



10147493



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION – 2025



English Language

SUBJECT 1/1

90 MINUTES

TD/E1/PSLE/2025

- 1 Read these instructions carefully.
- 2 **Do not** turn this page before you are told to do so. Your teacher will tell you when to turn this page to begin answering the questions.
- 3 This paper is divided into 2 sections: A and B. Section A has 4 parts while Section B has 2 parts. There are **60** questions in this paper. **Answer all.**
- 4 For each question, four answers are given, but only one of the four is right. Work out which one is the **best** answer. Then, on your **Answer Sheet**, mark the box completely by shading the answer space of the letter of your choice. If you chose answer D for a question, you would show it like this:-



- 5 You must **SHADE** your answer spaces **completely** and **darkly** using an HB pencil. If you have to change your answer, you must rub out the shading **very neatly** before shading the new one. **Use a clean rubber.**
- 6 When you have finished one page, go **straight** on without waiting to be told. If you have time left at the end of the Question Paper, use it to check your work carefully.
- 7 Look at your **Answer Sheet**. On the top left hand side are boxes which should have, Examination Year, your School Number and Examination Number. It should also say **Subject 1 Paper 1**.
- 8 Look at your **Answer Sheet** again. At the **bottom** left hand side, it should have your Surname, Forename, Subject – **English Language**, Name of Primary School and your Secondary School of choice.
- 9 **Put up your hand now if:** You have any question.
You have a wrong Answer Sheet.

You will **NOT** be able to ask questions once the examination has begun.

**DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD.
USE ONLY AN HB PENCIL FOR YOUR ANSWERS.**



SECTION A

Part 1: Questions 1 – 20

Each question contains a sentence from which a word or group of words is missing in the space shown. Below each sentence are four words or groups of words. **Only one of the words or group of words will make the sentence right.** You have to choose it.

Example:

Algeria is the ... country in Africa.

- A large
- B larger
- C largest
- D more large

The answer **C** – largest – is the only one that can fit in the sentence. The complete sentence is: 'Algeria is the largest country in Africa.'

Now do questions 1 – 20.

- 1 ... people have died of COVID 19 in the world.
 - A Small
 - B Plenty
 - C Many
 - D Little
- 2 The girl can sing ... she cannot dance.
 - A and
 - B but
 - C nor
 - D or
- 3 A ... of girls was found pregnant at Mawilo Boarding School last year.
 - A crowd
 - B gang
 - C group
 - D jury
- 4 Grace invited ...for lunch.
 - A I
 - B it
 - C me
 - D we

- 5 Last week, ... cut myself with a razor blade.
- A he
 - B I
 - C it
 - D me
- 6 Matete is the ... talented volleyball player at our school.
- A less
 - B more
 - C most
 - D much
- 7 They are ... too fast. I can't keep up with them.
- A walk
 - B walked
 - C walking
 - D walks
- 8 ... someone on the private parts without his or her consent is an example of sexual harassment.
- A Touch
 - B Touched
 - C Touches
 - D Touching
- 9 "The ... class will be given a prize of one thousand kwacha," the head teacher promised all the Grade Seven classes.
- A best
 - B better
 - C good
 - D more better
- 10 The police found the robber hiding ... the bed.
- A at
 - B inside
 - C over
 - D under
- 11 To prevent coronavirus, we should take health precautions seriously ...
- A herself.
 - B ourselves.
 - C themselves.
 - D yourself.

- 12** He was not allowed to drive to school ... he was not yet sixteen years old.
- A** and
 - B** if
 - C** since
 - D** yet
- 13** We ... a very responsible and hard-working head girl last year.
- A** are having
 - B** had
 - C** have
 - D** will have
- 14** Kelvin lost a ... of keys as he was running home.
- A** bunch
 - B** group
 - C** heap
 - D** pile
- 15** Muzala is ... the four boys who are sitting their examinations.
- A** among
 - B** at
 - C** between
 - D** under
- 16** The teacher told Chiselwa to look for a one metre ... stick.
- A** big
 - B** large
 - C** long
 - D** wide
- 17** ... starting last, Maimbolwa won the race.
- A** Although
 - B** Despite
 - C** Even
 - D** Unless
- 18** A ... of stars looked very bright last night.
- A** bunch
 - B** bundle
 - C** galaxy
 - D** group

- 19** Nambela is good ... English.
- A** at
 - B** in
 - C** to
 - D** with
- 20** The audience could ... hear the speech because of the music from a nearby market.
- A** clearly
 - B** hardly
 - C** rarely
 - D** seldomly

Part 2: Questions 21 – 25

Each question has a sentence with one word missing. Below each sentence are four words. **Choose the word that is correctly spelt.**

Example:

The lunar eclipse which ... for about six hours occurred in July, 2018.

