



MANYAM FRANCHISE SERIES

EXAM CODE: 0026S STANDARD 8 3/8/2015

SUBJECT: **ENGLISH**

TEN OVER TEN REVISION EXAMINATIONS

Read the passage below then answer questions 1 to 13

Mains's friend, Odhiambo, began to teach him how to ride a bicycle during the holidays. Odhiambo himself had no bicycle, but he could easily borrow one from a mechanic. This mechanic lived in one of the rental rooms owned by Odhiambo's father. During the day, he worked under a tree in front of the house. Many people brought their bicycles to him to be repaired. Sometimes they wanted the brakes mended or a puncture tube repaired. Whatever it was, the mechanic was equal to the job. If you passed by any time of the day, you would see him in his brown greasy work clothes putting life into a damaged bicycle. Usually, he turned the bicycle upside down with its wheels in the air while he worked on it. A signboard with his nickname, DOCTOR OF BICYCLES, was nailed to the tree.

Besides the bicycles which came to him for repairs, the mechanic also had about five or six of his own which he hired out for ten shillings an hour. It was one of these that Odhiambo borrowed. He did not tell the mechanic that a learner was going to ride it.

The bicycle was meant for adults and was too high for Maina but he made rapid progress. If he sat on the saddle, his feet would not reach the pedals. So he adopted what was called the monkey style; he rode standing on the pedals on one side of the triangular frame.

After about one week of practice, Maina was able to ride long distances without falling off. He was even able to whistle a song as he rode along. Odhiambo was impressed with Maina's progress and suggested that it was time he tried riding on the main road instead of the playing field.

Maina was a little doubtful at first, but he agreed in the end to try one of the less busy roads. To his surprise, he did very well. He was so pleased that he began to whistle a popular tune and pedal to the beat. He felt very proud of himself and wondered why people said cycling was difficult. 'It is easier than eating "ugali",' he thought. Just then, a car came out of a side road and was heading towards him. He lost his nerve and swerved, hitting an electricity pole. He was thrown into a nearby drain out of which he emerged dripping dirty water.

Although Maina was only slightly injured, the bicycle was badly damaged. The front wheel was twisted and three spokes also got broken. After fruitless repair efforts, Maina and Odhiambo decided to go and report to the mechanic. They had to roll the bicycle on the back wheel as they lifted the handle bars between them.

The mechanic was very angry. He said Maina had to pay for the damage. Maina pleaded with him saying he had no money.

'if you have no money, who told you to ride my bicycle? Come and show me where you live. Your parents will pay for your foolishness. And if you don't hurry up, I will take you to the police station right now.' the mechanic said when Maina appeared to hesitate.

So Maina led the way and the mechanic followed on one of his bicycles. Maina was afraid of taking the man to his uncle. So he decided to take him round and round the town. They went up one street down the next and up the third.

‘where do you live?’ asked the mechanic.

‘I don’t know the number,’ said Maina, ‘but it’s over there,’ and he pointed in front of him. After a long time they were back where they had started. The mechanic was now furious and was threatening to beat Maina. Bling with anger, he did not look where he was going and ran into a woman returning home from the market with her purchases. She immediately took off her head scarf and tied it firmly round her waist, ready for a fight. She held the mechanic by his shirt and shouted at him.

Crowds were gathering. Some people were picking up the woman’s things and putting them back into her basket. There were tomatoes, potatoes and some fish. But her voice rose higher and higher. She said she was not going home to prepare a meal from things picked off the road. She wanted two hundred shillings in compensation.

In the confusion, Maina melted away and ran home. In the evening, he reported to his uncle what he had done. His uncle was disappointed but he offered to pay for the repair of the damaged bicycle.

(ADAPTED FROM CHIKE AND THE RIVER, BY CHINUA ACHEBE)

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1. From the first paragraph, we can tell that Odhiambo
 - A. Came from a poor family
 - B. Was easy to get along with
 - C. Liked to teach people things
 - D. Lived near the mechanic
 2. The expression “the mechanic was equal to the job” means that the mechanic was
 - A. Willing to do the job
 - B. The same as other mechanics
 - C. Better than other mechanics
 - D. Highly skilled at the job
 3. Which of the following does **not** explain why the mechanic was nicknamed ‘Doctor of bicycles’?
 - A. He turned bicycles upside down
 - B. He put life into damaged bicycles
 - C. He mended punctures and brakes
 - D. He repaired bicycles for many people
 4. If the mechanic had known that his bicycle would be ridden by a learner, he would probably have
 - A. Charged more than ten shillings
 - B. Accompanied the learner
 - C. Refused to lend it out
 - D. Warned the learner
 5. Odhiambo used to get a bicycle without paying any money because
 - A. He was trusted by the mechanic
 - B. The mechanic was his father’s tenant
 - C. He hid information from the mechanic
 - D. The mechanic had several bicycles
 6. According to the passage, a good rider is one who is able to
 - A. Ride on the main road
 - B. Whistle while riding along
 - C. Use the monkey-style
 - D. Ride over long distances

7. Which of the following best describes Maina's attitude as he rode on the main road?
 - A. Pleased
 - B. Proud
 - C. Excited
 - D. Overconfident
 8. The actual cause of Maina's accident was
 - A. The fact that he panicked
 - B. His swerving the bicycle
 - C. His hitting the electricity pole
 - D. The car that was heading towards him
 9. Odhiambo and Maina decided to report the matter to the mechanic only after
 - A. They knew they could not escape
 - B. Three spokes were broken
 - C. Failing to mend the wheel
 - D. The front wheel failed to roll
 10. Maina led the mechanic round and round because he did not
 - A. Know the actual street
 - B. Want his uncle to know the truth
 - C. Know the number of their house
 - D. Want to be taken to the police station
 11. What do the mechanic and the woman in the story have in common? They both
 - A. Have their rights
 - B. Are abusive
 - C. Are ready to fight
 - D. Are unforgiving
 12. The words 'melted away' suggest that Maina disappeared from the scene
 - A. without being noticed
 - B. Very quickly
 - C. Very confidently
 - D. Without making noise
 13. What is the most important lesson to be learnt from this passage?
 - A. Pride goes before a fall
 - B. Look before you leap
 - C. Hurry, hurry has no blessings
 - D. Treat others as you would want to be treated
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