



THE MALAWI NATIONAL EXAMINATION BOARD

2024 PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

CHICHEWA (P032)

General Comments

A. Quality of the Paper

The 2024 PSLCE Chichewa paper was generally fair. It covered the syllabus adequately. The questions were clear and had no typographical errors.

B. Candidates' Performance

Generally, the performance of most candidates in the 2024 PSLCE Chichewa paper was good and they attempted to answer most questions in all the four sections and performed far much better in Section D than in the other Sections : A, B and C. However, some candidates' responses showed that they had difficulties in composition, sentence construction, types of clauses and types of nouns. It was also noted that some questions were not correctly answered due to misunderstanding of the demands of the questions and inadequate coverage of the syllabus.

C. Comments on Performance of Candidates on Individual Questions

Section A

In this section, candidates were asked to choose one question; either Q1 (Composition) or Q2 (Letter writing).

Question 1: Composition

In this question, the candidates were asked to write a composition entitled "NGOZI YA MADZI OSEFUKIRA". The question was fair and most candidates attempted it correctly following the guidelines that were given in all the three paragraphs. However, a few candidates had problems in paragraph two where their explanations were not based on the guidelines that were given but on what they thought.

Question 2: Letter writing

In this question, the candidates were asked to write a letter to their friend explaining the establishment of a club responsible for dealing with “bullying” at their school. Most candidates that attempted it performed well although a few candidates failed to use idiomatic expressions properly. It was noted that they employed idiomatic expressions that were not in tandem with what they were explaining.

Section B

Question 3: Comprehension

In this section, the candidates were required to read a comprehension passage and answer questions from it. Most candidates attempted the question and generally performed fairly well. The following was an individual question analysis.

- a.** The question asked the candidates to mention the name of the village in which Teputepu was living. The expected response was “Limbika”. However, some candidates wrote “Limbikani” instead of “Limbika” hence got it wrong.
- b.** The question demanded the candidates to mention two activities that the people of the village were engaged in. The possible responses were “kuchita ulimi and malonda”. Most candidates answered it correctly. A few that got it wrong gave “Kugwira ntchito and kuchita maganyu”.
- c.** The question asked the candidates to give a reason why the people of the village had abundant food. The possible response was “Adali akhama pogwira ntchito”. Most candidates did well. A few that got it wrong gave “amalima”.
- d.** The question demanded the candidates to state who Nangani was. The expected response was “Amayi ake a Teputepu”. Most candidates got it right. However, those that got it wrong gave responses like “Agogo ake a Teputepu / azakhali ake a Teputepu”.
- e.** The question asked the candidates to mention one place where Teputepu was always found whilst his friends were busy in their gardens. The possible responses were “pabawo and kumowa”. It was fairly done by most candidates. A few candidates that got it wrong gave responses such as “pakhomo pawo, kumudzi kwina and koyenda”.
- f.** The question demanded the candidates to give a reason why the people of the village were surprised with Teputepu’s behaviour. The question was poorly done by most candidates as

- they gave “Ankamwa mowa kwambiri / Sankapita kumunda instead of “ mmene Teputepu ankapezera ndalama zogulira mowa”.
- g.** The question demanded the candidates to give any two characters of Teputepu. The possible responses were “kuba / ulesi / kumwa mowa”. Most candidates got it right. A few candidates that got it wrong gave “kutukwana / mwano / ndewu”.
- h.** The question demanded the candidates to give the meanings of the following expressions:
- (i) liwiro la mtondo wadooka. The expected response was “kuthamanga kwambiri”. Most candidates got it wrong as they gave responses such as “kuthawitsa mtondo / kuthamanga ndi mtondo wobowoka”.
- (ii) amangozitayira kunkhongo. The expected response was “kusamvera malangizo”. The question was poorly done by most candidates. They gave responses such as “kuzitayira kumbuyo / kungozileka”.
- i.** The question demanded the candidates to give the meaning of the word “chisamba”. The expected response was “mwana woyamba kubadwa m’banja”. Most candidates performed poorly in this question as they gave responses such as “gule wa azimayi”.
- j.** The question asked the candidates to give two things that happened to Teputepu when he was found in Samalani’s garden. The expected responses were “Adamenyedwa kwambiri / Adatengeredwa kubwalo la mfumu”. Most candidates got it right. A few candidates gave “damangidwa / adasekedwa / adavulazidwa” as responses to the question which were wrong.
- k.** The question demanded the candidates to give a reason why Teputepu was selling things to far away areas. The expected response was “Ankaopa kuti angagwidwe nazo.” Most candidates got it right. However, a few that got it wrong gave responses such as “kuti apeze ndalama zomwera mowa”.
- l.** The question demanded candidates to explain how the people knew that Teputepu was a thief. The expected response was “Adamva kukuwa kwa mwini munda atamupeza Teputepu m’manda mwake.” The question was fairly done by most candidates. A few that got it wrong gave ‘adamangidwa’ as a response to the question.

