EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI
Junior Certificate Examination

CANDIDATE NAME								
CENTRE NUMBER					CANDIDATE NUMBER			

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **101/01**

Paper 1 Reading and Directed Writing **October/November 2025**

2 hours

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

No additional materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided.
Write in **dark blue** or **black ink**.
Do **not** use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

Dictionaries are **not** allowed.
The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use	
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This document consists of **11** printed pages and **1** page.

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[Turn over

Exercise 1

Read the following passage and answer the questions on the opposite page.

MAIZE, THE STAPLE FOOD FOR EMASWATI

Maize, known locally as *ummbila*, holds a special place in the culture of emaSwati, as the staple food that sustains the nation. This humble grain, with its origins in the Americas, has become deeply rooted in the culinary traditions of emaSwati, serving as a symbol of sustenance, community, and heritage. Therefore in Eswatini, maize is more than just food—it is a way of life.

From the moment the first tender shoots emerge in the fields to the final harvest, maize is a constant presence, shaping the rhythm of life for many emaSwati. The planting season, marked by the first rains, is a time of great anticipation and hope, as farmers prepare their fields and sow the seeds that will feed their families and communities.

As the maize plants grow, so does the sense of community. In many rural areas, neighbours come together to help each other cultivate their fields, a practice known as *lilima*. This practice not only lightens the workload but also strengthens bonds among neighbours, fostering a spirit of cooperation and solidarity, the essence of who we are as emaSwati.

The harvesting of maize is a time of celebration and thanksgiving. Families gather to reap the rewards of their labour, singing and dancing as they work. The first fruits of the harvest are often shared with neighbours and relatives, a sign of goodwill and generosity which are the heart of the Eswatini culture.

Once harvested, maize is processed into mealie meal, which is the coarse flour that forms the basis for many traditional dishes. It is used to make a thick porridge that is a staple of the local diet. This dish is often served with meat or sour milk. Maize also plays a central role in Eswatini rituals and ceremonies. During traditional events such as weddings, funerals, and coming-of-age ceremonies, it is often used as a symbol of fertility, abundance, and prosperity.

Despite its cultural significance, maize production in Eswatini faces difficulties. Erratic weather patterns, soil degradation, and pests pose threats to maize crops, leading to fluctuations in harvests and food insecurity for many emaSwati. In response, the government and various organisations have implemented programmes to promote sustainable farming practices, improve access to seeds and fertilisers, and increase food security.

In conclusion, maize holds a special place in Eswatini culture as the staple food that sustains the nation. Beyond its role as a source of nutrition, maize is a symbol of community, heritage, and resilience. By honouring and preserving the traditions surrounding maize, emaSwati ensure that this humble grain continues to nourish and unite their nation for generations to come.

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(a) Where did maize originally come from?

..... [1]

(b) State **one** activity that marks the farming season in rural Eswatini.

..... [1]

(c) How does the community practice of *lilima* promote good values among emaSwati?

..... [1]

(d) Identify **two** challenges that face maize production in Eswatini.

.....

..... [2]

(e) What has government done to help farmers deal with the challenges of maize production? Give **two** details.

.....

..... [2]

(f) Why is maize significant to emaSwati? Give **three** details.

.....

.....

..... [3]

[Total: 10 marks]

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[Turn over

Exercise 2

Read the following passage about TM Foods and fill in the form on the opposite page.

TM FOODS

In the picturesque kingdom of Eswatini, nestled among the rolling hills and lush greenery, there is a man whose name is synonymous with quality and innovation in the food industry. His name is Thabo Mthombeni, and he is the proud owner of TM Foods, a thriving food production company that has become a household name across the country.

Thabo's story is one of determination, passion, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Thabo was born 44 years ago to Sayitjeni and Lindisiwe Mthombeni in Pigg's Peak. He inherited a small family farm from his parents. With a dream in his heart and a vision in his mind, he set out to transform it into something extraordinary.

From humble beginnings, Thabo built TM Foods literally from the ground, starting with just a few employees and a handful of products. However, with his keen business acumen and unwavering commitment to quality, the company soon began to grow to a staggering 22 outlets, gaining a reputation for its delicious and nutritious food supplies here and beyond our borders.

Thabo's secret to success lies in his innovative approach to food production. He is always on the lookout for new and exciting flavours, ingredients, and cooking techniques, constantly pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the world of food.

Thabo's success is not just measured in profits and accolades. He is also deeply committed to his community, supporting local farmers and businesses and creating jobs for hundreds of people in the region.

Today, TM Foods is a thriving enterprise, with a wide range of products that are loved by people of all ages across Eswatini. Even though Thabo has achieved great success, he remains humble and grounded, always striving to make TM Foods the best it can be.

Thabo's story is a testament to the power of hard work, dedication, and a true passion for what you do. He is a shining example of what can be achieved when you dare to dream big and never give up on your goals.

Imagine you are Thabo Mthombeni. Fill in the profile form on the opposite page.

