

O'LEVEL ENGLISH — SYLLABUS



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INTERIM JOINT MATRICULATION BOARD EXAMINATION (IJMBE) ORDINARY LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE SYLLABUS (REVISED 2012)

I. Introduction:

The IJMB Ordinary Level English is aimed at assessing the students' language proficiency at both global and specific levels. In terms of its requirement, the examination is at par with such standardized examination like the Senior School Certificate Examination ('O' Level English), Cambridge University 'O' Level English Examination and National Teachers' Institute Teachers' Grade II Examination.

The constraints of logistics make it impossible to include an oral component to this examination. However, the questions and the intended responses would usually be indicative of a strong recognition of the role of dialogue and normal speech as part of general fluency at this level.

II. Objective:

The overall objective of this syllabus is two-fold:

- (a) To expose students to various language experiences and skills with the main purpose of remedying their deficiency at the Secondary level English.
- (b) To organize the practice sessions and language exposure such that they will lead the students to acquire the general proficiency required for undergraduate work.

The examination will assess students' ability to:

- (a) use correct English
- (b) write about incidents in English that are appropriate to particular audiences and situations
- (c) control sentence structures accurately and in varying forms
- (d) comply with the rules of grammar, spelling and punctuation

- (e) organize materials in paragraphs that are coherent chronologically and logically
- (f) recognise implied meanings in written texts
- (g) identify and summarize relevant information from passages

III. The Examination:

The result of the examination will normally be classified along a continuum beginning from fail to distinction.

There shall be two papers for the examination itemised as follows:

Paper I: This is a structured objective testing lexis and structure. It will comprise 75 items. It carries 25 marks and **1 (one) hour** is allocated to the entire paper.

Paper II: This paper will comprise Essay Writing (Ordinary Essay and Letter from which candidates can answer **any of the 4** set questions), Comprehension and Summary. This Section carries **75 marks** and it is allocated **2¹/₂ hours**.

IV. Duration:

Topics are to be taught concurrently for 1 year.

SUGGESTIONS:

- i. The teaching approach should vary from what the students are used to in secondary school; for example, the grammatical items contained under lexis and structure should be acquired in contexts provided by means of reading passages. That is to say, items should not be broken down in isolation.
- ii. Letter writing should also follow the "model approach" where students acquire the skill following model essays and letters.
- iii. Assistant examiners should have an input in setting the examination questions.

DETAILED SYLLABUS

FIRST SEMESTER SYLLABUS

S/NO:	TOPICS AND CONTENTS	ACTIVITIES	DURATION
1.	<p>LEXIS AND STRUCTURE</p> <p>(a) Lexis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synonyms - Antonyms - Registers - Figurative Expressions - Idiomatic Expressions <p>(b) Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tenses - Agreement - Articles - Modifications - Possessive Forms - Collocations - Complementation Patterns - Tag Forms - Direct/Indirect Speech - Phrasal Verbs - Active/Passive Voice, etc. 	<p>Activities are to be determined by the class tutors. These should be in the forms of class assignments, drills, homework and tests</p>	<p>4weeks/24hrs</p> <p>6weeks/36hrs</p>
2.	<p>ESSAY WRITING</p> <p>(a) Letter Writing:</p> <p>i. Informal</p> <p>ii. Semi-Formal</p> <p>iii. Formal</p>	<p>The candidates should demonstrate the following requirements (in addition to all those in the Essay).</p> <p>Formal features and their proper layout/style: addressee, date, title, salutation, valediction, signature and name</p> <p>Marking will be done under the following headings in order of weighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expression - Organisation - Content - Mechanical Accuracy 	<p>2weeks/12hrs</p> <p>2weeks/12hrs</p> <p>2weeks/12hrs</p>

Total 96hrs

SECOND SEMESTER SYLLABUS

S/NO:	TOPICS AND CONTENTS	ACTIVITIES	DURATION
	<p>(b) Essay:</p> <p>i. Narrative ii. Descriptive iii. Argumentative / Speech iv. Expository, Creative Writing, Article</p>	<p>The candidate should demonstrate knowledge of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registers - Paragraph Development i. Thesis Statement ii. Topic Sentence iii. Linking Devices iv. Cohesion/Coherence v. Paragraph Unity vi. Brainstorming - Target Audience - Sentence Types/Varieties - Familiarity with Subject Matter - Figurative Expression - Punctuation <p>Candidates will be assessed under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expression - Organisation - Content - Mechanical Accuracy 	<p>2weeks/12hrs 2weeks/12hrs 2weeks/12hrs 2weeks/12hrs</p>
3.	<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>Summarizing entails stating the salient points of a text of any given material.</p> <p>The following are the skills in summary writing:</p> <p>a) Proper understanding of the passage</p> <p>b) Understanding the demands of the questions</p> <p>c) Extracting relevant materials</p> <p>d) Presenting the materials adequately</p> <p>e) Ensuring that responses are written in the candidate's own</p>	<p>Practice in summarizing passages of general interest reflecting areas of human life: health, education, agriculture, politics, history, sports, gender issues, climate change, law, and computer.</p> <p>Information Communication Technology (ICT) etc.</p>	<p>4weeks/24hrs</p>

	words as much as possible		
4.	<p>COMPREHENSION</p> <p>There will be two passages of average length (between 350 and 400 words each). The passages will represent a variety of registers. Extracts will be from:</p> <p>a) A modern novel</p> <p>b) A magazine / newspaper article</p> <p>c) A textbook</p> <p>d) A biography</p> <p>e) An article in the encyclopedia, etc. reflecting areas of human life like: health, environment, education, politics, sports, entertainment, crime, etc.</p>	<p>Comprehension exercises meant to test candidates' ability to perform creditably in all or most of the following comprehension strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inference deduction - Finding appropriate equivalents for selected words and phrases - Understanding the factual content - Figurative language - Grammar - Cause and effect - Interpretation - Projection - Evaluation - Abstract/Concrete - Recasting phrases or sentences into grammatical alternatives 	4weeks/24hrs

Total

96hrs

Recommended Texts / Reference Materials:

1. Oxford English Dictionary (Advanced Learner)
2. Longman's Dictionary of Contemporary English
3. Intensive English SS I – SS III
4. Improving Your Performance in English by J.S. Aliyu
5. Communicate English by Isaac Olaofe
6. Distinction in English Language and Communication by K. Animasaun and G. Ibileye
7. General Reading of Novels, Newspaper Articles, Sample Letters and Extracts