

**Zamani College, Kaduna**  
**Holiday Assignment**  
**SS3 English Language**

**Section A**

Answer **one** question **only** from this section. Both questions carry equal marks. Your answer should not be less than **450 words**.

1. There has been a public outcry in your country against the fallen standard of education. Write an article suitable for publication on the causes of the falling standard of education, its effects and what you think can be done to improve the situation.
2. Write a story to illustrate the saying: 'Where there is a will, there is a way'.

**Section B**

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions on it.**

Birds are found almost everywhere in the world. They are not only confined to the rural areas; their heavy presence is also noticeable even in the hearts of towns and cities. In some parts of the world, some people refer to these birds as *frightful monsters*. To these people, the presence of, or calls from these birds portend evil - the owl being the popular culprit.

But birds are indeed interesting to study. One of the first things that one *notices* about them is the enormous volume of noise they make – the guinea fowls are *renowned* for this. Even while they are feeding, many birds make characteristic calls, and with practice, even without seeing them at all one can tell the *species* that are in the wood. These calls serve different useful purposes. As the birds go in search of food, they cannot but go in different directions. These calls therefore help to keep the birds together.

There are some other *occasions* when birds utter calls. For example, when a small bird sights a large bird of prey such as an eagle or a hawk it will give what is referred to as a 'flying predator' call as *an alarm* to other birds in the neighbourhood. On the ground, the cat will provoke the 'ground predator' call.

*An interesting feature of these calls* is that it is quite hard to tell where they are coming from; this helps to protect the birds from predators. Also, the alarm calls made by the small birds are rather similar, and this has a unique advantage – a signal given by any one bird is understood by all – this being a valuable form of co-operation among different species.

The very young birds would starve to death but for the calls they make. It is through the cries of these very young ones that their parents are alerted to feed them. There are many other calls that birds make in various other circumstances but the sounds that people know best and love best are the songs. During the breeding season, songs are calls made by male birds to *advertise*

their presence to other members of the species. The song to females means the presence of a potential mate and to males, it indicates the presence of a potential rival.

#### Questions

- A) What according to the passage is an owl noted for?
- B) What is the first thing that is noticeable about birds?
- C) How does a finch that is separated from the group find its way back to the fold?
- D) How do small birds escape being killed by a bird of prey?
- E) What information do birds put across in their songs?
- F) ‘... frightful monsters...’ what figure of speech is used in this expression?
- G) ‘An interesting feature of these calls...’
  - i) What grammatical name is given to the expression above?
  - ii) What is its function?
- H) For each of the following words find another word or phrase that means the same and can replace it as used in the passage.
  - i) notices
  - ii) renowned
  - iii) species
  - iv) occasions
  - v) an alarm
  - vi) advertise