

JAMB Igbo Syllabus

Last Updated: 2025

General Objectives

1. Communicate effectively in Igbo
2. Analyze issues in the language
3. Interpret and explain figurative and idiomatic expressions in Igbo
4. Apply Igbo literature to their daily life experiences and to demonstrate Igbo cultural values

1. HARSHE (LANGUAGE)

Comprehension

Content:

- One passage of about one hundred and fifty (150) words.

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

Sounds and Sound Patterns (ädaasåså na Usoro ädaasåså)

Content:

- Vowels and Consonants (ädaume na mgbochiume)
- Sound Patterns/Processes
 - i. Syllabic nasals (myiri ådaume)
 - ii. Syllable structure (nkeji mkpåråokwu)
 - iii. Vowel harmony (ndakírĖta ådaume)
 - iv. Vowel assimilation (olilo ådaume)
 - v. Vowel elision and consonant elision (ndapå ådaume na ndapå mgboch)
- c) Tone and tone marking (Akara ådaolu)

Learning Objectives:

1. identify vowels, consonants and syllabic nasals
2. distinguish between the speech sounds of the Igbo language

3. recognize syllabic nasals 'm' & 'n'
4. determine the syllabic structure of any word
5. identify the vowel groups in Igbo
6. describe vowel assimilation and vowel and consonant elision
7. assign tone marks appropriately

Spelling and spelling rules (Nsupe na Iwu Nsupe)

Learning Objectives:

1. detect words written correctly in Igbo
2. observe consonant restrictions in Igbo
3. determine appropriate word division in Igbo
4. apply correct spellings in writing

Igbo Orthography (Mkpàràedemede Igbo)

Dialect and Standard Igbo (Olundë/Olumba na Igbo Izugbe)

Learning Objectives:

1. differentiate between standard Igbo and dialects
2. use standard Igbo in their writings

Vocabulary (Mkpàràokwu dë n'asàsà)

Content:

- Expansion through word derivation processes, coinages, loans and loan mkpàràokwu site n'usoro mmepàta, mkpàpàta, mbite na mbiígwa).

Learning Objectives:

1. differentiate between loan and coined words
2. identify loan words and loan-blends in Igbo
3. use words appropriately

Grammar (ätíasàsà)

Content:

- Parts of speech (Nkejiasàsà): Nominals (Mkpíaha), verbs (ngwaa), adjectives (nkwuwa), affixes (mgbakwunye), enclitics (nsokwunya),dgz.

Learning Objectives:

1. differentiate between grammatical categories
2. identify parts of speech and their functions
3. differentiate between types of affixes and their functions

4. determine types of morphemes and their functions
5. identify words, phrases, clauses, sentences and their functions

Composition

Content:

- i. differentiate between different essay types
- ii. describe the characteristics of essay types
- iii. compare different types of essay
- iv. criticize other people's essays

Translation

Content:

- i. translate English into Igbo and vice versa
- ii. communicate effectively in Igbo and English

2. LITERATURE (AGĀMAGĀ)

Literary devices

Content:

- Atāmatāokwu na atāmatā agāmagā) dĒka alliteration (bĒambia mgbochiu ādaume), parallelism (kwunkwugha), metaphor (mbārā), simile (myiri), hy personification (mmemmadā) and proverbs (ilu), dgz.

Learning Objectives:

1. identify all literary devices in the passages
2. interpret literary devices
3. differentiate between types of literary devices
4. use Igbo literary devices appropriately

Oral Literature

Content:

- Agāmagā ìnā/ Agāmagā ìdĒnala Questions will be set on the following: f (ākabāilu), myths (nkímĒrĒkí), legends (nkíkĒrĒkí), poems (abā), songs (agwāgwa), oral drama (ejije ìnā), tongue-twister (okwuntāhĒ) dgz.

Learning Objectives:

1. create folk stories, anecdotes, chants, riddles, oral drama etc.
2. analyze various genres of oral literature
3. apply acquired knowledge to their personal lives

Written Literature

Content:

- Prose (iduuazĚ)
- i. Ude ìdĚlĪra (1981) Ìkpa Akā Eri Eri. Onitsha: University Press. (NECO 2016-2020)
- b) Poetry (Abā)
- i. Ikeokwu E.S & Onyejekwe M.C. (2009) Uche Bā AhĚa. Enugu: Format Publishers. (WAEC/NECO 2016-2020)
- ABĀ NDĚ A HĪPĀTARA (Selected Poems)
- 1. āwa NdĪlĚ NdĪlĚ – 1
- 2. ìchĚchĚ – 14
- 3. ìnwā 1 – 16
- 4. Chi-Ukwu – 20
- 5. Ire 1 – 22
- 6. Ozi ìma – 28
- 7. Mmāta – 30
- 8. Ezi NwaanyĚ – 36
- 9. Anyanwā – 40
- 10. Akā – 44
- 11. Akaraka – 49
- 12. ìnwa – 69
- 13. AkwākwĪ – 71
- 14. Nwanne – 89
- c) DRAMA (EJIJE)
- i. Nwaozuzu G.I. (2005). Nke M Ji ka. Enugu: CIDJAP Press. (WAEC/NECO 2016-2020).