Section C

Question 4: Malonje

In this section, the candidates were required to answer questions from a small passage (Malonje) that was given. Most candidates attempted them and performed well. The following was an individual question analysis.

- a. (i) The question demanded the candidates to give the type of malonje. The expected response was “apamatenda”. Most candidates answered it correctly. A few that got it wrong gave “akuchipatala”..
 - (ii) The question demanded the candidates to mention the place where the type of malonje can occur. The expected response was “kuchipatala”. It was fair and well done by most candidates. A few candidates gave “kunyumba kwa wodwala / kumudzi kwawo” which was wrong.
 - (iii) The question demanded the candidates to give a word similar in meaning with “kudondo”. Most candidates performed poorly. They gave responses such as “kuphiri / kudambo / kugomo / kubusa” instead of “kunkhalango”.
- b. The question asked the candidates to state any two ways in which people can express their culture. The possible responses were “kuvina magule awo/ kuimba nyimbo za chikhalidwe chawo / kuyankhula chiyankhulo chawo / kuvala zovala za chikhalidwe chawo”. Most candidates got it right. A few candidates that got it wrong gave responses such as “gulewamkulu / ngoma / manganje”.

Question 5: Sentence Construction

In this section, the candidates were required to make sentences using the given words i.e. lemba, zazikulu, choka! kwa and mwina. Most candidates attempted it. However, some candidates failed to punctuate the sentences correctly. They started a sentence with a small letter and failed to put a full stop at the end of it e.g. “bambo ake ali ndi nyumba zazikulu”. This showed that the candidates lacked practice in sentence construction.

Section D: Multiple Choice

In this section, the candidates were required to choose the letter representing the correct answer.

Questions 6 to 10

In this part, the candidates were asked to choose the correct parts of speech of the underlined words in the given sentences. The following was an individual question analysis.

Question 6: Chisomo wavala bwino lero.

Most candidates performed well. The correct response was option C “muonjezi”. However, a few candidates that got it wrong chose option A (mfotokozi).

Question 7: Wakhoza bwino chifukwa ankalingikira kuwerenga.

The question was well done by most candidates although a correct response was option A (mlumikizi). Few candidates chose option C (mperekezi) instead of option A (mlumikizi).

Question 8: Munthuyu ndi wakuba.

The question was poorly done by most candidates. Some candidates chose option A (mperekezi) while others chose option C (mlumikizi) instead of option D (mneni).

Question 9: Malire a nyumba yawo ndi awa.

Most candidates got the question right although a few candidates that got it wrong as they chose option A (mfotokozi) instead of the correct option (dzina).

Question 10: Bambowo adangoti thi agwa.

The question was well done by most candidates. The correct response was option D (mvekero). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option C (muonjezi).

Questions 11 to 15

In this part, the candidates were asked to choose the function of the underlined “ndi” in the given sentences. The following was an individual question analysis.

Question 11: Lamba wangoti ndi m’chiuno mwake.

Most candidates got it right. The correct response was option B (kukhala mvekero). However, a few candidates performed poorly as they chose option D (kukhala mlumikizi).

