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EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ZAMBIA

PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING EXAMINATION – 2024



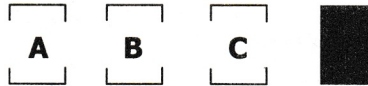
## English Language

SUBJECT 1/1

90 MINUTES

TD/E1/PSLE/2024

- 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** I was surprised to see him with so ... money.
  - A** huge
  - B** many
  - C** much
  - D** plenty
- 2** I ... watch cartoons because I hate them.
  - A** always
  - B** never
  - C** often
  - D** sometimes
- 3** He ... brush his teeth yesterday.
  - A** did not
  - B** does not
  - C** do not
  - D** was not
- 4** The butchery near my home has the ... meat in town.
  - A** best
  - B** better
  - C** good
  - D** more best

- 5** ... are the names of people who volunteered to help the needy.
- A** This
  - B** These
  - C** Them
  - D** That
- 6** Tabo ... been waiting for Sepo for a long time now.
- A** has
  - B** have
  - C** is
  - D** was
- 7** His father would have given him some money ... he had passed.
- A** because
  - B** if
  - C** though
  - D** when
- 8** Musa and Mumba cleaned the house by ...
- A** herself.
  - B** himself.
  - C** ourselves.
  - D** themselves.
- 9** You cannot win the match ... you train very hard.
- A** unless
  - B** since
  - C** because
  - D** and
- 10** The gentleman did not account ... the missing money.
- A** by
  - B** for
  - C** on
  - D** with
- 11** The nurse ... daughter got the highest marks at your school is my neighbour.
- A** which
  - B** who
  - C** whom
  - D** whose

- 12** Neither his plays ... his poems were published until 1926.
- A** and
  - B** but
  - C** nor
  - D** or
- 13** Please share the oranges ... John, Peter and Paul.
- A** among
  - B** between
  - C** on
  - D** to
- 14** Dr Sakala had ... psychology before he came to Lusaka.
- A** studying
  - B** study
  - C** studies
  - D** studied
- 15** The collective noun 'flock' refers to a group of ...
- A** bees.
  - B** cattle.
  - C** dogs.
  - D** sheep.
- 16** The young woman over there with a ... of clothes is on her way to the river.
- A** bunch
  - B** bundle
  - C** heap
  - D** pack
- 17** When it started raining heavily, the spectators ... ran for shelter.
- A** hurrying
  - B** hurry
  - C** hurriedly
  - D** hurried
- 18** Musonda sat on a three ... stool.
- A** leg
  - B** legged
  - C** leggy
  - D** legs

- 19 In some societies, girls are married ... at a tender age.
- A by
  - B of
  - C off
  - D on
- 20 Mututwa and his friends like hunting with a ... of dogs.
- A flock
  - B group
  - C herd
  - D pack

**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 The fishermen turned round and headed for the ... when they saw black clouds appear.
- A harbour
  - B harbourr
  - C huboaur
  - D hurbour
- 22 ... are beliefs that something good or bad will happen without a good reason.
- A Sperstitutions
  - B Supastitions
  - C Superstitutions
  - D Supestitions

- 23 The teacher was ... with Suwilanji's artwork.
- A imprestred
  - B impressed
  - C impresed
  - D imppresed
- 24 My father doesn't like to be ... when he is speaking.
- A enterrupted
  - B enterupted
  - C interrupted
  - D interupted
- 25 I did not have a ... reason for my coming late.
- A geneun
  - B genieun
  - C geniune
  - D genuine

**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 These are Peters' clothes.
  - B These are Peters clothes.
  - C These are Peter's clothes.
  - D These are Peter,s clothes.
- 27
- A Do not put out the candle! "shouted my mother."
  - B Do not put out the candle, shouted my mother.
  - C "Do not put out the candle, shouted my mother."
  - D "Do not put out the candle!" shouted my mother.

- 28    **A**    The diet of a pregnant woman should include "vegetables, fruit, milk, fish and eggs."
- B**    The diet of a pregnant woman should include vegetables, fruit, milk, fish and eggs?
- C**    The diet of a pregnant woman should include vegetables, fruit, milk, fish, and eggs.
- D**    The diet of a pregnant woman should include vegetables, fruit, milk, fish and eggs.
- 29    **A**    When was the letter written.
- B**    When was the letter written?
- C**    When was the letter, written?
- D**    When was the letter written,
- 30    **A**    She doesn't eat pork, does she?
- B**    She doesn't eat pork? does she.
- C**    She doesn't eat pork. does she?
- D**    She doesn't eat pork, does she!

#### 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    School going children should abstain from sex before marriage. To **abstain** is to ...
- A**    do away.
- B**    leave.
- C**    stay away.
- D**    stop.

