

JAMB Arabic Syllabus

Last Updated: 2025

General Objectives

1. Answer comprehension questions correctly in standard Arabic
2. Translate simple texts from English to Arabic and vice versa
3. Apply the rules of Arabic grammar functionally
4. Appreciate Arabic literary texts within the contexts of their environment and eras
5. Use Arabic as a living world language in communication where necessary

1. COMPREHENSION

Passage Comprehension

Content:

- It consists of a passage of seventy (70) words.
- Five multiple-choice questions are to be set on the passage.
- The contents should be within the experience of the candidates e.g. current affairs, sports, education, politics, economy, health, culture, and ethics.
- The themes of the two passages should vary.

Learning Objectives:

1. use appropriate words or phrases for specific thought
2. deduce the lesson in the passage
3. determine the main theme of the passage
4. give an appropriate title of a passage
5. interpret the meanings of particular words

2. TRANSLATION

Translation Skills

Content:

- This section consists of ten (10) questions.
- Five of them are on translation from English into Arabic while the other five are on translation from Arabic into English.
- Translation into English includes keywords and phrases in a sentence.
- Translated questions are to be based on standard Arabic and English usage.

Learning Objectives:

1. use an appropriate Arabic word or phrase to convey the meaning of an English word or phrase
2. determine an appropriate English word or phrase for an Arabic statement
3. interpret idiomatic expressions in both Arabic and English
4. transfer ideas expressed in Arabic to English and vice versa
5. communicate effectively in Arabic and English

3. GRAMMAR

Major Grammatical Features

Content:

- Demonstrative and relative pronouns (p"pβpīp»pīpāpβp•pī p"p-βžp-pūp• pēpžpāp³pf)
- Gender (Masculine and Feminine) (pšpçp†pāpβp•pī p@pŪp-pāpβp•)
- Characteristics of a noun (pāp³pūp• p•pžpāpūpĒ)
- Dual (pðpèpœpāpβp•)
- Plurals: sound masculine plural (pāpβpžp'pβp• p@pŪp-pāpβp• pĒpāpŸ), sound feminine plural (p@pōp'pŪp~pβp• pĒpāpŸ)
- Construct phrases (pēpōpβp± pñpžpÀpāpβp•pī pñpžpÀpāpβp•)
- Separable and inseparable pronouns (p"pāp¼p~pāpβp• pī p"pāp¼pÔpēpāpβp• p@p<pžpāpβp•)
- Appendants: adjective (p-pīpèpβp•), conjunction (pÔpĀpīpβp•), the permutative (p-pīpēpβp•)
- Prepositions (p@p pβp• pñpīp@pĒ)
- Transitive & Intransitive verbs (pñpāpīp~pāpβp• pēpīpÔpβp•pī pāp°pβpūp• pēpīpÔpβp•)
- The perfect verb (pòpçpžpāpβp• pēpīpÔpβp•)
- The imperfect verb: indicative (pĒpīpÔp@pāpβp•), subjunctive (p•pīp¼pèpāpβp•), jussive (p•pīp¼pèpāpβp•)
- The imperative verb (p@pāpβp/p• pēpīpÔpβp•)
- The modifiers: Kana and its associates (pžpīp—p•pīpšp/p pī pāpžpŪ), Inna and its associates (pžpīp—p•pīpšp/p pī pæpÇ)
- Trilateral and derived verbs (pēpōpÓ pāpōp°pāpβp• pī p@p@p pāpβp• pòpœpβpžpœpβp• pēpīpÔpβp•)
- Derivatives: the comparative/superlative (pēpōpÀpÔp~pβp• pāp³p•), nouns of time and place (pāpžpŪpāpβp• pī pāpžpāp°pβp• pžpāp³p•), relative adjectives (p"p'p'pèpβp•)
- Conditional sentences (p"pōpĀp@p,pβp• p"pāpāp pβp•)
- Numerals (1 – 3000) (p@pāpīpβp•)
- Active and passive voice (pēpĒpžpÔpβp• p•p<pžpç pī pēpĒpžpÔpβp•)
- Nouns in the accusative: direct object (pēp' pŸpīpīpÔpāpβp•), adverbs of place and circumstance (pŸpžp°pβp•), the exempted with illa (pŸp'p'p' pðpèpœp'p'pāpβp•), specific (pīp@pžpèpāpβp•)

Learning Objectives:

