



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

**COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR ENTRY INTO
THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SPECIAL
DEPARTMENTAL CADRES OF THE NIGERIAN
PUBLIC SERVICES**

SYLLABUS

PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION



SYLLABUS

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SYLLABUS FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

The Examination is meant to test candidates who are aspiring to be appointed as Officers in the Administrative and Special departmental cadres of any of the Public Services in Nigeria. These crop of officers would be expected to write and speak in a lucid manner possess the ability to think independently and evaluate problems rationally. They are to possess enough drive, initiative and resilience to enable them “deliver” in any Ministry/Organisation they may find themselves.

The Examination consists of five papers namely:

- (i) English Language (Essay/Comprehension)
- (ii) Logical Thinking
- (iii) Basic Statistics
- (iv) General Knowledge Paper I (Essay)
- (v) General Knowledge paper II (Objective)



ENGLISH

The aim of this paper is to test the candidate's ability to write clear, simple or idiomatic English in a piece of continuous prose, to present ideas logically and to communicate effectively. Furthermore, it aims to test the candidate's ability to read and understand a passage of average length and complexity, and express the main arguments of the passage in his own words.

The paper will be in two parts as follows:

(i) **ESSAY**

Candidates will have a choice of EITHER of two topics of contemporary national and international interest. They will be limited to a defined number of words. None observance of instructions will be penalised, but good contemporary prose will be rewarded. **Essay carries 40 marks.**

(ii) **COMPREHENSION**

Candidates will be required to answer a number of questions that test their understanding of a given passage. They will also be required to write a summary of the passage in a specified number of words. The summary will be a compulsory question and will carry half the marks allotted to this section of the paper. It is particularly stressed that the summary should be in Candidate's own words. Summaries which are a mere assembly of words and phrase cut from the original passage will be heavily penalised.

The summary is a test of the flexibility and expressiveness of the candidate's own English and his powers of selection and logical thoughts. Related ideas which may be scattered over several paragraphs, should be brought together for clarity and economy; all padding, repetition and rhetorical flourishes should be eliminated.



Comprehension part carries 60 marks.

Candidates may prepare themselves for this Paper by acquiring the widest possible experience of the vocabulary and syntax of contemporary English, and by adopting a critical attitude towards its usage. Articles in leading Newspapers, and Periodicals (both national and International) should be studied from a language point of view. Candidates are advised to underline words and phrases which are not understood at first reading, and find out what they mean, either from the context, or by enquiry. A good Dictionary, such as the Concise Oxford Dictionary, is an essential tool. When you have mastered the meaning of the passage, write down a list of statements which it contains, in their original sequence, underline those which are of major importance, delete those which are trivial or repetitive. Re-arrange the remaining points in logical order, and express them in your own words as concisely as possible. No ideas should be added to the passage, or anything of major importance omitted.

Practice in reading critically is essential for the second half of the Paper. It is important to interpret the mood of the passage, and to distinguish between statements which are intended literally and those which are not. Note that Irony, particularly, is a trap for the unwary. Contemporary English is allusive, and full of devices of compression; each kind of writing has its own range of styles and level of vocabulary. The language used in a private letter will not be appropriate in an official letter; words commonly used in speaking and in popular writing will be quite out of place in a serious article. Only through wide and thoughtful reading can these important distinctions be mastered.



LOGICAL THINKING

This paper is intended to test the candidate's ability to read with care and thoughtfulness and to detect faulty reasoning. It is also to test the candidate's ability to pick out the main points in an argument and the relationship between them. The candidate is expected to identify those which are conclusions and those which are premises and to determine whether the premises do support the conclusions. It is also to test the candidate's ability for unprejudiced judgement – a judgement based only on what is stated or implied.

For the purpose of this Paper, candidates are required to consider the given passages as arguments and to assess them as such. This means that they will have in the first place to distinguish the conclusion (or conclusions) that the author of each is attempting to establish, and then discover just how he tries to reach it from the assertions (i.e. his premises) on which he bases it. There will sometimes be several steps in an argument, and each will then have to be considered separately. Sometimes, steps will be missing from the argument and it will then be important, if possible, to discover the missing assumptions. The final stage of analysis will consist in identifying the points (if any) at which the argument breaks down. Of course, should the whole argument appear to the candidate to be valid, he must say so.

The principal task of candidates is thus the discovery of inconsequences in the passages in question, i.e. the discovery of that stage or those stages in an argument where a conclusion does not follow from its premises, or does so only when these are supplemented by questionable assumptions. In performing this task the candidate is not called upon to pronounce upon the truth or falsity either of premises or conclusions, but only on the question whether the latter follows from (i.e. are implied by) the former. Where a conclusion does not follow from its premises it is said to be fallacious.