Question 12: Dunga ndi mlimi.

The question was well done by most candidates. The correct response was option A (kukhala mneni). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option D (kukhala mlumikizi).

Question 13: Mwewo wapita ndi Mathu.

The question was fairly done by most candidates. The correct response was option D (kukhala mperekezi). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option C (kukhala mlumikizi).

Question 14: Amayi ndi agogo asenza nkhuni.

Most candidates got the question correct by choosing option C (kukhala mlumikizi). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option B (kukhala mperekezi).

Question 15: Ndikhoza mayesowa.

Most candidates got it wrong as they chose option A (kukhal mneni) instead of option B (kukhala mlowam'malo).

Questions 16 to 20

In this part, the candidates were asked to choose the correct similar word for the underlined words in the given sentences. The following was an individual question analysis.

Question 16: Chikwanje chija chabedwa.

The question was well done by most candidates. The correct response was option A (mpaladasa). Although a few candidates that got it wrong chose option C (chikwakwa).

Question 17: M'nyumba mwathu muli suntche.

Most candidates got it right. The correct response was option C (swiswiri). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option A (khoswe).

Question 18: Khungubwe ali mu mtengo.

The question was well done by most candidates. The correct response was option B (khwangwala). However, a few candidates that got it wrong chose option A (nantchengwa).

Question 19: Atagwa, adavulala nkhama zake.

Most candidates got it right as they chose the correct response, option D (usinini). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option A (mlomo).

Question 20: Mogonthira momwemo, adakafika kwawo.

The question was well done by most candidates. The correct response was option B (motsimphina) although a few candidates that got it wrong chose option C (mokwawa).

Question 21 to 25

In this part, the candidates were asked to choose sentences with the correct punctuation marks in the given sentences. The following was an individual question analysis.

Question 21: The correct response was option C (Makolo ake amugulira bukhu, cholemba ndi Malaya.) Most candidates got it right. A few candidates that got it wrong chose option A (Makolo ake amugulira, bukhu, cholemba ndi Malaya).

Question 22: The correct response was option D (“Aliyense akabwere ndi makolo ake,” mphunzitsi adatero.) A few candidates got it wrong by choosing option A (“aliyense akabwere ndi makolo ake,” Mphunzitsi adatero).

Question 23: The correct response was option B (Galu wa a Menzo wagwira nkhuku.) Most candidates got it right. A few candidates that got it wrong chose option A (galu wa a Menzo wagwira nkhuku).

Question 24: The correct response was option A (Watola ndalama yanga ndani?) Most candidates got it right. However, a few candidates chose option B (Watola ndalama? yanga ndani).

Question 25: The correct response was option D (Hede! Mwana uja wabwera.) Most candidates got it wrong as they chose option B (Hede. Mwana uja wabwera!)

Question 26 to 30

In this part, the candidates were asked to choose the correct types of the underlined nouns in the given sentences. The following was an individual question analysis.

Question 26: Pali udani pakati pa anyamatawa.

The question was fairly done by most candidates. The correct response was option B (la chinthu chosakhudzika). However, a few candidates chose option C (lopanda mwinimwini) and got it wrong.

Question 27: Apa padutsa mdipiti waukwati.

The correct response was option A (la unyinji) and most candidates that attempted it got it right. A few candidates that got it wrong chose option B (la chinthu chosakhudzika).

Question 28: Wagula izi ndi Ulemu.

Most candidates got it right. The correct response was option D (la mwinimwini). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option B (loitanira).

Question 29: Amayi, bwerani kuno.

The question was poorly done by most candidates. The correct response was option C (lapadera). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option A (lopanda mwinimwini).

Question 30: Phiri la Maluwa ndi lokongola kwambiri.

The question was poorly done by most candidates. The correct response was option B (la chose option A (lopanda mwinimwini) instead of option C (lapadera).

Questions 31 to 35

In this part, candidates were asked to choose the correct proverbs that were similar in meaning to the given ones. The following was an individual question analysis.

