

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION BOARD

General Certificate of Education Examination

JUNE 2025

ADVANCED LEVEL

Subject Title	ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Paper No./Title	PAPER 2
Subject Code No.	0730

Answer your questions either exclusively from **PART ONE (NEW SYLLABUS)** or from **PART TWO (OLD SYLLABUS)**

PART ONE (NEW SYLLABUS)

Duration: Two and a Quarter Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.

ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

Read all instructions on **BOTH** the question paper and the answer booklet very carefully. Failure to obey these instructions or to number your work as on the question paper will cause you to lose marks.

Any unusual mark, sign or unnecessary disclosure of your identity will be considered as an attempt to cheat and will earn you a penalty.

You are reminded of the necessity for good English and orderly presentation in your answers.

A pre-prepared or memorised composition will earn you no marks.

Turn Over

PART ONE (NEW SYLLABUS)

SECTION A: COMPOSITION (20 MARKS)

MARK DISTRIBUTION

Content and Organisation
Expression
Accuracy

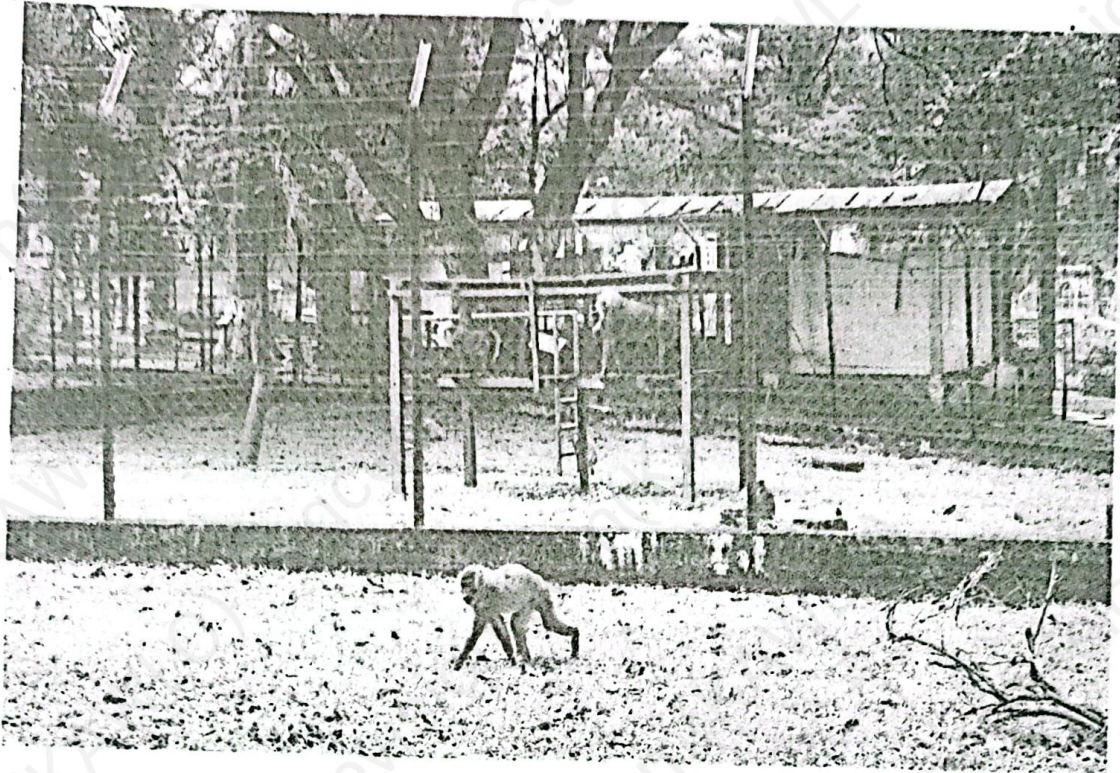
(10 marks)

(8 marks)

