

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION BOARD

General Certificate of Education Examination

JUNE 2026

ORDINARY LEVEL

Centre Number	
Centre Name	
Candidate Identification Number	
Candidate Name	

Mobile phones are NOT allowed in the examination room.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION PAPER

Duration: One and a Half Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Read the following instructions carefully before you start answering the questions in this paper. Make sure you have a soft HB pencil and an eraser for this examination.

1. USE A SOFT HB PENCIL THROUGHOUT THE EXAMINATION.
2. DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

Before the examination begins:

3. Check that this question booklet is headed "ORDINARY LEVEL – 0530 ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1"
4. Fill in the information required in the spaces above.
5. Fill in the information required in the spaces provided on the answer sheet using your HB pencil:
Candidate Name, Exam Session, Subject Code and Candidate Identification Number.
Take care that you do not crease or fold the answer sheet or make any marks on it other than those asked for in these instructions.

How to answer the questions in this examination

6. Answer ALL the 50 questions in this Examination. All questions carry equal marks.
7. Each question has FOUR suggested answers: A, B, C and D. Decide which answer is appropriate. Find the number of the question on the Answer Sheet and draw a horizontal line across the letter to join the square brackets for the answer you have chosen.

For example, if C is your correct answer, mark C as shown below:

[A] [B] [C] [D]

8. Mark only one answer for each question. If you mark more than one answer, you will score a zero for that question. If you change your mind about an answer, erase the first mark carefully, then mark your new answer.
9. Avoid spending too much time on any one question. If you find a question difficult, move on to the next question. You can come back to this question later.
10. Do all your rough work in this booklet using the blank spaces in the question booklet.
11. **At the end of the examination, the invigilator shall collect the answer sheet first and then the question booklet. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO LEAVE THE EXAMINATION HALL WITH IT.**

Turn Over

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JUNE 2026

ORDINARY LEVEL

Subject Title	English Language
Paper No./ Title	Paper 1 - Section A - Listening Comprehension Test
Subject Code No.	0530

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1

Instructions for the conduct of Section A.
(Listening Comprehension Test - 5 marks)

These instructions are for the use of the Teacher **ONLY** and must not be shown to the candidates.

The question paper for the Listening Comprehension test should be distributed to the candidates. Candidates should be instructed to enter the details required on the front cover of the question booklet. They should then be told to fill in the information required on the answer sheet. Ensure that candidates do **NOT** open the question paper until they are told to do so after the first reading of the Listening Comprehension passage (see below).

The complete test should take 25 minutes. The timing commences at the beginning of the first reading of the passage. The short time allowed to candidates for reading the questions should be two minutes.

If the teacher considers it desirable to give an extra reading of any group of words because of some noise from outside or for any other good cause, this can be done. If this is found necessary, the cause must be reported to the Board on the special report form.

The procedure for giving the Listening Comprehension test is explained in the following announcement which the teacher should read to the candidates immediately before the test:

I shall read a passage to you once. You are not allowed to write anything during this first reading. Do not look at your question paper. (First reading)

The timing of the test (25 minutes) commences at this point. The teacher should read the passage through at normal reading speed, avoiding any distortion of features of spoken English. The teacher then announces:

Now open your question paper. I shall give you two minutes to look at the questions on the paper. They are grouped into three sections. Do not write anything.

The teacher allows an interval of two minutes and then announces:

I shall now read the passage through again but this time in three sections. When I have finished reading the first section you will be given two minutes in which to provide answers to the first section of the questions. Your answers must be given as instructed in the booklet. This procedure will then be repeated for the other sections. You may still look at the questions and you may make notes on the blank spaces in the booklet, if you wish, as I read. First section.

The teacher should read each section aloud pausing at each slant line. A two-minute interval should be respected after each section. Two minutes after reading the third section the teacher should make the following announcement:
You now have the remainder of the 25 minutes for final revision of section A.