Incidental to this main task is the identification of these devices by which the author of an argument may attempt to mislead his readers. This may consist of anything from abuse of opponents to the employment of ambiguous terms or the use of prejudicial ("coloured") language. All such devices should be identified and described as they occur. Candidates are not required to possess either a knowledge of formal logic or an acquaintance with the terminology of sophistries and fallacies, and will not get credit merely for displaying such



knowledge or acquaintance. Rather, what is expected of them is a display of critical ability which should reveal itself above all in sensitivity to questions of relevance.

Candidates may find it useful to consult either:-

R. Thoules: Straight and Crooked/Thinking (Pan) or **Susan Stebbing:** Thinking to some purpose (Pelical) both of which treat large numbers of examples in a relatively untechnical way.

The following worked examples will give some guidance as to what is expected from candidates in the Logical Thinking.

- (a) Mr. Ikime cannot maintain that all wars are unjustifiable, since he denies that persecution is justifiable and it is sometimes not possible to prevent persecution except by making war upon the persecutors.

Answer:

The conclusion that Mr. Ikime cannot maintain that all wars are unjustifiable is based on the argument that Mr. Ikime also maintains that persecution is not justifiable. But the conclusion can be valid only if Mr. Ikime also grants or maintains that whatever is needed to prevent persecution (or what is unjustifiable) is justifiable. In that case the argument will won as follows:

- (i) Persecution is not justifiable.
- (ii) Whatever is needed to prevent what is not justifiable is justifiable.
- (iii) Some wars are necessary to prevent persecution.

Therefore some wars are justifiable. But since Mr.,. Ikime has not granted (ii) the conclusion does not follow; for Mr. Ikime can argue that while every persecution is justifiable , no persecution is justifiable prevented by wars.

- (b) Whatever is desired by all is desirable, all men desire their own happiness, therefore every man desires the happiness of all men, so universal happiness is desirable.

Answer:

The conclusion is that universal happiness (i.e. that happiness of all men) is desirable. However, the fact that all men desire their own happiness does not imply that each man desire the happiness of all. Hence, even if it is granted that whatsoever is desired by all is desirable, it does not follow that the happiness of all (i.e. universal happiness) is desirable. The conclusion will follow validly only if to desire one's own happiness is made to imply to desire the happiness of all men, in which case all men desire their own happiness would imply all men desire the happiness of all i.e. universal happiness which then becomes desirable because it is desired all. As it stands therefore the argument is not valid.



- (c) It is impossible to prove that industry can flourish without competition unless you can also prove that the lack of any competition does not lead to decreased effort on the part of the workers; for it is certainly the case that when the efforts of the workers decrease, industry does not flourish.

Answer:

The argument can be formulated as follows:

- (i) When effort decreases on the part of workers, then industry does not flourish.
- (ii) When there is no competition, effort on the part of the workers decreases.
- (iii) therefore if there is no competition, then industry does not flourish.

The argument is valid once (i) and (ii) are granted. It is important to note however that the validity of the argument depends on the assumption that 'competition' has exactly the same meaning in (ii) and (iii). For if 'competition' in (ii) were to mean "competition between different firms or companies", and 'competition' in (iii) were to mean "competition between different workers in the same firm or company" then the argument becomes invalid.



BASIC STATISTICS

Basic Statistics will test the candidate's ability to appreciate ordered time-series categories emphasizing absolute and relative differences. The paper does not emphasize formal test in statistics methodology. The level of compilation required is arithmetical as applied to ordered categories.

The basic skill required in order to answer questions on Basic Statistics is more than the ability to carefully inspect a set of figures to note their relationship to each other both in absolute and relative terms, and to calculate averages and percentages. Relationship between figures can be seen, for instance, by inspecting the following pairs:-

A	B	C
280	150	70
350	210	105

In absolute terms, the increase of the second number in pair over the first is 70, 60 and 35 respectively. It is therefore greatest in the case of pair A. However, in relative terms the position is quite different. For the three pairs, we have the following:-

$$(a) \quad \frac{350 - 280}{280} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{60}{280} \times \frac{100}{1} = 25 \text{ percent}$$

$$(b) \quad \frac{210 - 150}{150} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{70}{150} \times \frac{100}{1} = 40 \text{ percent}$$

$$(c) \quad \frac{105 - 70}{70} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{35}{70} \times \frac{100}{1} = 50 \text{ percent}$$

Hence, in relative terms, pair C has shown the greatest increase since it has changed by as much as 50 per cent compared to 40 and 25 per cent for pair B and A respectively. Percentage increases can also be represented as ratios so that the relationship shown above could have been shown as follows:

$$(a) \quad \frac{70}{280} \text{ or } \frac{1}{4} \text{ or } 1:4 \quad (b) \quad \frac{60}{150} \text{ or } \frac{1}{2.5} \text{ or } 1:3$$

$$(c) \quad \frac{35}{70} \text{ or } \frac{1}{2} \text{ or } 1:2$$

We can now apply these three principles in answering a typical question.



