

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA**  
**GRADE A TEACHER CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

691

**Time: 3 Hours**

**ANSWERS**

**Year: 2015**

**Instructions**

1. This paper consists of section A and B.
2. Answer all questions.

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1. (a) What is meant by the term “language learning”?

Language learning is the conscious process through which individuals acquire the ability to understand and use a language. It involves formal instruction, where learners are taught vocabulary, grammar rules, sentence structures, pronunciation, and usage of the language. In preschool children, language learning often takes place through structured lessons, practice activities, and guided interaction.

(b) Briefly explain the difference between language learning and language acquisition.

Language learning is a deliberate and structured process. It involves the use of textbooks, lesson plans, and instruction to help learners understand the mechanics of a language. Learners are aware that they are learning and make conscious efforts to understand and use the language.

Language acquisition, on the other hand, is a natural and subconscious process. Children acquire language by being exposed to it in daily interactions without formal teaching. It is how children learn their mother tongue—through observation, listening, and imitation.

2. Mention four strategies you would use to help children to read.

Reading aloud to children allows them to hear correct pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation, helping them become familiar with how words sound and are structured.

Using picture books stimulates interest and helps children connect visuals with printed words, building their understanding of meaning in context.

Playing phonics games teaches sound-letter correspondence, enabling children to decode words and build strong reading foundations.

Encouraging shared reading activities allows children to read along with the teacher or peers, increasing confidence and reinforcing word recognition.

3. Briefly describe four purposes of teaching English language as a foreign language to a child.

Teaching English as a foreign language helps children communicate in a global context, expanding their ability to connect with others worldwide.

It prepares children for formal education, where English is often the medium of instruction, especially in higher grades.

It provides access to a wide range of educational resources such as books, videos, and online materials that are predominantly in English.

It improves future employment and academic opportunities, as English is a key language in many professions and academic fields.

4. Outline four factors that may hinder communication in a class of pre-school children.

Language differences between the teacher and children can lead to misunderstanding and difficulty in delivering instructions clearly.

Poor listening skills caused by lack of concentration or hearing problems may prevent children from understanding spoken messages.

Emotional factors such as fear, anxiety, or low self-esteem can hinder a child's willingness to express themselves freely.

Environmental distractions such as noise or overcrowded classrooms may interfere with message clarity and concentration.

5. Define the following terms:

(a) Language development: Language development is the process through which children acquire and improve their ability to understand and use language in communication. It includes the growth of vocabulary, sentence structure, and conversation skills.

(b) Communication: Communication is the process of exchanging information, thoughts, or emotions between individuals using verbal, non-verbal, or written forms.

(c) Vowel: A vowel is a speech sound produced without any significant constriction of the airflow in the vocal tract, typically represented by the letters a, e, i, o, and u in English.

(d) Consonant: A consonant is a speech sound produced with some form of constriction or closure in the vocal tract, represented by all letters in the alphabet except vowels.

6. (a) Why do children learn syllables?

Children learn syllables to improve their pronunciation and fluency. Syllables help them break words into manageable parts, making reading and speaking easier. It also strengthens their phonemic awareness and aids in spelling and word decoding.

(b) Show three ways you could use to teach syllables to pre-school children.

Clapping syllables: The teacher says a word and the children clap once for each syllable, helping them identify the number of syllables.

Using visual aids: Words are split into syllables using flashcards or charts to show how words are formed from syllables.

Syllable sorting games: Children group pictures or objects based on the number of syllables in their names, reinforcing the concept in a playful way.

7. (a) Name two ways you could use to teach pre-school children to read words.

Using flashcards with word and picture pairs allows children to recognize words through repeated exposure.

Reading songs and rhymes with repetitive vocabulary help children memorize common words and develop word recognition skills.

(b) Briefly explain the importance of teaching reading words to children (give two points).

It builds a foundation for reading fluency by helping children identify and understand frequently used words.

It enhances comprehension skills, as children who recognize more words can focus on understanding the content rather than decoding each word.

8. (a) What is the meaning of the term “writing” with regard to pre-school children?

Writing is the act of forming letters, words, or symbols to represent language and communicate ideas. For pre-school children, writing includes scribbling, drawing shapes, and gradually forming legible letters and words.

(b) Describe the importance of teaching writing skills to children.

Writing promotes fine motor development as children learn to control hand movements through pencil handling and letter formation.

It supports language development by allowing children to express thoughts, describe experiences, and communicate ideas through written form.

9. Mention any four materials which a teacher needs for developing pre-writing skills.

Crayons and pencils help children practice grip and hand control needed for writing.

Drawing books or worksheets offer space to practice shapes, lines, and early writing patterns.

Tracing cards guide children in forming letters and shapes, improving coordination and recognition.

Playdough or modeling clay strengthens finger muscles, preparing the hand for better pencil control.

10. (a) Briefly elaborate the importance of teaching reading letters to children.

Teaching reading letters helps children understand that each letter represents a specific sound, which is critical for word formation and pronunciation. It forms the base of phonics and prepares children for reading words and sentences confidently.