1. identify the various forms of demonstrative and relative pronouns

2. compare gender markers in Arabic
3. identify the three basic characteristics of Arabic nouns
4. differentiate between singular and dual forms of nouns
5. construct plural forms of singular nouns
6. identify construct phrases and their usages
7. differentiate between separable and inseparable pronouns
8. identify correct usage of adjectives, conjunctions and the permutative in Arabic sentences
9. apply correct preposition in a given sentence
10. differentiate between transitive and intransitive verbs and use them in sentences
11. identify the perfect verbs and their forms
12. identify the imperfect verbs and their grammatical words in sentences
13. identify the imperative verbs and their forms
14. identify the kinds of modifiers and apply them in Arabic usage
15. differentiate between triliteral and derived verbs
16. identify the types of derivatives
17. apply the rules governing conditional sentences, identify them in sentences, construct them and differentiate them in normal sentences
18. recognize and count Arabic numerals from 1 to 3000 and identify the intricacies involved in their usage
19. distinguish between active and passive voice and apply them in sentences
20. identify different types of adverbial clause, the exempted, specification, and the vocative as well as identify and use them in standard Arabic

4. COMPOSITION

Written Composition

Content:

- This section consists of five (5) questions on subjects relating to the lives and environment of the candidates, e.g.
- Education
- Culture
- Health
- Politics
- Economy
- Sports
- Current affairs

Learning Objectives:

1. use appropriate words for specific thoughts

2. use correct idiomatic expressions in Arabic
3. communicate effectively in Arabic
4. express ideas clearly in Arabic
5. demonstrate the use of common Arabic idioms and proverbs

5. ARABIC LITERATURE

Literary Periods and Works

Content:

- The Pre-Islamic Period (500 – 610 C.E.) - Qus ibn Sa'ida and his sermon al-Khansa and her elegy 'p̄p̄ap̄èp̄ðp̄• p̄@p̄"p̄»'
- The Islamic Period (610 – 1798 C.E.) - Al-Farazdaq and his praise of Zayn al-Abidin, Hassan ibn Thabit and his poem on the conquest of Mecca, Jarir and his poem 'p̄ip̄ip̄ip̄ðp̄• p̄ap̄žp̄ p̄
- The Modern Period (1798 to date) - Al-Manfaluti and his book 'p̄•p̄•p̄@p̄"p̄ip̄ðp̄ 'p̄ap̄ap̄ip̄ā p̄Ūp̄çp̄‡ p̄Ýp̄ip̄Øp̄—p̄í p̄òp̄Ūp̄"p̄,p̄— p̄āp̄ð'
- Arabic Literature in West Africa - Zakariya Idris Hussein and his play 'p̄ Al-Kanouï and his work 'p̄æp̄"p̄Ép̄f p̄òp̄è p̄òp̄"p̄ðp̄žp̄' p̄Ép̄Óp̄@p̄•'

Learning Objectives:

1. identify pre-Islamic poetic traditions and conventions
2. identify and analyze the style of figurative expressions contained in given Islamic literature
3. describe the aesthetic features in literary texts and assess their modern cultural values
4. evaluate areas of successful use of Arabic as a medium of West African novel and drama, analyze their contents and describe their major characteristics and plots

Recommended Textbooks

1. A Selection of Pulpit Counseling, by Adam Abdullahi Al-Ilory.
2. Why The Anger On Us. A literature text, by Muhammad Salisu Mai Ango
3. The perfection/Adornment of Pages; A book of poems, by Abdullahi Bin Fodio
4. Þáþ©þŽþ'þ‡ .þ"þóþíþçþŽþœþðþþ• þ"þàþ£þ®þäþàþð þí þðþäþû þæþÃ þ"þÛþ®þ. :þíþèþÛ .þ"þ¬þ¿þ•þíþðþþ• þ"þìþðþŽþÄþäþðþþþ®þ,þèþðþþ• þí þ"þËþŽþ'þÄþàþð þáþ®þ'þÛþ'þ³ þ-þ•þ© .
5. ÞáþŽþäþÐþçþíþð :þŽþ þòþÛþ‡ 3 – 1 þ•þŽþ'þÛþðþþ• .þŽþóþ®þòþ þòþç þðþÓ þ"þªþóþªþ þðþ• þ"þòþ'þ®þìþðþþ• :þíþäþ©þ•
6. Adekilekun, A. L. A.: Learning Arabic Language, Ilorin.
7. Balogun, I. A. B. and Oseni Z. I. (1982) A Modern Arabic Course Book 1 Lagos: Islamic Publications Bureau.
8. Haywood, J. A. and Nahmad, H. M. (1965), A New Arabic Grammar of the Written Language, London: Lund Humphries.
9. Malik, S. H. A. (1982) A Guide to Arabic Composition, Books I & II, Lagos I.P.B.
10. Arabic newspapers, magazines and