

# Muhanga District Examination Paper: ENGLISH

## TERM II MUHANGA DISTRICT EXAM FOR THE 2025/2026 QUESTION PAPER

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|---------------|---------------------|
| COMBINATIONS/ | S6 ALL COMBINATIONS |
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**LEARNER'S NAMES:** .....

**DURATION: 3 HOURS**

**MARKS: 100**

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

1. **Read and understand** all instructions before answering.
2. For multiple-choice questions, **choose only one correct answer** and clearly **circle the letter or number**.
3. **Erasing or altering** answers is strictly prohibited and will lead to **zero mark** for the affected question.
4. All answers for **open-Ended questions** must be written in the spaces provided herein.
5. Use **only blue or black ink pens** (no pencils or colored pens)

**March 2026**

## **SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION AND VOCABULARY (40 MARKS)**

Read the following text and answer questions on it.

### **Yuri Gagarin: First Man in Space**

The United States and the Soviet Union vigorously competed to push the boundaries of mankind's exploration of space. The Russians scored a victory when they launched a small craft carrying cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin to new heights. His 108-minute flight gave him a permanent place in the history books as the first man in space.

The American plan to send a man into space by 1961 created a deadline that the Russian team worked hard to beat. The development of the Vostok spacecraft became paramount. Prior to Gagarin's historic flight, the Soviets sent a prototype of his spaceship, along with a life-size dummy called Ivan Ivanovich and a dog called Zvezdochka. With these successes, the vessel was considered ready to take a living, breathing human into space.

On April 12, 1961, at 9:07 a.m. Moscow time, the Vostok 1 spacecraft blasted off from the Soviets' launch site. Because no one was certain how weightlessness would affect a pilot, the spherical capsule had little in the way of on-board controls; the work was done either automatically or from the ground. If an emergency arose, Gagarin was supposed to receive an override code that would allow him to take manual control, but Sergei Korolov, chief designer of the Soviet space program, disregarded protocol and gave it to the pilot prior to the flight.

Over the course of 108 minutes, Vostok 1 travelled around the Earth once, reaching a maximum height of 203 miles (327 kilometres). Over Africa, the engines fired to bring Gagarin back to Earth. The craft carried ten day worth of provisions in case the engines failed and Gagarin was required to wait for the orbit to naturally decay, but they were unnecessary.

Vostok 1 had no engines to slow its re-entry or a way to land safely. About four miles up (seven kilometres), Gagarin ejected and parachuted to Earth. In order for the mission to be counted as an official spaceflight, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI), the governing body for aerospace records, had determined that the pilot must land with the spacecraft. Soviet leaders indicated that Gagarin had touched down with the Vostok 1, and did not reveal that he had ejected until 1971. Regardless, Gagarin still set the record as the first man to leave Earth's orbit and travel into space.

Upon his return to Earth, Gagarin was an international hero. He was cheered in Red Square by a crowd of hundreds of thousands. A national treasure, he travelled around the world to celebrate the historical Soviet achievement.

On March 27, 1968, Gagarin was killed while test-piloting a MiG-15. He was survived by his wife, Valentina Ivanovna Goryacheva, and two daughters.

When Apollo 11 touched down on the moon in July 1969, the crew left behind a commemorative medallion bearing Gagarin's name, as well as medallions for another cosmonaut and three Apollo astronauts who lost their lives in accidents.

Alan Shepard was the first American in space and the second person in space, launching on a suborbital flight in a Mercury capsule called Freedom 7 on May 5, 1961, the United States did not win the race. The Soviet victory could have been prevented, Shepard reportedly felt, had NASA not delayed his mission multiple times for tests.

The first woman in space was Valentina Tereshkova, a Soviet cosmonaut who flew the Vostok 6 mission on June 16, 1963. The first American woman in space was Sally Ride, who was a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger on flight STS-7 on June 18, 1983.

