

Grade 9 English Worksheet

Reading a newspaper article for comprehension and resulting written responses

Skim the newspaper article and answer the questions in ten minutes.

200 jobs ... thousands apply

By Melissa Mungroo

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Tough times: Thousands of people queued from Curries Fountain sports ground to apply for 200 learnership jobs with the Metro Police in Durban. *Photo: Puri Devjee, Daily News*

Thousands of people queued from Curries Fountain sports ground all the way up John Zikhali (Sydenham) Road in Durban this morning to apply for 200 learnership jobs with the Metro Police.

The job seekers - the majority of them in their early 20s - carried umbrellas, blankets, CVs and jackets as they travelled from Verulam, KwaMakhutha, Tongaat, Inanda, Umlazi and other parts of the eThekweni Municipality.

Many were standing in the queue before midnight.

Metro Police struggled to control the crowd with people walking in the street and obstructing traffic.

"We were expecting a large crowd of applicants and had planned for this event to avoid any chaos," said Joyce Khuzwayo, spokeswoman for Metro Police.

The application procedure started today and will continue until Friday, with people between the ages of 18 and 30 allowed to apply.

"We expect to process all applications by

"The interviews will then commence and the successful candidates will undergo full training to become Metro Police officers."

Khuzwayo said the trainees would be tested on their knowledge of the Road Traffic Act and criminal law and procedures.

The learnerships are being offered to train people in time for the 2010 World Cup.

A fight broke out this morning as some tried to jump the queue.

The first people at the head of the queue, brother and sister Simphiwe Msimango, 21, and Bongekile Ngubane, 23, arrived at Curries Fountain at 4pm yesterday. Msimango said he wanted to join the Metro Police because he wanted to fight crime.

Ngubane said: "There is an increase in crime and no one is doing anything about it."

She said they were soaking wet because it had rained during the night and they had not eaten since yesterday.

Nonhle Sabela, 29, from Amanzimtoti was in the queue at midnight. She heard about the vacancies from a friend.

"I am unemployed and was attracted by the job because of medical aid and provident fund benefits," she said.

She said she was told to fill in a form today and Metro Police would call her for a physical test if she was successful.

Vumani Sibiya, 23, from Adams Mission, who tried to entertain those around him with jokes, said he wanted to be a cop so that he could make sure people obeyed the rules of the road.

"I have a job and am looking for something better," he said.

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the end of this month and thereafter start the selection procedure based on IQ tests and physical fitness tests," she said.

Sibiya joined the queue at 2am and came prepared with his blanket.

This article was originally published on page 1 of [Daily News](#) on September 09, 2009.

<http://www.iol.co.za>

Part A: Skimming

- 1 In one sentence, say what the newspaper article is about. (2)
- 2 How could a gathering of this size affect the public? (1)

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- 3 How does a crowd of people generally behave? (1)
 - 4 What happens to people who queue for a long time? (2)
 - 5 How long will this gathering of people continue in Durban? (1)
 - 6 What big event will the successful candidates be trained for? (1)
- (8)

Part B: Comprehension

Read the newspaper article carefully to answer the following questions.

- 7 What is the name of the reporter who wrote this article? (1)
 - 8 Who spoke to the reporter on behalf of the Durban Metropolitan Police? (1)
 - 9 How will the selected learnership applicants be tested during the next selection stage? (2)
 - 10 What will be included in the Metro Police Officers' training? (2)
 - 11 Name two learnership applicants who are quoted in the article. (2)
- (8)

Part C: Summary

- 12 List the different reasons that people gave for wanting to join the Metro Police. (4)
 - 13 Outline the process that the Metro Police are following in selecting candidates for learnerships. (4)
- (8)

Part D: Style

- 14 Comment on the headline for the article. (2)
- 15 Comment on the title of the caption for the photograph. (2)

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16 Comment on the photograph. (4)

(8)

Part E: Opinion

17 Write a paragraph in which you give your opinion about queuing. You can think of any situation where people queue, for example at Home Affairs, in the bank or for tickets at a football match. Write about how people behave and say what you think of their behaviour.

