

**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: 2004

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. Mention four skills that a child must have before learning to read.

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, recognize, and manipulate individual sounds in words. This skill is important because reading requires matching written letters to the sounds they represent, and without it, decoding words becomes difficult.

Letter recognition is the ability to identify letters of the alphabet and distinguish them from one another. This skill allows children to connect printed symbols to their sounds, which is a key step in reading.

Listening comprehension is the ability to understand spoken language. A child with strong listening comprehension can follow stories and instructions, which helps them understand the meaning of what they read later on.

Visual discrimination is the ability to notice differences between shapes, patterns, and letters. This helps children distinguish similar-looking letters like 'b' and 'd', preventing confusion when reading.

2. Identify four early writing activities children can take part in.

Drawing shapes and pictures helps develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. This strengthens the muscles used for holding a pencil and improves control over writing movements.

Tracing letters on paper or in sand allows children to practice correct letter formation while building familiarity with letter shapes. This prepares them for independent writing.

Copying short words or their own names from a board or chart gives children practice in spelling and builds confidence in their writing abilities.

Coloring within outlined shapes or patterns improves precision and control, which are necessary for neat handwriting later on.

3. Briefly explain four problems pre-primary teachers face when teaching English.

A shortage of teaching resources such as flashcards, storybooks, and audio materials limits the variety and effectiveness of lessons. Without adequate resources, it is harder to teach vocabulary and pronunciation in engaging ways.

Large class sizes make it difficult to give each child enough time to practice speaking and listening. This can result in some children lagging behind in learning progress.

Language barriers arise when children enter school without any exposure to English. Teachers must start from the basics, which can slow the pace of learning for the whole class.

Limited training in early childhood English teaching methods means some teachers may rely on outdated approaches that are less effective for young learners.

4. Mention four criteria for selecting teaching aids for an English lesson.

Relevance is important because the teaching aid should directly support the lesson objective. For example, a chart showing fruits should be used when teaching fruit vocabulary, not unrelated topics.

Age appropriateness ensures the aid matches the child's level of understanding. Materials should be simple, colorful, and easy to handle to hold the interest of young learners.

Durability is key in schools where resources are shared among many learners. Teaching aids made from strong materials last longer and save replacement costs.

Availability matters because teachers should choose aids that are easy to access or make locally so they can be replaced or reproduced without difficulty.

5. List four ways of teaching syllables to pre-school children.

Clapping hands for each syllable in a word makes syllable counting a physical and fun activity, helping children hear the rhythm of words.

Using visual aids such as flashcards with words divided into syllables allows children to see and understand how words can be broken into parts.

Singing songs that emphasize syllable breaks helps children learn naturally through repetition and melody.

Playing games such as matching pictures to the number of syllables in their names makes learning interactive and enjoyable.

6. Describe four strategies a teacher can use to help children listen and respond.

Storytelling captures children's attention and trains them to follow events closely, improving both listening and comprehension.

Playing listening games like "Simon Says" encourages children to listen carefully for specific instructions before acting, building concentration.

Asking open-ended questions after an activity prompts children to think about what they heard and respond meaningfully.

Using songs with actions keeps children engaged and teaches them to respond to cues in the lyrics, enhancing their listening skills.

7. Differentiate listening from hearing.

Hearing is the passive process of detecting sound through the ears without necessarily paying attention. A child may hear background noise without processing it.

Listening is an active process that requires paying attention to sounds, understanding their meaning, and responding appropriately. It involves focus, interpretation, and memory.

8. State four factors for effective listening.

A quiet environment ensures that children can focus on the speaker without being distracted by background noise.

Clear speech from the speaker makes it easier for children to understand the message. Pronouncing words clearly and speaking at a moderate pace supports comprehension.

Maintaining eye contact helps keep children engaged and shows them visual cues such as facial expressions and gestures.

Relevant and interesting content holds the child's attention, making them more willing to listen attentively.

9. Explain four factors that influence language development in early childhood.

The home environment plays a major role, as children exposed to frequent conversations, storytelling, and songs tend to develop language faster.

Health and nutrition affect brain development, which in turn influences a child's ability to learn and use language effectively.

Social interaction with peers and adults provides opportunities to practice language in different contexts, improving vocabulary and grammar.

Exposure to multiple languages can shape language development. While it may slow initial vocabulary growth in each language, it often results in strong multilingual skills over time.

