USE OF ENGLISH

1. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The aim of the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) syllabus in Use of English is to guide the candidates in their preparation for the Board’s examination. It is designed to evaluate the candidates’ ability to:

(i) communicate effectively in both written and spoken English; and
(ii) use the English Language for learning at the tertiary level.

2. The syllabus consists of three sections:

SECTION A: Comprehension/Summary
SECTION B: Lexis and Structure, and
SECTION C: Oral Forms

3. DETAILED SYLLABUS/CONTENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPICS/CONTENTS/NOTES</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A. Comprehension/Summary</strong></td>
<td>Candidates should be able to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>(a) description</td>
<td>i. identify main points/topic sentences in passages;</td>
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<td>(b) narration</td>
<td>ii. determine implied meaning;</td>
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<td>(c) exposition</td>
<td>iii. identify the grammatical functions of words, phrases, clauses and figurative/idiomatic expressions;</td>
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<td>(d) argumentation/persuasion</td>
<td>iv. deduce or infer the writer’s intentions including mood, attitude to the subject matter and opinion.</td>
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<td>(i) Each of the three passages to be set (one will be a cloze test) should reflect various disciplines and be about 200 words long.</td>
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<td>(ii) Questions on the passages will test the following:</td>
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<td>(a) Comprehension of the whole or part of each passage.</td>
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<td>(b) Comprehension of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, figures of speech and idioms as used in the passages.</td>
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<td>(c) Coherence and logical reasoning (deductions, inferences, etc).</td>
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<td>(d) The Last Days at Forcados High School, A. H. Mohammed.</td>
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<td>(e) Synthesis of ideas from the passages.</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVES</td>
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<td><strong>NOTE:</strong></td>
<td>Candidates should be able to:</td>
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| By synthesis of ideas is meant the art of combining distinct or separate pieces of information to form a complete whole. | i. identify words and expressions in their ordinary, figurative and idiomatic contexts;  
ii. determine similar and opposite meaning of words;  
iii. differentiate between correct and incorrect punctuation and spelling;  
iv. identify various grammatical patterns in use;  
v. interpret information conveyed in sentences. |

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<tr>
<th><strong>B. Lexis and Structure</strong></th>
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| (a) synonyms              | i.  
(b) antonyms              |  
(c) homonyms               |  
(d) clause and sentence patterns |  
(e) word classes and their functions |  
(f) mood, tense, aspect, number, agreement/concord, degree (positive, comparative and superlative) and question tags |  
(g) punctuation and spelling |  
(h) ordinary usage, figurative usage and idiomatic usage are to be tested. |  

**NOTE:**  
Idioms to be tested shall be those that are formal and expressed in standard British English. |

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<th><strong>C. Oral Forms</strong></th>
<th>Candidates should be able to:</th>
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| (a) Vowels (monophthongs and diphthongs) | i.  
(b) Consonants (including clusters) |  
(c) Rhymes (including homophones) |  
(d) Word stress (monosyllabic and polysyllabic) |  
(e) Intonation (words emphatic stress) |  

**NOTE:**  
Emphatic stress involves the placement of normal stress on words in an utterance for the purpose of emphasis. |  
iv. identify correct accentuation in individual words and connected speech. |
D. THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION

SECTION A: Comprehension/Summary

(a) 2 comprehension passages – 10 questions, 3 marks each = 30 marks
(b) 1 cloze passage – 10 questions, 2 marks each = 20 marks
(c) 1 reading text – 15 questions, 1 mark each = 15 marks = 65 marks

SECTION B: Lexis Structure

(a) Sentence interpretation – 10 questions, 2 marks each = 20 marks
(b) Antonyms – 10 questions, 2 marks each = 20 marks
(c) Synonyms – 10 questions, 1 mark each = 10 marks
(d) Sentence completion – 20 questions, 1 mark each = 20 marks = 70 marks

SECTION C: Oral Forms

15 questions, 1 mark each = 15 marks

Total: 100 questions 65 + 70 + 15 = 150 marks
E. RECOMMENDED TEXTS