- 32 Womba reads any book she can lay her hands on. This sentence means that Womba ...
- A chooses books that she reads.
  - B does not read any book at all.
  - C rarely reads any book.
  - D reads any book she can find.
- 33 My sister lost her temper and fought with her friend. The phrase **lost her temper** means that my sister ...
- A had lost her senses.
  - B had lost her way.
  - C was angry.
  - D was happy.
- 34 It is either James goes to the market or he cleans the kitchen. This sentence means that James will ...
- A go to the market only.
  - B do one of the chores.
  - C do both of the chores.
  - D clean the kitchen only.
- 35 Joseph was very disappointed with his team's performance. The word **disappointed** means ...
- A annoyed.
  - B surprised.
  - C unhappy.
  - D worried.
- 36 Mwale and Chanda are colleagues. The word **colleagues** means ...
- A workmates
  - B tribal cousins
  - C enemies
  - D agemates
- 37 It is unlawful to have sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 16. The word **unlawful** means not ...
- A wanted.
  - B good.
  - C encouraged.
  - D allowed.

- 38** It was not until the teacher arrived that they started learning. This sentence means that they ... their teacher arrived.
- A** started learning when
  - B** started learning after
  - C** didn't start learning after
  - D** didn't learn even when

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

#### Now do questions 39 – 45.

- 39**
- A** She is now a well-known police officer in Solwezi. When Lushomo's parents died, people thought she would suffer. She worked very hard at school and later went for training at Lilayi Police College.
  - B** She worked very hard at school and later went for training at Lilayi Police College. When Lushomo's parents died, people thought she would suffer. She is now a well-known police officer in Solwezi.
  - C** When Lushomo's parents died, people thought she would suffer. She is now a well-known police officer in Solwezi. She worked very hard at school and later went for training at Lilayi Police College.
  - D** When Lushomo's parents died, people thought she would suffer. She worked very hard at school and later went for training at Lilayi Police College. She is now a well-known police officer in Solwezi.

- 40**    **A**    As the heart beats, it pushes blood into the arteries and draws blood from the veins. It is made of a muscle called cardiac muscle which makes the heart beat. The beating of the heart makes the blood circulate around the body. The heart is located near the centre of the chest.
- B**    As the heart beats, it pushes blood into the arteries and draws blood from the veins. The heart is located near the centre of the chest. It is made of a muscle called cardiac muscle which makes the heart beat. The beating of the heart makes the blood circulate around the body.
- C**    The heart is located near the centre of the chest. It is made of a muscle called cardiac muscle which makes the heart beat. As the heart beats, it pushes blood into the arteries and draws blood from the veins. The beating of the heart makes the blood circulate around the body.
- D**    The heart is located near the centre of the chest. The beating of the heart makes the blood circulate around the body. It is made of a muscle called cardiac muscle which makes the heart beat. As the heart beats, it pushes blood into the arteries and draws blood from the veins.
- 41**    **A**    An old man did not know the way to his son's place. Fortunately, a small boy saw him and asked where he was going. The small boy escorted him and the old man was happy.
- B**    An old man did not know the way to his son's place. The small boy escorted him and the old man was happy. Fortunately, a small boy saw him and asked where he was going.
- C**    Fortunately, a small boy saw him and asked where he was going. The small boy escorted him and the old man was happy. An old man did not know the way to his son's place.
- D**    The small boy escorted him and the old man was happy. Fortunately, a small boy saw him and asked where he was going. An old man did not know the way to his son's place.
- 42**    **A**    Before the pastor stood to preach, he asked for a special song from the church choir. Everyone was touched by the song. The choir sang the song with passion.
- B**    Before the pastor stood to preach, he asked for a special song from the church choir. The choir sang the song with passion. Everyone was touched by the song.
- C**    Everyone was touched by the song. Before the pastor stood to preach, he asked for a special song from the church choir. The choir sang the song with passion.
- D**    The choir sang the song with passion. Before the pastor stood to preach, he asked for a special song from the church choir. Everyone was touched by the song.

