# ZIAUDDIN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

## HSSC-A

## AS LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

| Paper 2: Listening & Speaking | B2 Level |
|---|---|
| **Duration:** | 2 hours (including 15 min speaking) |
| **Total Marks:** | 75 |

## INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

• This paper has two sections: Listening (Section A) and Speaking (Section B).
• Audio recordings will be played twice.
• Write answers in blue or black ink.
• You may make notes during listening tasks.
• Speaking is conducted individually with an examiner.

## TIME ALLOCATION

| Section | Time | Marks |
|---|---|---|
| Section A: Listening | 1 hour 45 minutes | 45 |
| Section B: Speaking | 15 minutes per candidate | 30 |

# SECTION A: LISTENING

**Time: 1 hour 45 minutes | Marks: 45**

## PART 1: Short Recordings

**Time: 25 minutes | Marks: 15**

You will hear four short recordings. Each recording will be played twice.

### Recording 1: University Platform Announcement
### Questions 1-5: Multiple Choice (5 marks, 1 mark each)

*[Refer to Listening Transcripts Document for audio content]*

**1.** What is the main purpose of EduConnect?

  A) To replace traditional teaching
  B) To complement existing methods
  C) To provide entertainment

**2.** Which feature is NOT mentioned?

  A) Video lectures
  B) Virtual reality simulations
  C) Discussion forums

**3.** What does the adaptive learning system do?

  A) Adjusts content based on performance
  B) Automatically grades all work
  C) Provides entertainment

**4.** What is required to register?

  A) Credit card payment
  B) University email and student ID
  C) Personal recommendation

**5.** When will training sessions be held?

  A) This week
  B) Next week
  C) Next month

### Recording 2: Student Discussion
### Questions 6-10: Multiple Choice (5 marks, 1 mark each)

*[Refer to Listening Transcripts Document]*

**6.** What is their project topic?

  A) Climate change
  B) Renewable energy in Pakistan
  C) Water conservation

**7.** Which region has solar potential?

  A) Punjab
  B) Sindh
  C) Balochistan

**8.** What does Professor Khan recommend?

   A) Theory only
   B) Practical applications
   C) Personal opinions

**9.** What will Sarah focus on?

   A) Data analysis
   B) Technology research
   C) Environmental impact

**10.** What is the deadline?

   A) Two weeks
   B) Three weeks
   C) Four weeks

## Recording 3: Note-taking

### Questions 11-15: Gap-Filling (5 marks, 1 mark each)

Complete the notes using NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS for each answer.

*[Refer to Listening Transcripts Document]*

11. Start your day by identifying _____ tasks.

_____

12. The Pomodoro Technique involves _____ intervals.

_____

13. Multitasking reduces _____.

_____

14. Use _____ to minimize distractions.

_____

15. Spend five minutes _____ for tomorrow.

_____

# PART 2: Extended Listening

**Time: 40 minutes | Marks: 15**

**Recording 4: University Lecture on Sustainable Cities**

*[Refer to Listening Transcripts Document]*

**Questions 16-20: Gap-Filling (5 marks, 1 mark each)**

Complete using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each gap.

16. Sustainable cities prioritize _____.

_____

17. Green spaces improve _____.

_____

18. Copenhagen and Singapore are _____.

_____

19. The concept of _____ encourages walking.

_____

20. Smart technology monitors _____.

_____

**Questions 21-25: Short Answer (10 marks, 2 marks each)**

Answer in NO MORE THAN SIX WORDS.

21. What is the main challenge facing rapidly growing cities?

_____

22. Name TWO renewable energy sources mentioned.

_____

23. What percentage of urban land should be green space?

_____

24. What transportation mode is most sustainable?

_____

25. How does smart technology benefit cities?

_____

# PART 3: Integrated Listening

**Time: 40 minutes | Marks: 15**

**Recording 5: Digital Citizenship Interview**

*[Refer to Listening Transcripts Document]*

**Questions 26-30: Gap-Filling (5 marks, 1 mark each)**

Complete using NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS.

26. Digital citizenship means engaging _____ online.

_____

27. Schools should teach about _____.

_____

28. _____ is as important as technical skills.

_____

29. Parents should model _____.

_____

30. The biggest challenge young people face is _____.

_____

**Questions 31-40: Comprehensive Questions (10 marks, 1 mark each)**

Answer in NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS.

31. What motivated Dr. Hassan to write her book?

_____

32. What should you do before sharing content?

_____

33. How often should we have 'digital detox'?

_____

34. What type of content has educational value?

_____

35. What is Dr. Hassan's next project about?

_____

36. What does responsible online behavior require?

_____

37. How can we protect personal information?

_____

38. What role do parents play in digital citizenship?

_____

39. What skill is essential for online communication?

_____

40. What is the key to digital wellbeing?

_____

# SECTION B: SPEAKING

**Time: 15 minutes per candidate | Marks: 30**

## PART 1: Introduction and Interview (4 minutes, 8 marks)

**Examiner Script:**

"Good morning/afternoon. My name is [Examiner Name]. Can you tell me your full name, please? Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself."

