INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF EAST AFRICA
'Learning to Succeed'

HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS - AUGUST 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:

Define an adverb. Give two examples used in sentences. 4 marks

Question 2:

Rewrite the sentence by adding a suitable adjective:
The man bought a car. 4 marks

Question 3:

What is a pronoun? Rewrite this sentence by replacing the noun with a pronoun:
Sarah and Kevin went to Sarah and Kevin's school. 4 marks

Question 4:

Write a simple sentence about your favorite food. 4 marks

Question 5:

Write a compound sentence using the conjunction "but." 4 marks

Question 6:

Define an interjection. Write a complex sentence using an interjection. 4 marks

Question 7:

What is paragraphing in writing? State two reasons why it is important. 4 marks

Question 8:

Identify the preposition in the sentence and explain its use:
The book is under the table. 4 marks

Question 9:

Use "in spite of" to combine the following sentences:
He was tired. He finished his assignment. 4 marks

Question 10:

Use "despite" to rewrite the sentence:
It was raining. They continued playing football. 4 marks

Question 11:

Use "although" to combine the following:
She studied hard. She didn't pass the exam. 4 marks

Question 12:

Rewrite using “no sooner… than”:
I closed the door. It started raining. 4 marks

Question 13:

Identify the adverb in the sentence and state its type:
She quickly left the classroom. 4 marks

Question 14:

Write a sentence with an adjective describing a place. 4 marks

Question 15:

Write a sentence using a personal pronoun and a possessive pronoun. 4 marks

Question 16:

1. Distinguish between a simple sentence and a compound sentence. Give one example of each. 4 marks

Question 17:

Use “despite” in a sentence of your own. 4 marks

Question 18:

Use “no sooner” in a sentence of your own. 4 marks

Question 19:

Identify and explain the role of the adjective in this sentence:
The noisy students were punished. 4 marks

Question 20:

Identify the tense used in the sentence and justify your answer:
He will have completed his course by next year. 4 marks

SECTION B

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

Question 1:

Write a short composition (about 150 words) describing a day at university. Use **at least five adverbs** to describe how actions took place. Underline the adverbs used. 20 marks

Question 2:

Explain what adjectives are and their role in sentence construction. Then, write five sentences using different types of adjectives (e.g., quality, quantity, demonstrative, possessive, and interrogative). 20 marks

Question 3:

Discuss the different types of pronouns. Give at least **two examples** for each type and show how they are used in sentences. 20 marks

Question 4:

Write a short story (around 150–200 words) about an unexpected event. Use **at least two examples** of each: adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions. Underline them and label them accordingly. 20 marks

Question 5:

Explain the importance of paragraphing in academic writing. Include a poorly paragraphed paragraph and then rewrite it correctly using proper structure. 20 marks

Question 6:

Choose five prepositions and explain their meanings using diagrams or visual examples where possible. Also write a sentence for each. 20 marks

Question 7:

Write a narrative paragraph using *no sooner* and *hardly had* to show quick sequences of events. Explain how these linkers help create dramatic effect in storytelling. 20 marks

Question 8:

Complete the following sentences using *although, despite, in spite of, hardly had,* or *no sooner*:

a) _____ she was sick, she came to class. 4 marks
b) _____ the heavy rain, the match continued. 4 marks
c) _____ I had closed the door than the power went off. 4 marks
d) _____ had I spoken when the room fell silent. 4 marks
e) _____ being tired, he finished his work. 4 marks

Question 9:

Complete the paragraph below by filling in the blanks with the most suitable linker from the box. Use **each word only once**. Each blank carries **2 marks**.

Word Bank : although, but, despite, in spite of, hardly had, no sooner, although, despite, but, in spite of.

It was the final week of exams, _____ James had not slept properly for days. He was anxious about his last paper, _____ he pretended to be calm in front of his friends. _____ having studied all night, he still felt unprepared.

He walked slowly to the examination room, _____ his legs felt weak. _____ had he sat down than the invigilator handed him the question paper. The first question looked familiar, _____ he couldn't remember the details.

He took a deep breath and started writing. _____ the noise outside, he managed to concentrate. The paper was tough, _____ James remained focused till the end. He submitted his script confidently, _____ the challenges he had faced. 20 marks

Question 10:

Fill in the blanks using the most appropriate **adverbs, adjectives, interjections, or pronouns** from the word bank. Use each word only once. Each blank carries 2 marks.

It was a/an _____ morning at the nature park. My friends and I had planned a picnic, and _____ were all excited. As soon as we arrived, _____ unpacked the food and laid it on a mat. _____! The view of the mountains took our breath away.

My friend Jonah walked _____ toward a tree to hang the speaker. He tripped over a root and screamed, "_____!" Luckily, _____ managed to hold the speaker without dropping it.

Later, Sarah opened the cake box _____ and started serving. Everyone was hungry. The cake looked _____ and tasted even better. _____ had a great time and promised to return next weekend. 20 marks