(b) Write into normal English spelling the following transcribed words:

- (i) /bɔɪ/ – boy
- (ii) /tʃaɪld/ – child
- (iii) /ɛlɪfənt/ – elephant

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

Use of concrete objects helps children associate words with real-life items, making learning more meaningful and lasting.

Visual aids like pictures and drawings provide context and visual representation of words, aiding memory and understanding.

Use of stories and songs introduces vocabulary in a natural and enjoyable context, reinforcing word usage and meaning.

Repetition and reinforcement are necessary for retention. Regular exposure helps children memorize new words effectively.

Interactive activities such as role play and games encourage active participation and word usage in real situations.

Here is the detailed explanation for questions 12 to 16, with each point explained clearly and in its own paragraph, just as you prefer:

12. Analyze the language aspects which a child should learn in English language as a foreign language (give four points).

Vocabulary development is a fundamental aspect. Children need to learn a variety of words to communicate effectively. Building a strong vocabulary allows children to name objects, describe actions, and express their thoughts. Teachers should introduce new words through pictures, stories, games, and everyday conversations to ensure children understand and remember them.

Grammar and sentence structure are also critical. Children must learn how to arrange words properly to form meaningful sentences. Understanding concepts like subject-verb agreement, tenses, articles, and

prepositions helps children to construct grammatically correct sentences. This makes their spoken and written communication clearer and more effective.

Pronunciation is another important aspect. It involves teaching children how to produce English sounds correctly. This includes articulation of vowels, consonants, stress patterns, and intonation. Correct pronunciation ensures that children are understood when they speak and helps prevent miscommunication.

Listening comprehension is essential in language learning. Children should be trained to understand spoken English, including instructions, questions, and conversations. This skill allows them to participate in discussions, follow lessons, and respond appropriately. Activities like storytelling, songs, and listening games can improve their listening skills significantly.

13. Describe five factors that may hinder a child's ability to listen.

Hearing problems or ear infections can greatly affect a child's ability to listen. If a child cannot hear sounds clearly, they will struggle to understand spoken language. Regular hearing check-ups are necessary to identify and address such problems early.

Lack of concentration is another barrier. Some children may have short attention spans or be easily distracted by surrounding noises or activities. If a child is not focused, they will miss important information during communication or lessons.

Language difficulty can hinder listening. If the language used by the teacher is too advanced or unfamiliar, children may not understand what is being said. Teachers must use simple, clear language suitable for the child's level of understanding.

Emotional or psychological issues such as stress, fear, or low self-confidence can affect listening. A child who feels anxious or insecure in the classroom environment may not pay attention or may be preoccupied with their emotions.

Environmental distractions like noise, overcrowded classrooms, or poor seating arrangements can interfere with listening. A noisy or chaotic environment makes it hard for children to hear the speaker clearly and focus on what is being said.

14. Explain four appropriate methods of teaching children.

Play-based learning is a child-centered method where learning takes place through play activities such as games, puzzles, and role-plays. Children learn better when they are engaged and having fun. This method helps develop language, social, and cognitive skills in a natural way.

Storytelling is another effective method. Through stories, children are exposed to vocabulary, sentence patterns, and moral values. It also stimulates imagination and helps children understand the structure of language in a meaningful context.

Demonstration involves the teacher showing how a task is done before the children try it themselves. This method is suitable for teaching practical tasks or introducing new concepts. It allows children to observe, understand, and then imitate the actions, which reinforces learning.

Group work or cooperative learning encourages children to work in teams, share ideas, and learn from each other. This method promotes interaction, communication, and social skills. It also provides opportunities for children to discuss, question, and explore concepts together.

#### 15. Elaborate five points on the importance of preparing a lesson plan.

A lesson plan gives direction to the teaching process. It helps the teacher know what to teach, how to teach it, and what resources to use. This ensures that the learning objectives are clearly defined and achieved. It ensures proper time management. A well-prepared lesson plan divides the content into time slots, allowing the teacher to allocate time appropriately for each activity without rushing or delaying.

It helps in selecting appropriate teaching methods and materials. The teacher can choose techniques and resources that best suit the topic and the learners' needs. This enhances the effectiveness of the teaching process.

It promotes classroom organization and discipline. With a structured lesson, the teacher can smoothly transition from one activity to another, maintaining order and reducing time wastage.

It facilitates assessment and evaluation. A lesson plan includes methods of assessing students' understanding, which helps the teacher monitor learning progress and identify areas that need reinforcement.

#### 16. Analyze four types of evaluations used in educational settings.

Diagnostic evaluation is conducted before instruction begins. It aims to identify learners' strengths, weaknesses, and learning needs. This type of evaluation helps the teacher plan appropriate strategies for effective teaching and support.

Formative evaluation occurs during the teaching process. It involves continuous assessment through observations, classwork, and oral questioning. The goal is to monitor learners' progress and provide immediate feedback to improve learning outcomes.

Summative evaluation is done at the end of a learning period, such as a term or academic year. It measures the learners' overall achievement through tests, examinations, or final projects. The results are used for grading and reporting performance.

Placement evaluation is used to determine the appropriate level or group for a learner. It is often done at the beginning of the school year or before transferring to a new class. This ensures that learners are placed in a suitable learning environment based on their abilities and prior knowledge.