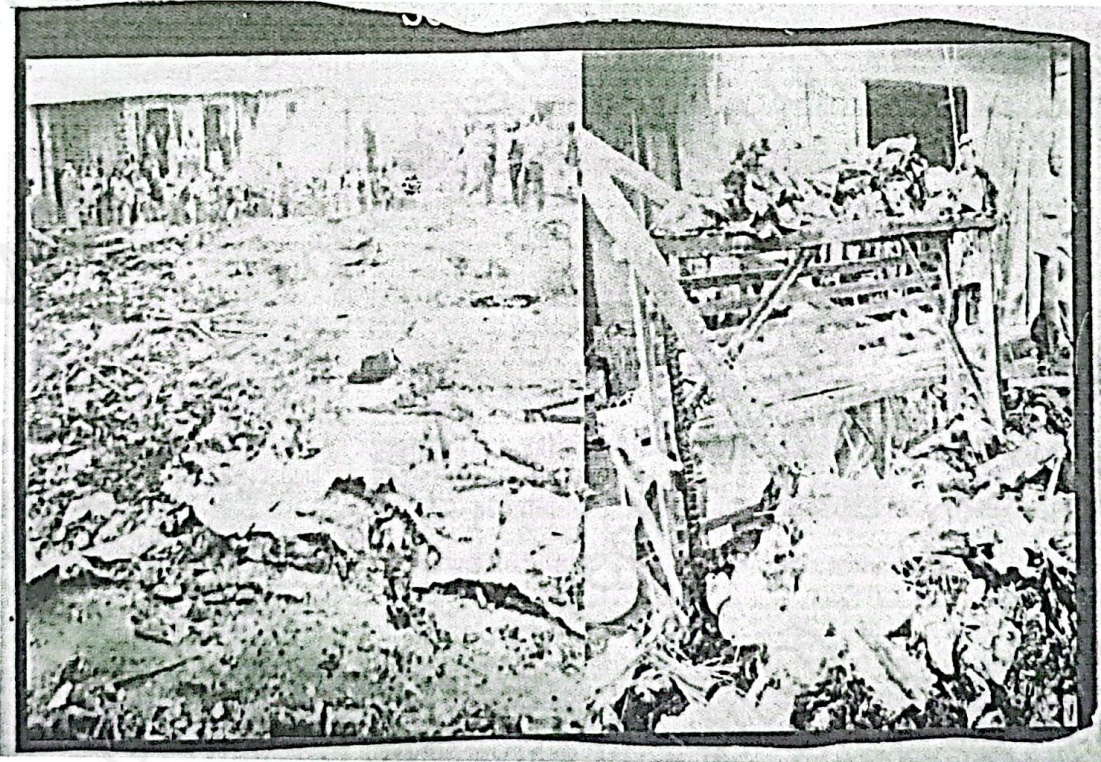
(2 marks)

Choose ONE topic to write about from the list below. You are advised to write clearly and effectively, to spell and punctuate correctly and to ensure that your writing is appropriate in style and content to the topic chosen. Avoid obscene language and do not disclose your identity. You should write between 500 and 550 words.

- a) Write a story which explains the proverb: 'Don't count your chickens before they hatch'
- b) Technology
- c) Describe an incident in which you were involved that brought shame and disgrace to your school.
- d) Young girls face a lot of difficulties growing up in your community. Suggest measures which could be taken to address their difficulties.
- e) Parents should choose spouses for their children. Do you agree?
- f) Write a story, a description or other form of composition suggested by one of the following pictures. Your composition may be directly about the subject of the picture or take some central suggestion(s) from it. There must be a clear connection between the picture and the composition

F₁

Source: Cameroon Tribune, Nov. 5, 2020

F₂

Source: The North-Westerner 3rd Edition N° 003 March 2020

SECTION B: PRESCRIBED TEXTS (20 MARKS)

Answer ONE question only.

1. Read the following poem and answer the questions below it.

“IF WE MUST DIE”

If we must die, let it not be like hogs

Hunted and penned in an *inglorious spot*,

While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,

Making their mock at our *accursed lot*.

5

If we must die, O let us *nobly die*,

So that our precious blood may not be shed

In vain; then even the monsters will we defy

Shall be constrained to honor us through dead!

O kinsmen! We must meet the common foe!

10

Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,

And for their thousand blows deal one death – blow

What though before us lies the open grave?

Like men we'll face the murderous, *cowardly pack*

Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back.

15

- I. In a paragraph, say what you consider to be the poet's message.

(4 marks)

- II. Give the meaning in context of the following words/expressions:

(4 marks)

(i) ... *inglorious spot*.... (L.2)

(ii) ... *accursed lot*.....(L.5)

iii) ... *nobly die*,(L.6)

iv) ... *cowardly pack*(L.15)

- III. Pick out two phrasal verbs from the first stanza.

(2 marks)

- IV. Pick out four adverbs and change them to nouns.

(4 marks)

- V. Show how the theme of bravery in the poem is reflected in any other two prescribed texts.

(6 marks)

2. The society as presented in the prescribed texts is morally decadent. Use any three prescribed texts to justify this assertion.

(20 marks)

3. Characters in the prescribed texts portray the ideals of heroism. Use any three prescribed texts to illustrate this assertion.