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PROFILE FORM

SECTION A (Use block capitals to complete this section)

Full name: ..... [1]

Parents: ..... [1]

Place of birth: ..... [1]

SECTION B

What provided capital for your business? (tick in the appropriate box)

Savings ☐

Inheritance ☐ [1]

State **one** quality that has helped you in your business.

..... [1]

How have you helped your community?

..... [1]

SECTION C

Write a sentence of **12** to **20** words describing your innovative approach to food production.

.....

.....

..... [2]

Write a sentence of **12** to **20** words advising the youth on hard work and success.

.....

.....

..... [2]

[Total: 10 marks]

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[Turn over

Exercise 3

Read the following passage about Amapiano and complete the notes on the opposite page.

AMAPIANO: THE GLOBAL PHENOMENON TAKING THE MUSIC WORLD BY STORM

Originating from the vibrant streets of South Africa, Amapiano has swiftly emerged as a leading genre in the global music scene, captivating audiences with its contagious beats, soulful melodies, a unique fusion of deep house, jazz and lounge music elements. This growing genre, which has its roots in the townships of Pretoria and Johannesburg, has gone beyond borders, captivating the hearts of music lovers worldwide and strengthening its position as a cultural force to be reckoned with.

At the heart of Amapiano's sudden rise lies its unique sound, which blends the absorbing rhythms of house music with the soulful melodies of jazz and the laid-back vibes of lounge music. Characterised by its repetitive yet mesmerising beats, Amapiano creates an immersive listening experience that is both uplifting and soul-stirring. This infectious sound has struck a chord with audiences around the world, crossing linguistic and cultural barriers to become a global phenomenon.

Key to its global appeal is its ability to evolve and adapt, drawing inspiration from a diverse range of musical styles and influences. Artists like Kabza De Small, DJ Maphorisa, and Focalistic have played an essential role in shaping the genre, filling it with elements of hip-hop and Afrobeat. This diverse combination of sounds has helped Amapiano carve out a unique position in the music world, setting it apart from other genres and attracting a diverse and universal fan base.

The rise of social media has also played a significant role in the genre's global success, with platforms like TikTok and Instagram helping to increase its reach and connect artists with fans around the world. Viral dance challenges, hashtag campaigns, and live streaming events have all helped to push Amapiano to new heights, making it one of the most talked-about genres on social media.

The success of Amapiano has led to the creation of jobs in various sectors including music production, events management, marketing, hospitality etc. This has a positive impact on employment rates and economic growth. The popularity of Amapiano has also benefitted supporting industries such as fashion, dance and entertainment, creating opportunities for merchandise sales and cross-promotion. Amapiano's popularity has attracted music enthusiasts and tourists to South Africa. Festivals, concerts and events dedicated to Amapiano have drawn significant crowds thus boosting the local economy through increased tourism with tourists spending on accommodation, dining and entertainment.

In conclusion, Amapiano's rapid rise to prominence is a testament to the genre's infectious sound, creative spirit, and global appeal. With its soulful melodies, hypnotic beats, and collaborative spirit, Amapiano has captured the hearts and minds of music lovers around the world, establishing itself as a cultural force to be reckoned with. As the genre continues to evolve and expand, one thing is clear: Amapiano is here to stay, and its influence on the global music scene is only just beginning.

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You are going to present a short talk about Amapiano.

Make short notes under each heading.

Origins

- ..... [1]

Elements helping Amapiano's emergence as a global force

- ..... [1]
- ..... [1]
- ..... [1]
- unique blend of house, jazz and lounge music

How popular artists' creativity has helped the genre

- ..... [1]
- ..... [1]

Benefits of Instagram and Tiktok

- ..... [1]
- ..... [1]

How Amapiano has boosted economic growth

- ..... [1]
- ..... [1]

[Total: 10 marks]

Exercise 4

Read the following passage and answer the questions on the opposite page.

MY FIRST ROCK CLIMBING EXPERIENCE

Rock climbing is a sport that brings a rush of adrenaline and a sense of accomplishment like no other. I still vividly remember the first time I attempted to conquer a very tall rock face, feeling a mix of excitement and gripping fear moving through my veins. Little did I know that this experience would turn out to be both hilariously terrifying and incredibly rewarding.

It all started when my incredibly adventurous friend, Mandla, enthusiastically convinced me to join him on a rock climbing expedition. Despite my initial nervousness, I could not resist his infectious interest, and soon I found myself standing at the base of a massive, frightening cliff, gazing up at the daunting challenge that lay ahead.

As I carefully prepared my safety gear and generously applied chalk to my hands to improve grip, I tried to channel my inner rock-climbing hero. However, as soon as I began my climb, my confidence quickly faded; the harsh reality of my lack of upper body strength hit me like a ton of bricks.

