



FIRST TERM EXAMINATION 2025/2026 ACADEMIC SESSION

NAME				
SUBJECT	ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1	CLASS	SS 3	DURATION

PAPER 1

OBJECTIVE TEST (80 MARKS).

Instruction: Answer all questions from this section.

From the words lettered A—D, choose the one that is **most nearly opposite in meaning** to the word in bold letters and that can fill the gap in the sentence.

1. The witness was asked to give a **precise** account of the incident, but his story was rather -----
 - A. vague
 - B. accurate
 - C. exact
 - D. concise

2. The policeman was ----in his manner while the crowd was appeared quite **crude**.
 - A. exposed
 - B. polished
 - C. reserved
 - D. civil

3. It pays to be **firm** rather than----in a case like this
 - A. careless
 - B. frank
 - C. flexible
 - D. irresponsible

4. Electricity supply in the village is **intermittent**; whereas in some cities it is -----
 - A. quick
 - B. often
 - C. instantaneous
 - D. constant

5. They **revered** the old man's memory but treated his wicked uncle with great----
 - A. contempt
 - B. admiration
 - C. love
 - D. respect

6. Although his handwriting is usually **readable**, what he has written on this occasion is most-----
 - A. uncompromising
 - B. ineligible
 - C. uninteresting
 - D. illegible

7. A month after the **resumption** of classes, lazy students start counting down to the next----
 - A. recreation
 - B. reopening
 - C. vacation
 - D. probation

8. It is unfortunate when **indolent** people outnumber the ----ones.
A. trustworthy
B. prudent
C. hardworking
D. graceful

9. In the past, cars were----; nowadays, the prices are **exorbitant**.
A. readable
B. illegal
C. available
D. cheap

10. The contribution of the **outgoing** headmistress had been so remarkable that only few cared to listen to the qualities of the--- headmaster.
A. retired
B. up-and-coming
C. former
D. incoming

13. The debtor---in the repayment of the loan he took from the bank.
A. resisted
B. refused
C. defaulted
D. derailed

14. One very aspect of human relationship is—trust.
A. personal
B. mutual
C. individual
D. communal

15. The two trade unions decided to---in order to form a stronger organization.
A. intermix
B. consolidate
C. amalgamate
D. join

16. After a week-day discussion, the two village leaders issued a---
A. bulletin
B. decree
C. directive
D. communique

From the words lettered A—D, choose the word that best completes each of the following sentences.

11. During the storm, the occupants of the small boat---themselves to fate.
A. fumed
B. forced
C. resigned
D. recalled

12. The lorry driver was stopped by the traffic---for careless driving.
A. light
B. officer
C. order

17. It is a high time we---our food
A. eat
B. ate
C. are eating
D. eaten

18. We all agree that the television is a more powerful---of communication than the radio.
A. agent

B. way
 C. medium
 D. instrument

19. The current politicians in Nigeria have---ambitions to rule the country.
 A. dull
 B. inseparable
 C. insipid
 D. inordinate

20. ----from Television stations outside the major towns is not always good.
 A. Listening
 B. Viewing
 C. Reception
 D. Sound

Choose the interpretation that you consider most appropriate for each sentence.

21. Before I could report the incident to the principal, Gbebemi had taken the wind out of my sails. This means that Gbebemi
 A. prevented my boat from sailing
 B. charmed and stopped the wind
 C. was quiet when I was reporting the incident to the principal
 D. was faster to report the incident to the principal before me

22. Ogunyemi was hard put to it to satisfy his creditors. This means that he
 A. was an insatiable fellow
 B. could not pay his debts easily
 C. was miserly
 D. was very hardworking

23. Mrs. Seto came down heavily on her son for scoring low marks in her examinations. This means that Mrs.
 A. injured her son
 B. questioned her son
 C. beat up her son

D. rebuked her son

24. Agwu has always been last in her examinations, so his result is not a surprise. This means that Agwu's performance
 A. is as expected
 B. is a disappointment
 C. was known early
 D. did not surprise him.