(20 marks)

4. Write short notes on any THREE of the following:

- (i) *The Bondo Camp*
- (ii) *The Swamps*
- (iii) *Sambis*
- (iv) *The Sea*
- (v) '*Cruel Megalomaniacal Leaders*' By Francis Duggan

(20 marks)

SECTION C: CREATIVE WRITING (20 MARKS)

Answer ONE question only.

1. You received a letter from your father which simply said, 'Ask your mother who your biological father is.' In not more than 250 words, present the discussion you had with your mother.
2. People in your community face a lot of health challenges because of the way they lead their lives and manage their environment. You are a health practitioner and you feel greatly concerned about the distressing situation. Using between 200 and 250 words, advise the people on what they must do in order to lead a healthy lifestyle.

PART TWO (OLD SYLLABUS)

Duration: Three Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **BOTH** questions in SECTION A and **ONE EACH** from SECTIONS B and C in the SAME Answer Booklet, beginning each section on a new page.

Read all instructions on **BOTH** the question paper and the answer booklet very carefully. Failure to obey these instructions or to number your work as on the question paper will cause you to lose marks.

Any unusual mark, sign or unnecessary disclosure of your identity will be considered as an attempt to cheat and will earn you a penalty.

In the SUMMARY question, use mainly your own words. Indiscriminate copying of portions of the passage as your answer will earn you little or no marks.

You are reminded of the necessity for good English and orderly presentation in your answers.

A pre-prepared or memorised composition will earn you little or no marks.

SECTION A: SUMMARY AND TEXT RECONSTRUCTION (30 Marks)

QUESTION 1: SUMMARY (15 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and in two paragraphs of not more than 150 words, summarise it using your own words as far as possible.

National survey on Violence Against Children (VAC) in Nigeria determines three types of VAC to be physical violence, sexual violence and emotional violence. According to the study, out of the three VAC, sexual violence affects most number of children in Nigeria. Most respondents said they will report to the police when they witness violence against children in their community. In the same manner, as messengers of peace, we should not fold our arms at this menace. Rape is one of the crimes and social problems that is somewhat regarded as a community's least priority although the victims suffer from grave physical, mental, and emotional consequences. So, what is rape? Rape is a type of sexual assault usually involving having a carnal knowledge, which is initiated by one or more persons against another person without the person's consent. The act may be carried out by physical force, coercion, abuse of authority or against a person who is incapable of valid consent, such as one who is unconscious, incapacitated, or below the legal age of consent. The term rape is sometimes used interchangeably with the term sexual assault. The time is now and the place is anywhere in the world where this issue is not being given the attention that is warranted to fight the biasness towards rape victims. This can be witnessed in the recent social upheaval that has affected India whereby, a 23-year old paramedic student was gang raped, mauled and left to die naked in the streets of Delhi, the Indian capital. The incident generated widespread national and international coverage and was widely condemned, both in India and abroad.

The consequences of rape to the woman or man can be classified either as physically, mentally or emotionally traumatic. Among the physical effects include unwanted pregnancies, disease or health problems and certain disruptions on the natural bodily functions. On the other hand, psychological effects range from self-pity to the more striking suicidal tendencies. The most immediate physical effect of rape is the risk of the victim getting pregnant. Dependent on the age of the victim, she may conceive a child even if she has just reached puberty. In most instances, rape victims who become pregnant opt to abort the child that is considered the result of the crime committed against them. In some cases, the situation is further complicated due to abortions not being a legal option for the victim.

Without their knowledge, the rape victims are also at risk of acquiring sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS that could affect their health in the short and long term even leading to death. Since rape is a form of forced intercourse, the victim's body usually suffers physical injury particularly to the vagina, uterus, and other parts of the reproductive system. The risks are greater if the rape victim is a child or a very young teen. In addition, the rape victims are often beaten up and tortured during and after the rape which might even lead to losing their lives in some cases. The foremost psychological effect of rape will be emotional trauma and paranoia. At times, the victim will exhibit symptoms of mental and emotional trauma through solitude and exclusion. They also develop fear in mingling and socializing with strangers and other people especially men. These effects can last for the duration of the victim's lifetime. Apart from making her aloof and isolated, rape can also lead the victim to pity or self-blame for the crime. This effect is partly caused by the social stigma or shame that societies or communities wrongly attribute to the victim. She is often deprived of the care she should receive from families and society at large, who in turn can accuse her of callous and provoking behaviour. This worsens her mental state and she is emotionally devastated for life. The most striking effect that rape can produce in a victim is the tendency of the thought of committing suicide.