(5)

Part F: Questions

Imagine that you were being interviewed to be accepted into the learnership programme. There are so many people being interviewed that you have only five minutes to impress the interviewer and be selected for the next stage. Answer the following questions in as interesting and informative a way as you can.

18 Why do you want to become a Metro Police Officer? (3)

19 Why do you think that road users should obey the rules of the road? (3)

20 How do you think that South Africans should behave during the 2010 World cup? (4)

(10)

Part G: Punctuation

Explain the use of the given punctuation marks.

21 Brackets in: (2)
Thousands of people queued from Curries Fountain sports ground all the way up John Zikhali (Sydenham) Road in Durban this morning to apply for 200 learnership jobs with the Metro police.

22 Dash in: (2)
The job seekers – the majority of them in their early 20s – carried umbrellas, blankets, CVs and jackets as they travelled from Verulam, KwaMakhutha,

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Tongaat, Inanda, Umlazi and other parts of the eThekweni Municipality.

- 23 Comma in: (2)
The job seekers – the majority of them in their early 20s – carried umbrellas, blankets, CVs and jackets as they travelled from Verulam, KwaMakhutha, Tongaat, Inanda, Umlazi and other parts of the eThekweni Municipality.
- 24 Colon in: (2)
Ngubane said: "There is an increase in crime and no one is doing anything about it."
- 25 Commas in: (4)
Vumani Sibiya, 23, from Adams Mission, who tried to entertain those around him with jokes, said he wanted to be a cop so that he could make sure people obeyed the rules of the road.
- (12)

Part H: Nouns

Form nouns from the verbs in the left-hand column.

	Verb	Noun	
26	obstruct		(1)
27	process		(1)
28	queue		(1)
29	expect		(1)
30	continue		(1)
31	interview		(1)
32	know		(1)
33	arrive		(1)
34	rain		(1)
35	attract		(1)
36	apply		(1)
37	travel		(1)
38	plan		(1)
39	select		(1)
40	offer		(1)
			(15)

Part I: Adverbs

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Form adjectives and adverbs from the verbs in the left-hand column.

	Verb	Adjective	Adverb	
41	expect			(2)
42	continue			(2)
43	interview			(2)
44	attract			(2)
45	select			(2)
46	fit			(2)
47	test			(2)
48	break			(2)
49	succeed			
				(16)

Part J: Essay

- 50 What is your point of view about unemployment in South Africa? Write a discursive essay in which you discuss unemployment in the country. Divide your essay into three parts as follows:

Introduction

Give your point of view. Say whether you think unemployment is a problem or not.

Middle

Explain your point of view. Why is unemployment a problem/not a problem? What is unemployment due to? Education, Job Opportunities, etc. Something about skilled and unskilled people?

Conclusion

Suggest a way forward. Is there a solution?/How does unemployment apply to you?

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Suggested Solutions

Part A: Skimming

1	Thousands of young men and women applied for 200 learnerships being offered by the Durban Metro Police.	(2)
2	The crowd obstructs traffic.	(1)
3	The people fight with one another to get into the queue.	(1)
4	They may get hungry because they can't leave the queue in case they lose their place. If it rains they get wet. If it gets cold, so do they.	(2)
5	Until Friday 11 September.	(1)
6	The candidates will be trained for the 2010 World Cup.	(1)
		(8)

Part B: Comprehension

7	Melissa Mungroo is the name of the reporter who wrote the article.	(1)
8	Joyce Khuzwayo.	(1)
9	The candidates' IQs and physical fitness will be measured.	(2)
10	They will learn about the Road Traffic Act and criminal law and procedures.	(2)
11	Simphiewe Msimango, Bongekile Ngubane, Nonhle Sabela, Vumani Sibiya.	(2)
		(8)

Part C: Summary

12	They want to fight crime. They are unemployed. The job includes medical aid and provident fund benefits. They want to make sure that people obey the rules of the road.	(4)
13	The candidates must fill in an application form. Candidates will have IQ tests and physical fitness tests. Candidates will undergo training on the Road Traffic Act and criminal law and procedures.	(4)
		(8)

