



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF COMMERCE, HUMAN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGES

QUALIFICATION: VARIOUS	
QUALIFICATION CODE: VARIOUS	LEVEL: 4
COURSE CODE: PLU411S	COURSE NAME: PRINCIPLES OF LANGUAGE USE
SESSION: JUNE/JULY 2025	PAPER: THEORY <i>Pm/DI</i>
DURATION: 3 HOURS	MARKS: 100

SECOND OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER	
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INSTRUCTIONS
1. Answer ALL the questions. 2. Write clearly and neatly. 3. Number the answers clearly.

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF _9_ PAGES (Including this front page)

SECTION 1: READING COMPREHENSION

[30 marks]

Read the text below and answer the questions that follow, based on the text. Check the instructions for each question carefully.

Challenges faced by first-year university students and how to overcome them

1. Transitioning from high school to university is an exciting yet daunting experience for many students. First-year students face a range of challenges, from adapting to a new environment to managing their academic workload. One of the biggest difficulties **they** encounter is adjusting to the independent learning style required at university. Without proper guidance, many students struggle to stay on top of their studies, resulting in stress and anxiety.
2. One of the most common challenges first-year students face is finding their way around campus. Many universities are vast, with multiple buildings and lecture halls. This can make it difficult for new students to locate their classes, especially during the first few weeks. To overcome this, students should familiarize themselves with the campus map, ask for directions from senior students or staff, and arrive early for classes until they gain confidence in **navigating** the university grounds.
3. Another major issue is reading and understanding timetables. Unlike high school, where schedules are fixed, university timetables often include different classes, lecturers, and venues that change throughout the week. Misinterpreting the timetable can lead to missing important lectures or arriving at the wrong location. To avoid this, students should carefully study their timetable, highlight key information, and use digital tools such as calendar apps to set reminders for classes and deadlines.
4. Excelling at university requires effective time management and self-discipline. Many students struggle to balance academic responsibilities with social activities. To succeed, they must develop a structured study plan, prioritize assignments, and avoid **procrastination**. Utilizing university resources, such as study groups and academic workshops, can also be beneficial. Additionally, seeking support from mentors or lecturers when facing difficulties can help students stay on track. It is crucial to cultivate **resilience** and a **tenacious** attitude towards challenges to achieve academic success.
5. Despite the challenges, being a first-year student has several advantages. It is a period of exploration and growth, where students gain independence and new experiences. They have access to diverse academic resources, clubs, and **extracurricular** activities that enrich their university life. Furthermore, first-year students have the opportunity to build networks and friendships that can support them throughout their academic journey. Engaging in university life fosters personal development and enhances problem-solving skills, which are valuable in future careers.

6. To address these challenges, universities should provide orientation programs that help students integrate smoothly into campus life. Institutions should also offer workshops on time management and academic skills to equip students with the necessary tools for success. Additionally, establishing mentorship programs where senior students guide first-year students can be highly beneficial. Creating an environment where students feel supported and encouraged will contribute to a positive university experience.

7. In conclusion, first-year university students face numerous challenges, including difficulty finding classes, understanding timetables, managing their time, and dealing with peer pressure. However, with proper planning, guidance, and the use of available resources, they can overcome these obstacles and excel in their studies. Universities must also play a role in ensuring students receive the support they need. By adopting effective strategies, students can make the most of their university experience and build a strong foundation for their academic and professional future.

Adapted from <https://chatgtp.com>

- 1.1 What is the passage about? (2)
- 1.2. What is the number one challenge faced by first-year students? (1)
- 1.3. What is the main idea expressed in paragraph 2? (2)
1. 4. What can students do to find their way around campus easily? (3)
- 1.5. What does the highlighted word **they** in paragraph 1 refer to? (1)
- 1.6 How can students avoid missing lectures and confusing their venues? (3)
- 1.7 What are the three advantages of being a first-year student as expressed in paragraph 5? (6)
- 1.8. According to the passage, how can institutions or universities address the challenges that first-year students face? (4)
- 1.9 **Vocabulary-based question.** Match the definitions given in Column B with the selected 5 words in Column A, as they are used in the passage. Please note that there are two odd choices. E.g. 1.9.1 B (5)

Column A: Words	Column B: Definitions
1.9.1 tenacious (paragraph 4)	A. The ability to recover quickly from difficulties.
1.9.2 procrastination (paragraph 4)	
1.9.3 extracurricular (paragraph 5)	
1.9.4 resilience (paragraph 4)	

1.9.5 navigating (paragraph 2)	B. To find one's way around a place. C. Holding on firmly to a goal despite challenges. D. Delaying tasks unnecessarily. E. Activities outside the regular academic curriculum. F. The act of exploring an unfamiliar area. G. The use of persuasion or intimidation to make someone do something.
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10. Decide whether the following statements are True or False. (3)

10.1. Unlike in high school, university timetables follow a strict and unchanging structure, making it easier for students to plan their schedules.