25. Medico could not have run any faster. This means that Medico
 A. ran very slowly
 B. ran his fastest
 C. did not run fast enough
 D. did not run at all

26. The widow works her fingers to the bone to take care of her children. This means that the widow
 A. wears out her fingers with work
 B. is lazy
 C. works extremely hard
 D. massages her bones

27. We had dinner with Jaye and Iyanu and they talked shop the whole time. This means that they talked
 A. about their job
 B. all the time
 C. about buying things from the shop
 D. about taking me to shop

28. Most people usually steer a middle course in all they do. This means that most people
 A. travel quite slowly
 B. work very hard
 C. live and do things moderately
 D. do not drive very fast

29. Whenever Adewale finds himself at a loose end, he goes visiting people. This means that Adewale goes visiting people whenever he
 A. is happy
 B. has no visitors

C. feels worried and confused
D. has nothing to occupy him

30. Iyanu made no bones about doing extra work after office hours. This means that Iyanu
A. loves eating fleshy bones
B. detests doing extra work after the normal office hours
C. converts bones into more useful materials
D. does not hesitate to do more work

From the words lettered A—D, choose the word or group of words that is nearest in meaning to the word in bold letters.

31. Nobody knows what happens to the soul when it is **divorced** from the body.
A. broken
B. turned
C. divulged
D. separated

32. That rock is a **potential** danger to fishing boats.
A. an unexpected
B. a possible
C. an obvious
D. a serious

33. All that was left after the riot were the **charred** remains of the victims.
A. black
B. broken
C. burnt
D. scattered

34. They were **sceptical** about the story he told them.
A. lukewarm
B. embarrassed
C. doubtful
D. ignorant

35. The manager discovered that Yemi was the most **qualified** candidate for the job.
A. responsible

B. interesting
C. suitable
D. qualified

36. What do you intend to do with this **inanimate** object?
A. lifeless
B. precious
C. fascinating
D. lively

37. He was told it was too late for him to **back out of** the agreement.
A. reverse
B. disclose
C. frustrate
D. withdraw from

38. The man feels his wife is in **collusion** with his eldest son to share his property.
A. concord
B. harmony
C. conformity
D. secret agreement

39. The **luminous** hands of the clock attracted the baby.
A. colourful
B. glaring
C. beautiful
D. bright

40. Miserly as he is, he wouldn't **part with** a penny.
A. give away
B. borrow
C. lend
D. give up

From the word or group of words lettered A—D, choose the word or group of words that best completes each of the following sentences.

41. If I had heard the news earlier, I ----- stayed at home.
A. would have
B. will have
C. will not have

D. would have not

42. You had better---your assignment now.
A. did
B. done
C. doing
D. do

43. The match was a ---for Brazil because their team was stronger than the opposing team.
A. defeat
B. walkover
C. giveaway
D. profit

44. You will be punished if you misbehave, ----?
A. is it
B. isn't it
C. will you
D. won't you

45. The President and Commander-in-chief---London later today
A. are arriving
B. arrives
C. arrive
D. arrived

46. My father bought a -----Mercedes car
A. brand new red
B. brand red new
C. new brand red
D. new red brand

47. Share the money---the two children.
A. along
B. among
C. between
D. before

48. I look forward to ----from you as soon as possible.
A. hears
B. heard
C. hearing
D. hear

49. Doctors have not been able to establish the ---of his ailment.
A. caus
B. cause
C. coarse
D. course

50. My sister gave a red bag to ---my dressing.
A. be complementing
B. be complimenting
C. compliment
D. match

51. The driver----car was stolen is my son
A. which
B. whose
C. who's
D. who

52. Bode and ----saved the boy
A. me
B. myself
C. I
D. Mine

53. The girl was brooding---the loss of her dog.
A. with
B. over
C. under
D. in

54. Please take your hand---my shoulder
A. in
B. on
C. off
D. over

55. When they arrived, the floor had already----
A. being washed
B. been washing
C. been washed
D. being washing

56. Good literary works will ever----the test of time.

- A. stood
- B. stand
- C. object
- D. cheat

57. As the smoke was ----noticeable, the fire outbreak came as shock to all.

- A. simply
- B. well
- C. hardly
- D. highly

58. The boy in the---shirt won the star prize.

- A. blue-sky clean nylon
- B. clean nylon sky-blue
- C. clean sky-blue nylon
- D. nylon sky-blue clean