Mandla, being the incredible friend that he is, shouted words of encouragement from below, reminding me to trust my instincts and keep breathing. “Just like Spider-Man, but with more chalk!” he yelled, his words resounding off the rock face and bringing a much-needed, reassuring smile to my face.

As I struggled to find solid footholds and navigate the dangerous, tricky handholds, my heart raced with a combination of fear and determination. Every muscle in my body screamed in protest, begging me to give up and climb back down to safety. But with Mandla’s encouraging words resounding in my ears, I pushed on, fiercely determined to reach the top no matter the cost.

Just when I thought I couldn’t continue, a sudden, powerful burst of energy rushed through me, driving me upwards with a renewed sense of strength and focus. With each careful move, I felt myself getting closer to the peak, the exciting prospect of reaching the top driving me continuously.

And then, after what felt like an eternity of intense sweat, chalk, and shaky knees, I finally reached the summit. The overwhelming sense of accomplishment that washed over me was like nothing I had ever experienced before. I stood there, arms triumphantly raised, laughing and panting, basking in the breathtaking, stunning view below me.

As I carefully descended to solid, safe ground, I felt a sense of pride, relief, and an insatiable hunger for more. Despite the overwhelming challenges and the moments of crippling doubt, the thrill of conquering that huge rock face was an unforgettable, life-changing experience that I would cherish forever.

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(a) How did the author feel about his first attempt at rock climbing initially?

..... [1]

(b) Write **one** word from **paragraph 2** that suggests that the task ahead was challenging.

..... [1]

(c) What evidence shows that Mandla and the writer were thoroughly prepared for the climb?

Give **two** details.

.....

..... [2]

(d) Describe **one** weakness that the writer discovered on his first rock climbing experience.

..... [1]

(e) What makes Mandla a good friend?

..... [1]

(f) Using evidence from the text, give **one** character trait that describes the writer.

.....

..... [2]

(g) What was rewarding for the writer when he reached the peak of the rock?

..... [1]

(h) Describe **one** lesson that the writer learnt from this experience.

..... [1]

[Total: 10 marks]

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Exercise 5

Read the following passage and then write a summary describing how the criminals avoided being recognised by the bank and how they were finally caught. Your summary should be about 100 words (and not more than 120 words)

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content and up to 4 marks for the style and accuracy of language.

THE HATTON GARDEN ROBBERY

In London's criminal history, the Hatton Garden robbery stands out as a tale of bravery, precision, and a surprising cast of characters. Over the Easter weekend in April 2015, a group of elderly thieves carried out one of the most risky burglaries in London history, penetrating the highly secure Hatton Garden Safe Deposit Company in the city's popular complex.

The careful planning and execution of the heist have drawn comparisons to Hollywood films. The gang, composed mostly of retired old men with a history of criminal activity, earned the nickname 'Bad Grandpas' from the media. These seasoned criminals, some of whom were in their seventies, used their decades of experience to carry out a heist that would puzzle authorities and captivate the public.

The operation started on the evening of April 2, 2015, when the gang members entered the building dressed as workmen. They accessed the premises through a lift shaft and by cutting the phone line to the alarm, bypassed a sophisticated alarm system that should have alerted authorities about their presence. The highlight of their operation involved drilling through a 50-centimeter thick reinforced concrete wall, a task requiring both skill and specialised equipment. This labour-intensive process allowed them to access the vault containing safe deposit boxes filled with jewellery, gold and cash.

By the time the heist was completed, the gang had stolen an estimated £14 million worth of valuables, making it one of the largest heists in the city's history. The sheer bravery of the act and the age of the perpetrators led to widespread media coverage, and the public was both amazed and fascinated by the details of the burglary.

However, the gang's excitement was short-lived. Despite their thorough planning, several mistakes ultimately led to their capture. The thieves had overlooked crucial forensic evidence, including DNA traces and fingerprints. Additionally, their use of traceable mobile phones for communication provided authorities with vital clues. ANPR cameras around London also helped track their travels before and after the burglary.

The investigation, led by the Met Police Flying Squad, combined modern forensic techniques with traditional detective work. Within weeks, the police had identified and arrested several members of the gang through surveillance and observation. In March 2016, four of the principal members, Brian Steenkamp, Joe Dubber, Mike Jones, and 'T-Man' were convicted and sentenced to prison terms ranging from six to seven years. Their partners in crime received similar sentences, and some stolen items were eventually recovered.

The Hatton Garden heist has since become a cultural touchstone, inspiring numerous documentaries, books, and films. The most notable of these is the film "The Hatton Job," which dramatises the events with a mix of factual accuracy and creative license. The public's fascination with the robbery lies not just in the size of the crime, but also in the unexpected identities of the criminals; elderly men who executed a heist with the precision and bravery typically associated with younger, more physically active individuals.

The Hatton Garden heist showcases the lasting appeal of well-planned criminal acts and the ongoing interest in stories of skill and boldness. It serves as a reminder that even in an age of advanced security technology, human wit and perseverance can still outsmart some of the most secure of defenses.

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