

## Grade 9 English Worksheet

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### Write a response on a formal letter on "Corporal punishment in schools"

Read the letter.

The editor  
The Weekly  
PO Box 24  
Orlando  
2250

Sir

#### **Corporal punishment in schools**

Your newspaper published an article on 1 August claiming that corporal punishment is not permitted in schools. The article stated that the Department of Education took action against teachers who administered corporal punishment.

I would like to differ strongly with the writer of the article. Ms Read has not done her research. She should visit some schools and talk to children in the schools. I myself am a learner in a public secondary school and I can assure you that I have been a victim of corporal punishment. This has not happened to me once, but many times.

I consider myself to be a reasonably good student. I am sometimes late for school because of transport. I travel a long way to get to school and sometimes the bus is caught in traffic. That makes me late but mostly I am on time. However, on the few occasions that I am late, I get punished by being hit with a stick across my legs.

I try very hard to do the homework that I am given but sometimes I don't have the books. This is not my fault because we have to share books as there are not enough to go around the class. When I do not do my homework because I do not have the books, I get hit on my hands with a ruler.

I have given two examples above of corporal punishment in my school. I could give many others. I would appreciate it if Ms Read would rewrite the article when she has done more research and found out the truth. She should ask the learners for information, not the teachers!

Spare the child

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Answer the questions.

### Part A: Features of the text

- 1 Who is this letter addressed to? (1)
  - 2 Name three groups of people who would be interested in reading this letter. (3)
  - 3 What is the subject of the letter? (1)
  - 4 Why did the writer send this letter? (1)
  - 5 Why is no sender's address included in the letter? (1)
  - 6 What nom de plume does the writer use? (1)
  - 7 Identify features of the first paragraph of the letter. What does the first paragraph do? (4)
  - 8 Identify features of the last paragraph of the letter. What does the last paragraph do? (3)
- (15)

### Part B: Tone

9. Comment on the tone of the letter. Support your answer by referring to the letter. (10)

### Part C: Formal language

Imagine that you were writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper about drug use in your town. Which of the following would you use?

- 10 For the salutation (to a male editor): (1)
  - A Dear Sir
  - B Sir
  - C Dear Sir/Madam
  - D Sir/Madam
- 11 As a heading: (1)
  - A Drugs should be banned
  - B Ban drugs
  - C Drugs and our town
  - D Drug dealers
- 12 For the introduction: (1)
  - A I would like to raise the issue of drug abuse among teenagers.
  - B Drug abuse is a big problem in South Africa.
  - C Many children use drugs in South Africa.

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- D I would like to raise the extremely serious issue of drug abuse among teenagers in South Africa.
- 13 For the second paragraph: (1)
- A I am a very concerned parent of a sixteen-year-old girl called Samantha Smith.
- B My daughter, Samantha Smith, has told me about drug use in her class.
- C My daughter's classmates use drugs daily.
- D I am a very concerned parent of a young adolescent.
- 14 For the third paragraph: (1)
- A I would like to see the police take action against these thugs.
- B I would like to see the police take action against drug dealers in this town.
- C All drug dealers should be put in prison.
- D The police are lazy!
- 15 For the fourth paragraph: (1)
- A The police only have primary school education.
- B The police are unable to address the issue of alcohol abuse.
- C The police are fat and lazy.
- D The police are themselves corrupt as was revealed by the Media Television Programme which showed them taking bribes from drug dealers.
- 16 In the concluding paragraph: (1)
- A I would like to see the police doing their work and taking on the drug dealers.
- B I am going to report the police to the government.
- C I am going to talk to the superintendent.
- D I would love to see the police doing their work and taking on the drug dealers.
- 17 As a nom de plume: (1)
- A Police stooge
- B Drug happy
- C Concerned parent
- D Concerned citizen

(8)

### Part D: Letter to the editor

18. Imagine that you were writing a letter to the editor of The People newspaper. The City Council is about to close the local cinema. They want to demolish the old building and in its place erect a brand new shopping mall. You object to this.

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### Suggested Solutions

#### Part A: Features of the text

1	The Editor of The Weekly	(1)
2	Parents of children, learners, teachers, education departments, general public	(3)
3	Corporal punishment is the subject of the letter.	(1)
4	He or she wanted to draw attention to inaccuracies in a newspaper article.	(1)
5	The letter may be published in a public newspaper and address details are private and should not be given out. The sender wants to remain anonymous.	(1)
6	Spare the child	(1)
7	The first paragraph refers to the article which was published by the newspaper. It identifies the date when the article was published. It identifies the subject of the article and then gives a very brief summary of the article. This may be to remind people about the article or to inform people who didn't read the article.	(4)
8	The last paragraph concludes the letter. It sums up the thinking of the writer. It suggests a way forward for the newspaper. It advises the writer of the article regarding whom to interview the next time she does research.	(3)
		(15)

#### Part B: Tone

9. The tone of the letter is challenging. The writer disagrees with the journalist who wrote the article. It criticises Ms Read by stating that she has not done her research. It even advises her regarding what research she should have done. It suggests that she should have spoken to children. The writer of the letter then gives some examples of corporal punishment in schools to show up the journalist, to point out that she is wrong, and to provide evidence that contradicts what Ms Read wrote. The letter writer points out how unfair the teachers are in their treatment of children and their application of corporal punishment. The letter is confrontational. The writer of the letter ends it by giving more advice to the journalist. Her attitude towards the journalist is superior. The writer of the letter has more information about the topic than the journalist. This is evident in the tone of the letter, which is very critical of the journalist. (10)

#### Part C: Formal language

Imagine that you were writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper about drug use in your town. Which of the following would you use?

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10	B	Sir	(1)
11	C	Drugs and our town	(1)
12	D	I would like to raise the extremely serious issue of drug abuse among teenagers in South Africa.	(1)
13	D	I am a very concerned parent of a young adolescent.	(1)
14	B	I would like to see the police take action against drug dealers in this town.	(1)
15	D	The police are themselves corrupt as was revealed by the Media Television Programme which showed them taking bribes from drug dealers.	(1)
16	A	I would like to see the police doing their work and taking on the drug dealers.	(1)
17	C	Concerned parent	(1)
			(8)

### Part D: Letter to the editor

18 Learners must write a letter to the editor of The People newspaper objecting to the closing down of the local cinema. Use the assessment rubric to mark the letters.

### Assessment rubric: Letter

Letter (20)	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
			2	1
Address			Completely correct.	Some errors.
			2	1
Salutation and ending			Correct salutation, interesting nom de plume.	Correct.
			2	1
Subject heading			Comprehensive, interesting and eye-catching.	Comprehensive.
	8-10	6-7	3-5	1-2
Content	The first	The first	The first	The paragraphs

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	paragraph clearly introduces the topic. The middle paragraphs give several solid reasons for objecting to the closing of the cinema. The final paragraph cleverly suggests a way forward.	paragraph introduces the topic. The middle paragraphs give several reasons for objecting to the closing of the cinema. The final paragraph suggests a way forward.	paragraph introduces the topic. The middle paragraphs give a couple of reasons for objecting to the closing of the cinema. The final paragraph tries to suggest a way forward.	are muddled.
	4	3	2	1
Tone	The tone is formal, constructively critical but not impolite.	The tone is formal and polite.	The tone is formal, sometimes impolite.	The tone is inappropriate.