INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF EAST AFRICA
'Learning to Succeed'

HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS - APRIL 2025

PROGRAMME: HEC
YEAR/SEM: YEAR 1/SEMESTER 1
COURSE CODE: FDN 1105
NAME: ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

DATE:
TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

SECTION A

Answer all questions. Each question carries 4 marks.

Question 1:

Provide a synonym for each of the following words: *generous, dark, heal, attention* (2 marks)

Provide an antonym for each of the following words: *aggressive, unclear, exaggerate, truthful* (2 marks)

Question 2:

Identify the part of speech of the underlined words in the following sentence:
She swiftly *completed the* challenging *task and submitted it before the deadline.* (4 marks)

Question 3:

Rewrite the following sentence using the correct order of adjectives:
She bought a (red, small, beautiful, silk) dress for the party. (4 marks)

Question 4:

Rewrite the following sentences by placing the adverb in the correct position:
a) She speaks French. (fluently) (2 marks)
b) He has finished his work. (just) (2 marks)

Question 5:

Fill in the blanks with the correct tense of the verbs in brackets:
a) By the time we arrived, the guests _____ (leave). (2 marks)
b) He usually _____ (go) to bed early, but yesterday he _____ (stay) up late. (2 marks)

Question 6:

Write a well-structured thesis statement for the following essay topic:
"*The impact of social media on academic performance.*" (4 marks)

Question 7:

Write the appropriate salutation and closing statement for a formal letter addressed to a university registrar requesting a transcript. (4 marks)

Question 8:

Complete the following sentences using the correct conditional form:
a) If I had studied harder, I _____ (pass) the exam. (2 marks)
b) If she _____ (be) taller, she could join the basketball team. (2 marks)

Question 9:

Rewrite the following sentences using the indicated word:
a) *He was ill, but he attended the meeting.* (Use: Despite) 2 marks
b) *She works hard, yet she struggles financially.* (Use: Although) 2 marks

Question 10:

Complete the following sentences correctly:
a) No sooner _____ the teacher entered the class _____ the students stood up. (2 marks)
b) Hardly _____ we left home _____ it started raining. (1 mark)
c) No matter _____ she tries, she cannot please everyone. (1 mark)

Question 11:

Define an adverb and an adjective. (2 marks)

(b) Provide two sentences: one using an adverb and one using an adjective. (2 marks)

Question 12:

Identify the adverb and adjective in the following sentences and state their functions. (4 marks)

(a) She speaks **fluently** in French. (2 marks)

(b) The weather is extremely cold today. (2 marks)

Question 13:

- (a) Mention four types of adverbs. (2 marks)
- (b) Give an example sentence for two of the types mentioned. (2 marks)

Question 14:

Define a preposition and explain its function in a sentence. (2 marks)

- (a) Provide two examples of prepositions. (2 marks)
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Question 15:

Identify the prepositions in the following sentences. (4 marks)

- (a) The book is on the table. (2 marks)
- (b) She walked through the park in the evening. (2 marks)

Question 16:

Explain the importance of pronouns in sentence construction. (2 marks)

- (a) Define a pronoun and give two examples. (2 marks)
- (b) Rewrite the following sentence using a pronoun: "John and Mary went to the store because John wanted to buy a gift for Mary." (1 marks)

Question 17:

Rewrite the following sentences in the simple present tense. (4 marks)

- (a) She was studying for the exam last night. (2 marks)
- (b) They played football in the evening. (2 marks)

Question 18:

Convert the following sentences into the past continuous tense. (4 marks)

- (a) He eats his lunch quickly. (2 marks)
- (b) She writes a letter to her friend. (2 marks)

Question 19:

Rewrite the following sentences in the future perfect tense. (4 marks)

- (a) They finish their assignments before the deadline. (2 marks)
- (b) She attends the conference next week. (2 marks)

Question 20:

Rewrite the following sentences in the future perfect tense. (4 marks)

- (a) They finish their assignments before the deadline. (2 marks)
- (b) She attends the conference next week. (2 marks)

SECTION B

Choose three (3) questions only. Each question carries 20 marks.

Question 1:

Write a short paragraph (100-150 words) using at least five pairs of synonyms and antonyms effectively to express contrast in meaning. (20 marks)

Question 2:

Write a short paragraph (100-150 words) using at least five pairs of synonyms and antonyms effectively to express contrast in meaning. (20 marks)

Question 3:

Write a 300-word essay on the topic: "*The Role of Communication in Academic Success.*" Ensure you include an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. (20 marks)

Question 4:

Write a formal letter to the Dean of Students at your university, requesting permission to organize a students' debate competition. Follow the correct format and include all necessary details. (20 marks)

Question 5:

Construct five sentences using each type of conditional (zero, first, second, third, and mixed). Explain when each type is used. (20 marks)

Question 6:

Write a short argumentative paragraph (100-150 words) on whether online learning is better than traditional learning. Use "*in spite of,*" "*despite,*" *and* "*although*" at least once in your writing. (20 marks)

Question 7:

Construct five original sentences using each of the following:

No sooner...than (4 marks)

Hardly...had...when (4 marks)

No matter how... (4 marks)

No matter what... (4 marks)

No matter where... (4 marks)

Question 8:

Rewrite the following story (150 words) by changing it from past tense to present tense:
Yesterday, the sun rose early. The birds chirped happily as I walked to school. I met an old friend, and we talked for hours. In the evening, I went home and had dinner with my family. (20 marks)

Question 9:

You are given the topic "*The Importance of English Proficiency in Global Careers.*" Write a well-structured 300-word essay discussing this topic with relevant examples. (20 marks)

Question 10:

Rewrite the following story (150 words) by changing it from past tense to present tense:
Yesterday, the sun rose early. The birds chirped happily as I walked to school. I met an old friend, and we talked for hours. In the evening, I went home and had dinner with my family. (20 marks)