



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION

HUM1100: Intensive English I

Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Development [PAPER 1]

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

LECTURER: DR E. MVUNDURA

DURATION: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper has two (2) sections (Section A and Section B).
 2. Answer **ALL QUESTIONS** in both sections.
 3. Start each question on a new page in your booklet.
 4. Do not repeat material.
 5. Credit will be awarded for legible, logical, systematic and neat presentation.
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SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION [60 marks]

INSTRUCTION: Answer ALL QUESTIONS.

The Changing Face of Work

Over the last century, the world of work has undergone dramatic changes. In the early 1900s, the majority of people were employed in agriculture and manufacturing. Farmers tilled the land, and factory workers produced goods in large quantities. However, the rise of technology, particularly computers and the internet, has transformed the job market.

Today, many people work in the service industry, such as education, health care, tourism, and finance. Unlike factory jobs, service jobs often require strong communication skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Technology has also introduced flexible work arrangements. Remote work, once rare, became common during the COVID-19 pandemic and remains popular in many countries. This shift has allowed employees to work from home, collaborate online, and balance personal and professional responsibilities more effectively.

At the same time, automation and artificial intelligence are replacing some traditional jobs. Machines can now perform tasks that once required human labour, such as assembling products or analysing large sets of data. While this creates efficiency, it also raises concerns about unemployment and the need for workers to acquire new skills.

Governments and educators play an important role in preparing workers for the future. Training programs, lifelong learning opportunities, and investment in digital literacy are essential. The ability to adapt, learn continuously, and use technology responsibly will determine how well societies cope with the evolving job market.

Question 1

[20 marks]

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the passage.

- a) In the early 1900s, most people worked in _____ and _____.
- b) Service jobs often require strong _____ skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities.
- c) Remote work became common during the _____ pandemic.
- d) _____ and artificial intelligence are replacing some traditional jobs.
- e) To prepare workers for the future, governments and educators must invest in _____ literacy.
- f) Farmers in the early 1900s primarily _____ the land.
- g) Technology has introduced _____ work arrangements allowing employees to work from home.
- h) Machines can now perform tasks such as assembling products or _____ large sets of data.
- i) Training programs and lifelong learning opportunities help workers _____ new skills.
- j) The ability to adapt and use technology _____ will help societies cope with the evolving job market.

Question 2**[10 marks]**

Answer the following in full sentences.

- a) How has technology changed the types of jobs people do today?
- b) Why did remote work become common, and what advantages does it offer?
- c) What challenges are created by automation and artificial intelligence?
- d) What role should governments and educators play in the future of work?
- e) What personal qualities and skills are increasingly important in the modern job market?

Question 3**[15 marks]**

- a) Find a synonym in the passage for each of the following words:
 1. farming
 2. change
 3. popular
 4. problems
- b) Use the word **automation** in your own academic sentence.
- c) Identify two academic linking words/phrases in the passage and explain their function.

Question 4**[15 marks]**

In your own words, write a summary (5 sentences) of the passage.

SECTION B: VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT [40 marks]**INSTRUCTION: Answer ALL QUESTIONS.****Question 5****[10 marks]**

- a) In the sentence "Many people worry about running out of natural resources." What does the phrase **running out** mean?
- b) In the phrase "students need to improve their skills by practising," what does the word **improve** mean?
- c) When the passage says "researchers use information to support their ideas," what does **information** mean?
- d) The phrase *unfair opinion* is used in "readers should watch for unfair opinions in texts." What does **unfair opinion** mean?
- e) In the sentence "readers can guess the meaning of new words from the sentences around them," what does **guess** mean?

Question 6**[10 marks]**

Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the list: *advance, careful, enough, improve, understand*

- a) To do well in your studies, you need to _____ your reading and writing skills regularly.
- b) It is important to be _____ when following instructions to avoid mistakes.
- c) If you do not study _____, your progress in English will be slow.
- d) Can you _____ the meaning of this new word by looking at the sentence?
- e) With practice, students often _____ their ability to speak clearly.

Question 7**[10 marks]**

Read the paragraph and answer the questions below.

In daily conversations, many English words can have more than one meaning. For example, the word *right* is a homonym because it can mean a direction (opposite of left) or something that is correct. Another word, *head*, shows polysemy. It can mean the top part of the body or the leader of a group. When you read or listen carefully, you can understand which meaning the speaker or writer is using based on clues.

- a) Which word in the paragraph is a homonym, and what are its two meanings?
- b) Which word in the paragraph shows polysemy, and what are its different meanings?
- c) Find another example of a homonym or polysemous word you know and write its meanings.

Question 8**[10 marks]**

Match the words or phrases in Column A with their correct meaning or definition in Column B.

Column A	Column B
1. Sustainability	A. To clearly say or write thoughts
2. Express ideas	B. Receiving comments to improve work
3. Depletion	C. To arrange reasons or points in a clear order
4. Gaining feedback	D. The quality of being able to continue or last
5. Organize arguments	E. The reduction or using up of resources.

END OF PAPER
