

150/01

ENGLISH

FOUNDATION TIER

PAPER 1

A.M. TUESDAY, 5 June 2007

(2 Hours)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **all** questions in Section A and **two** questions in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

Section A – about 55 minutes

Section B

Q. B1 – about 25 minutes

Q. B2 – about 40 minutes

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Section A (Reading): 40 marks.

Section B (Writing): 40 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

SECTION A: 40 marks

Read carefully the passage below. Then answer **all** the questions which follow it.

This story is set in Botswana, in Africa. Mma Ramotswe and Mr J. L. B. Matekoni are a middle-aged couple who have just become engaged.

“I think that people know about our engagement,” said Mma Ramotswe. “My maid said that she had heard people talking about it in the town. Some of them even asked to see the ring you had bought me.” She held her breath. Mr J. L. B. Matekoni was looking at the ground, as he often did when he felt uncertain. He knew a ring could be very expensive indeed.

5 “A ring?” he said at last, his voice strained. “What kind of ring?”

“A diamond ring,” she said. “That is what engaged ladies are wearing these days.”

Mr J. L. B. Matekoni continued to look glumly at the ground. “Diamonds?” he said weakly. “Are you sure this is the most modern thing?”

10 “Yes,” said Mma Ramotswe firmly. “All engaged ladies in modern circles receive diamond rings these days. It is a sign that they are appreciated.”

Mr J. L. B. Matekoni looked up sharply. If this was true, then he would have no alternative but to buy a diamond ring. He would not wish Mma Ramotswe to imagine that she was not appreciated. He appreciated her greatly; he was immensely, humbly grateful to her for agreeing to marry him, and if a diamond were necessary to announce that to the world, then that was a small price to pay. He halted as the word ‘price’ crossed his mind.

15 “Diamonds are very expensive,” he ventured. “I hope that I shall have enough money.”

“But of course you will,” said Mma Ramotswe. “They have some very inexpensive ones. Or you can get terms. They have expensive ones, of course, but they also have very good ones that do not cost too much. We can go and take a look. Judgment-day Jewellers, for example. They have a good selection.” The decision was made.

20 The premises of Judgment-day Jewellers were tucked away at the end of a dusty street. Inside the shop, standing behind the counter, was the jeweller. He smiled at them. “I saw you outside,” he said. “You parked your car under that tree.”

Mr J. L. B. Matekoni introduced himself, as was polite, and then he turned to Mma Ramotswe. “This lady is now engaged to me,” he said. “She is Mma Ramotswe, and I wish to buy her a ring for this engagement.” He paused. “A diamond ring.”

The jeweller looked at him through his shifty eyes, and then glanced sideways at Mma Ramotswe. She looked back at him, and thought: *There is intelligence here. This is a clever man who cannot be trusted.*

30 “You are a fortunate man,” said the jeweller. “Not every man can find such a cheerful, fat woman to marry. There are many thin, complaining women around today. This one will make you very happy.”

Mr J. L. B. Matekoni acknowledged the compliment. “Yes,” he said. “I am a lucky man.”

35 “And now you must buy her a very big ring,” went on the jeweller. “A fat woman cannot wear a tiny ring.”

Mr J. L. B. Matekoni looked down at his shoes. “I was thinking of a medium-sized ring,” he said. “I am not a rich man.”

“I know who you are,” said the jeweller. “You can afford a good ring.”

40 Mma Ramotswe decided to intervene. “I do not want a big ring,” she said firmly. “I am not a lady to wear a big ring. I was hoping for a small ring.”

The jeweller threw her a glance. He seemed almost annoyed by her presence - as if this were a transaction between men and she was interfering.

“I’ll show you some rings,” he said, bending down to slide a drawer out of the counter below him. “Here are some good diamond rings.”

45 He placed the drawer on the top of the counter and pointed to a row of rings nestling in velvet slots. Mr J. L. B. Matekoni caught his breath. The diamonds were set in the rings in clusters: a large stone in the middle surrounded by smaller ones.

“Don’t pay any attention to what the label says,” said the jeweller, lowering his voice, “I can offer very big discounts.”

50 Mma Ramotswe peered at the tray. Then she looked up and shook her head. “These are too big,” she said. “I told you that I wanted a smaller ring. Perhaps we shall have to go to some other shop.”

The jeweller sighed. “I have some others,” he said. “I have small rings as well.”

55 He slipped the tray back into its place and extracted another. The rings on this one were considerably smaller. Mma Ramotswe pointed to a ring in the middle of the tray.

“I like that one,” she said. “Let us see that one.”

“It is not very big,” said the jeweller. “A diamond like that may easily be missed. People may not notice it.”

60 “I don’t care,” said Mma Ramotswe. “The diamond is going to be for me. It is nothing to do with other people.”

Mr J. L. B. Matekoni felt a surge of pride as she spoke. This was the woman he admired, a woman who had no time for showiness.

“I like that ring too,” he said. “Please let Mma Ramotswe try it on.”

65 The ring was passed to Mma Ramotswe, who slipped it on her finger and held out her hand for Mr J. L. B. Matekoni to examine.

“It suits you perfectly,” he said.

She smiled. “If this is the ring you would like to buy me, then I would be very happy.”

The jeweller picked up the price tag and passed it to Mr J. L. B. Matekoni. “There can be no further discount on this one,” he said. “It is already very cheap.”

70 Mr J. L. B. Matekoni was pleasantly surprised by the price. It was not expensive. Reaching into his pocket, he took out the wad of notes which he had drawn from the bank earlier that morning and paid the jeweller.

As they drove from the jeweller’s shop, Mma Ramotswe said, “You are a kind man, Mr J. L. B. Matekoni.”

(from ‘Tears of the Giraffe’ by Alexander McCall Smith)

Look again at lines 1-16.

A1. At the beginning of this extract Mma Ramotswe suggests buying an engagement ring.

How does Mr Matekoni react?

[10]

You should refer to what he does, what he feels, what he says, and what he thinks.

Look again at lines 21-49.

A2. What impressions do you get of the jeweller?

[10]

You must refer to the text to support your answer.

Look again at lines 50-74.

A3. What do you learn about Mma Ramotswe in these lines?

[10]

You should consider:

- what she does;
- what she says.

To answer this question you will need to think about the whole passage.

A4. Imagine you are Mr Matekoni. Write your diary entry for the day.

[10]

You should write about:

- your feelings when Mma Ramotswe mentioned buying a ring;
- your feelings about the jeweller;
- your feelings about the way Mma Ramotswe chose the ring.

SECTION B: 40 marks

Answer Question B1 and Question B2.

In this section you will be assessed for your writing skills, including the presentation of your work.

Take special care with handwriting, spelling and punctuation.

A guide to the amount you should write is given for each question.

B1. Describe the scene in a fish and chip shop on a busy Friday evening. [20]

You should write about a page in your answer book.

Remember that this is a test of your ability to write descriptively. You should not write a story.

B2. Choose **one** of the following titles for your writing. [20]

The quality of your writing is more important than its length. You should write about two pages in your answer book.

Either, (a) The Interview.

Or, (b) Write about a time when you broke something.

Or, (c) Write a story that begins:

I really wish I had not agreed to this, but there was no going back now.

Or, (d) The long walk home.

Or, (e) A visit to the relatives.