Turn Over

LISTENING COMPREHENSION PASSAGE**LYING****SECTION ONE**

Throughout the years, lying has had a huge amount of power. Lying has changed, and so has the way people lie, but the reason for lying hasn't. People lie out of fear, revenge, sadness, or selfishness. Lying can also take the form of a disease, as some people can eventually become permanent liars, as they constantly lie, even if it serves no special purpose. Such persons have become addicted to lying. Even though we sometimes lie to save a situation, we must also be very careful about the frequency of the act of lying we resort to. Remember especially that, lying breaks trust — even if you're telling the truth, no one believes a liar. Once your friends and family consider you a liar, even when you tell the truth, no one will believe you. Listen to what happened to a young man who was grazing cattle.

SECTION TWO

Once, there was a boy who became bored when he watched over the village sheep grazing on the hillside. To entertain himself, he cried out, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" When the villagers heard the cry, they came running up the hill to drive the wolf away. But, when they arrived, they saw no wolf. The boy was amused when he saw their angry faces. "Don't scream wolf, boy," warned the villagers. "when there is no wolf!" They angrily went back down the hill. Later, the shepherd boy cried out once again, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" To his amusement, he looked on as the villagers came running up the hill to scare the wolf away. As they saw there was no wolf, they said once more seriously, "Save your frightened cry for when there really is a wolf! Don't cry 'wolf' when there is no wolf!" But the boy grinned at their words while they walked away, grumbling down the hill once more.

SECTION THREE

Later, the boy saw a real wolf sneaking around his flock. Alarmed, he jumped on his feet and cried out as loud as he could, "Wolf! Wolf!" But the villagers thought he was fooling them again, and so they didn't come to help. At sunset, the villagers went looking for the boy, who hadn't returned with their sheep. When they went up the hill, they found him bleeding profusely and also weeping. "There really was a wolf here! The flock is gone! I cried out, 'Wolf!' but you didn't come," he wailed. An old man went to comfort the boy. As he put his arm around him while cleaning his wounds, he said, "Nobody believes a liar, even when he is telling the truth!"

SECTION A

LISTENING COMPREHENSION (5 marks)

QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer from the alternatives (A, B, C and D) for each of the questions below. Using only the material read to you from the listening comprehension passage, answer each question as directed.

SECTION ONE

1. People lie because of _____.
 A fear, poverty, revenge or selfishness.
 B revenge, fear, poverty or power
 C fear, revenge, sadness and selfishness
 D selfishness, power, sadness or trust

2. Lying can be a disease when one lies _____.
 A to save life
 B for revenge
 C for no special reason
 D all the time

3. According to the passage, one could sometimes lie _____.
 A for special occasions
 B to save a situation
 C to avoid punishment
 D to gain favour

4. The expression, "lying breaks trust" suggests that _____.
 A lying is an addiction
 B family members consider you as a liar
 C no one believes a liar
 D friends dislike you

SECTION TWO

5. In this passage, the boy cried 'wolf' because _____.
 A he was bored
 B he wanted to entertain himself
 C the wolf was chasing the sheep
 D he was grazing the sheep

6. The word 'amused' read to you from the passage means _____.

- A happy
 B encouraged
 C bored
 D amazed

7. The villagers angrily walked down the hill because _____.

- A the boy cried
 B they were afraid
 C the wolf had gone
 D the boy had lied to them again

SECTION THREE

- 8.

EITHER

You have heard the word "returned" read to you from the passage. Tick the word below with the stress pattern as in "returned"

- A bleeding
 B again
 C normal
 D pleasant

OR

The boy did not return with the sheep because _____

- A he was fooling the villagers
 B he was seriously wounded
 C the villager didn't come to help
 D a wolf had attacked the flock

9. The villagers met him bleeding and weeping. This suggests that _____.

- A truly the wolf attacked him
 B he fell down the hill
 C the flock attacked him
 D he jumped on his feet

10. The lesson derived from this story is that _____.

- A lies telling can be costly
 B we should cry when there is trouble
 C we should be honest cattle grazers
 D we should save lives

SECTION B

READING COMPREHENSION (7½ marks)

Read the following passage and answer the questions which follow.

MY JOURNEY HOME

When I did not hear from my father for so long, which was abnormal, I decided to send him a letter. Several weeks after sending this letter to my father, I still did not receive a reply. I sent him an express mail. Again, no response. I concluded that something must be wrong at home; perhaps with my grandmother, who had recently suffered a serious illness and virtually lost her sight. 5

I asked the editor of my newspaper organ for a week off. The next morning I boarded a taxi to the bus station and joined several other passengers on board a station wagon bound for my home town. My mood was nostalgic throughout the seven-hour journey. Memories of my grandmother first came to mind.

