

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
NATIONAL EXAMINATION COUNCIL OF TANZANIA  
GRADE A TEACHERS' CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**

**691**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

**Time: 3 Hours.**

**ANSWER**

**Year: 2003**

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**Instructions**

1. This paper consists of sections **A**, **B** and **C**.
2. Answer **all** questions in sections A and **two (2)** questions from each sections B and C.
3. Mobile phones and unauthorized materials are **not allowed** in the examination room.
4. Write your **Examination Number** on every page of your answer **booklet(s)**.

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1. List four purposes of teaching English as a foreign language to children.

Teaching English equips children with a language that is used in education from secondary school onwards in Tanzania. This early preparation ensures they can follow lessons and perform well in subjects taught in English later.

It allows children to communicate beyond their native language, enabling interaction with people from different regions or countries and fostering intercultural understanding.

English provides access to a wide range of educational materials, such as books, videos, and online resources, that might not be available in their mother tongue.

Learning English from an early age increases future career opportunities, as many jobs in Tanzania and internationally require proficiency in the language.

2. Mention four environmental factors that can arouse a child's interest in reading.

A classroom or home filled with colorful books and reading materials attracts children's attention and motivates them to explore.

Creating a comfortable reading area with good lighting and seating encourages children to spend more time reading in a relaxed environment.

Seeing adults or older children read regularly sets a positive example, showing that reading is an enjoyable and valuable activity.

Displaying posters, charts, and labels around the room provides constant exposure to printed words, sparking curiosity about reading.

3. Give four strategies for helping children to read.

Introducing letter sounds before whole words helps children decode unfamiliar words by sounding them out.

Reading aloud to children daily models correct pronunciation, pacing, and expression, which they can imitate.

Using picture books allows children to link images with words, helping them understand meaning and context while reading.

Providing regular opportunities for children to practice reading independently builds confidence and improves fluency.

4. Outline four factors that hinder communication in pre-primary classes.

Large class sizes make it difficult for teachers to interact meaningfully with every child, reducing opportunities for effective communication.

Language differences between the teacher and children can cause misunderstandings if the teacher uses unfamiliar vocabulary.

Lack of visual aids can make lessons harder to understand, especially for children still developing their language skills.

Background noise from inside or outside the classroom can distract children and prevent them from hearing instructions clearly.

5. State why children learn syllables and give three ways of teaching them.

Children learn syllables to help them break down words into smaller, manageable parts. This improves their ability to read and pronounce words correctly.

One way to teach syllables is through clapping hands for each syllable in a word, making learning physical and fun.

Another method is using visual aids such as flashcards with words split into syllables, allowing children to see the division.

A third method is singing songs or rhymes that emphasize syllable breaks, helping children internalize the rhythm of words.

6. Mention two ways to teach pre-school children to read words and explain two importance of teaching reading.

One way is using phonics, where children learn the sounds of individual letters and blend them to form words. This builds strong decoding skills.

Another way is the whole word method, where children learn to recognize entire words by sight, which speeds up reading of common words.

Teaching reading is important because it opens access to knowledge, allowing children to learn from books and other resources.

It also builds confidence, as children who can read feel more capable and independent in their learning.

7. Give the meaning of writing in pre-school education and explain two importance of teaching writing.  
In pre-school education, writing means the ability to produce letters, words, and sentences using correct shapes and spacing to communicate ideas.

Teaching writing is important because it develops fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination, which are essential for many other school activities.

It also allows children to express their ideas and creativity in a permanent form, enabling them to share thoughts and record information.

8. Mention four materials a teacher needs to develop pre-writing skills.  
Pencils or crayons help children practice holding and controlling a writing tool.

Paper or writing books provide space for drawing, tracing, and practicing letters.

Tracing worksheets guide children's hands in forming letters and shapes accurately.

Alphabet charts offer a constant visual reference for correct letter shapes and orientation.

9. Explain the importance of teaching reading letters to children.  
Teaching children to read letters is important because it forms the foundation for reading words and sentences. Without letter recognition, word reading is not possible.

It improves spelling skills by helping children understand how letters combine to form words.

Letter reading builds confidence in early learners, as they can identify symbols they see in books and their environment.

It also supports communication by giving children the tools to decode and understand written messages.

10. Write the correct English words for: (i) /bɔɪ/ (ii) /tʃaɪld/ (iii) /'ɛlɪfənt/

The correct word for /bɔɪ/ is “boy.” This is a simple noun used to describe a male child, and it is one of the common basic vocabulary words taught in early English learning.

The correct word for /tʃaɪld/ is “child.” This is a singular noun that refers to a young human being before they reach adulthood. It is also a fundamental word in pre-primary education contexts.

The correct word for /'ɛlɪfənt/ is “elephant.” This is a noun referring to a large mammal with a trunk, and it is often used in teaching as part of animal vocabulary lessons for children.

11. Describe five conditions necessary for teaching vocabulary to pre-school children.

A quiet environment is necessary so that children can hear new words clearly without background noise interfering with their understanding.

The teacher must use simple, age-appropriate words that match the children’s cognitive level to ensure comprehension.

Repetition is important because hearing a word many times helps children remember it and use it confidently.

Visual aids such as pictures, real objects, and gestures make it easier for children to connect the word with its meaning.

Active engagement, such as asking children to say the word, use it in a sentence, or act it out, helps reinforce learning.

12. Give four language aspects a child should learn in English as a foreign language.

Children should learn pronunciation so that they can say words clearly and be understood by others.

They should develop vocabulary knowledge to communicate effectively and understand what they read or hear.

Grammar is important for constructing sentences that follow the correct language rules, making communication accurate.

Listening comprehension allows children to understand spoken English in conversations, instructions, and stories.

13. State five factors that may hinder listening ability in children.

Background noise in the environment can distract children and prevent them from focusing on what is being said.

Hearing problems, such as partial hearing loss, make it difficult for children to catch sounds accurately.

A lack of interest in the topic being discussed may cause children to lose focus and stop paying attention.

Poor seating arrangement in the classroom, such as sitting too far from the teacher, can affect the ability to hear clearly.

Language barriers occur when the speaker uses words or structures the child does not understand, making listening harder.

14. Explain four methods of teaching children appropriately.

Using play-based learning, where lessons are integrated into games, helps children learn without feeling pressured.

Incorporating storytelling makes lessons engaging and helps children learn vocabulary in meaningful contexts.

Using visual aids such as charts, flashcards, and real objects makes abstract concepts more concrete and easier to understand.

Group activities encourage peer learning and allow children to practice language through interaction with classmates.

15. State five importance of preparing a lesson plan.

A lesson plan ensures the lesson follows a logical sequence from introduction to conclusion, preventing confusion.

It helps the teacher prepare all necessary materials in advance, making the lesson smooth and organized.

Planning lessons in advance allows the teacher to allocate time properly so each activity gets the right attention.

It enables the teacher to anticipate possible challenges and prepare solutions or alternative activities.

It serves as a record for the future, helping improve lessons based on past successes and challenges.

16. Analyse four types of evaluation used in education.

Formative evaluation is done during the learning process to check progress and provide feedback for improvement.

Summative evaluation takes place at the end of a learning period to assess whether learning objectives have been achieved.

Diagnostic evaluation is used at the beginning of a course or topic to identify learners' strengths and weaknesses.

Continuous assessment involves regular testing or observation over time, giving a more complete picture of a learner's development.