*By Nola Taylor Redd, Space.com Contributor*

### **PART I: READING COMPREHENSION (20 MARKS)**

#### **1) Choose the best option among the given alternatives.**

- I. The passage suggests that the competition **between the Soviet Union and the United States in space exploration** was mainly intended to:
  - A. expand tourism in space
  - B. discover other planets
  - C. promote international cooperation
  - D. demonstrate technological and scientific superiority**
  
- II. **The main reason for sending a dummy and a dog into space** before Gagarin's flight was to:
  - A. attract international media attention
  - B. train astronauts for longer missions
  - C. explore conditions on the moon
  - D. test whether living beings could survive space travel**
  
- III. The word "**paramount**" in paragraph two most nearly means:
  - A. extremely important**
  - B. very dangerous
  - C. scientifically interesting
  - D. slightly useful
  
- IV. Why were **most of the spacecraft controls operated automatically** or from the ground?
  - A. They were uncertain about the effects of weightlessness on a pilot.**  
Scientists doubted Gagarin's skills as a pilot.
  - C. The spacecraft lacked enough equipment.
  - D. The mission was expected to last only a few minutes.

- V. In the sentence **“but they were unnecessary,”** the word **“they”** refers to:
- A. the spacecraft engines
  - B. the Soviet scientists
  - C. the emergency provisions**
  - D. the orbiting satellites
- VI. **Sergei Korolov’s decision** to give Gagarin the override code before the flight suggests that he:
- A. fully trusted the automatic system
  - B. feared that the mission might be cancelled
  - C. was preparing for possible emergencies during the flight**
  - D. wanted to break official regulations
- VII. Why did Soviet leaders initially **claim that Gagarin landed with the spacecraft?**
- A. International rules required the pilot to land with the spacecraft.**
  - B. They wanted to increase public excitement.
  - C. The spacecraft had been severely damaged.
  - D. They did not know that he had parachuted.
- VIII. Which of the following best describes **the author’s attitude** toward Yuri Gagarin?
- A. Critical
  - B. Admiring**
  - C. Indifferent
  - D. Doubtful
- IX. **The paragraph describing Gagarin’s death** mainly serves to:
- A. explain the dangers of aircraft testing
  - B. provide a conclusion to his life story**
  - C. criticize Soviet aviation programs
  - D. introduce another space mission
- X. What is **the main purpose** of the passage?
- A. To explain the dangers of space travel
  - B. To compare American and Soviet astronauts
  - C. To narrate the events and importance of Yuri Gagarin’s mission**
  - D. To analyse the development of spacecraft technology

**PART II: VOCABULARY**

**(20 MARKS)**

**2. Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B. (10 Marks)**

| <b>Word</b>               | <b>Meaning</b>   |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Spacecraft / Spaceship | A. The first example of something, such as a machine or other industrial product, from which all later forms are developed |
| 2. Prototype              | B. The curved path through which objects in space move around a planet or star.  |
| 3. Orbit                  | C. A vehicle designed for travel or operation in space beyond the earth's atmosphere or in orbit around the earth.         |
| 4. A suborbital flight    | D. The branch of technology and industry concerned with both aviation and space flight.                                    |
| 5. Aerospace              | E. Any flight outside the Earth atmosphere with a maximum flight speed below the orbital velocity.                         |

- Spacecraft / Spaceship | **C** |
- Prototype | **A** |
- Orbit | **B** |
- A suborbital flight | **E** |
- Aerospace | **D** |

**3. Choose the correct word from the box to fill in the gaps in this passage. (10 Marks)**

prototype — provisions — ejected — override — paramount — competed — orbit — capsule — launched — mission

During the early years of space exploration, the Soviet Union and the United States **(1)** **competed** \_\_\_\_\_ fiercely to become the first nation to send a human into space. For the Soviet scientists, the development of the Vostok spacecraft became **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ **paramount** to achieving this goal.

