

Grade 8 English Home Language Worksheet

Reading and summarising a printed article

ACTIVITY 1

Here are two articles, both from the Cape Argus. Read each one carefully and then answer the questions.

Article 1

Deaf learner gains support for court case

Deaf and blind people picketed outside the Pietermaritzburg High Court on Thursday to support a deaf pupil who is fighting to have sign language declared an official language in schools.

"We as the KwaZulu-Natal Blind and Deaf Society fully support Kyle Springate in his attempts to have sign language declared an official language in schools," said KwaZulu-Natal Blind and Deaf Society CEO, Jace Nair. Nair said he was happy that Springate had decided to take the matter to court.

"Our organisation has been lobbying for the sign language to be declared an official language in schools for a long time now. We have had meetings with the department but nothing materialised," he said.

With the help of the Legal Resource Centre, Springate, a matric pupil at Westville High School, filed court papers against the education department in June. The department was expected to file its own papers on Thursday after it failed to meet the July 5 deadline. Kyle was accompanied by his two brothers and his parents.

The Legal Resources Centre's Willene Holness said the date for the hearing would be set on Thursday. - Sapa

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Article 2

Department opposes sign language at schools

July 16 2009 at 12:35PM

The Department of Education will oppose a court application by a deaf KwaZulu-Natal matric pupil who wants sign language declared an official language at schools, the Pietermaritzburg High Court heard on Thursday.

Westville Boys High school pupil Kyle Springate has taken the Department of Education to court in an attempt to have sign language made official in schools. With the help of the Legal Resource Centre, Kyle filed his papers in June.

The matter was adjourned on Thursday to August 19.

The department's legal team told the court it would oppose Kyle's application. The department was expected to file its own papers on Thursday after it failed to meet the July 5 deadline.

The courtroom was filled with members of the KwaZulu-Natal Blind and Deaf Society, Kyle's classmates, and family friends.

"We as the KwaZulu-Natal Blind and Deaf Society fully support Kyle Springate in his attempts to have sign language declared an official language in schools," said the society's CEO, Jace Nair. Nair said he was happy that the boy had decided to take the matter to court. "Our organisation has been lobbying for the sign language to be declared an official language in schools for a long time now. We have had meetings with the department but nothing materialised," he said.

Earlier deaf and blind people picketed outside the court in support of Kyle, who was accompanied by his two brothers and his parents.

- Sapa

Questions

- 1.1 Choose all the information which is found in BOTH articles. Summarise this information. Write sentences. Number your sentence 1-5.
- 1.2 Choose information which is in ONE article only. Write sentences. Summarise this information. Number your sentence 6-7.

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- 1.3 The length of your 7 sentences may be no more than 100 words.
[10]

ACTIVITY 2

Read the following article adapted from the *Cape Argus*. You have been asked to summarise the main ideas about how and why the people of Bhutan are making sure that they vote in the election,

Look for

- FOUR points to show HOW they are making sure they vote
- and
- THREE points for WHY they are making sure that they vote.

You will write your points in SEVEN sentences, numbered 1-7. Write in full sentences. Make one point in each sentence.

Your summary may be no longer than 70 words. Write your word count at the end of your summary. Do not give a title.

[10]

How far would you walk to vote?

March 24 2008 at 07:28AM

Thimphu - The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan may lay claim to having the world's most enthusiastic voter - a 65-year-old woman who walked 600 kilometres (380 miles) to cast her ballot.

The woman responded to an appeal from the country's king to embrace democracy as Bhutan shifts from absolute royal rule to becoming a constitutional democracy in Monday's election, the Bhutan Times reported.

People were allowed to vote only in the place of their birth and thousands headed to remote villages to take part in the country's first parliamentary elections ending absolute rule by the Wangchuck dynasty.

Tshewang Dema said she preferred to walk because she suffered motion sickness after her

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first and only car journey four years ago, said the newspaper on the eve of the election.

"I didn't want to lose my vote just because I couldn't travel in a car," Dema said.

The 14-day trek from national capital Thimphu to the eastern Trashiyangste district also turned out to be long overdue homecoming. Dema's cousin wept when she just walked into the house, unannounced, after four years, accompanied by her 13-year-old grandson. En route, the woman and her grandson sought shelter in villages for the night.

The Election Commission allowed privately-owned vehicles to run taxi services to meet unprecedented demand for transport during the elections in the tiny nation of 670 000 people.

Thimphu streets were deserted, shops were closed and cafes offered limited services on the weekend as people left for home in large numbers. Many people were returning home after several years, undertaking journeys through difficult mountain passes. A woman said her sister came "all the way from Islamabad just to vote," said Dilu Giri, senior manager of private hotel The Druk. The trip was costing her \$2 500 in air fares and accommodation.

"But she said she wants to be part of history," Giri said.

"Some (people) have taken loans to buy gifts for their families," said Tashi Wangdi, editor-in-chief of the weekly Bhutan Observer newspaper. "This vote is reuniting families."

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Suggested Solutions

ACTIVITY 1

The following points form the answer to the question:

1. Deaf and blind people picketed at the court.
2. They were supporting a deaf matric pupil from Westville High who wants sign language declared an official language.
3. The Kwazulu Blind and Deaf Society support him because they have tried to encourage the department to do this for a long time, with little success.
4. The department is expected to file papers.
5. The pupil was supported by his parents and two brothers.
6. The Department will oppose the application.
7. The court was filled with members of the Kwazulu Blind and Deaf Society, his classmates and family friends.

[100 words]

ACTIVITY 2

The following points form the answer to the question.

1. Some are walking very long distances.
2. Some are covering mountainous terrain.
3. Some are spending a lot of money on airfares and accommodation, and even gifts.
4. Some are using privately-owned vehicles which they have turned into taxis to convey voters.
5. Voters want to vote in an election that sees the end of royal rule.
6. This is the first democratic election.
7. Voters want to be a part of history.

[73 words]