10. Name four ways to assess a child's ability to speak in English.

One way is through one-on-one conversations with the child, where the teacher asks questions and observes how well the child can respond using correct words and sentence structures. This method allows the teacher to assess fluency, vocabulary, and confidence in speaking.

Another way is to use role-play activities where children act out everyday situations, such as buying something in a shop or greeting visitors. This gives insight into how children can use English in realistic and meaningful contexts.

Group discussions on familiar topics allow the teacher to see how children interact with peers, contribute to conversations, and use English for turn-taking. This method also shows whether the child can listen and respond appropriately to others.

Story retelling is another method where the child listens to a short story and then tells it in their own words. This assesses their ability to recall details, use correct grammar, and structure sentences effectively in English.

11. Explain five importance of identifying a child's English ability at entry to pre-primary school.

It allows teachers to place children in the right level of instruction from the start, ensuring lessons match their abilities and learning needs. Without this, some children may be overwhelmed or under-challenged.

Early identification helps detect speech or language difficulties that may require specialist support. Addressing these issues early can prevent them from affecting overall academic progress.

It enables the teacher to design lesson plans that address specific weaknesses while building on strengths, making learning more targeted and effective.

Parents receive clear information about their child's language abilities, which helps them support learning at home through appropriate activities and materials.

It also provides a baseline for measuring progress over time, allowing teachers to see how much a child has improved and where further support is needed.

12. Give five indicators that a child has developed speaking skills.

The child can express ideas clearly and in complete sentences, making it easy for others to understand them without repeated clarification.

They can use a variety of vocabulary words appropriately, showing that they have been exposed to and retained new language.

They pronounce words correctly and use proper intonation, making their speech smooth and pleasant to listen to.

They can hold a conversation by asking and answering questions relevantly, demonstrating both speaking and listening skills.

They can adapt their speech depending on the situation or listener, such as speaking more formally to a teacher and more casually to friends.

13. Analyse five importance of teaching reading letters to children.

Reading letters is the foundation of literacy, as it allows children to recognize symbols that represent sounds. Without letter recognition, reading words would not be possible.

It improves spelling skills, as children learn how letters combine to form words and can reproduce those patterns in writing.

Letter reading increases reading fluency because children can quickly identify letters and blend their sounds to read words smoothly.

It builds confidence in early learners, as they feel proud when they can identify letters in books, signs, and labels around them.

It prepares children for higher-level reading tasks, such as reading sentences and paragraphs, by giving them the basic building blocks of written language.

14. Evaluate five importance of preparing a lesson plan.

A lesson plan provides a clear structure for the lesson, ensuring that teaching flows logically from one stage to the next. This prevents confusion for both the teacher and the learners.

It allows the teacher to prepare and organize teaching materials in advance, ensuring that all necessary resources are available when needed.

Time management is easier with a lesson plan, as the teacher knows exactly how much time to allocate for each activity, avoiding rushed or incomplete lessons.

It helps the teacher anticipate possible challenges, such as difficult concepts or limited resources, and prepare alternative strategies or backup activities.

It serves as a record for future reference, enabling teachers to evaluate which parts of the lesson were successful and which need improvement.

15. Describe five ways to assess children's ability to pronounce letters and words.

One method is having the child repeat words after the teacher, which allows for direct comparison between the model and the child's pronunciation.

Using picture cards and asking the child to name what they see reveals how they pronounce familiar words, making it easier to detect specific sound errors.

Engaging children in singing songs and reciting rhymes provides a natural way to hear their pronunciation in connected speech rather than isolated words.

Having the child read aloud from a simple text shows how they pronounce words in a continuous reading flow, highlighting fluency and accuracy.

Recording the child's speech for later review allows the teacher to analyze pronunciation in detail and track changes over time.

16. Suggest five strategies to encourage English speaking in young children.

Creating a classroom environment where English is used for common instructions encourages regular and natural speaking practice.

Organizing role-play activities gives children a chance to use English in real-life scenarios, making the language more practical and meaningful.

Pairing children for speaking activities ensures that even shy learners have opportunities to practice in a less intimidating setting.

Praising and rewarding children when they speak English builds confidence and motivation to keep using the language.

Introducing interactive games such as “Guess the Word” makes speaking English fun and reduces fear of making mistakes.