Turn Over

Because of trauma, self-pity and seclusion, rape victims often feel that there is no longer hope and they could no longer recover and that they are not worthy of living. It is time that all humans demand change in all countries that perpetrate such injustices world-wide. It is time to provide the education and information and encourage discussions that will change society's attitudes towards rape and find ways to eradicate this intolerable social issue once and for all.

<https://www.scout.org/node/425971>

QUESTION 2: Text Reconstruction (15 Marks)

Read the following text, identify the mistakes in it and correct them. Then, copy the corrected text in your answer booklet, underlining all the identified and corrected mistakes.

When my daughter break the news to me over the phone application viber that my mother was taking his last breathe, I was shattered. Eventhough my mother had struggled with colon cancer and was in excruciating pain the news stroke me like an axe on my head. Immediately, I felt drained of every ounce of vitality. I felt like my heart leapt out of my chest. I had to sit down to stop me from slumping on the floor.

I do not plan to write about grief, but I taught it will be helpful to shear my experience. I belief putting my feelings on paper will bring some closure to my grief or by my sharing may help someone else.

In the immediate aftermath of the announcement, and as the hours evolved in day, I couldn't eat; I felt physical pain all over and was physically exhausted.

Dealing with dead is the hard thing I ever have to deal with in my life. There is no formular or timeline for dealing with grief. The range of emotions is overwhelmed and at first I am not sure how I was supposed to react or how I was supposed to say to anyone. I was emotionally unmoored, adrifted in the wreckage of loss love, loose life and my own seeming shattered identity. This powerless, I guess, reflect the uncertainty of death.

Adapted from Profiles International; Issued 41-January/February 2016

SECTION B: COMPOSITION (20 marks)**MARK DISTRIBUTION**

Content and Organisation
Expression
Accuracy

(06 marks)
(08 marks)
(06 marks)

Choose ONE topic to write about from the list below. You are advised to write clearly and effectively, to spell and punctuate correctly, and to ensure that your writing is appropriate in style and content to the topic chosen. Avoid obscene language and do not disclose your identity. You should write between 500 and 550 words.

- a) Write a story based on the proverb, 'The pen is mightier than the sword'.
- b) Marriage
- c) Online classes are more effective than face-to-face classes. Do you agree?
- d) Depression is on the rise in our society today. What are the causes of this situation and what can be done to check it?
- e) Describe an incident that caused you to take the toughest decision you ever made and how it completely changed your life.
- f) Write a story, a description or other form of composition suggested by one of the following pictures. Your composition may be directly about the subject of the picture or take some central suggestion (s) from it. There must be a clear connection between the picture and the composition.

Turn Over

Picture A**Picture B**

SECTION C: PRESCRIBED TEXTS (20 Marks)

Answer ONE question only.

1. Read the following passage from John Ngong Kum's Walls of Agony and answer the questions below.

"Better Than Flight"

Years of misery, years of menace
From the *hardened hands of evil* thick
As charcoal in darkness dark as night.
Miserable soul conceived in grief,
Born into distress and chaos,
Raised in poverty and sly affection little or
Yet nursing hope someday to overcome.

5

I crawled into the wilderness
There to learn how to overcome
A world *flourishing in bad blood*.
In tears *I laboured* day by day
Shouldering the slashes of the wind
And the corrosive strokes of the sand
To give my existence a human face.

10

I have come back home
Yet death *stalks me still*.
A strange hunger consumes me
As I walk towards my home.
All I need dear Kezeh is wisdom,
A brush and paint for reconstruction.
The venture will be tough, very tough.
But to challenge corruption to combat
And batter the heart of exploitation
For everyone's good is better than flight.

15

20

- a) Briefly say what you consider to be the message in the passage. (4 marks)
- b) Give the meaning in context of the following expressions:
- i '... *hardened hands of evil*.' (L.2)
 - ii '*flourishing in 'bad blood* (L.9)
 - iii '*I laboured...*' (L.10)
 - iv '*stalks me...*' (L.15)
- (4 marks)
- c) Pick out any two devices from the passage and comment on how it has been effectively used. (4 marks)
- d) Pick out four verbs in the last stanza and transform them into the past perfect tense. (4 marks)
- e) The speaker talks about corruption in the passage. How is this idea of corruption handled in any other two prescribed texts? (4 marks)
2. Writers of the prescribed texts are dissatisfied with the forces of law and order. Justify this assertion using any three prescribed texts.
3. Using any three prescribed texts, justify the assertion that writers of the prescribed texts have different views about love.
4. Writers are humorous in presenting their stories. Use any three prescribed texts to illustrate this view.