- 43** **A** Colours can be used to express feelings. On one hand, black or grey colours suggest sadness or mourning. In some countries, people wear black or grey clothes during funerals. White, on the other hand is a sign of purity and peace.
- B** Colours can be used to express feelings. On one hand, black or grey colours suggest sadness or mourning. White, on the other hand is a sign of purity and peace. In some countries, people wear black or grey clothes during funerals.
- C** On one hand, black or grey colours suggest sadness or mourning. Colours can be used to express feelings. In some countries, people wear black or grey clothes during funerals. White, on the other hand is a sign of purity and peace.
- D** White, on the other hand is a sign of purity and peace. In some countries, people wear black or grey clothes during funerals. On one hand, black or grey colours suggest sadness or mourning. Colours can be used to express feelings.
- 44** **A** She was advised to be eating a lot of fruits and vegetables. Namwila was always complaining of headache and body weakness. At the hospital, she was told that she had anaemia. One day, she decided to go to the hospital.
- B** One day, she decided to go to the hospital. She was advised to be eating a lot of fruits and vegetables. At the hospital, she was told that she had anaemia. Namwila was always complaining of headache and body weakness.
- C** Namwila was always complaining of headache and body weakness. One day, she decided to go to the hospital. She was advised to be eating a lot of fruits and vegetables. At the hospital, she was told that she had anaemia.
- D** Namwila was always complaining of headache and body weakness. One day, she decided to go to the hospital. At the hospital, she was told that she had anaemia. She was advised to be eating a lot of fruits and vegetables.

- 45    **A**    Her mother went to pick her up after school. Queen went to Namaloba Primary School. Her father took her to school every morning. There was no day she went to school or went back home on her own.
- B**    Her father took her to school every morning. There was no day she went to school or went back home on her own. Queen went to Namaloba Primary School. Her mother went to pick her up after school.
- C**    Queen went to Namaloba Primary School. Her father took her to school every morning. Her mother went to pick her up after school. There was no day she went to school or went back home on her own.
- D**    Queen went to Namaloba Primary School. Her mother went to pick her up after school. There was no day she went to school or went back home on her own. Her father took her to school every morning.

**Part 2: Reading Comprehension (Questions 46 – 60)**

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**

If you were a fish, one of the last birds you would want to see flying overhead is a hungry osprey. These majestic birds of prey are average two feet in length and may have an incredible six-foot wingspan. These enormous predators are also equipped with long, sharp talons for snagging a meal swimming in the water below.

Ospreys, also known as fish hawks or fishing eagles, have short, hooked beaks and wings that taper to rounded tips. Their colouring ranges from white to dark brown. The white feathers on the ospreys' heads look like little caps and their wings include a mixture of white and dark brown feathers. Their chests, bellies and chins are white and their tails are marked with several white bands or stripes. Ospreys in flight are easy to identify, thanks to their distinctive plumage or feathers. Not surprisingly, these birds are related to eagles, hawks and even vultures. They can live a long time; the average lifespan in the wild is 18 years. The oldest known osprey lived to be 25 years old.

Ospreys are designed to fly fast and dive at amazing speeds. Soaring one hundred feet above the water, their sharp eyes watch the surface carefully for any tell-tale signs of fish. Ospreys hover over the water and wait for some indication of activity. Once prey is spotted, the birds fold their wings to their sides and begin a steep dive, plunging nearly straight down at blazing speeds. Usually, ospreys hit the water feet first, plunging completely underwater to catch their food. Water sprays in all directions as the birds reach under water to grab fish. They have been seen diving

as much as three feet underwater to capture their prey! Once a fish has been snagged in its sharp claws, an osprey soars back up into the sky, pausing in flight just long enough to shake the water from its feathers before flying away to enjoy its meal. To help ospreys hold on to their catch, each of their feet has a unique front toe.

**Now do questions 46 – 50.**

- 46** According to the passage, what is the other name for ospreys?
- A** Enormous predators
  - B** Fishing eagles
  - C** Majestic birds
  - D** Swimming bird
- 47** The word **snagged** in the text means ...
- A** caught.
  - B** hanged.
  - C** hugged.
  - D** picked.
- 48** Why are ospreys equipped with long sharp talons? For ...
- A** swimming.
  - B** spotting preys.
  - C** snagging a meal.
  - D** flying overhead.
- 49** The word **unique** in the text means ...
- A** same.
  - B** similar.
  - C** special.
  - D** usual.
- 50** What is the main purpose of Paragraph 2? To ...
- A** compare ospreys to other birds.
  - B** describe the appearance of ospreys.
  - C** discuss the life span of ospreys.
  - D** explain how ospreys protect their young.

## Text 2

One day, a vegetable farmer, Mr Pangani was working in his garden. His wife and daughter were helping him to tend young plants and get rid of weeds. While Mr Pangani was working, he noticed a movement on the edge of the bushes near the vegetable garden. Out of curiosity, he stopped to watch. To his astonishment, a large tigress appeared. It hesitated and then looked straight at Mr Pangani and his family.

"Quickly!" Mr Pangani shouted to his wife and daughter to run for the road.

Mr Pangani picked up his large knife and turned to face the tigress. He hoped to delay the animal long enough to allow his wife and daughter to escape but he expected to be killed himself.

The tigress sprang at Mr Pangani but he managed to swing his knife and hit it. Both the man and the tigress fell to the ground unconscious. Fortunately, to Mr Pangani, his friend, Mr Susu was working not far away. Mr Susu heard the noise and went to investigate. He was surprised to see a tigress and his friend on the ground. Mr Susu picked up his friend and carried him to the road where he managed to find help from a helpful motorist who drove Mr Pangani straight to the hospital.