Before sending Yuri Gagarin into space, engineers tested a **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ **prototype** of the spacecraft along with a dummy and a dog. After these successful tests, the spacecraft was considered ready for a human passenger. On April 12, 1961, the Vostok 1 spacecraft was **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ **launched** from the Soviet launch site.

During the flight, the spacecraft travelled around the Earth once in its **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ **orbit** \_\_\_\_\_. Inside the spherical **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ **capsule** \_\_\_\_\_, Gagarin experienced the effects of weightlessness. In case of an emergency, he was given an **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ **override** \_\_\_\_\_ code that would allow him to take manual control of the spacecraft.

The spacecraft also carried ten days' worth of **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ **provisions** \_\_\_\_\_ in case the engines failed and Gagarin had to remain in space longer than expected. As the spacecraft returned to Earth, Gagarin **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ **ejected** \_\_\_\_\_ from it and parachuted safely to the ground. This successful space **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ **flight** \_\_\_\_\_ made him an international hero and the first human to travel into space.

**SECTION B: LANGUAGE USE (35 marks)**

4. I. Choose the correct tense and form of the verbs in brackets paying attention to the appropriate type of conditional sentence that applies in order to complete the sentences below

**i.) She ..... (owe) so much if she had been more careful with her money.**

A) would not owe B) **would not have owed** C) did not owe D) will not owe

**ii.) If Munyana ..... (know) the importance of taxes, she would pay them on time.**

A) knows B) **knew** C) had known D) will know

**iii.) My uncle should have saved money for his retirement if he ..... (have) income generating activities.**

A) had B) has C) **had had** D) will have

**iv.) Families ..... (solve) many of their financial problems if they applied strategies about budgeting and saving.**

A) solved B) will solve C) **would solve** D) have solved

**v.) If they had paid their debts on time, they ..... (declare) bankrupt.**

A) would not declare B) **would not have declared** C) will not declare D) do not declare

**5. Fill in the blank spaces with the correct form of the word in brackets. (5 marks)**

- a) The ..... **innovation** ..... (innovate) of renewable energy technologies is essential for sustainable development.
- b) Scientific ..... **discoveries** ..... (discover) often occur after many years of research
- c) Engineers are encouraged to think ..... **creatively** ..... (create) when solving technical problems.
- d) The ..... **development** ..... (develop) of modern medicine has increased life expectancy.
- e) Her ..... **invention** ..... (invent) of a new medical device saved many lives.

**6. Rewrite the sentences as instructed without changing the meaning.**

- i. The new cement plant has boosted our economy. (End: ..... **the new cement plant**) .....  
**Our economy has been boosted by the new cement plant ...**
- ii. The Factory workers have manufactured 100 types of cars. (Start: **100 types** .....)  
**100 types of cars have been manufactured by the factory workers.**
- iii. The CEO has announced new jobs in his company. (End: .....**CEO.**) ....  
**New jobs have been announced in his company by the CEO**
- iv. The new trade tariffs have barred many industries from joining the multinational trade. (Start: **Many industries.....**)  
**Many industries have been barred from joining the multinational trade by the new trade tariffs.....**
- v. The new manager has instructed her workers to study the market trends and adjust their systems of operation and production. (End: ..... **new manager.**) **Workers have been instructed to study the market trends and adjust their systems of operation and production by the new manager.**

**7. Choose the correct reported speech form for each sentence. (2 marks)**

- i. **“I was reading a magazine when my mother told me about the accident,” John said.**
- A) John said he was reading a magazine when his mother told him about the accident.  
B) **John said he had been reading a magazine when his mother told him about the accident.**  
C) John said he is reading a magazine when his mother told him about the accident.  
D) John said he reads a magazine when his mother tells him about the accident.

ii. The policeman said, "The robbers broke into the house and stole money."

A) The policeman said that the robbers had broken into the house and stolen money.

B) The policeman said that the robbers break into the house and steal money.

C) The policeman said that the robbers had been breaking into the house and stealing money.

D) The policeman said that the robbers breaks into the house and steals money.

iii. ) "Don't waste your money," she said.

