

FIRST SEMESTER UG DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2025

(FYUGP)

(Regular/Supplementary/Improvement)

CC24UENG1FA101(1B) - ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS FOR HUMANITIES AND OTHER BA**PROGRAMMES**

(English - AEC)

(2024 Admission onwards)

Time: 1.5 Hours

Maximum : 50 Marks

Credit: 3

Part A

Read the provided passage/poem and answer the following questions. Each question carries 2 marks.

From *Dear Ijeawele (letter to her friend)* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

‘Because you are a girl’ is never a reason for anything. Ever. I remember being told as a child to ‘bend down properly while sweeping, like a girl’. Which meant that sweeping was about being female. I wish I had been told simply, ‘bend down and sweep properly because you’ll clean the floor better’. And I wish my brothers had been told the same thing. There have been recent Nigerian social media debates about women and cooking, about how wives have to cook for husbands. It is funny, in the way that sad things are funny, that we are still talking about cooking as some kind of marriageability test for women. The knowledge of cooking does not come pre-installed in a vagina. Cooking is learned. Cooking – domestic work in general – is a life skill that both men and women should ideally have. It is also a skill that can elude both men and women. We also need to question the idea of marriage as a prize to women, because that is the basis of these absurd debates. If we stop conditioning women to see marriage as a prize, then we would have fewer debates about a wife needing to cook in order to earn that prize. It is interesting to me how early the world starts to invent gender roles.

Yesterday I went to a children’s shop to buy Chizalum an outfit. In the girls’ section were pale creations in washed out shades of pink. I disliked them. The boys’ section had outfits in vibrant shades of blue. Because I thought blue would be adorable against her brown skin – and photograph better – I bought one. At the checkout counter, the cashier said mine was the perfect present for the new boy. I said it was for a baby girl. She looked horrified. ‘Blue for a girl?’ I cannot help but wonder about the clever marketing person who invented this pink-blue binary. There was also a ‘gender-neutral’ section, with its array of bloodless greys. ‘Gender-neutral’ is silly because it is premised on the idea of male being blue and female being pink and ‘gender-neutral’ being its own category. Why not just have baby clothes organized by age and displayed in all colours? The bodies of male and female infants are similar, after all.

If we don't place the straitjacket of gender roles on young children, we give them space to reach their full potential. Please see Chizalum as an individual. Not as a girl who should be a certain way. See her weaknesses and her strengths in an individual way. Do not measure her on a scale of what a girl should be. Measure her on a scale of being the best version of herself. Gender roles are so deeply conditioned in us that we will often follow them even when they chafe against our true desires, our needs, our happiness. They are very difficult to unlearn, and so it is important to try to make sure that Chizalum rejects them from the beginning. Instead of letting her internalize the idea of gender roles, teach her self-reliance. Tell her that it is important to be able to do for herself and fend for herself. Teach her to try to fix physical things when they break. We are quick to assume girls can't do many things. Let her try. She might not fully succeed, but let her try. Buy her toys like blocks and trains – and dolls, too, if you want to.

1. What does the author mean by the phrase "Because you are a girl" in the context [Level:4] [CO2, CO3] of societal expectations?
2. How does the author view the connection between cooking and marriageability for [Level:2] [CO2, CO3] women?
3. What criticism does the author offer regarding the marketing of baby clothes [Level:2] [CO2, CO3] based on gender?
4. Explain the significance of the author's choice to buy a blue outfit for Chizalum. [Level:4] [CO2, CO4]
5. What is the author's perspective on the concept of gender-neutral clothing? [Level:2] [CO2, CO4]
6. How does the author suggest we can help children reject gender roles? [Level:2] [CO2, CO4]
7. In what way does the author believe gender roles affect individual potential? [Level:2] [CO2, CO3]
8. What is the relationship between self-reliance and gender roles, according to the [Level:2] [CO2, CO3] author?
9. How does the author suggest parents should measure a child's abilities? [Level:2] [CO2, CO4]
10. What message does the author convey about the importance of allowing children [Level:2] [CO2, CO4] to try new things regardless of gender?

(Ceiling: 16 Marks)

Part B (Paragraph questions/Problem)

Answer ***all*** questions. Each question carries 6 marks.

11. State the major features of stand-up comedy. [Level:1] [CO1, CO3, CO4, CO5]
12. List at least three purposes of reading and three ways of reading. [Level:1] [CO1, CO3, CO4, CO5]

13. Examine how the political parties take advantage of "the world-renowned nose". [Level:2] [CO2, CO3, CO4, CO5]

14. Identify the major social issues addressed in Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech "I Have a Dream." [Level:1] [CO1, CO2, CO3, CO4, CO5]

15. Distinguish Yeats' imagining of "The Second Coming" from the "Second Coming" described in the Bible. [Level:4] [CO2, CO3, CO4, CO5]

(Ceiling: 24 Marks)

Part C (Essay questions)

Answer any **one** question. The question carries 10 marks.

16. "Speaking skills, one of the major pillars of effective communication, is an expertise that can be mastered with practice and effort." Justify. [Level:2] [CO1, CO2, CO3, CO4, CO5]

17. Cinema Paradiso explores man's strong connection to cinema, nostalgia, loss, love, and childhood magnificently. Elaborate. [Level:2] [CO2, CO3, CO4]

(1 × 10 = 10 Marks)
