

The aim of the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) syllabus in Igbo is to prepare the candidates for the Board's examination. It is designed to test their achievement of the course objectives, which are to:

- 1) communicate effectively in Igbo;
- 2) analyse issues in the language;
- 3) interpret and explain figurative and idiomatic expressions in Igbo;
- 4) apply Igbo literature to their daily life experiences and to demonstrate Igbo cultural values



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TOPICS/CONTENTS/NOTES

SECTION A: LANGUAGES (ASUSU)

1. Essay (Edemedede)

- (a) Basic principles of essay writing: [introduction, body and conclusion](#)
 - (b) [Basic essay types and](#) their characteristics
 - (i) Narrative (Akọmakọ)
 - (ii) Descriptive and Expository (Nkọwa na Nkọwami)
 - (iii) Argumentative (Mgbagha/Arumaruuka)
 - (iv) Speech making (Ekwumekwu)
 - (v) Letter Writing (Edemleta)
 - (vi) Dialogue (Mkparitauka)

OBJECTIVES

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) identify the basic principles of essay writing;
- (ii) use words and expressions appropriate to a particular topic;
- (iii) differentiate between different essay types;
- (iv) describe the characteristics of essay types;
- (v) compare different types of essay;
- (vi) criticize other people's essays.

2. Comprehension (Aghotaazaa)

One passage of about one hundred and fifty (150) words.

OBJECTIVES

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) explain the meanings [of](#) difficult words;
- (ii) give correct answers;
- (iii) differentiate between figurative and idiomatic expressions from the passage;
- (iv) deduce conclusion based on the passage

3. Sounds and Sound Patterns (Udaasusu na Uoro Udaasusu)

- (a) Vowels and Consonants (Udaume na mgbochiume)
- (b) Sound Patterns/Processes
 - i. Syllabic nasals (myiri udaume)
 - ii. Syllable structure (nkeji mkpuruokwu)
 - iii. Vowel harmony (ndakorita udaume);
 - iv. Vowel assimilation (olilo udaume);
- v. Vowel elision and consonant elision (ndapu udaume na ndapu mgbochiume)
- (c) Tone and tone marking (Akara udao)

OBJECTIVES

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) identify vowels, consonants and syllabic nasals;
- (ii) distinguish between the speech sounds of the Igbo language;
 - (iii) recognize syllabic nasals 'm' & 'n';
- (iv) determine the syllabic structure of any word;
 - (v) identify the vowel groups in Igbo;
- (vi) describe vowel assimilation and vowel and consonant elision;
 - (vii) assign tone marks appropriately

4. Spelling and spelling rules (Nsupe na Iwu Nsupe)

5. Igbo Orthography (Mkpuruedemede Igbo)

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) detect words written correctly in Igbo;
- (ii) observe consonant restrictions in Igbo;
- (iii) determine appropriate word division in Igbo;
- (iv) apply correct spellings in writing

6. Dialect and Standard Igbo (Olundi/Olumba na Igbo Izugbe)

OBJECTIVES

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) differentiate between standard Igbo and dialects;
- (ii) use standard Igbo in their writings.

7. Vocabulary (Mkpuruokwu di n'asusu)

Expansion through word derivation processes, coinages, loans and loansblends (Imubawanye mkpuruokwu site n'usoro mmeputa, mkpuputa, mbite na mbiogwa).

OBJECTIVES

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) differentiate between loan and coined words;
- (ii) identify loan words and loan-blends in Igbo;
- (iii) use words appropriately.

8. Grammar (Utoasusu)

- (a) Parts of speech (Nkejiasusu): Nominals (Mkpoha), verbs (ngwaa), adjectives (nkowa), adverbs (nkwuwa), affixes (mgbakwunye), enclitics (nsokwunya), dgz.
- (b) The structure, types and functions of the morpheme (Ndoko, udi na oru mofim) Free & bound (nnooronwe na ndabe)

- (i) the word (mkpuruokwu)
- (ii) the phrase (nkebiokwu)
- (iii) the clause (nkebiahiri) nominal, relative adverbial (kemkpoha na kenkwuwa)
- (iv) the sentence (ahiriokwu) simple (mfe), compound (ukwu), complex (mgbagwo, dgz)

OBJECTIVES

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) differentiate between grammatical categories;
- (ii) identify parts of speech and their functions;
- (iii) differentiate between types of affixes and their functions;
- (iv) determine types of morphemes and their functions;
- (v) identify words, phrases, clauses, sentences and their functions.