- A** lasted
- B** lastered
- C** lusted
- D** lustered

The answer **A** – lasted – is the only one that is correctly spelt. The complete sentence is: The lunar eclipse which lasted for about six hours occurred in July, 2018.

Now do questions 21 – 25.

- 21** A ... is one of the strongest animals.
- A** bafallo
 - B** bufalo
 - C** buffalo
 - D** buffarlo
- 22** The ... to Livingstone will take ten hours.
- A** jarney
 - B** jarnney
 - C** jouney
 - D** journey

- 23 Does the Kafue River have a ...?
A tributaly
B tributary
C tributely
D tributery
- 24 Our class was ... during the English lesson.
A quite
B quiett
C quiet
D queit
- 25 There is need for political parties to conduct their ... peacefully.
A campaigns
B campaigns
C campeigns
D Campenies

Part 3: Questions 26 – 30

In each question, there are four sentences that are almost the same but only one has the correct punctuation marks. **Choose the sentence which is correctly punctuated.**

Example:

- A "Snake! Saboh yelled."
B "Snake!" Saboh yelled.
C Snake! Saboh yelled.
D "Snake." Saboh yelled.

The Answer **B** – "Snake!" Saboh yelled. – is the only sentence that is correctly punctuated.

Now do questions 26 – 30.

- 26 A Cassava, maize potatoes and wheat are carbohydrate foods.
B Cassava; maize potatoes and wheat, are carbohydrate foods?
C Cassava, maize, potatoes and wheat are carbohydrate foods.
D Cassava. maize potatoes and wheat. are carbohydrate foods.
- 27 A Milupi closed the door!
B Milupi closed the door.
C Milupi closed the door?
D Milupi closed the door,
- 28 A We can't keep on fighting?
B We can't keep on fighting!
C We can't keep on fighting,
D We can't keep on fighting.

- 29 **A** The man asked? "Where is my brother's bag."
 B The man asked! "Where is my brother's bag."
 C The man asked, "Where is my brother's bag?"
 D "The man asked? "Where is my brother's bag!"
- 30 **A** i met Ruth, Lukundo, and Inambao on my way to the market.
 B I met Ruth, Lukundo and Inambao on my way to the market.
 C I met ruth, Lukundo and Inambao on my way to the market.
 D i met, ruth, Lukundo, and Inambao on my way to the market.

Part 4: Questions 31 – 38

Each question has a word, a group of words or a sentence underlined. Below each question are four words or parts of a sentence. **Only one of these gives the right meaning of the word or group of words underlined.** You have to choose the correct meaning.

Example:

We travelled by bus on a stony road. The word **stony** means ...

- A** blocked by stones.
B covered by stones only.
C made of stones.
D plenty of stones.

The answer **D** – plenty of stones – is the only answer that gives the right meaning of the word 'stony'.

Now do questions 31 – 38.

- 31 Mwengwe is too young to start Grade One. The sentence means that Mwengwe ...
A cannot start Grade One.
B is already in Grade One.
C stopped school in Grade One.
D wants to start Grade One.
- 32 Ng'onga passed her examination with flying colours. She was over the moon. The underlined sentence means that she was ...
A annoyed.
B encouraged.
C excited.
D sad.
- 33 The doctor wanted to ascertain the cause of the patient's death. To **ascertain** is to ...
A discover.
B find out.
C guess.
D tell.