10.2. Although first-year students encounter challenges, they do not have opportunities to develop social and academic networks that support them.

10.3. Universities can contribute to student success by implementing support systems such as orientation programs, time management workshops, and mentorship initiatives.

SECTION 2: GRAMMAR AND LANGUAGE USAGE

[30 marks]

Read the following text carefully again, taken from Section A, and answer the questions that follow.

1. Transitioning from high school to university is an exciting yet daunting experience for many students. First-year students face a range of challenges, from adapting to a new environment to managing their academic workload. One of the biggest difficulties they encounter is adjusting to the independent learning style required at university. Without proper guidance, many students struggle to stay on top of their studies, resulting in stress and anxiety.

2. One of the most common challenges first-year students face is finding their way around campus. Many universities are vast, with multiple buildings and lecture halls. This can make it difficult for new students to locate their classes, especially during the first few weeks. To overcome this, students should familiarize themselves with the campus map, ask for directions

from senior students or staff, and arrive early for classes until they gain confidence in navigating the university grounds.

3. Another major issue is reading and understanding timetables. Unlike high school, where schedules are fixed, university timetables often include different classes, lecturers, and venues that change throughout the week. Misinterpreting the timetable can lead to missing important lectures or arriving at the wrong location. To avoid this, students should carefully study their timetable, highlight key information, and use digital tools such as calendar apps to set reminders for classes and deadlines.

4. Excelling at university requires effective time management and self-discipline. Many students struggle to balance academic responsibilities with social activities. To succeed, they must develop a structured study plan, prioritize assignments, and avoid procrastination. Utilizing university resources, such as study groups and academic workshops, can also be beneficial. Additionally, seeking support from mentors or lecturers when facing difficulties can help students stay on track. **It is crucial to cultivate resilience and a tenacious attitude towards challenges to achieve academic success.**

2.1 Identify the part of speech of each bolded word in Paragraph 2 of the text above, as per the function of the word in the sentence. (7)

2.1.1 of

2.1.2 challenges

2.1.3 their

2.1.4 universities

2.1.5 and

2.1.6 new

2.1.7 especially

2.2. Articles form parts of speech in English. Construct a sentence in which you use all the words that constitute the articles and underline them. Each article must only be used once. (3)

2.3 What verb tense is the sentence below? (1)

Sentence: Excelling at university requires effective time management and self-discipline.

2.4 Change the sentence in Question 2.3 above into the following tenses:

2.4.1 Future tense simple (2)

2.4.2 Past perfect tense simple (2)

2.5 Write the sentence written in bold in Paragraph 4 in the following forms:

Sentence: It is crucial to cultivate resilience and a tenacious attitude towards challenges to achieve academic success.

2.5.1 Question form (2)

2.5.2 Negative form (2)

2.6 Firstly, identify and write down the subject and the verb in the sentences below. Then, indicate whether the subject and the verb agree or disagree.

2.6.1 Another major issue is reading and understanding timetables.

a. The subject b. The verb ... (2)

c. Agree or Disagree? (1)

2.6.2 Many students struggle to balance academic responsibilities with social activities.

a. The subject: b. The verb: ... (2)

c. Agree or Disagree? (1)

2.7 You were taught four different types of sentences in this course. Decide what type the following sentences are. E.g., Compound, simple, etc. (5)

2.7.1 Without proper guidance, many students struggle to stay on top of their studies, resulting in stress and anxiety.

2.7.2 One of the most common challenges first-year students face is finding their way around campus.

2.7.3 Because it was raining, we stayed indoors, and we played board games all afternoon.

2.7.4 Misinterpreting the timetable can lead to missing important lectures or arriving at the wrong location.

2.7.5. I finished my assignment, but I forgot to submit it online.

SECTION 3: PARAGRAPH AND ESSAY ANALYSIS

[30 marks]

Analyse the essay below and answer the questions that follow.