Below is a table giving the number of crimes of various kinds committed in the urban areas of the U.S.A. during the period between 1946 and 1955; all figures are in thousands. Study the figures carefully and answer the question given below the table.

Year	Murder	Armed Robbery	Burglary	Motor Car Theft	Aggravated Assault	Total
1946	4.4	31	171	97	30	333
1947	4.0	29	165	77	31	306
1948	4.0	28	164	70	31	397
1949	3.6	30	173	69	32	307
1950	3.9	26	171	76	32	309
1951	3.9	26	169	83	32	316
1952	4.2	29	181	92	36	342
1953	4.0	32	191	98	38	363
1954	3.9	34	206	91	35	370
1955	4.1	31	210	98	32	375

(a) In what year did the total number of crimes show the greatest increase compared with the preceding years?

Guideline:-

The Principle involved here is simple inspection and the subtraction from the figure of each year of that for the preceding year.

(b) What is the mean annual number of burglaries over the decades?

Guideline:-

Add up the figure under burglary and divide by the number of years. Since the figures are given in units of thousands, the answer can be given in that unit or converted back to the original multiplying by 1000.

Answer: 179.4 (Units of thousands) or 179,400

Note, however, that if the question has said "... Give your answer to the nearest whole number", it would be best to just put down 179 as the answer.



(c) In what year was the increase in motor car theft relatively the highest?

Guideline:-

Note the years in which there are increases over the figure for the preceding year. Find the absolute size of the increase and convert this to relative size by calculating it as a percentage of the figure for the preceding year. Thus, in 1950 there is an increase of 8 over the 1949 figure while in 1952 the increase is 9 over the 1951 figure. However when 8 is expressed as percentage of 83, the results are approximately 12 and 11 respectively.

Answer: 1950

(d) In which of the three years – 1946, 1948 and 1954 – was armed robbery relatively the highest in the decade?

Guideline:

Convert the figure for armed robbery for each of the three years into a percentage of the total number of crimes. The year with the highest percentage gives the answer.

Answer: 1948

By how many would the number of aggravated assaults have to be increased in 1955 for this kind of crime to keep the relative position it had in 1946? All calculations must be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Guideline:

Find the relative position of the crime in 1946 by calculating it as a percentage of total crime. This gives you 9 percent approximately. Then find what is 9 percent on the 1955 total. This is 33.7 or 34 to the nearest whole number. Subtract the actual figure from 34.

Answer: 2 (or 2,000)

(f) Assuming the percentage increase from 1951 to 1952 was maintained through to 1953, estimate what the total number of crimes would have been in 1953. All calculations must be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Guideline:

Find the increase in the figure from 1951 to 1952. This is 26. Convert this to a percentage of the figure for 1951, that is, of 316. This is found to be 8.22 but since all calculations must be to the nearest whole number, we take this as 8 percent of 342. This is 27.36 or 27 approximately. Add this to 342 to get the answer.

Answer: 369



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PAPER I

The aim of this Paper is to test the candidate's ability to evaluate the pros and cons of given topics, usually relating to topical, national or international issues, and to discuss them intelligently. It consists of three compulsory questions of the traditional essay type each of which carries equal marks.

While the candidate's ability to express himself clearly, grammatically, concisely and economically will be taken into consideration in assessing marks, the main emphasis will be on the content of answers, and particularly the candidate's ability to link independently and to evaluate problems rationally.

It will be an advantage for candidates to have kept abreast with newsworthy developments locally and internationally through reading Nigerian and foreign newspapers and periodicals, as well as listening to radio and television discussions and by keeping in touch with modern trends in literature, art and science through reading periodicals and reviews devoted to these subjects.

PAPER II

This Paper consists of 40 multiple choice questions all of which must be attempted by candidates. Questions in this Paper cover topical issues on management, politics, economy, science and technology, sports, etc.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2000 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services

27th January, 2000

ENGLISH

2 Hours

1. Essay (40 Marks)

Write an essay of not more than THREE pages on EITHER of the following topics. Good expression and logical presentation will be rewarded.

- (a) Checkpoints on Federal Highways: Should they be scrapped?
- (b) Freedom of Worship.



2. Comprehension (60 Marks)

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Note that clarity and precision of answers will be taken into account in the award of marks. Indiscriminate lifting from the passage will be penalized. Use your own words as much as possible.

Among the natural resources which can be called upon in national plans for development, possibly the most important is human labour. Since the English language suffers from a certain weakness in its ability to describe groups composed of both male and female members, this is usually described as 'manpower'. Without a productive labour force, including effective leadership and intelligent middle management, no amount of foreign assistance or of natural wealth can ensure successful development and modernisation.

The manpower for development during the next quarter-century will come from the world's present population of infants, children and adolescents. But we have no assurance that they will be equal to the task. Will they have the health, the education, the skills, the socio-cultural attitudes essential for the responsibilities of development?