**Topic Set 1: Education**

• What are you currently studying?
• Which subject do you find most interesting? Why?
• What are your plans after completing your studies?

**Topic Set 2: Hometown**

• Can you describe your hometown?
• What do you like most about where you live?
• Has your hometown changed recently?

**Topic Set 3: Interests**

• What do you like to do in your free time?
• Have your hobbies changed since childhood?
• Is there a new skill you'd like to learn?

## PART 2: Individual Long Turn (6 minutes, 12 marks)

"Now, I'm going to give you a topic card. You'll have one minute to prepare, then speak for about two minutes."

**TOPIC CARD A**

**Describe a person who has significantly influenced your life.**

You should say:
• who this person is
• how you know this person
• what qualities they have
and explain how they influenced you.

**TOPIC CARD B**

**Describe a technological innovation that changed lives.**

You should say:
• what the innovation is
• when it was developed
• how it works
and explain why it's been significant.

## PART 3: Two-Way Discussion (5 minutes, 10 marks)

"We've been talking about [topic]. Now I'd like to discuss some more general questions."

**Discussion Questions:**

• How has education changed in your country?
• Will online education replace traditional classrooms?
• What role should universities play in society?
• Are practical skills more valuable than theory?
• How can education prepare students for the future?

# SPEAKING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

| Criteria | Descriptors (30 marks total) |
| --- | --- |
| Fluency (8 marks) | Speaks with minimal hesitation; maintains flow |
| Vocabulary (7 marks) | Uses appropriate and varied vocabulary |
| Grammar (7 marks) | Uses complex structures with good accuracy |
| Pronunciation (8 marks) | Clear and intelligible; appropriate intonation |

**END OF PAPER**

# ZIAUDDIN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

## HSSC-A

## AS LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

### Paper 2: Listening & Speaking

**Total Marks: 75**

# SECTION A: LISTENING (45 MARKS)

## PART 1: Short Recordings (15 marks)

### Recording 1: University Platform Announcement
### Questions 1-5: Multiple Choice (5 marks, 1 mark each)

**1. B** - To complement existing methods

*Justification:* The announcement states "This platform will complement our traditional classroom teaching"

**2. B** - Virtual reality simulations

*Justification:* The platform features "video lectures, interactive quizzes, discussion forums, and a comprehensive digital library" - VR is not mentioned

**3. A** - Adjusts content based on performance

*Justification:* "adaptive learning system, which adjusts content difficulty based on individual student performance"

**4. B** - University email and student ID

*Justification:* "register using your university email address and student ID number"

**5. B** - Next week

*Justification:* "The IT department will be running training sessions throughout next week"

### Recording 2: Student Discussion
### Questions 6-10: Multiple Choice (5 marks, 1 mark each)

**6. B** - Renewable energy in Pakistan

*Justification:* Ahmed says "I was thinking we could focus on renewable energy sources in Pakistan"

**7. B** - Sindh

*Justification:* Sarah mentions "I know Sindh has significant solar potential"

**8. B** - Practical applications

*Justification:* Ahmed says "Professor Khan mentioned that practical applications make projects more compelling"

**9. A** - Data analysis

*Justification:* Ahmed asks Sarah "Could you handle the statistical component?" and she agrees

**10. B** - Three weeks

*Justification:* Sarah says "The deadline is three weeks away"

**Recording 3: Time Management Interview**

**Questions 11-15: Gap-Filling (5 marks, 1 mark each)**

**11. priority / priority tasks**

*From transcript:* "start your day by identifying your priority tasks"

**12. twenty-five minute / 25 minute**

*From transcript:* "working in twenty-five minute intervals"

**13. productivity**

*From transcript:* "multitasking actually reduces productivity"

**14. app blockers**

*From transcript:* "I suggest using app blockers during study sessions"

**15. planning / planning for tomorrow**

*From transcript:* "spend five minutes at the end of each day planning for tomorrow"

# PART 2: Extended Listening (15 marks)

**Recording 4: Sustainable Urban Development**

**Questions 16-20: Gap-Filling (5 marks, 1 mark each)**

**16. public transportation / public transport**

*From transcript:* "Sustainable cities prioritize public transportation"

**17. air quality**

*From transcript:* "They improve air quality by filtering pollutants"

**18. excellent examples**

*From transcript:* "Copenhagen and Singapore are often cited as excellent examples"

**19. fifteen-minute city / 15-minute city**

*From transcript:* "the concept of the fifteen-minute city, which encourages walking"