- 34 Teen pregnancies have become rampant among school-going children. The word **rampant** means ...
- A big.
 - B common.
 - C rare.
 - D scarce.
- 35 If Jane had reported the man who sexually harassed her to the police, he would have been arrested. The underlined sentence means that ...
- A Jane reported the man to the police.
 - B Jane was not sexually harassed.
 - C the man was arrested.
 - D the man was not arrested.
- 36 For us to feed all the guests, we need to purchase a lot of food. The word **purchase** means ...
- A buy.
 - B prepare.
 - C serve.
 - D store.
- 37 Misozi had only paid attention when the head teacher spoke. This sentence means that Misozi ...
- A did not pay attention to anyone.
 - B did not pay attention when the head teacher spoke.
 - C paid attention before the head teacher spoke.
 - D paid attention while the head teacher spoke.
- 38 The apartment near the supermarket is well painted. The word **apartment** in the sentence means a ...
- A church.
 - B flat.
 - C school.
 - D shop.

SECTION B**Part 1: Questions 39 – 45**

Each question has four paragraphs. You must choose the paragraph which has the **sentences in the best order.**

Example:

- A** It was a heavy rainstorm. The boat moved away in complete darkness. The water became rough and shortly it started raining. As the boat got away from the land, wind started blowing.
- B** The boat moved away in complete darkness. As the boat got away from the land, wind started blowing. The water became rough and shortly it started raining. It was a heavy rainstorm.
- C** The boat moved away in complete darkness. It was a heavy rainstorm. As the boat got away from the land, wind started blowing. The water became rough and shortly it started raining.
- D** The boat moved away in complete darkness. The water became rough and shortly it started raining. It was a heavy rainstorm. As the boat got away from the land, wind started blowing.

The best answer is **B** because the paragraph has all the sentences in the correct order.

Now do questions 39 – 45.

- 39**
- A** At the end of the rally, a lot of people joined the party. The audience clapped to welcome him. He then started giving his manifesto. The politician arrived at the rally platform at exactly ten hours.
 - B** He then started giving his manifesto. The audience clapped to welcome him. The politician arrived at the rally platform at exactly ten hours. At the end of the rally, a lot of people joined the party.
 - C** The politician arrived at the rally platform at exactly ten hours. At the end of the rally, a lot of people joined the party. The audience clapped to welcome him. He then started giving his manifesto.
 - D** The politician arrived at the rally platform at exactly ten hours. The audience clapped to welcome him. He then started giving his manifesto. At the end of the rally, a lot of people joined the party.

- 40** **A** Kokoliko is a famous primary school in Luapula province. It is well known for producing good results at Grade Seven. For the past five years, it has recorded a 100 percent pass rate. This is the reason why a lot of parents take their children to Kokoliko Primary School.
- B** Kokoliko is a famous primary school in Luapula province. For the past five years, it has recorded a 100 percent pass rate. This is the reason why a lot of parents take their children to Kokoliko Primary School. It is well known for producing good results at Grade Seven.
- C** It is well known for producing good results at Grade Seven. Kokoliko is a famous primary school in Luapula province. For the past five years, it has recorded a 100 percent pass rate. This is the reason why a lot of parents take their children to Kokoliko Primary School.
- D** For the past five years, it has recorded a 100 percent pass rate. Kokoliko is a famous primary school in Luapula province. It is well known for producing good results at Grade Seven. This is the reason why a lot of parents take their children to Kokoliko Primary School.
- 41** **A** After delivery, she could not take care of her baby properly. She has vowed never to indulge in sexual relationships again. Carol was a learner at Kombaniya Primary School. She fell pregnant at the age of 13.
- B** Carol was a learner at Kombaniya Primary School. She fell pregnant at the age of 13. After delivery, she could not take care of her baby properly. She has vowed never to indulge in sexual relationships again.
- C** She fell pregnant at the age of 13. After delivery, she could not take care of her baby properly. She has vowed never to indulge in sexual relationships again. Carol was a learner at Kombaniya Primary School.
- D** She has vowed never to indulge in sexual relationships again. Carol was a learner at Kombaniya Primary School. She fell pregnant at the age of 13. After delivery, she could not take care of her baby properly.
- 42** **A** Fruits help to fight diseases in the body. Examples of common fruits are oranges, bananas, apples, grapes, watermelons and papayas. Fruits are essential to the human body. For them to help the body well, fruits should be eaten as a meal and not when one is full.
- B** Fruits are essential to the human body. Examples of common fruits are oranges, bananas, apples, grapes, watermelons and papayas.

For them to help the body well, fruits should be eaten as a meal and not when one is full. Fruits help to fight diseases in the body.