For far too many of them, the answer is no. The reason is basic. A child's most critical years, with regard to physical, intellectual, social and emotional development are those before he reaches five years of age. During those critical formative years, he is

cared for almost exclusively by his mother, and in many parts of the world the mother may not have the capacity to raise a superior child. She is incapable of doing so by reason of her own poor health, her ignorance, and her lack of status and recognition, of social and legal rights, of economic parity, of independence. This is because, she is not regarded as a separate and complete human being. How can such a non-person raise a superior child? The best she can do is maintain the status quo, which is not good enough for development.

One essential factor which has been overlooked or ignored is the role of women. Development will be handicapped as long as women remain second-class citizens, uneducated, without any voice in family or community decision, without legal or economic status, married when they are still practically children, and thenceforth producing babies often only to see half of them die before they are school age.

We can enhance development by improving 'womanpower', by giving women the opportunity to develop themselves. Statistics show that the average family size increase in inverse ratio to the mother's years of education. Malnutrition is most frequent in large families and increases in frequency with each additional sibling. Illegitimacy and prematurity are more frequent among school dropouts than among girls who complete their education. Both conditions have an adverse effect on the health and development of the child, the first for social reasons, the lack of stable family environment, and the second primarily because of the reduced resistance to disease and infection of the premature infant.

If we examine the opportunities for education of girls or women in the less developed countries we usually find a dismal picture. In some countries, the ratio of boys to girls in secondary schools is more than seven to one, what happened to the girls is that they are often kept at



home to look after younger siblings and to perform a variety of domestic chores. When an illiterate or barely literate girl reaches adolescence, she has little or no qualification for employment, even if her community provides opportunity for employment of women, so the solution is to get her married as soon as possible with the inevitable result that she produces children 'too soon, too late and too often', unlike her educated counterpart.

The educational level of women is significant since it has a direct influence upon their chances of employment. This provides additional disposable income of the individual family which in turn provides a logical incentive to restrict the size of the family. But whether reduction in family size is a precondition for female employment, or vice-versa is a chicken and egg speculation. However, until women are given the opportunity to become "separate and complete human beings", their own potential for productivity is wasted, and they will tend to perpetuate in their children those characteristics which are least conducive to development.

Margot Higgins: War on Hunger

- a. Provide a most suitable title for this passage. (5)
- b. What are natural resources and what is the relevance of human labour to them. (10)
- c.
 - i. Explain the meaning of the expression "She produces children too soon, too late and too often" (5)
 - ii. What category of 'she' does the expression above refer to? (5)
- d.
 - i. What, according to the passage is a 'superior child', (5)
 - ii. Identify the single sentence in the passage that describes the kind of mother who cannot raise a "superior child". (5)
- e. Why should malnutrition increase in frequency with each additional sibling. (5)
- f. What are the adverse effects on the child of illegitimacy and prematurity among female school dropouts? (10)
- g. Explain the following expressions as used in the passage.
 - (i) chicken and egg speculation
 - (ii) vice-versa
 - (iii) sibling
 - (iv) inverse
 - (v) status quo.



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

**ASCON 2001
PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**Competitive Examination for Entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental
Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services**

25th January, 2001

ENGLISH

2 Hours

1. Essay (40 Marks)

Write an essay of not more than THREE pages on EITHER of the following topics. Good expression and logical presentation will be rewarded.

- (a) The Separation of Powers in Governance
- (b) The Gains and Pains of the Olympic Games

2. Comprehension (60 Marks)

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Note that clarity and precision of answers will be taken into account in the award of marks. Indiscriminate lifting from the passage will be penalized. Use your own words as much as possible.

Man is classified as a primate, that is, he has a number of features which put him in the same group with, among others, the apes. As well as this classificatory relationship there exists an evolutionary one as well. The two relationships are not, in fact, separable; one presupposes the other. Man shares a common ancestor with the apes, but is certainly not descended from them, as many suppose. Estimates of the date by which we could talk of two separate families having evolved from the common stock varies between forty and sixty million years ago. Since then, of course, the two families have continued to evolve independently.

Man's primate ancestors were tree-dwelling animals living primarily on the fruit and nuts that were to be found in the forests they inhabited. In these conditions much reliance would be put on eye and hand for swinging from branch to branch through the trees. The eyes, being set forward in the head, had overlapping visual fields. As a consequence, man had developed the ability to see well three-dimensionally and to judge distances. The hand evolved in conjunction with the eye, for grasping, swinging and picking. Both hand and eye have played an important part in the evolution of man, as we shall see.

Our ancestors, like the other primates, lived in small groups socially. Communication is a necessary part of social cohesion at whatever evolutionary level it occurs, and it would



appear that these small groups were ideal for the evolution of communication systems. The communication systems depend both on a means of signaling and a means of perceiving the signals. Add to this the social conditions for communicating and also the wherewithal to interpret signals correctly and we have the four ingredients without which the system could not operate.