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9. Translation (Ntughari)

OBJECTIVES

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) translate English into Igbo and vice versa;
- (ii) communicate effectively in Igbo and English

SECTION B: LITERATURE (AGUMAGU)

1. Literary devices (Atumatuokwu na atumatu agumagu) dika alliteration (biambia mgbochiume), assonance (biambia udaume), parallelism (kwunkwugha), metaphor (mburu), simile (myiri), hyperbole (egbeokwu), personification (mmemmadu) and proverbs (ilu), dgz.

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) identify all literary devices in the passages;
- (ii) interpret literary devices;
- (iii) differentiate between types of literary devices;
- (iv) use Igbo literary devices appropriately

2. Oral Literature: Agumagu Onu/ Agumagu Odinala Questions will be set on the following: folktales (ifo), anecdotes (ukabuilu), myths (nkomiriko), legends (nkokiriko), poems (abu), songs (uri), chants (mbem), riddles (agwugwa), oral drama (ejije onu), tongue-twister (okwuntuhi) dgz.

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) create folk stories, anecdotes, [chants](#), riddles, oral drama etc.
- (ii) analyse various genres of oral literature;
- (iii) present ideas/formulae in accordance with underlying principles;
- (iv) apply the lessons of oral literature to their everyday life.

3. Written Literature (Agumagu Ederede) (a) Prose (iduuazi) (i) Ude Odilora (1981) Okpa Aku Eri Eri. Onitsha: University Press. (NECO/WAEC) (2016- 2020).

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) interpret the text;
- (ii) isolate the characters in the book;
- (iii) compare figurative and idiomatic expressions in the text;
- (iv) analyse the text;
- (v) identify the author, publisher and date of the book;
- (vi) draw moral lessons from the text.

(b) Poetry (Abu) (i) Ikeokwu E.S & Onyejekwe M.C. (2009) Uche Bu Ahia. Enugu: Format Publishers Nig. LTD. (WAEC/NECO 2016- 2020).

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) compare the types and themes of the poems;
- (ii) relate the poets' idea to the contents of the poems;
- (iii) compare figurative and idiomatic expressions in the texts/poems;
- (iv) analyse the structures of the poems;
- (v) apply acquired knowledge and moral lessons from the poems to their daily lives.

ABU NDI A HQPUTARA (Selected Poems)

1. Uwa Ndoli Ndoli - 1
2. Ochichi - 14
3. Onwu 1 - 16
4. Chi-Ukwu - 20
5. Ire 1 - 22
6. Ozi Oma - 28
7. Mmota - 30
8. Ezi Nwaanyi - 36
9. Anyanwu - 40
10. Aku - 44
11. Akaraka - 49
12. Onwa - 69
13. Akwukwo - 71
14. Nwanne - 89

(c) DRAMA (EJIJE)

- i. Nwaozuzu G.I. (2005). Nke M Ji ka. Enugu: CIDJAP Press. (WAEC/NECO 2016- 2020).

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) identify types of drama;
- (ii) determine the themes of the text;
- (iii) identify the story lines;
- (iv) find out the characters in the stories;
- (v) appreciate the language of the play;
- (vi) appraise the social problems raised by the author in the play;
- (vii) apply acquired knowledge to their personal lives.

SECTION C: CUSTOMS AND INSTITUTIONS (Omenala na Ewumewu)

Igbo customs and institutions as categorized below:

1. Ekele di icheiche: ekele ututu, ehie, anyasi, nri, nlakpu, oru dgz.
2. Alimdi na nwunye, igba alukwaghim.
3. Omumu na ile omugwo, ikuputa nwa, ibi ugwu, igu aha.
4. Echichi: Ozo, Eze/Obi/Igwe/Iyom.
5. Ike ekpe, ikwa ozu, igba mkpe.
6. Umunna, umokpu/umuada.
7. Ogbob/ebiri/uke, ohanaze, ezinaulo
8. Aru na nsala: Ihe nso - anu, osisi, ebe, igbu ochu.
9. Ochichi Odinala: Igwe/Eze, Nze na Ozo, Umunna, Ezinaulo dgz.
10. Nnabata obia, oji na itu nzu, itu aha, dgz.
11. Igba afa, ichu aja, igu mmuo, ofufe.