3. CUSTOMS AND INSTITUTIONS (Omenala na Ewumewu)

Igbo customs and institutions

Content:

- Igbo customs and institutions as categorized below:
- 1. Ekele dĚ icheiche: ekele ātātā, ehihie, anyasĚ, nri, nlakpu, Írā dgz.
- 2. Alāmdi na nwunye, Ěgba alākwaghĚm.
- 3. ìmāmā na ile ÍmāgwĪ, ikupāta nwa, ibi ugwu, Ěgā aha.
- 4. Echichi: ÌzĪ, Eze/Obi/Igwe/Iyom.
- 5. Ike ekpe, Ěkwa ozu, Ěgba mkpe.
- 16. AkaÍrā ndĚ Igbo: Ìrā ugbo, Ěkā azā, Ěkpā āzā, Ězā ahĚa, Ětā ihe Ítā

Learning Objectives:

1. describe the customs of their people
2. determine the rules and regulations guiding specified aspects of the culture and tradition of the Igbo people
3. describe the importance of the aspects of Igbo culture
4. identify changes that have occurred as a result of civilization
5. explore their environment for a better appreciation of their culture

4. GENERAL AND CURRENT AFFAIRS (Ihe Ndë na-em)

Topical issues on Igbo language, literature and culture

Content:

- 1. Topical issues on the Igbo language, literature and culture e.g. Ahëa
- 2. ìhanaeze Ndë Igbo
- 3. Authors, Publishers, dates and places of publication of works in Igbo.
- 4. Igbo Studies Association (ISA)
- 2. CURRENT ISSUES (Okwuakpáníná):
- Note: Item writers should also choose their topics for comprehension exercises from such current issues as the following: HIV/AIDS (Mmënwå/Obirinaajaícha) Drug Abuse (ÊEu ìgv Nzuzo) Rights of Women and Children (Oruuru ämånwaanyË na ämåaka) H Mmadå Ikike) Religious Conflicts (Nsogbu NdíkårËta Ekpemekpe äka)

Learning Objectives:

1. identify some dates and themes of Ahëajiíkå and Odenigbo lectures
2. identify authors and dates of publication of various textbooks in Igbo
3. identify some publishing companies
4. analyse some functions of ìhanaeze ndë Igbo
5. acquaint themselves with the functions and contributions of the Igbo Studies Association (ISA)
6. acquaint themselves with current issues
7. examine their effects
8. suggest remedies to the problems

Recommended Textbooks

1. Emenanjo, E. N., Okolie, F. O. and Ekwe, B. U. (1995) Igbo maka SinƉ́ SekĩndƉ́r
2. Emenanjo, E. N., Dike, O. N., Agomo S. N and Ezeuko, R. O. (1999) Exam Focus maka WASSCE na UME, Ibadan: University Press Plc.
3. Ezike Ojiaku, P. A. Okebalama, C. N. Onweluzo, C. N and Ekwe B. U. (1991) Ule University Press Plc.
4. Ikekeonwu, C., Ezikeojiaku, P. A., Ubani, A. and Ugoji, J. (1999) Fonĩlĩji na Gra
5. Nzeakĩ, J. U. T. (1972): Omenala NdƉ́ Igbo, Ibadan: Longman.
6. Okoye, O. F. S., Ofoegbu, N. F. and Ezidiegwu, B. L. (1997) ìgbara ìhàrà àtĩasàs Onitsha: Houston Publishers Ltd.
7. Osuagwu, B. I. N. (1979): NdƉ́ Igbo na Omenala Ha, Nigeria: Macmillan.
8. Ubesie, T. U. (1978): ìdƉ́nala NdƉ́ Igbo, Ibadan: Oxford University Press.
9. Umeh, I. O. A; Onyekaonwu, G. O. Nwadike, I. U. and Okeke I. O. (1992): àtĩasàs SekĩndƉ́rƉ́ Sukul, Ibadan: Evans.
10. äba – Mgbemena, A. (2006): Ntĩala Usoroasàsà Igbo, Ibadan: Gold Press Ltd.
11. Anĩzie, C. C. (2003), Igbo Kweni: Akåkĩ na Omenala ndƉ́ Igbo Enugu: Computer
12. Ìfĩmata, C. E. (2005): Ndezu àtĩasàsà Igbo. Enugu: Format Publishers (Nig) Ltd.
13. Ofili, D. N., Anozie C.C. and Chukwu, A.O. (2012): Lingwistiiki SayensƉ́ Asàsà
14. Prose(iduuazi) Chinedu Ofomata (2009). . Enugu: Format Publishing