What was needed on the receptor side was, first of all, keen enough vision to register the differences between the various signals. Man had developed binocular vision which was admirably suited for such a use. One final ingredient remained to complete the system; the ability to make use of the signals and to act upon them suitably. Our ancestor's capacity for intelligent use of the information was vital. Brain and communicative abilities were evolving together

A number of modes of signalling were available to early man. Vocal calls, facial expressions, gestures and postures all combined to act as part of the group communication system. It is said that the vocal signalling was particularly effective in the forest environment. Often, these signals were used to draw attention to the gesture or expression of the individual making the call.

Of the pre-language systems, visual signalling started to become particularly important. Very complex facial musculature had evolved, which enabled a wide range of expressions to convey emotions. Facial signals evolved as a useful means of communicating and they had the added benefit of increasing social cohesion. This was because communication was dependent on at least two individuals getting, and remaining, in close contact. Without the social conditions and the face-to-face contact, the system could not have operated. Such signalling still plays a large part in our communications today. When we have difficulty in interpreting remarks on the telephone, we suddenly realise just how much our verbal conversations depend on non-verbal, visual communication.

As we have seen, each part of the total communication system, such as the visual signalling was dependent on a number of factors. Any one factor could place a limitation on the whole system or, by improving, could put selection pressures on the other parts to improve. This applied, of course, not only to communication but to all the characteristics involved in man's evolution.

At this point we can, as it were, step back and take a look at the selection pressures on man's ancestors thus far. He was, in some senses, a rather unspecialised animal since he had developed no special powers of offence or defence. He couldn't run fast and his teeth, hands and nails were not designed in the great carnivore tradition. These matters were not crucial, since he was living in reasonably comfortable circumstances. Fruits and nuts could be gathered in quantities within the forests, where predators could be avoided easily by using the trees for escape. In addition, his large brain and intelligent behaviour were a decided advantage, not to say a necessity, in coping with the situation. Man's ancestors would have gained obvious selective advantages from social and communicative behaviours.

The change to the open habitat from their forest environment was the next stage in man's evolution. This produced fresh selection pressures in its wake. Our ancestors had to cope with great dangers from the large efficient carnivores that roamed their new habitat. They had to change structurally and socially to cope with life permanently on the ground. One of the most important changes was the adoption of a bipedal gait in favour of the old quadrupedal, tree-adopted one. With it, he learned to run and hunt. Freed from locomotory involvement, his arms could now be used for throwing, fighting and carrying. His teeth and



jaw previously used for some of these purposes could now alter to accommodate for other changes, such as the mobility required of the mouth for speech.

Standing upright gave man a greater field of vision and hence advanced warning of food and danger. Together with the freeing of the arms and hands and the ability to balance, three dimensional vision allowed him the delicate abilities to make and use tools.

The change to a hunting life laid stress upon social cooperation and communicative abilities. At some point, language evolved and large increases in brain size took place. Such increases would appear to precede rather than follow many of the other changes. With the emergence of language, the abilities underlying it became the focus for intense selection pressures resulting in greater communicative competence. The faculty of language was of great survival value. Hunting and other social activities were carried on much more effectively, thus enabling the community to support more individuals and to diversify its activities.

Adapted from R. Gurney: Language, Brain & Interactive Process, Edward Arnold

- a. Provide a suitable title (in not more than Five Words) for the passage.
- b. What, according to the passage, are the ingredients which communication systems operate with?
- c. Which of the signalling devices are required in the non-verbal face-to-face type of contact?
- d. How was the change to a hunting life made possible?
- e. What significant part did the hand and eye play in the evolution of man?



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2003 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental
Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services

30th January, 2003

ENGLISH

2 Hours

1. **Essay (40 Marks)**

NOTE:- write an essay of not more than **THREE** pages on **EITHER** of the following topics (Note that good expression and logical presentation will be rewarded).

- (a) Multiparty System in Nigeria
- (b) A Local Traditional Festival I have Witnessed

2. **COMPREHENSION (60 Marks)**

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Note that clarity and precision of answers will be taken into account in the award of marks. Indiscriminate lifting from the passage will be penalised. Use your own words as much as possible.

The essential fact about the world population is that it is increasing at a rate with which food and other production may not be able to keep pace and will certainly not be able to overtake sufficiently to raise the standard of living in the underdeveloped countries. World population is thought to have increased by 1000 million since 1900 – that is, by more than 60 per cent – to raise the estimated total in 1956 to about 2,700 million, and the present rate of increase, which far exceeds the estimates of 25 years ago, is such as to **conjure up** visions of a **staggering** number in the foreseeable future.