My father's mother, Nne, also gave me cause for uneasiness when she foretold that I would achieve success and fame only if I washed my eyes in water, and if I were wise enough to avoid the misfortunes fate would put on my path. So, my father had told me many stories of her quirky wisdom, her habit of surprising people by divining their innermost thoughts, or their dreams, or foretelling events exactly as they would happen. The day her husband died she had begged him not to climb a particular palm tree from which he would have the fatal fall. 10 15

"Why are you speaking like a drunk this early in the day?" her husband had asked. The years he had lived with her had bred in him, not respect for her clairvoyance, but dismissive contempt.

"I saw in my dream a thing so terrible my mouth cannot speak about. That tree is bitter. You must sacrifice a cockerel to appease its anger". 20

Her husband laughed her off. "**If that tree wants to eat a chicken, it must go to the market and buy itself one**", he said. One of his customers had ordered seven gourds of palm wine for a marriage ceremony, and my grandfather was not the kind of tapper to promise seven gourds without delivery.

When he set out that morning for his tapping rounds she followed him part of the way, admonishing in proverbs. 25

"The death that kills a puppy first blinds him. The headstrong who won't listen will finally obey the summons of the death mat. The housefly that has nobody to advise it follows the corpse into the grave". Her husband swaggered on in silence.

Later that day, an old man returning from his farm heard muffled groans. As he followed the direction of the sound, he discovered my grandfather in a heap, blood surging from his mouth, dripping from his nostrils and seeping from his ears. The farmer ran to the village with a speed indifferent to the weariness of old bones. But when the first persons arrived at the scene, my grandfather was already dead. From this story, we learnt to listen to grandma's words with a lot of caution. 30 35

Still in the car, memories of my father also floated in and out of my mind. I recalled how he had set off my romance with words, how he had taught me words and sounds long before I knew their meaning. Words that were magical music to my ears.

The car arrived late in the afternoon. I completed my journey in a cab that ran the thirty- 40

Turn Over

minute shuttle to my village. The driver dropped me off outside the bar in which years earlier I had listened to familiar music and conversation. Walking towards my home, I saw a woman sitting on a wooden ledge in the village square, head lifted to the sky. She called out my name. I startled, then recognized my grandmother.

"Nne," I addressed her. "What are you doing here?"

45

"Watching the sun go home," she answered.

"Watching the sun! Didn't father say ..." I squelched the indelicate question.

"That I had gone blind? Why should weakness of sight stop me escorting the journeying sun?"

"I was surprised that you called out my name. How did you know it was me?"

50

"The scent of your spirit".

"Scent? How does my spirit smell?"

She laughed, a high, full-hearted laughter.

"Just like your father's; a good smell".

As we made our way home she said, "Your father is waiting for you"

55

"Waiting? But he doesn't know I'm coming". She laughed again. "My son, you and your father carry the same blood in your bodies. He knows you are coming".

QUESTIONS

11. The narrator _____ communicated with his father.
 A seldomly
 B never
 C usually
 D occasionally
12. The narrator imagined that something might be wrong with the grandmother because she _____
 A had always been very sick
 B was very old
 C had recently been very sick
 D had suffered
13. Grandma's predictions caused the narrator to be _____ her.
 A afraid of
 B cautious of
 C careful with
 D honest with
14. The grandmother had a special gift of _____.
 A surprising people
 B wisdom
 C eloquence
 D foretelling the future
15. His grandfather, in dismissing the grandmother's advice, shows that he was _____.
 A carefree
 B religious
 C unbelieving
 D superstitious
16. The expression "if that tree wants to eat a chicken, it must go to the market and buy itself one" (line 22) is _____.
 A humorous
 B sarcastic
 C ironic
 D paradoxical
17. The three proverbs altered by the tapper's wife suggest a/an _____.
 A ill omen
 B advice
 C threat
 D caution
18. The word 'muffled' in the phrase "muffled groans" (line 30) is used as a/an _____.
 A verb
 B adverb
 C noun
 D adjective
19. The narrator's grandfather must have died because he had _____.
 A taken a lot of palm wine
 B fallen from the palm tree
 C been beaten by a snake
 D been wounded
20. In teaching the child, the narrator's father can be described as _____.
 A caring
 B authoritative
 C strict
 D liberal