Mr Susu informed the police. The tigress disappeared but was later hunted down and shot by a game ranger.

Mr Pangani was in hospital for three months but eventually recovered.

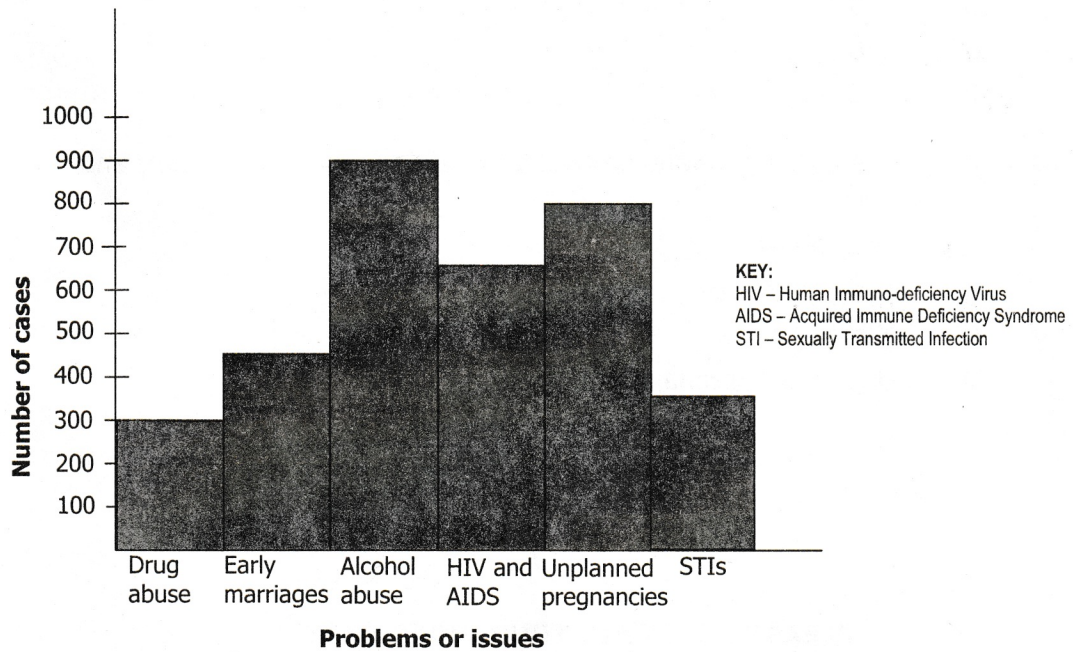
### Now do questions 51 – 55.

- 51 Why did Mr Pangani fight the tigress? He ...
- A did not want Mr Susu to feel ashamed of him.
  - B knew that it was wounded and not very dangerous.
  - C wanted to give chance to his wife and daughter to run away.
  - D was too old to run to the road.
- 52 According to the passage, what does the word **investigate** mean?
- A Give assistance
  - B Find out
  - C Fight against
  - D Check on someone
- 53 A ... is a person who takes care of wildlife.
- A driver
  - B farmer
  - C hunter
  - D ranger

- 54** What made Mr Pangani to look at the edge of the bushes? He ...
- A** happened to see what the tigress was going to do.
  - B** heard an unusual noise.
  - C** wanted to protect his family.
  - D** wanted to see what the tigress was going to do.
- 55** What can you say about Mr Pangani according to the passage? He was a ... man.
- A** brave
  - B** hardworking
  - C** kind
  - D** strong

### Text 3

The following graph shows information obtained in one of the provinces about problems or issues affecting youths and teenagers. Study it carefully and then answer the questions that follow it.



**Now do questions 56 – 60.**

- 56** How many youths are affected by the problem of unplanned pregnancies?
- A** 400
  - B** 500
  - C** 800
  - D** 900

- 57 From the graph, we can conclude that youths and teenagers are faced with ... problems.
- A few
  - B five
  - C many
  - D three
- 58 According to the graph, which one of the problems least affects youths and teenagers in this province?
- A Alcohol abuse
  - B Drug abuse
  - C STIs
  - D Unplanned pregnancies
- 59 What is the difference in the number of cases between alcohol abuse and early marriages?
- A 300
  - B 350
  - C 400
  - D 450
- 60 Which one of the following problems directly affects female youths and teenagers?
- A Drug abuse
  - B Early marriages
  - C HIV and AIDS
  - D Unplanned pregnancies

+ 900  
500  
-----  
400

**END OF EXAMINATION.**

**PLEASE CHECK ALL YOUR WORK CAREFULLY.**