The total, now thought to be approaching 3,000 million, is not, of course, equally distributed in proportion to the land areas. Europe, including the former U.S.S.R., is about averagely populated, Africa, North and South America and Oceania are under-populated and Asia is a greatly over-populated. The rate of increase is also very uneven. In Singapore a very high and almost static birth rate coupled with a rapid decline in the death rate, is giving rise to serious alarm. Many other regions, such as Malaya, Ceylon and Mexico, are in the same position to a greater or lesser extent. In Japan a decline in the death rate has been



offset by a dramatic drop of nearly 50 percent in the birth rate brought about mainly by quasi-legalized abortion. In the United States, a low and slightly declining death rate has combined with a substantial and recently static birth rate to give a formidable rate of natural increase. In Great Britain, a death rate which is not particularly low, combines with a low birth rate to give a very small rate of increase. Those Asian countries in which the rate of increase is still slow are being held back by a high death rate rather than a low birth rate, and the same applies to Africa. Unless steps are taken now, it is only a matter of time before the population explosion extends also to those areas.

The explosive growth of world-population has not been caused by a sudden increase in human fertility, and probably owes little in any part of the world to an increase in birth rate. It has been caused almost entirely by advances in the medical and **ancillary** sciences, and the consequent decrease of the death rate in areas where the birth rate remains high. This is of some biological interest. Nature takes as her motto that nothing succeeds like excess, and any living thing, including Man, if able to reproduce without restraint to the limit of its capacity, would soon **inundate** all parts of the world where it could exist. As it is biological populations are kept severely in check by limiting factors, of which the most important are limitations of food supply, disease and enemies, and fluctuations in natural populations are determined by fluctuations in these limiting factors. Generally speaking, relaxation of one factor, after a period of expansion, brings into operation one of the other two.

In the 100 years before the second World War, the expectation of life at birth in England and Wales rose from about 40 years to over 60 years – that is one year every five years. In India the expectation of life at birth is about 40 years, and is said to be increasing by 2½ years every five years. Even if the birth rate were at no more than replacement level, the increasing expectation of life would add enormously to the population of India. True, the expectation of life is not likely to increase indefinitely at the present velocity, but it has a very long way to go in many countries of the world. Even in the developed countries it has some way to go before everyone dies essentially of **senility**, and in the meantime increasing **longevity** will reinforce natural reproductivity. With present birth rate and death rate trends, the world is threatened with astronomical numbers of people. 'It took 200,000 years for world's human population to reach 2,500 million; it will now take a mere 30 years to add another 2,000 million. With the present rate of increase, it can be calculated that in 600 years the number of human beings on Earth will be such that **there will be only one square metre for each to live on**. It goes without saying that this can never take place, something will happen to prevent it.' The human race will have to decide whether that 'something' is to be pleasant or unpleasant.

Adapted from A S Parkes, The New Scientist.



QUESTIONS

- (a) Provide a suitable title for the passage (in not more than 5 words)
- (b) What effect does population increase have on standard of living?
- (c) What is the main reason given for the rapid increase in world population and explain.
- (d) Identify with reasons, the factors which keep biological population in check.
- (e) Which are the areas that are yet to be affected by population explosion and why?
- (f) Explain how the human race can avoid the situation on Earth in which 'there will be only one square metre for each to live on'.
- (g) Give the meaning of the following expressions as used in the passage:
 - i. conjure up
 - ii. staggering
 - iii. offset
 - iv. longevity
 - v. ancillary
 - vi. inundate
 - vii. of senility.



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

**ASCON 2006
PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**Competitive Examination for Entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental
Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services**

27th January, 2006

1½ Hours

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PAPER I

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. Your answers should be concise and to the point. The questions are intended to test the intelligent awareness of current affairs, which an educated person is expected to have. Credit will be given for thoughtful opinions and lucid expressions. All questions carry equal marks.

- (i) The World was sometimes ago devastated by the Tsunami. When and where did it occur and what are its implications for the management and containment of natural disasters in Nigeria in particular and Africa in general?

(20 marks)

- (ii) Are the Paris Club and IMF friends or foes in offering Debt Relief to Nigeria?

(20 marks)

- (iii) Corruption is deeply rooted in the Public Service in Nigeria. Show how that is so and the way out of the quagmire.

(20 marks)



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2007 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

**Competitive Examination for Entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental
Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services**

26th January, 2007

1½ Hours

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PAPER I

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. Your answers should be concise and to the point. The questions are intended to test the intelligent awareness of current affairs, which an educated person is expected to have. Credit will be given for thoughtful opinions and lucid expressions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Air travel safety is now a matter of national concern and discourse in Nigeria. Identify and discuss the issues at stake.

(20 marks)

2. The recent impeachment of a number of state Chief Executives (Governors) in Nigeria is a negation of the concept of separation of powers in a democracy. Do you concur?

(20 marks)

3. One draw back in development planning in Nigeria is inadequate community participation. Discuss and suggest measures to encourage/improve community participation in development planning.