59. Ayo is not only beautiful----very hospitable.

- A. rather
- B. but also
- C. also
- D. and

60. The doctor declared that the sick child needed a blood----

- A. transformation
- B. transfer
- C. transfusion
- D. transmission

61. The remains of Chief Alepo---interred yesterday.

- A. was
- B. are
- C. is
- D. were

62. She is a good friend of—

- A. there's
- B. them
- C. their
- D. theirs

63. We are worried by the ---that exists between the two factions of the party.

- A. rivalry
- B. confusion
- C. commotion
- D. distraction

64. It is sad that the rich---pity the poor

- A. did
- B. do
- C. don't
- D. doesn't

65. I cannot imagine that a man---his standing could stoop so low as to accept bribes.

- A. on
- B. of
- C. at
- D. with

66. Araba took up an appointment as a part-time instructor as a means---his meager income.

- A. to supplement
- B. to supplementing
- C. of supplementing
- D. for supplementing

67. All the people in the bus died in that—accident.

- A. serious
- B. fatal
- C. reckless
- D. dangerous

68. You can count on ---boys to finish the work.

- A. us
- B. we
- C. they
- D. them

69. The tax collector stopped all the---to demand their tax receipts.

- A. passer-bys
- B. passers-by
- C. passer-byes
- D. passers-bye

70. You may sleep ----the issue and take a decision later.

- on
- with
- over
- at

In the following passage, the numbered gaps indicate missing words. Against each number in the list below the passage, four options are given in columns lettered A—D. Choose the word that is the most suitable to fill the number gaps in the passage.

Chocolate is made from cocoa bean, which grows in—71—on cocoa trees. These trees—72—in the Amazon forests of South America. The local people treated the cocoa with great respect using it to make a delicious drink called “chocolate”, a great—73—at festivities. Although this chocolate drink was introduced in Europe in the 17th Century, for many years it remained an expensive—74—. It was not until the beginning of the 19th Century that chocolate was produced in—75—form for eating. Nowadays, the chocolate in Nigeria and other African countries comes from West Africa. It takes an entire year’s—76—from one cocoa tree to produce about 11b weight of—77—cocoa powder. This partly explains why cocoa is so expensive. The—78—of cocoa powder—79—a lengthy refining process. The cocoa beans are—80—, ground and sieved, and a large proportion of the cocoa butter is extracted.

S/ N	A	B	C	D
71	Pods	barks	leaves	branches
72	Evolved	starts	founded	originated
73	Nutrient	ingredient	diet	delicacy
74	Pleasure	luxury	sweet	menu
75	palatable	fluid	thick	sweet

76	yield	earning	collection	dropping
77	clarified	brown	soft	refined
78	formaging	mixing	manufacturing	inventing
79	deserves	entails	attracts	solidifies
80	baked	toasted	fried	parched

TEST OF ORAL

. Instruction: Answer all questions from each Section.

SECTION 1.

From the options lettered A—D, choose the word that has **the same vowel sound** as the one represented by the letter(s) underlined.

81. leagues

- lick
- learn
- pleasure
- people

82. car

- car
- far
- cat
- chat

83. make

- met
- mark
- pay
- plant

84. rude

- rout
- rum
- rode
- room

85. act

- park
- law
- ample
- arm

86. fare

- hear

- B. are
- C. heir
- D. here

- C. voice
- D. shop

87. luck

- A. hut
- B. put
- C. lucid
- D. lack

88. seen

- A. live
- B. save
- C. set
- D. leave

89. tyrant

- A. typical
- B. giant
- C. libel
- D. wet

90. purse

- A. duck
- B. cough
- C. forge
- D. scourge

SECTION 2.

From the words lettered A—D, choose the word that has **the same consonant sound** as the one represented by the letter(s) underlined.

91. then

- A. father
- B. den
- C. ten
- D. tin

92. obey

- A. tomb
- B. plumber
- C. comb
- D. robbers

93. boys

- A. zip
- B. sick

SECTION 3.

From the words lettered A—D, choose the word that **rhymes** with the given word.

94. heart

- A. part
- B. hurt
- C. tear
- D. curt

95. numb

- A. bomber
- B. climb
- C. camp
- D. plumb

96. fuel

- A. quail
- B. field
- C. freak
- D. duel

97. mountain

- A. contain
- B. bounty
- C. fountain
- D. country

98. while

- A. buy
- B. bile
- C. boy
- D. boil

SECTION 4.

In each of the following questions, the primary stress is written in capital letters. Choose from the lettered A—D, choose the one that has the correct stress.