21. The expression "watching the sun go home" (line 52) suggests it was _____.
- A dawn
B sunrise
C noon
D dusk
22. The narrator withdrew from completing his question about grandma's sight to avoid _____.
- A embarrassment
B sympathy
C disrespect
D sadness
23. The expression "she laughed a high, full-hearted laughter" (line 55) means the laughter was _____.
- A passionate
B provocative
C loud
D jovial
24. This story covers _____ generations.
- A one
B three
C two
D four
25. The general feeling at the end of the story is that of _____.
- A fear
B uncertainty
C sadness
D satisfaction

SECTION C.

GRAMMAR (7½ marks)

For numbers 26- 40 choose the best answer that completes each sentence.

26. By the time it rains, my flowers _____.
- A will have wither
B will wither
C would have withered
D have withered
27. My neighbours aren't at home. They _____ out.
- A are going
B shall go
C will go
D have gone
28. Wisdom is said to be the application of knowledge. Wisdom and knowledge are _____ nouns.
- A concrete

- B common
C abstract
D proper
29. You and _____ will succeed in the coming examination.
- A me
B us
C they
D I
30. It is _____ to propose an idea than to defend it.
- A most easier
B much more easier
C easier
D most more easier
31. Jerry _____ sleeps in the afternoon. He considers it a waste of time.
- A usually
B often
C sometimes
D never
32. I have been working in town _____ the beginning of my career.
- A since
B until
C in
D at
33. It was a rainy day _____ many students came late.
- A since
B so
C because
D whereas
34. Nobody has eaten to their fill, _____?
- A not so
B hasn't she/he
C have they
D has she/he
35. The active form of the expression 'He was made to confess by the police' is _____.
- A The police made him confess
B He confessed to the police
C The police made him to confess
D The confession to the police was made by him
36. 'Never disrespect your parents', Emma told the sister. Emma advised her sister _____.
- A to never disrespect your parents
B to never disrespect her parents
C never to disrespect her parents
D never disrespect your parents

Turn Over

37. As the president of _____ association, I have _____ obligation to follow the rules binding members.
 A an/the
 B the/this
 C the/the
 D the/that
38. The teacher asked you and _____ to clean the class
 A me
 B I
 C myself
 D them
39. Neither the passengers nor the driver _____ late.
 A were
 B is
 C are
 D weren't
40. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?
 A The master asked, who came late this morning?
 B The master asked, "who came late this morning"
 C The master asked, "who came late this morning?"
 D The master asked 'who came late this morning?'

SECTION D

VOCUBULARY (5 marks)

For numbers 41 - 46 choose the answer that best completes each sentence.

41. Mary and Susan _____ the floor of our house.
 A dry-cleaned
 B kept clean
 C mopped
 D mobbed
42. Amina stayed back to _____ corn for the evening meal.
 A scratch
 B crash
 C remove
 D thresh
43. In order to carry out the necessary examination, the dead body was _____.
 A extracted
 B exported
 C exhumed
 D expelled

44. The government has _____ smoking in public places.
 A prevented
 B banned
 C adjusted
 D avoided
45. There are more than three hundred indigen _____ languages in Cameroon.
 A eous
 B ious
 C ous
 D uous
46. Our friend told us his father gave him 'chicken feed' for his allowance. This means his father gave him _____.
 A a very small amount of money
 B a big sum of money
 C food for thought
 D money for chicks

For Numbers 47 and 48 choose the answer that best explains the meaning of the underlined word or phrase.

47. The company wanted to keep the story a secret but someone leaked it out to the press.
 A bought
 B sold
 C brought
 D borrowed
48. The victim could not identify the thief.
 A recognise
 B discover
 C find
 D know

For Numbers 49 and 50 choose the answer that gives the opposite of the underlined word.

49. The Judge was subjective in his judgement.
 A correct
 B unjust
 C crooked
 D impartial
50. The English Language lessons always precede sports and physical education lessons.
 A follow behind
 B come before
 C come after
 D come along side

STOP

GO BACK AND CHECK YOUR WORK