Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o**

SUMMARY

Since creation, childbearing has been and continues to be one of the divine orders given to mankind by the creator. Thus, this divine order has become a basic challenge to married couples all over the world. But I am always amazed when I find a married couple merely giving birth to children without considering the economic realities of the present day. After all, is it the number of children that one has which is important or the ability to support them?

For some time past, children were seen as future security. Parents, therefore, tried to have as many children as possible. Children cared for their aged parents by continuing their farm work. When parents were old enough and were therefore less mobile, children joined their company at home and comforted them psychologically. Many parents were assured of their fitting burial once they had children who could provide a shroud, coffin and other things.

In many traditional societies, children were considered a symbol of respect. The more children one had, the more respect one earned from society. Infertility or barrenness was therefore considered a curse to a family and could often lead to the break-up of marriages.

With today's changing world, the picture looks different. The harsh economic conditions prevailing in many countries, particularly the developing ones, make it

difficult for people to make ends meet. Children hardly visit their parents or send money home to support them. Ironically, some of them become dependent on their aged parents. With formal education, many young school leavers abandon their aged parents in the countryside and migrate to the urban areas in search of white – collar jobs which may be non-existent. The poor parents are therefore left behind in the villages to fend for themselves.

It must be conceded that childbearing now poses a bigger challenge to couples than ever before. We need to support and maintain our children to attain the highest possible standards in education to guarantee their future. We need to provide food and shelter for our children. All these need money. Thus, the pertinent question one may ask is how many children can married couples bear? The answer lies exclusively with the married couples themselves.

- a. In 2 sentences, state reasons why children are no longer considered assets.
- b. In one sentence, give the reason why the number of children a family should have lies with the married couple.
- c. In 3 sentences, state how children were considered a failure in security for parents.