12. Nkwenye: idu isi/inu iyi, igba ndu, oriko, dgz
13. Akunauba: inwe ala, ike ala, ekpe, elulu (ikpa okuko, ewu, dgz).
14. Ikikere mmuo: ofo, ogu, otosi, okpesi, ikenga.
15. Egwuregwu: mgba, egwu onwa, ikpo uga, izu ncho, izu okwe, dgz.
16. Akaoru ndi Igbo: Oru ugbo, iku azu, ikpu uzu, izu ahia, itu ihe otutu, dgz.

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) describe the customs of their people;
- (ii) determine the rules and regulations guiding specified aspects of the culture and tradition of the Igbo people;
- (iii) describe the importance of the aspects of Igbo culture;
- (iv) identify changes that have occurred as a result of civilization;
- (v) explore their environment for a better appreciation of their culture

SECTION D: General and Current Affairs (Ihe Ndi na-eme Ugbua)



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1. Topical issues on the Igbo language, literature and culture e.g. Ahịajịọkụ and Odenigbo lectures.
2. Ọhanaeze Ndị Igbo
3. Authors, Publishers, dates and places of publication of works in Igbo.
4. Igbo Studies Association (ISA)

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) identify some dates and themes of Ahịajịọkụ and Odenigbo lectures;
- (ii) identify authors and dates of publication of various textbooks in Igbo;
- (iii) identify some publishing companies;
- (iv) analyse some functions of Ọhanaeze ndị Igbo;
- (v) acquaint themselves with the functions and contributions of the Igbo Studies Association (ISA).

CURRENT ISSUES (Okwuakpụnọ)

Note: Item writers should also choose their topics for comprehension exercises from such current issues as the following: HIV/AIDS (Mmịnwu/Obirinaajaacha) Drug Abuse (Ịnu Ọgwụ Agharaagbara) Cultism (Otu Nzuzo) Rights of Women and Children (Oruru Umunwaanyi na Umaka) Human Rights Violation (Inapu Mmadu Ikike) Religious Conflicts (Nsogbu Ndokurita Ekpemekpe Uka)

Candidates should be able to:

- (i) acquaint themselves with current issues;
- (ii) examine their effects;
- (iii) suggest remedies to the problems

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

1. Emenanjo, E. N., Okolie, F. O. and Ekwe, B. U. (1995) Igbo maka Siniọ Sekondiri Sukul I.
2. Emenanjo, E. N., Dike, O. N., Agomo S. N and Ezeuko, R. O. (1999) Exam Focus maka WASSCE na UME, Ibadan: University Press Plc.
3. Ezikeojiaku, P. A. Okebalama, C. N. Onweluzo, C. N and Ekwe B. U. (1991) Ule Igbo maka Siniọ Sekondiri, Ibadan: University Press Plc.
4. Ikekeonwu, C., Ezikeojiaku, P. A., Ubani, A. and Ugoji, J. (1999) Fonoloji na Grama Igbo, Ibadan: University Press Plc
5. Nzeako, J. U. T. (1972): Omenala Ndị Igbo, Ibadan: Longman.
6. Okoye, O. F. S., Ofoegbu, N. F. and Ezidiegwu, B. L. (1997) Ọgbara Ọhuru Ụtoasusu Igbo maka Siniọ Sekondiri, Onitsha: Houston Publishers Ltd.
7. Osuagwu, B. I. N. (1979): Ndị Igbo na Omenala Ha, Nigeria: Macmillan.
8. Ubesie, T. U. (1978): Ọdinala Ndị Igbo, Ibadan: Oxford University Press.
9. Umeh, I. O. A; Onyekaonwu, G. O. Nwadike, I. U. and Okeke I. O. (1992): [U](#)toasusu na Agumagu Igbo nke Siniọ Sekondiri Sukul, Ibadan: Evans.
10. Uba – Mgbemena, A. (2006): Ntoala Usoroasusu Igbo, Ibadan: Gold Press Ltd.
11. Anozie, C. C. (2003), Igbo Kwenu: Akukọ na Omenala ndị Igbo Enugu: Computer Edge Publishers.

12. Ofomata, C. E. (2005): Ndezu Ụtọasụsụ Igbo. Enugu: Format Publishers (Nig) Ltd.
13. Ofili, D. N., Anozie C.C. and Chukwu, A.O. (2012): Lingwistiiki Sayensi Asụsụ II.

Enugu: Computer Edge Publishers.