(20 marks)



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

**ASCON 2008
PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**Competitive Examination for Entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental
Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services**

25th January, 2008

1½ Hours

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PAPER I

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. Your answers should be concise and to the point. The questions are intended to test the intelligent awareness of current affairs, which an educated person is expected to have. Credit will be given for thoughtful opinions and lucid expressions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. The Federal Government has recently initiated a programme/policy of repositioning Nigeria for the top 20 league by year 2020. What is the policy about and what strategies are being adopted towards its realization.

(20 marks)

2. The President on his inauguration indicated that his administration would be based on a seven-point agenda. What are these seven points and how are they being implemented?

(20 marks)

3. The CBN governor in August 2007 announced a “naira redenomination policy” which was later suspended by the Federal Government. What was the policy all about and what reasons were given by government for its suspension?.

(20 marks)



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2008 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental
Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services

25th January, 2008

1½ Hours

BASIC STATISTICS

Non-programmable Calculators should be used. All workings must be shown. You will not earn full marks if you state only the answers without detailed workings. You will also not earn full marks if you state your answers without “TONNES” as the unit of your answers in relevant cases.

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

The Table below shows the selected species of Annual Fish Produced in Nigeria, classified by species each year for the period 1993 to 1997.

Species	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Tilapia	15,503	13,452	15,846	13,114	11,120
Moonfish	9,062	6,591	6,598	5,326	7,587
Africa Lung Fish	798	508	1,078	1,284	1,766
Trunk Fish	2,376	2,371	3,771	3,026	4,512
Bony Tongue Fish	4,675	3,150	5,065	3,312	7,633
Tiger Fish	4,309	7,186	8,918	7,141	9,160
Sea Cat Fish	2,119	6,756	12,570	12,676	9,862
Glass Cat Fish	1,868	1,912	1,883	8,505	3,726
Electric Fish	791	955	1,893	1,032	1,249
Croakers	9,567	12,013	18,869	16,709	11,881
Lady Fish	579	544	1,474	154	735
Shrimps	13,755	10,358	14,742	12,073	12,847

Source: Federal Office of Statistics, Abuja, Nigeria, Annual Abstract of Statistics, 1998, page 278.



1. What was the annual total tonnes of Fish produced in Nigeria in each year, 1993 to 1997?

(4 marks for each year total = **20 marks**).

2. Using the results in Question (1):

(a) What was the ABSOLUTE change in the annual total of the Fish produced in Nigeria for the periods?

(i) 1993 to 1994 & 1994 to 1995 (5 marks)

(ii) 1995 to 1996 & 1996 to 1997 (5 marks)

(b) Calculate the RELATIVE annual decrease in the total of the Fish produced in Nigeria for the periods:

(i) 1995 to 1996 (5 marks)

(ii) 1996 to 1997 (5 marks)

(State your answer in one place of decimal)

3. Calculate the annual average of the Fish produced in Nigeria for the period 1993 to 1997 in respect of the following species:

(i) Tilapia and Moon fish (10 marks)

(ii) Croakers and Lady Fish (10 marks)

(State your answers in **WHOLE** numbers)

4. Calculate the **RATIO** of the annual total of the Fish produced in Nigeria for the year 1997 in respect of the following species:

(a) (Africa Lung Fish) to (Moonfish) (5 marks)

(b) (Electric Fish) to (Glass Cat Fish) (5 marks)

(State your Answers in **WHOLE** numbers)

5. (a) Assuming the percentage increase of the total tonnes of fish produced in 1996 to 1997 were maintained through the year 1998, estimate the total tonnes of Fish for the year 1998 in respect of Tiger Fish

(15 marks)

(b) Assuming the percentage decrease of the total tonnes of Fish produced in 1996 to 1997 were maintained through the year 1998, estimate the total tonnes of Fish for the year 1998 in respect of Glass Cat Fish.

(15 marks)



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2004 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental
Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services

29th January, 2004

1½ Hours

BASIC STATISTICS

Calculators should be used. All workings must be shown. You will not earn full marks if you state only the answers. You will also not earn full marks if you state your answers without ‘MILLION NAIRA’ as the Unit of your answers in relevant cases.

Answer **ALL** Questions

The Table below shows the Nigeria Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Activity Sector, at Current Market Prices, for the period, 1993 – 1997. Figures are in MILLION NAIRA.

Activity Sector	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Agriculture	231,833	349,245	619,807	841,457	1,023,833
Mining and Quarring	251,168	227,729	794,450	1,196,978	1,296,867
Manufacturing	38,431	62,970	105,154	132,554	149,248
Electricity and Water	1,601	1,795	1,915	2,006	2,070
Construction	8,019	10,325	13,784	16,042	17,964
Transportation	14,574	30,949	48,025	62,138	72,845
Communication	723	738	830	943	1,072
Wholesale and Retail Trade	100,849	158,395	273,913	357,053	415,176
Housing	9,275	27,412	46,224	60,599	68,908
Producers of Govt. Services	19,130	20,614	20,835	21,043	21,361
Other Services	39,516	21,399	35,748	49,644	59,901

Source: Federal Office of Statistics, Abuja Nigeria, 1998 Edition, Page 424.

