

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

**Time: 3 Hours**

**ANSWERS**

**Year: 2020**

**Instructions**

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

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1. List four activities for developing early writing skills to children.

Tracing shapes and letters helps children practice holding a pencil and moving their hands in controlled motions. This develops fine motor skills necessary for writing.

Drawing and coloring activities encourage hand control and creativity. They also help children express their thoughts visually before transitioning to written language.

Playing with clay or sand to form letters enhances tactile learning. This sensory activity strengthens finger muscles and improves letter formation skills.

Copying words or simple sentences from a board builds familiarity with written forms and improves spelling, punctuation, and letter recognition.

2. Briefly elaborate any four environments that may arouse children's interest to read.

A print-rich classroom with posters, charts, and books encourages children to explore written material. It sparks curiosity and promotes independent reading.

Home environments where parents read to children provide early exposure to books, making reading a regular and enjoyable activity.

A library environment exposes children to a wide range of books. This access increases interest and excitement in reading diverse content.

Digital environments like educational apps and e-books can stimulate interest through interactive features, images, and sounds that make reading engaging.

3. Briefly explain four reasons of teaching English as a second language to pre-school children in Tanzania.

English is an official language in Tanzania and is used in education, business, and governance. Teaching it early prepares children for future academic success.

Early exposure helps children acquire pronunciation and fluency naturally, as their brains are more adaptable during early childhood.

Learning English enhances communication skills and enables children to interact beyond their native language communities.

Knowledge of English increases access to global resources such as books, media, and educational content, broadening their learning horizons.

4. Briefly describe four ways of encouraging language development to children.

Engaging children in regular conversations allows them to practice language naturally. It encourages vocabulary growth and confidence in speech.

Storytelling activities expose children to language patterns and new vocabulary, helping them understand how language is used in context.

Songs and rhymes support memory and phonological awareness, making language learning enjoyable and rhythmic.

Play-based interactions, including role-playing and games, encourage spontaneous language use and promote social communication skills.

5. Briefly analyse four ways of teaching children to write sentences.

Using picture prompts helps children generate ideas and connect visual information with written expression. This encourages creativity and sentence formation.

Model writing, where the teacher writes sentences while explaining aloud, provides a clear structure for children to imitate and learn sentence construction.

Sentence-building activities using word cards help children practice forming complete sentences and improve understanding of word order.

Writing personal experiences or daily routines gives children real-life contexts to express themselves in writing, making the learning process meaningful.

6. Define the following terms:

(a) Listening: Listening is the active process of receiving, interpreting, and responding to spoken messages. It involves attention and understanding of what is heard.

(b) Communication: Communication is the process of exchanging information, thoughts, or feelings between individuals through speech, writing, gestures, or visual symbols.

(c) Speaking: Speaking is the verbal expression of thoughts, feelings, or information through the use of spoken words and sentences in a language.

(d) Pronunciation: Pronunciation refers to the way words are spoken, including the correct production of sounds, syllables, and intonation patterns in speech.

7. Mention four language activities which are suitable for developing children's listening and responding skills.

Storytelling sessions enhance active listening and help children respond to questions or retell the story in their own words.

Songs and rhymes help children recognize sounds and respond rhythmically, developing auditory discrimination and memory.

Role-playing activities allow children to listen and respond in conversations, building their listening comprehension and social language use.

Question-and-answer games train children to listen carefully and formulate relevant responses, improving their interactive language skills.

8. List four indicators which show that a child has hearing problems.

Lack of response when spoken to, especially from behind, may indicate that the child cannot hear well.

Frequent requests for repetition show that the child struggles to understand spoken language.

Delayed speech or unclear articulation may result from the child not hearing sounds accurately during development.

Inattention or poor academic performance may arise when children miss instructions or classroom discussions due to hearing difficulty.

9. Briefly examine four barriers to effective communication.

Language differences between teacher and child can hinder understanding and cause confusion.

Poor listening skills or distractions prevent accurate reception of messages and reduce communication effectiveness.

Negative attitudes such as fear or lack of confidence in speaking can block children from expressing themselves.

Environmental noise or poor classroom acoustics interfere with clear transmission of speech, reducing message clarity.

10. Briefly explain four skills that pre-school children should have before the reading activity.

Phonemic awareness enables children to recognize and manipulate individual sounds in words, which is foundational for reading.

Print awareness helps children understand that printed text carries meaning and learn how to handle books and follow text direction.

Vocabulary knowledge equips children with a basic set of words to comprehend what they read.

Listening comprehension allows children to follow stories and understand ideas, preparing them for reading text independently.

11. Describe five factors that are necessary for effective listening.

Attention and concentration enable children to focus on the speaker and absorb information accurately without distraction.

Language proficiency allows children to understand the spoken message clearly, especially when the language used is familiar to them.

Physical conditions such as a quiet environment and good hearing ability support undisturbed listening and clear reception of sounds.

Motivation and interest in the topic make children more engaged, improving their willingness to listen and comprehend.

Good teacher-child interaction, including use of eye contact and gestures, helps children remain attentive and follow spoken language better.

12. Analyse five factors that may hinder a child from learning English language in Tanzania.

Limited exposure to English in daily life reduces opportunities for children to practice and internalize the language.

Lack of teaching resources such as storybooks or audio-visual materials makes it difficult to create engaging English lessons.

Teachers' poor command of English affects how well they model correct usage and pronunciation for learners.

Overuse of mother tongue in the classroom limits children's immersion in English, slowing their language acquisition.

Negative attitudes or lack of confidence among children may cause fear of making mistakes, hindering their willingness to speak or learn English.

13. Examine five factors which affect reading to pre-school children.

Availability of reading materials determines how often children can access books and practice reading.

Parental involvement in reading at home supports early reading development and increases motivation.

Language background affects how easily children recognize words and comprehend texts, especially if the reading language is not their first.

Children's cognitive readiness influences their ability to understand text structure and vocabulary.

Teacher's teaching strategies, such as use of phonics, storytelling, and visual aids, impact how effectively children learn to read.

14. Explain five steps of teaching vowel sounds to pre-school children.

Begin with sound recognition where children hear and distinguish different vowel sounds using songs or word examples.

Introduce vowel letters by showing their written forms and associating them with sounds using visual aids.

Practice sound-letter matching by engaging children in activities like matching vowels to objects that begin with that sound.

Reinforce using repetition through songs, chants, and games that emphasize vowel sounds in fun and memorable ways.

Apply vowel sounds in reading and writing where children begin to identify vowels in words and attempt to spell simple words using vowels.

15. Elaborate five methods of assessing a child's ability to read.

Oral reading assessment involves having a child read aloud while the teacher listens for fluency, pronunciation, and accuracy.

Picture-word matching checks if children can associate images with the correct written words, assessing word recognition.

Reading comprehension questions help evaluate the child's understanding of what they have read.

Word decoding tasks test the child's ability to break down unfamiliar words using phonics or syllables.

Silent reading observation lets the teacher assess if the child can independently read and understand a text without vocalizing.

16. Analyse five strategies that a teacher may use to assess each child's ability to listen.

Observation of behavior during stories helps the teacher judge how attentive and responsive the child is.

Use of listening tasks where children follow oral directions indicates how well they understand spoken language.

Asking questions after reading allows the teacher to assess the child's memory and comprehension of what was said.

Interactive activities like matching sounds to pictures test auditory discrimination and processing.

Peer group discussions show if a child listens to others and contributes appropriately, reflecting effective listening skills.