

## 1. GENERAL OBJECTIVES



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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

## **A. Comprehension/Summary**

### **Topics:**

- (a) description
- (b) narration
- (c) exposition
- (d) argumentation/persuasion

(i) Each of the two passages to be set (one will be a cloze test) should reflect various disciplines and be about [200 words long](#).

(ii) Questions on the passages will test the following:

- (a) Comprehension of the whole or part of each passage.
- (b) Comprehension of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, figures of speech and idioms as used in the passages.
- (c) Coherence and logical reasoning (deductions, inferences, etc).
- (d) *The Life Changer* by Khadija Abubakar Jalli
- (e) Synthesis of ideas from the passages.

### **NOTE:**

By synthesis of ideas is meant the art of combining distinct or separate pieces of information to form a complete whole.

### **Objectives:**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. identify main points/topic [sentences](#) in passages;
- ii. determine implied meaning;
- iii. identify the grammatical functions of words, phrases, clauses and figurative/idiomatic

- expressions;
- iv. deduce or infer the writer's intentions including mood, attitude to the subject matter and opinion.

## **B. Lexis and Structure**



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**Topics:**

- (a) synonyms
- (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.

**Objectives:**

Candidates should be able to:

- 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.

## **C. Oral Forms**



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**Topics:**

- (a) Vowels (monothongs and diphthongs)
- (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.

**Objectives:**

Candidates should be able to:

- i. make distinctions between [vowel](#) types;
- ii. differentiate between consonant types;
- iii. identify correct accentuation in individual words and connected speech.

## **THE STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION**

### **SECTION A: Comprehension/Summary**





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**Topics:**

- (a) 1 comprehension passage – 5 questions
- (b) 1 cloze passage – 10 questions
- (c) 1 reading text – 10 questions

**SECTION B: Lexis Structure**

**Topics:**

- (a) Sentence interpretation – 5 questions
- (b) Antonyms – 5 questions
- (c) Synonyms – 5 questions
- (d) Sentence completion – 10 questions

**SECTION C: Oral Forms**



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**Topics:**

10 questions

Total: 60 questions

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS**



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