- C** For them to help the body well, fruits should be eaten as a meal and not when one is full. Fruits are essential to the human body. Examples of common fruits are oranges, bananas, apples, grapes, watermelons and papayas. Fruits help to fight diseases in the body.
- D** Examples of common fruits are oranges, bananas, apples, grapes, watermelons and papayas. Fruits are essential to the human body. For them to help the body well, fruits should be eaten as a meal and not when one is full.
- 43** **A** He then saw everyone looking at him. He drunk it hurriedly and threw the packet on the street. One day, Tamula bought a packet of milk. He knew he had made a mistake.
- B** One day, Tamula bought a packet of milk. He drunk it hurriedly and threw the packet on the street. He then saw everyone looking at him. He knew he had made a mistake.
- C** One day, Tamula bought a packet of milk. He knew he had made a mistake. He then saw everyone looking at him. He drunk it hurriedly and threw the packet on the street.
- D** One day, Tamula bought a packet of milk. He then saw everyone looking at him. He knew he had made a mistake. He drunk it hurriedly and threw the packet on the street.
- 44** **A** Suwilanji started abusing drugs when he was in Grade Six. This continued up to the time he went to secondary school. He is now a famous pastor who is helping youths on the dangers of drug abuse. His turning point came when he attended a church crusade.
- B** Suwilanji started abusing drugs when he was in Grade Six. His turning point came when he attended a church crusade. This continued up to the time he went to secondary school. He is now a famous pastor who is helping youths on the dangers of drug abuse.
- C** He is now a famous pastor who is helping youths on the dangers of drug abuse. This continued up to the time he went to secondary school. Suwilanji started abusing drugs when he was in Grade Six. His turning point came when he attended a church crusade.
- D** Suwilanji started abusing drugs when he was in Grade Six. This continued up to the time he went to secondary school. His turning point came when he attended a church crusade. He is now a famous pastor who is helping youths on the dangers of drug abuse.

- 45 **A** I stayed in Sikongo for three weeks. I woke up early to prepare myself for a trip to Sikongo, my grandmother's place. Tuesday, 3rd April, 2022 was a day to remember. I started off at exactly 06 40 hours and reached there at 18 00 hours.
- B** I woke up early to prepare myself for a trip to Sikongo, my grandmother's place. Tuesday, 3rd April, 2022 was a day to remember. I started off at exactly 06 40 hours and reached there at 18 00 hours. I stayed in Sikongo for three weeks.
- C** Tuesday, 3rd April, 2022 was a day to remember. I woke up early to prepare myself for a trip to Sikongo, my grandmother's place. I started off at exactly 06 40 hours and reached there at 18 00 hours. I stayed in Sikongo for three weeks.
- D** Tuesday, 3rd April, 2022 was a day to remember. I woke up early to prepare myself for a trip to Sikongo, my grandmother's place. I stayed in Sikongo for three weeks. I started off at exactly 06 40 hours and reached there at 18 00 hours.

PART 2: (Questions 46— 60)

Reading Comprehension

This part has **three texts** with questions on each. Read each text carefully and then look at the questions which follow. For each question, four possible answers are given. By reading carefully, you will be able to choose which of the four is the **best** answer to the question.

Text 1

NOTICE TO ALL GRADE SEVEN CANDIDATES

OCTOBER 20TH, 2025

All Grade Seven candidates sitting the 2025 examination are invited to attend on examination guidelines meeting that will take place on Friday, 22nd October, 2025 in the school hall from 14 00 hours to 15 30 hours.

You must all be punctual and ensure that you come with your identity card.

From: Guidance and Counselling Teacher

Now do questions 46 – 50.

- 46** According to the text, how long will this meeting take?
- A** 30 minutes
 - B** 45 minutes
 - C** 1 hour 30 minutes
 - D** 2 hours
- 47** This notice is about ...
- A** being punctual.
 - B** examination guidelines.
 - C** Grade Seven candidates.
 - D** identity cards.
- 48** According to the text, all candidates were told to be punctual. This means that they were expected to ...
- A** attend.
 - B** be late.
 - C** be invited.
 - D** come on time.
- 49** To whom has this notice been written?
- A** All learners in the school
 - B** All Grade Sevens with identity cards
 - C** Grade Seven candidates
 - D** Guidance and Counselling teacher
- 50** When was this notice written?
- A** At 14:00 hours
 - B** At 15:30 hours
 - C** On 20th October, 2020
 - D** On 22nd October, 2020

Text 2

In one of the villages in Kateka Chiefdom lived a prominent farmer called Chaipa. Mr Chaipa had two wives and twelve children. Out of these children, eight were boys while four were girls. All the four girls were in primary school and were all intelligent. The oldest of the four sisters was fifteen and was in Grade Seven. Her name was Chipu.