**20. energy consumption**

*From transcript:* "monitor energy consumption, optimize traffic flow"

**Questions 21-25: Short Answer (10 marks, 2 marks each)**

**21. Balancing development with environmental sustainability**

*Alternative:* Development with sustainability / Environmental sustainability

**22. Solar (panels) and wind (turbines)**

*Note:* Must name TWO sources for full marks (1 mark each)

**23. At least twenty percent / 20%**

*Alternative:* Twenty percent

**24. Cycling and walking**

*Alternative:* Walking and cycling

**25. Optimizes/improves resource distribution and efficiency**

*Alternative:* Improves efficiency / Optimizes resources

# PART 3: Integrated Listening (15 marks)

**Recording 5: Digital Citizenship Interview**

**Questions 26-30: Gap-Filling (5 marks, 1 mark each)**

**26. responsibly and ethically**

*From transcript:* "engaging responsibly and ethically online"

**27. digital privacy / online safety**

*From transcript:* "Schools should teach students about digital privacy and online safety"

**28. Critical thinking**

*From transcript:* "critical thinking is as important as technical skills"

**29. appropriate behavior**

*From transcript:* "Parents should model appropriate behavior"

**30. managing social comparison**

*From transcript:* "The biggest challenge young people face online is managing social comparison"

**Questions 31-40: Comprehensive Questions (10 marks, 1 mark each)**

**31. Growing concerns about technology**

*Alternative:* Technology concerns

**32. Verify information carefully**

*Alternative:* Check/verify information

**33. Once weekly / Weekly**

*Alternative:* Every week

**34. Content encouraging critical analysis**

*Alternative:* Critical analysis content

**35. Artificial intelligence ethics**

*Alternative:* AI ethics

**36. Constant awareness**

*Alternative:* Awareness / Being mindful

**37. Strong passwords/two-factor authentication**

*Alternative:* Use strong passwords (accept either element)

**38. Provide guidance and supervision**

*Alternative:* Guide and supervise

**39. Empathy**

*Note:* Must be this specific word

**40. Finding healthy balance**

*Alternative:* Healthy balance / Balance

# SECTION B: SPEAKING (30 MARKS)

**Note to Examiners:** Speaking assessment is based on performance rather than specific "correct answers." Use the detailed marking criteria below to evaluate candidates.

## PART 1: Introduction and Interview (8 marks)

**Sample Strong Response:**

*Q: What are you currently studying?*

**Strong Answer:** "I'm currently in my second year of the HSSC-A program at Ziauddin University, where I'm studying Computer Science. I chose this field because I've always been fascinated by how technology shapes our daily lives, and I want to contribute to developing innovative solutions that can help people. My favorite subject is programming because it allows me to transform creative ideas into functional applications."

*Q: Can you describe your hometown?*

**Strong Answer:** "I'm from Karachi, which is Pakistan's largest city and commercial hub. It's a vibrant, diverse metropolis with a population of over 20 million people. What I love most about Karachi is its cultural diversity—you can find people from all regions of Pakistan here, which creates a rich tapestry of traditions, cuisines, and languages. The city has beautiful beaches along the Arabian Sea, and there's always something happening, whether it's cultural festivals or educational events."

**Evaluation Points:** Look for extended responses (2-3 sentences minimum), relevant details, appropriate vocabulary, grammatical accuracy, and natural delivery.

### Part 1 Marking Criteria

| Band | Descriptors | Marks |
|------|-------------|-------|
| Excellent | Fluent, extended responses; varied vocabulary; minimal errors | 7-8 |
| Good | Clear responses with details; appropriate vocabulary; some errors | 5-6 |
| Satisfactory | Basic responses; limited vocabulary; noticeable errors | 3-4 |
| Weak | Very brief responses; very limited vocabulary; frequent errors | 1-2 |

# PART 2: Individual Long Turn (12 marks)

## Sample Strong Response (Topic Card A - Influential Person):

"I'd like to talk about my English teacher, Ms. Sarah Ahmed, who has profoundly influenced my academic journey and personal development. I first met Ms. Ahmed when I entered 11th grade at my school, and she has been my mentor for the past two years.

What makes Ms. Ahmed exceptional is her genuine passion for teaching and her unwavering belief in her students' potential. She possesses remarkable patience and always takes time to explain difficult concepts in multiple ways until every student understands. Beyond her subject expertise, she demonstrates exceptional emotional intelligence, recognizing when students are struggling and offering support that extends beyond academics.

Ms. Ahmed's influence on my life has been transformative in several ways. First, she helped me develop confidence in my communication skills. I used to be extremely shy and hesitant to speak in class, but through her encouragement and constructive feedback, I gradually learned to express my ideas clearly and confidently. She would often say, 'Your voice matters, and your perspective brings value to our discussions,' which really resonated with me.

