

SSCE JUNE 1998 ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1 THEORY QUESTION

1. You have been sent on an indefinite suspension for the part you played in a recent disturbance in which valuable school property was damaged. Write a letter to the principal of your school describing the part you played and apologizing for your involvement.

Baptist High School
P.O. Box 512
Lagos
23rd April, 1998.

The Principal
Baptist High School
P. O. Box 512
Lagos.

Dear Sir,

Letter of Apology

I write to tender my sincere apologies for the part I played in the protest held by students from the upper classes of the school on Wednesday 22nd April 1998.

The issue began on Monday, the 20th of April, 1998, when the end of term examinations started in earnest. We had successfully written the Biology paper in the morning, as well as the English paper in the afternoon. Upon returning to the hostels in the evening, we noticed that the dormitories were in darkness. To make matters worse, there was no running water as the water tank that supplies water to the hostels, and indeed the entire school, was empty, since it is dependent on the power supply for its refilling.

We, the House Captains, brought the lack of power and water to the attention of the House Masters of all five houses, namely; Bluebell, Allamanda, Rose, White and Green. We stressed the importance of having these facilities restored as soon as possible, calling their attention to the fact that the examination schedule for the following day included the almighty Mathematics, which the students required adequate rest and a comfortable environment to prepare for. We also pointed out that this was the middle of April, and although rain had fallen in some parts of the state, we were still officially in the dry season with its attendant humidity and extreme heat.

Despite all the promises of providing solutions to the matters raised, there was no respite as students had to make do with bush lamps and candles (with its associated dangers), sweltering in the heat, to try to revise the subjects slated for examination the next day.

The following day being Tuesday, students returned to the dormitories to discover the issues of no power and no water still prevailed. This made us to embark on a peaceful protest to bring these challenges to the notice of the school board in the hopes of getting a quick solution as we still had more examinations to write. The protest walk was meant to be within the school premises, however, some extremely excited students overpowered the school's gatemen, and opened the gate for unscrupulous thugs to gain entrance and destroy school property.

It was not my intention to destroy school property as I know it belongs to students and we would be the parties to lose if we no longer have these facilities. As a House Captain, I know I have greater responsibilities to the school and I channeled my energies towards calling my fellow students to order as the disturbance escalated.

I hereby humbly apologise for my part in the incident and offer to make restitution in the form of sweeping and clearing the debris from the destruction and also helping the masons and other workers as they go about effecting repairs.

Thank you in anticipation of your clemency.

Yours sincerely,

John Bassey
SS2C
House Captain, Bluebell House