Before Chipu wrote her Grade Seven examination, her father, Mr Chaipa decided to marry her off to one of the farmers in the village who had lots of cattle. Chipu refused to be married off because she liked school very much but her parents forced her into this marriage. She cried a lot the day she was taken to the man who was to be her husband.

Three days later, one of Chipo's brothers, who loved her so much reported the case to the local chief. The chief was furious and ordered the arrest of Mr Chaipa and Chipo's husband. This is how Chipo's marriage ended and she went back to school. Today, she is a doctor and a living example of survivors of early marriages.

Now do questions 51 – 55.

- 51** Why did Chipo refuse to be married off? Because she ...
- A** hated marriage.
 - B** liked school.
 - C** was a doctor.
 - D** was intelligent.
- 52** How long did Chipo stay in the forced marriage?
- A** Eight days
 - B** Fifteen years
 - C** Four years
 - D** Three days
- 53** Mr Chaipa's type of marriage is ...
- A** polygamy.
 - B** polyandry.
 - C** monogamy.
 - D** homosexual.
- 54** According to the text, early marriages are ... in Zambia.
- A** allowed
 - B** dangerous
 - C** normal
 - D** prohibited
- 55** As used in the passage, the word **furious** means that the chief was ...
- A** annoyed.
 - B** anxious.
 - C** happy.
 - D** surprised.

Text 3

In 2019, in Wuhan City of China, a disease called coronavirus, also known as COVID 19 started. This is a disease that affects the lungs where one experiences difficulties in breathing, fever, headache, cough and body aches. In no time, this disease spread to countries like Italy, Germany, Spain, United States of America and later the entire world was at war with it. COVID 19 has claimed thousands of people through death.

Zambia recorded its first coronavirus case in March, 2020. Since then, it has also suffered the impact of the disease as cases have kept on increasing. However, the Ministry of Health is working round the clock to make sure that the Zambian citizens

are protected from this ravaging disease. The infected are hospitalised and given medicines. Patients who are severely hit are put on oxygen machines to aid their breathing.

As a way of preventing further spread of the disease, the World Health Organisation (WHO) together with other health bodies advise people to mask up, wash hands frequently with soap, avoid crowded places and keep at least a distance of one metre away for the next person when in public places. Where members of the public are following the preventive measures given by health workers, a reduction in cases is noted.

The other direction the world has taken in order to fight COVID 19 is through vaccination. A good number of vaccines have been made and countries around the world, Zambia inclusive, have vaccinated their citizens. It is said that those that are vaccinated will not experience severe attacks in case the disease infects them. However, whether vaccinated or not, the above mentioned preventive measures should continue to be followed until such a time when the world is going to win the battle with no single case of the disease anywhere.

Now do questions 56 – 60.

- 56** The first country to record COVID 19 in the world was ...
- A** Spain.
 - B** Italy.
 - C** Germany.
 - D** China.
- 57** Which one of the following measures can prevent further spread of coronavirus?
- A** Washing hands frequently with soap.
 - B** Putting patients on oxygen machines.
 - C** Noting a reduction in cases.
 - D** Being in places that are overcrowded.
- 58** Why are patients that are severely attacked put on oxygen machines? In order to ...
- A** make them wake up early.
 - B** make them sleep well.
 - C** make them feel comfortable.
 - D** help them breathe.
- 59** According to the passage, working round the clock means that health workers work ...
- A** all the time.
 - B** once in a week.
 - C** when they are free.
 - D** with clocks on their wrists.

- 60** The best title for the passage is ...
- A** Causes of Coronavirus.
 - B** Coronavirus.
 - C** Coronavirus in China.
 - D** Prevention of Coronavirus.

END OF EXAMINATION.

PLEASE CHECK ALL YOUR WORK CAREFULLY.