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Part D: Style

14	It is interesting that “200” is written in numerals and “thousands” is written in letters. This emphasises the few jobs available for the many who are applying. It is a simple, direct summary of the article itself.	(2)
15	The caption “Tough times” is appropriate. It points to the fact that many people are unemployed and are struggling because they don’t have jobs. They are experiencing tough times. The repetition of the “t” sound makes the title more interesting. This alliteration is an example of how poetic language can draw attention to an article.	(2)
16	The photograph shows thousands of people. The people in the front of the photograph appear to be queuing in an orderly fashion. The crowd seems to thicken beyond the cars where there does seem to be more chaos. However, there is a space of green between them and the line closest to the building so it does appear as if the queue is being marshalled. There are cars attempting to drive along the road in among the people. This is a potentially dangerous situation.	(4)
		(8)

Part E: Opinion

- 17 Learners should express their own opinions about queuing behaviour in a clear and coherent manner.
(5)

Part F: Questions

18	Give two marks for a good answer, but three marks for an unusually interesting and informative answer.	(3)
19	Give two marks for a good answer, but three marks for an unusually interesting and informative answer.	(3)
20	Give a mark for each type of appropriate behaviour described. Reward learners who exhibit initiative and provide interesting, unusual and thought-provoking answers.	(4)
		(10)

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Part G: Punctuation

21	Sydenham is the old name of John Zikhali street. It explains the new name.	(2)
22	The dash sets aside a phrase describing job seekers. The sentence could be written without this phrase as in: The job seekers carried umbrellas, blankets, CVs and jackets as they travelled from Verulam, KwaMakhutha, Tongaat, Inanda, Umlazi and other parts of the eThekweni Municipality.	(2)
23	The comma is used to separate items in a list, i.e. the names of places.	(2)
24	The colon indicates that something will follow, in this case what Ngubane said.	(2)
25	The first two commas give more information about Sibiya, namely his age. The next two commas separate a clause from the rest of the sentence. The words in the clause describe Sibiya.	(4)
		(12)

Part H: Nouns

Form nouns from the verbs in the left-hand column.

	Verb	Noun	
26	obstruct	obstruction	(1)
27	process	procession	(1)
28	queue	queue	(1)
29	expect	expectation	(1)
30	continue	continuation	(1)
31	interview	interview	(1)
32	know	knowledge	(1)
33	arrive	arrival	(1)
34	rain	rain/rainfall	(1)
35	attract	attraction	(1)
36	apply	application	(1)
37	travel	traveller	(1)
38	plan	plan	(1)
39	select	selection	(1)
40	offer	offering	(1)
			(15)

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Part I: Adverbs

Form adjectives and adverbs from verbs in the left hand column.

	Verb	Adjective	Adverb	
41	expect	expectant	expectantly	(2)
42	continue	continual	continually	(2)
43	interview	knowing	knowingly	(2)
44	attract	attractive	attractively	(2)
45	select	selective	selectively	(2)
46	fit	fit	fittingly	(2)
47	test	tested	testily	(2)
48	break	broken	brokenly	(2)
49	succeed	successful	successfully	
				(16)

Part J: Essay

50 Use the assessment rubric in the Appendix of Assessment Tools to assess the essays.

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Assessment rubric: Discursive essay

(20)	4-5	3	2	1
Introduction	The essay clearly and convincingly outlines the writer's point of view.	The essay clearly outlines the writer's point of view.	The essay outlines the writer's point of view.	The essay attempts to outline the writer's point of view.
Middle paragraph	The essay includes a very interesting and logical discussion with very good examples. The writer does not assume that his/her opinions are the only acceptable ones.	The essay includes an interesting discussion with good examples. The writer does not assume that his/her opinions are the only acceptable ones.	The essay includes a discussion with examples. The writer is sometimes biased (does not see both sides of the question).	The discussion is not logical. The writer thinks his/her ideas are the only correct ones.
Conclusion	The conclusion is very clear, interesting and original.	The conclusion is clear and interesting.	The conclusion is clear.	There is no real conclusion.
Language	The language is clear and accurate. There is a wide range of complex and compound sentences.	The language is accurate. There is a range of complex and compound sentences.	The language is mostly accurate. There are a few complex/compound sentences.	There are many language errors. The sentences are mostly simple.