Question 31: Ziliko n'kulinga utatosako.

Most candidates got it right. The correct response was option D (Kutsutsa galu n'kukumba). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option B (Mwini mphale sakuda chala).

Question 32: Kutola khobwe ndi m'mawa.

The correct response was option A (Kugona pakati n'kuyambirira) and most candidates that attempted it performed fairly well. However, a few candidates that got it wrong chose option C (Pakadafunda padajiwitsa galu).

Question 33: Likawomba wotheratu.

The question was well done by most candidates. A few candidates that got it wrong chose option B (Mapanga awiri avumbwitsa) instead of option C (papsa tonola sudziwa mtima wamoto).

Question 34: Pagule fumbi ndiwe mwini.

The question was well done by most candidates. The correct response was option B (Mwana mnyanja alimbikira mpani wake). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option A (Ichi n'chiyani n'kulinga muli awiri).

Question 35: Nguwo yobwereka silimba m'thupi.

The question was fairly done by most candidates. The correct response was option C (M'nyumba yamwini saotchera mbewa.) However, a few candidates that got it wrong chose option B (Ukasauka usamagwire nyanga).

Questions 36 to 40

In this part, the candidates were asked to choose the correct types of the underlined subordinate clauses in the given sentences. The following was an individual question analysis.

Question 36: Zakuti wakhoza mayeso sizodabwitsa.

The question was well done by most candidates. However, a few candidates chose option B (yoyima payokha) and got it wrong. The correct response was option C (yadzina).

Question 37: Amayi aphika nsima yambiri kuti tikhute.

The correct response was option B (yamuonjezi) and most candidates got it right. A few candidates that got it wrong chose option D (yadzina).

Question 38: Wavala malaya omwe adagula yekha.

Most candidates got it right. A few candidates that got it wrong chose option A (yadzina) instead of D (yamfotokozi).

Question 39: Adaonetsa zomwe adabisa.

The correct response was option A (yadzina) and most candidates got it right. A few candidates that got it wrong chose option D (yamuonjezi).

Questions 40: Wapambana mpikisano chifukwa cholimbikira.

The correct response was option B and a few candidates got it right. Most candidates chose option D (yamfotokozi).

Question 41 to 45

In this part, the candidates were asked to choose the correct verb derivatives for the underlined verbs in the given sentences. The following was an individual question analysis.

Question 41: Agogo adaitanitsa adzukulu awo onse.

The question was fairly done by most candidates as they chose the correct response, option C (wochititsa). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option A (wochititsitsa).

Question 42: Talandira wayalula pogona pake.

The correct response was option B (wotsutsa). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option C (wochititsitsa).

Question 43: Iye adafunitsitsa kundithandiza.

Most candidates got it right as they chose the correct option D (wochititsitsa). A few candidates that missed it chose option A (wochititsa).

Question 44: Mnyamatayu amadutsadutsa pano.

The question was fairly done by most candidates. The correct response was option C (wobwerezabwereza). A few candidates that got it wrong chose option A (wochititsitsa).

Question 45: Amalume awamangira nyumba agogo.

Most candidates got it right. The correct response was option A (wom'chitira) although a few candidates chose option C (wochitidwa).

D. Recommendations to:

(i) Schools

- Teachers should thoroughly guide students on how to use idiomatic expressions in composition and letter writing.
- Head teachers should allocate teachers according to their ability and knowledge of subject matter.
- Study circles should be encouraged in schools.
- Teachers should ensure that they cover the syllabus fully.

(ii) Malawi Institute of Education

- Aspects of grammar should be reflected in both Chichewa textbooks and teacher's guide.

(iii) Ministry of Education

- The Ministry should provide more resources to schools for procuring of teaching and learning materials.
- The Ministry should provide enough infrastructures in schools.
- The National Reading Programme should be extended to senior sections.
- Standardised examinations should be encouraged in both junior and senior classes in all the three terms.
- The Ministry should ensure that assessments are indeed done in schools