99. Reduplicate

- A. RE—du—pli—cate
- B. re—DU—pli—cate
- C. re—du—PLI—cate
- D. re—du—pli—CATE

100. propaganda

- A. PRO-pa-gan-da
- B. pro—PA—gan—da

C. pro—pa—GAN—da
D. pro—pa—gan—DA

101. resurrection
A. RE—sur—re—tion
B. re—SUR—re—tion
C. re—sur—RE—tion
D. re—sur—re—TION

102. despotism
A. DES—po—ti—sm
B. des—PO—ti—sm
C. des—po—TI—sm
D. des—po—ti—SM

103. identify
A. I—den—ti—fy
B. i—den—TI—fy
C. i—DEN—ti—fy
D. i—den—ti—FY

SECTION 5. In the following options pt lettered A—D, all the words except one have the same stress pattern. Identify the one with the different stress pattern.

104. A report
B leader
C money
D judgement

105. A deduction
B reduction
C advantage
D demagogue

106. A. wardrobe
B. resent
C. classroom
D. madam

107. A. comment
B. purchase
C. genuine
D. despite

108. A. fountain
B. finance
C. schedule
D. country

SECTION 6.

In each of the following sentences, the one that receives the emphatic stress is written in CAPITAL letters. Choose from the questions lettered A—D, the one to which the given sentence is the appropriate answer.

109. Last week's football match was very EXCITING.
A. Was yesterday's football match very exciting?
B. Was last week's tennis match very exciting?
C. Was last week's football match very dull?
D. Was last year's football match very exciting?

110. Our junior team won the debate competition LAST TERM.
A. When did our junior team win the debate competition?
B. Did our senior team win the debate competition last term?
C. Did our junior team win the athletic competition last term?
D. Who won the debate competition last term?

111. Akpan is ALWAYS late to school
A. Is Akpan always late to bed?
B. Is Olu always late to school?
C. Is Akpan seldom late to school?
D. Is Akpan always early to school?

112. Kolawole confessed that he STOLE the car.
A. Did Table confess that he stole the car?
B. Did Tamuno confess that he borrowed the car?
C. Did Kolawole deny that he stole the car?
D. Did Bola confess that he stole the lorry?

SECTION 7. From the words lettered A—D, choose the word that contains the sound represented by the given phonetic symbol.

113./e/

- A. wet
- B. key
- C. wanted
- D. eke

114./h/

- A. hour
- B. power
- C. honour
- D. how

115./t/

- A. listen
- B. action
- C. walked
- D. carried

116./ð/

- A. thank
- B. tied
- C. through
- D. them

117./dʒ/

- A. just
- B. dose

- C. dogged
- D. ghost

118./æ/

- A. area
- B. buy
- C. dark
- D. sack

119./a:/

- A. card
- B. fact
- C. search
- D. past

120./ɜ:/

- A. clerk
- B. part
- C. earth
- D. heart



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FIRST TERM EXAMINATION 2025/2026 ACADEMIC SESSION

NAME					
SUBJECT	ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2	CLASS	SS 3	DURATION	120 MINUTES

Instruction: Answer three questions in all: one question from Section A and all questions in Section B and C.

SECTION A

ESSAY (50 marks)

Answer one question only from this section. All questions carry equal marks. Your answer should not be less than 450 words. You are advised to spend about **50 minutes** on this section.

1. In a few weeks' time, your brother will be getting married to his loved one. Now write to him, give at least three reasons why you think the wedding should be celebrated without much publication.
2. You are a chief speaker in a debate on the topic: "Early marriage is better than late marriage". Write your speech for or against the topic.
3. Write an article suitable for publication in your school magazine on the causes and effects of electoral rigging in your country.
4. Write a letter to the principal of your school about the unruly behaviour of some students in the school and suggest how the situation can be rectified.
5. Write a story to illustrate the saying: "Honesty is the best policy."

SECTION B COMPREHENSION (20 marks)

You are advised to spend about **30 minutes** on this section.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions on it.

Women have complained bitterly that the **persistent** scarcity of housemaids is biting harder in most families, particularly now that most women are conscious of the fact that they have to be up and doing as regards active participation in politics as well as in other tasking aspects of human endeavour.

For a woman to be able to function very well both in the house and in the society, she needs capable hands to do the job she would not be able to do while she is away from home. That, however, should be in subjective terms because there are some jobs that can only be done by the woman in the house and so should be clearly stated. Such capable hands are needed because for a woman to **function** well outside her home she must be rest assured that her children are safe and that their custodian can handle any eventuality.