Second, she taught me the importance of critical thinking. Rather than simply accepting information, she encouraged us to question, analyze, and form our own informed opinions. This approach has changed how I approach not just my studies but life in general. She would often challenge us with thought-provoking questions and create debates where we had to defend different perspectives, which really sharpened my analytical skills.

Finally, Ms. Ahmed influenced my career aspirations. Through her example, I've seen how educators can genuinely impact lives, and this has inspired me to consider education as a possible career path. She showed me that teaching isn't just about transferring knowledge—it's about nurturing potential, building confidence, and preparing young people to navigate the world.

Her influence continues to shape my approach to challenges and my interactions with others, and I'm grateful to have had such a remarkable mentor during these formative years."

*[Length: Approximately 2 minutes]*

## Part 2 Marking Criteria

| Criteria | Excellent (10-12) | Good (7-9) | Satisfactory (4-6) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Fluency & Coherence** | Speaks fluently; well-organized; clear progression | Generally fluent; mostly organized; some hesitation | Basic fluency; simple organization; noticeable hesitation |
| **Vocabulary** | Wide range; precise; natural collocations | Adequate range; generally appropriate | Limited range; basic vocabulary |
| **Grammar** | Complex structures; minimal errors | Mix of simple/complex; some errors | Mainly simple structures; frequent errors |
| **Task Achievement** | Fully addresses all points; detailed | Addresses most points; adequate detail | Addresses some points; limited detail |

# PART 3: Two-Way Discussion (10 marks)

**Sample Strong Responses:**

*Q: How has education changed in your country over the past few decades?*

**Strong Answer:** "Education in Pakistan has undergone significant transformation over the past few decades, particularly in terms of accessibility and methodology. One major change has been the expansion of access to education, especially for girls and in rural areas, though challenges certainly remain. There's been a gradual shift from purely rote memorization toward more conceptual understanding and critical thinking, though this transition is still ongoing and varies considerably between institutions. Technology has also become increasingly integrated into education, with many schools and universities now using digital resources, online learning platforms, and multimedia teaching tools. However, there's still a considerable gap between urban and rural educational facilities, and addressing this disparity remains one of Pakistan's major educational challenges."

*Q: Will online education replace traditional classrooms?*

**Strong Answer:** "I don't believe online education will completely replace traditional classrooms, but I think we're moving toward a hybrid model that combines the best of both approaches. Traditional classrooms offer irreplaceable benefits—face-to-face interaction, immediate feedback, social development, and hands-on learning experiences that are difficult to replicate online. However, online education provides flexibility, personalized pacing, and access to global resources that traditional classrooms cannot always offer. The pandemic demonstrated both the potential and limitations of remote learning. I think the future lies in blended learning, where physical classrooms are enhanced by digital tools and online resources, rather than one completely replacing the other. Different subjects and age groups will likely require different balances between these approaches."

**Evaluation Points:** Look for abstract thinking, well-developed opinions with justification, ability to discuss broader implications, balanced viewpoints, and sophisticated language use.

## Part 3 Marking Criteria

| Band | Descriptors | Marks |
|---|---|---|
| Excellent | Abstract thinking; well-justified opinions; sophisticated language; discusses broader implications | 9-10 |
| Good | Clear opinions with reasons; good vocabulary; some abstract thinking | 7-8 |
| Satisfactory | Basic opinions; limited justification; mostly concrete thinking | 5-6 |
| Weak | Very basic opinions; minimal justification; difficulty with abstract concepts | 1-4 |

# OVERALL SPEAKING ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

| Component | Total Marks | Key Assessment Focus |
|---|---|---|
| Part 1: Interview | 8 marks | Fluency, basic communication, personal information |
| Part 2: Long Turn | 12 marks | Extended speaking, organization, vocabulary range, coherence |
| Part 3: Discussion | 10 marks | Abstract thinking, justifying opinions, sophisticated language |
| **TOTAL** | **30 marks** | |

## GENERAL ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

**1. Pronunciation and Intelligibility:** While accent is not assessed, speech must be intelligible. Minor pronunciation errors that don't impede understanding should not be penalized heavily.
**2. Self-correction:** Candidates who self-correct demonstrate language awareness and should not be penalized.
**3. Hesitation:** Natural hesitation for thought is acceptable; problematic hesitation is when it significantly disrupts communication.
**4. Length:** Part 2 should be approximately 2 minutes. If significantly shorter (under 1 minute), deduct marks for task achievement.
**5. Interactive Communication:** In Part 3, candidates should demonstrate ability to develop ideas, not just provide brief answers.
**6. Consistency:** Apply marking criteria consistently across all candidates.

**END OF ANSWER KEY**