

JAMB Syllabus for English Language

The aim of the JAMB Use of English Syllabus for Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), is to prepare the candidates for the Board's examination. It is designed to test their achievement of the course objectives, which are to:

1. demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the concepts of the diversity interdependence and unity of life;
2. account for continuity of life through reorganization, inheritance and evolution;
3. apply biological principles and concepts to everyday life, especially to matters affecting living things, individual, society, the environment, community health and the economy.

A. Comprehension/Summary

Topics:

- (a) description
 - (b) narration
 - (c) exposition
 - (d) argumentation/persuasion
- (i) Each of the three passages to be set (one will be a cloze test) should reflect various disciplines and be about 200 words long.
- (ii) Questions on the passages will test the following:
- (a) Comprehension of the whole or part of each passage.
 - (b) Comprehension of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, figures of speech and idioms as used in the passages.
 - (c) Coherence and logical reasoning (deductions, inferences, etc).
 - (d) Novels to be Read:
 - (i.) UTME Candidates: "In Dependence" by Sarah Ladipo Manyika
 - (ii.) DE Candidates: The Last Days at Forcados High School, A. H. Mohammed.
 - (e) Synthesis of ideas from the passages.

NOTE:

By synthesis of ideas is meant the art of combining distinct or separate pieces of information to form a complete whole.

Objectives:

Candidates should be able to:

- i. identify main points/topic sentences in passages;
- ii. determine implied meaning;

- iii. identify the grammatical functions of words, phrases, clauses and figurative/idiomatic expressions;
- iv. deduce or infer the writer's intentions including mood, attitude to the subject matter and opinion.

B. Lexis and Structure

Topics:

- (a) synonyms
- (b) antonyms
- (c) homonyms
- (d) clause and sentence patterns
- (e) word classes and their functions
- (f) mood, tense, aspect, number, agreement/concord, degree (positive, comparative and superlative) and question tags
- (g) punctuation and spelling
- (h) ordinary usage, figurative usage and idiomatic usage are to be tested.

NOTE:

Idioms to be tested shall be those that are formal and expressed in standard British English.

Objectives:

Candidates should be able to:

- i. identify words and expressions in their ordinary, figurative and idiomatic contexts;
- ii. determine similar and opposite meaning of words;
- iii. differentiate between correct and incorrect punctuation and spelling;
- iv. identify various grammatical patterns in use;
- v. interpret information conveyed in sentences.

C. Oral Forms

Topics:

- (a) Vowels (monophthongs and diphthongs)
- (b) Consonants (including clusters)
- (c) Rhymes (including homophones)
- (d) Word stress (monosyllabic and polysyllabic)
- (e) Intonation (words emphatic stress)

NOTE:

Emphatic stress involves the placement of normal stress on words in an utterance for the purpose of emphasis.

Objectives:

Candidates should be able to:

- i. make distinctions between vowel types;
- ii. differentiate between consonant types;
- iii. identify correct accentuation in individual words and connected speech.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION

SECTION A: Comprehension/Summary

Topics:

- (a) 2 comprehension passages – 10 questions, 3 marks each = 30 marks
- (b) 1 cloze passage – 10 questions, 2 marks each = 20 marks
- (c) 1 reading text – 15 questions, 1 mark each = 15 marks = 65 marks

SECTION B: Lexis Structure

Topics:

- (a) Sentence interpretation – 10 questions, 2 marks each = 20 marks
- (b) Antonyms – 10 questions, 2 marks each = 20 marks
- (c) Synonyms – 10 questions, 1 mark each = 10 marks
- (d) Sentence completion – 20 questions, 1 mark each = 20 marks = 70 marks

SECTION C: Oral Forms

Topics:

15 questions, 1 mark each = 15 marks

Total: 100 questions $65 + 70 + 15 = 150$ marks

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Attah, M. O. (2013) Practice in Spoken English for Intermediate and Advanced Learners, Maiduguri: University of Maiduguri Press

- Bangbose, A. (2002) English Lexis and Structure for Senior Secondary Schools and colleges (Revised Edition), Ibadan: Heinemann
- Banjo, A. et al (2004) New Oxford Secondary English Course Book Six for Senior Secondary Schools, Ibadan: UP Plc.
- Caesar, O. J. (2003) Essential Oral English for Schools and Colleges, Lagos: Tonad Publishers Limited
- Daniel Jones (2011) Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Egbe, D. I (1996) Mastering English Usage and Communication Skills, Lagos: Tisons
- Elugbe, B. (2000) Oral English for Schools and Colleges, Ibadan: Heinemann
- Grant, N. J. H, Nnamonu, S. Jowitt, D. (1998) Senior English Project 3, (New Edition) Harlow: Longman
- Idowu, O. O, Sogbeson, T. S, Adofo, A. K. Burgess, D. F and Burgess, L. J. (1998) Round-up English: A Complete Guide, Lagos: Longman
- Idris, U. (2001) Oral English at Your Fingertips for Schools and Colleges, Lagos, M. Youngbrain Publishers
- Igiligi, E. C. and Ogenyi, S. O. (2010) Grammar and Composition in the G.S.M. Age, Enugu: Joe Hills Production Services
- Jauro, L. B. (2013) Oral English for Schools and Colleges: A teaching and Learning Approach, Yola: Paraclete Publishers.
- Nnamonu, S. and Jowitt, D. (1989) Common Errors in English, Lagos: Longman
- Obinna, M. F. (2001) University Matriculation Use of English,(Fourth Edition) Port Harcourt: Sunray Books Limited
- Ogunsanwo, O. Duruaku, A. B.C, Ezechukwu, J and Nwachukwu, U. I (2005) Countdown English Language, (Revised Edition), Ibadan: Evans
- Olatoye, S. (2006) The Silent Teacher, Ado-Ekiti: Segun and Sons Enterprises
- Oluikpe, B. O. A, nnaemeka, B. A, Obah, T. Y, Otagburuagu, E. J. Onuigbo, S. and Ogbonna, E. A. (1998) Intensive English for Senior Secondary School 3, Onitsha: Africana – FIRST Publisher.
- Tomori, S. H. O (2000) Objective Tests for School Certificate English: Practice in Lexis, Structure and Idiom (Reprinted Edition), Ibadan: Heinemann
- Ukwuegbu, C, Okoro, O., Idris, A. U., Okebukola, F. O. and Owokade, C. O. (2002) Catch-up English for SSCE/UME, Ibadan: Heinemann