(Rewrite using **She told the boys**)

She told the boys not to waste their money.

iv) "What have you decided to do?" she asked him.

Rewrite using **She asked him** .....

She asked him what he had decided to do...

v) "Where have you been?" he asked me. (Rewrite using **He wanted to know** . ...

He wanted to know where I had been

**8. Rewrite each sentence according to the instruction in brackets. Keep the meaning unchanged. (5 marks)**

A) The conference was cancelled because of a technical problem.

(Rewrite using **due to**)

The conference was cancelled due to a technical problem

B) He succeeded because he worked very hard.

(Rewrite using **as a result of**)

He succeeded as a result of working very hard.....

C. The climate change is already beginning to transform life on earth, but if we are cautious in our activities, we can reverse the situation. (use: '**although**')

Although climate change is already beginning to transform life on earth, if we are cautious in our activities we can reverse the situation

D. Seasons are shifting and temperatures are increasing, but if industries stop polluting the air, gradually normal temperature conditions can be realised. (Begin: **Despite**.....)

Despite seasons shifting and temperatures increasing, if industries stop polluting the air, gradually normal temperature conditions can be realised.

E. We depend on forests for survival, but we use them faster than we replace them. (Use: **In spite of .....**). *In spite of depending on forests for survival, we use them faster than we replace them.*

**9. Read each sentence carefully and choose the option in which the adjectives appear in the correct English order (2 marks)**

i. A) She bought a red beautiful dress.

B) She bought a beautiful red dress.

C) She bought a red dress beautiful.

D) She bought a dress beautiful red.

**ii.A) He lives in a small old wooden house.**

B) He lives in a old small wooden house.

C) He lives in a wooden old small house.

D) He lives in a small wooden old house.

**10. Circle the correct option: (3 marks)**

i. She has \_\_\_\_ friends than me.

(a) many (b) more (c) much

ii. I am sure I did not make \_\_\_\_ mistakes in the exam.

(some / any)

iii. There are \_\_\_\_ people here than in the city center.

(less / fewer)

**II. PHONOLOGY.**

**(5 MARKS)**

**11. Match each sound with the word in which it is found. Write the correct letter in the blank.**

**Sounds****Words**

a) /ɪə/

i) chair

b) /eɪ/

ii) fear

c) /ʃ/

iii) late

d) /θ/

iv) think

e) /aɪ/

v) time

ANSWERS: a. b. c. d. e. a) /ɪə/ **ii) fear**b) /eɪ/ **iii) late**c) /ʃ/ **i) chair**d) /θ/ **iv) think**e) /aɪ/ **v) time****SECTION C: SUMMARY WRITING****(10 MARKS)**

11. Read the following text and **summarize it in 140 words.**

***Women's Role in Space Travel*****Marking Criteria for Summary Writing (10 Marks)**

| Criteria                 | Marks   | Description   |
|--------------------------|---------|---|
| Content / Main Ideas     | 4 marks | The summary includes the key points from the passage.         |
| Organization / Coherence | 2 marks | Ideas are logically arranged and easy to follow.              |
| Language Use             | 2 marks | Correct grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure.          |
| Word Limit (140 words)   | 1 mark  | The summary respects the required word limit.                 |
| Own Words / Paraphrasing | 1 mark  | The student uses their own words instead of copying the text. |
| <b>Total: 10 Marks</b>   |         |   |

**SECTION D: COMPOSITION WRITING (20 MARKS)**

**SECTION D: COMPOSITION WRITING – Marking Criteria (20 Marks)**

| Criteria                              | Marks |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Content / Relevance to the topic      | 6     |
| Organization and structure            | 4     |
| Language use (grammar and vocabulary) | 4     |
| Creativity / development of ideas     | 3     |
| Mechanics (spelling and punctuation)  | 2     |
| Word limit ( $\leq 250$ words)        | 1     |

**Total: 20 Marks**

**END**