Every woman inactive business is faced with the options of either keeping her baby at the day-care centre, having a housemaid or giving up her business completely so that she can take care of her baby and family. This is the exact situation in which many women today find themselves.

It is more common to find female house helps than male. The reason is not far-fetched. It is no more news that from time immemorial, the female child has been cheated in terms of human rights. She is treated as though she was a subordinate to her male **counterpart**. Her education did not even matter.

As a result of this, parents want to trade off their female children for money. Some felt that after all, the girl could still bear the name of another man so why waste money on her. To them, she should be able to **fend** for herself for as long as she bears their own name before she goes on to marry the man who will cater for her.

In most cases, the housemaid finds out that after long years of service, she is useless and cannot point out to anything of her own. Yet she has not undergone any training that would sustain her. **Incredible**, but that is just the fact. In as much as everybody is **clamouring** for a “new look” woman, those housemaids should not be left out in the picture.

In actual fact, their parents are now more enlightened and would therefore not give their children out to someone who will not send them to school or make them learn a trade since they are aware that being house helps cannot sustain a human being forever.

- a. Why, according to the passage, is the scarcity of housemaids biting harder now?
(2marks)
- b. In how many places should a woman function very well? (1 mark)
- c. When does a woman require the service of a house help most? (1 mark)
- d. State two reasons why female house helps are in greater number than their male counterparts. (2 marks)
- e. What two problems does a housemaid face after a long period of service? (2 marks)
- f. “...who will not send them to school...”
 - i. what grammatical name is given to this expression? (1 mark)
 - ii. What function does it perform in the sentence? (2 marks)
- g. Why would parents not release their children now to work as house helps? (2 marks)
- h. What is the appropriate title for this passage? (1 mark)
- i. For each of the following words, find a word or phrase which means the same as the word and can replace it as used in the passage:
 - i. persistent
 - ii. function
 - iii. counterpart
 - iv. fend
 - v. incredible
 - vi. clamouring(1 mark x 6= 6marks).

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SECTION C SUMMARY (30marks)

You are advised to spend about 40 minutes on this section.

7. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions on it.

In some years past candidates usually found the summary section which was referred to as precise then a hard nut to crack. This was because they were expected to reduce an entire passage of six hundred words, to about a quarter of its original length. As a result, most of the candidates annually performed poorly in that section of the examination.

But nowadays, the situation has changed. Candidates are currently required to simply pick out specific information from the passage. Despite the introduction of the new summary, the rate at which candidates fail the summary aspect of the SSCE English Language is quite disturbing. This need not be. You can write accurate answers to summary questions. Here are few steps.

Perhaps the most important step is to read carefully the questions on the passage so as to ensure precisely what you are required to do before reading the passage itself. So, to ensure you write answers, do not copy word-for-word all the ideas of the writer. It is advisable to that only the necessary ideas of the writer should be taken.

How do you expect to score high marks in your summary paper when you fail to take into consideration the need to present answers that an examiner can read and understand you. To overcome this, avoid writing correct answers that contain grammatical and expression errors as each ringed error will reduce your expected marks by half. Instead try as much as possible to write down your answers using simple but acceptable words that agree grammatically with one another.

You may be psychologically affected for the rest of your life the moment you discover that the summary section alone stopped you from scoring the last credit (C6) which probably would have made it possible for you to have gained admission to a higher institution of learning some time ago. Therefore, you should not write a preamble which taken with the different answers does not make a sentence. Besides, the inclusion of irrelevant or extraneous material in each of your correct answers stands against your desire to perform very well in the summary aspect. A lot of candidates believe, albeit ignorantly, that the more words they write, the more marks they are bound to score. You are also advised to write out your answers in sentences instead of phrases. A sentence is made up of a subject and a predicate but a phrase can function as a subject or an object of a sentence. You should realize that if your answers were taken with a preamble and it does not make a sentence, you would be awarded half of the marks allotted, the imposition of other penalties notwithstanding.

Finally, except otherwise stated, you must avoid the temptations of making two points in one sentence by using such coordinating conjunctions as “or”, “and”, “nor”, “but” or writing more than the required number of sentences as your answers. No one is an island. You can become a master in the art of summary writing too.

QUESTION.

In six sentences, one for each, summarize the steps for writing suitable answers to summary questions.