A Walk through the autumn forest

1. **A.** Autumn is a season of transformation, where nature paints the world with shades of red, orange, and gold. **B.** As I step into the forest, a crisp breeze greets me, carrying the rich scent of fallen leaves and damp earth. **C.** The sunlight filters through the thinning canopy, casting dappled patterns on the ground. **D.** Each tree, unique in its autumn dress, stands proudly as if celebrating the final days before winter's embrace. **E.** The air feels fresher, cleaner, infused with the unmistakable scent of seasonal change. **F.** Walking through the forest in autumn is a sensory journey that captures the vibrant beauty, peace, and timeless rhythms of nature.

2. As I continue, the trail twists through towering trees whose leaves flutter down like confetti, blanketing the path in a soft, colourful carpet. Each step I take crunches beneath my boots, a satisfying reminder of the season's change. Birds chirp overhead, their songs blending with the rustling leaves to form a natural symphony. Occasionally, a squirrel darts across my path, its tiny body a blur of energy as it gathers the last nuts before the chill of winter. I suddenly remembered I had left my homework on the kitchen table, but I pushed the thought away. The entire forest seems to pulse with a quiet, unhurried life.

3. In the heart of the forest, a clearing reveals a small, bubbling brook. The water sparkles in the sunlight, weaving its way through moss-covered stones. I kneel beside it, trailing my fingers through the icy stream and feeling the pulse of the forest's life flow around me. I hear the distant call of a woodpecker and watch the ferns wave in the light breeze. The rhythmic gurgle of the brook soothes the mind, blending with the distant call of a woodpecker hammering away at a distant trunk. Around the brook, ferns unfurl delicately, and small mushrooms push up through the soft earth, thriving in this hidden corner of the world.

4. Further along, the scent of pine grows stronger, and the trees stand closer together, their trunks forming a natural cathedral. Shafts of golden light break through, illuminating patches of ferns and mushrooms thriving in the undergrowth. Then, it feels like a sacred space untouched by time,

where every step must be deliberate and respectful. The deeper into the forest I venture, the more I sense the ancient rhythms that govern this living tapestry-a reminder that I am merely a guest here, welcomed but temporary.

5. Finally, as I leave the forest, I glance back at the vibrant tapestry of colour and life. The experience lingers with me, a vivid memory of nature's breath-taking artistry, and the serene, almost sacred peace that the autumn forest offers to those who wander through it. Even as I return to the busyness of everyday life, a part of me remains behind, doing things such as walking among the trees and listening to the rustling leaves.

Adapted from <https://chatgtp.com>

1. Which of the sentences numbered A-F in paragraph one is the thesis statement? (2)

2. Fill in the following statement by choosing the correct answers from the options given below.

The strategies used to introduce the topic under discussion in this essay are ... Choose two strategies. (2)

- A. Using famous quote
- B. Moving from general to specific
- C. Using an anecdote
- D. Using statistics

3. Identify and write down an irrelevant sentence in paragraph 2. (2)

4. Name three components of a well-structured body paragraph of an essay. (3)

5. Identify and name a run-on error hidden in paragraph 3. (2)

6. Rewrite and grammatically correct the sentence error that you wrote in question 5. (2)

7. Identify two transitional words in paragraph 4 that are used to connect ideas. (2)

8. Identify three transitional words or phrases that are used to link ideas between paragraphs in this essay. (3)
9. Answer the following questions based on paragraph 2.
- 9.1. Identify and write down the topic sentence of paragraph 2. (2)
- 9.2. Write down the topic of the topic sentence you mentioned in question 9.1. (1)
- 9.3. Write down the controlling idea of the topic sentence you mentioned in 9.1. (2)
10. List down any two key supporting ideas or statement presented in paragraph 4 to support the topic sentence. You do not have to copy the whole sentence, but your answer should be meaningful. (2x2=4)
11. Identify the key concluding sentence in paragraph 5. (2)
12. Among the three different types of essays that you were taught in this course, what type is the essay being analysed? (1)

SECTION D: PARAGRAPH WRITING

[10 marks]

Choose one of the following topics and write a complete body paragraph of an essay to demonstrate understanding of its structure. Your paragraph should not be more than 110 words.

1. The importance of vocational skills in today's job market
2. The role of internet access in rural development
3. Challenges of urbanization
4. Small businesses as engines of poverty reduction
5. The importance of youth participation in decision-making processes

THE END. GOOD LUCK!