1. What was the total Gross Domestic Product of all the Activity Sectors in each of the years 1993 to 1997?

(4 marks for each year – total 20 marks)

2(a) Using your results in Question 1, what was the **Absolute** Change in the annual total Gross Domestic Product from 1995 to 1996?

(10 marks)



- (b) Calculate the **RATIO** of the annual Gross Domestic Product of the year 1997 in respect of:

Communication to Transportation

(State your answer in **WHOLE** number)

(10 marks)

3. Calculate the **Relative** Annual Increase in the total Gross Domestic Product for the Period:

(a) 1993 to 1994; and **(10 marks)**

(b) 1995 to 1996 **(10 marks)**

4. Calculate the Annual Average of the Gross Domestic Product for the period, 1993 to 1997 for the following Activity Sector:

AGRICULTURE

5. Assuming the percentage increase of the Annual Gross Domestic Product for 1996 to 1997 was maintained through 1998, estimate the total Annual Gross Domestic Product that would have been produced in respect of the following Activity Sectors in 1998:

(a) Electricity and Water **(10 marks)**

(b) Housing **(10 marks)**



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2003 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services

30th January, 2003

1½ Hours

BASIC STATISTICS

Non – Programmable *Calculators should be used. All workings must be shown. You will not earn full marks if you state only the answers without detailed workings. You will also not earn marks if you state your answers without “TONNES” as the unit of your answers in relevant cases.

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

The Table below shows the output of selected major Agricultural Commodities in Nigeria for the period, 1989 – 1993. Figures are in Thousand Tonnes.

Types of Selected Major Agricultural Commodities	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Maize	5,008	5,768	5,810	6,346	6,852
Millet	4,770	5,136	4,109	4,234	4,380
Rice	3,303	2,500	3,185	3,500	3,400
Wheat	554	554	455	423	400
Beans	1,232	1,354	1,352	1,411	1,471
Cassava	17,404	19,043	20,339	21,437	22,316
Yams	9,609	13,624	16,956	19,305	23,166
Cocoyams	649	731	829	940	1,066
Plantain	1,413	1,215	1,339	1,477	1,629
Vegetable	1,480	1,761	2,025	2,243	2,494

Source: Central Bank of Nigeria: BULLION, Lagos, Volume 21, No.3, 1997, Page 24.



1. What was the total output of the selected major agricultural commodities in each year from 1989 to 1993?

(4 marks for each year - total 20 marks)

2a. Using your results in Question (1) what was the Absolute change in the annual total output of the agricultural commodities produced in Nigeria in 1990 and 1991?

(14 marks)

b. Calculate the RATIO of the annual output for the year 1993 in respect of:

Beans to Rice

(6 marks)

(State your answer in **WHOLE** number)

3. Calculate the Relative annual increase in the total output of agricultural commodities for the following periods:

a. 1991 to 1992

(10 marks)

b. 1992 to 1993

(10 marks)

(State your answer in **ONE** place of Decimal)

4. Calculate the annual average output of the agricultural commodities for the period 1989 to 1993 for the following agricultural commodities:

a. Maize

(10 marks)

b. Millet

(10 marks)

5. Assuming the percentage decrease and increase of the total annual output of the agricultural commodities for 1992 to 1993 were respectively maintained through 1994, estimate the total annual output that would have been produced in respect of the following types of agricultural commodities in 1994:

a. Wheat

(10 marks)

b. Vegetable

(10 marks)



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2005 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services

28th January, 2005

35 Minutes

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PAPER II

40 Marks

1. Emergency Rule in Plateau State terminated on:
 - (a) 17th November, 2004
 - (b) 16th November, 2004
 - (c) 18th November, 2004
 - (d) 19th November, 2004

2. The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation is:
 - (a) Justice Mohammed Bello
 - (b) Justice Mustapha Akanbi
 - (c) Justice karibe-Whyte
 - (d) Mr. Akin Olujimi

3. The first female to drive a car in Nigeria was:
 - (a) Mrs. Latifat Okunu
 - (b) Mrs. Magaret Ekpo
 - (c) Mrs. OlufunkeRansome-Kuti
 - (d) Mrs. Chinyere Onyenucheya

4. The National Chairman of PDP, Mr. Audu Ogbeh, resigned on:
 - (a) 9th December, 2004
 - (b) 9th January, 2005
 - (c) 10th January, 2005
 - (d) 11th January, 2005

5. The number of people that were vested with National Award on 17th December, 2004 were:
 - (a) 192
 - (b) 193
 - (c) 195
 - (d) 196



6. The Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly is:
- (a) Joseph Samuel
 - (b) Samuel Sampson
 - (c) Simon Lalong
 - (d) Pam Dalong
7. The first Aeroplane that ever flew into Nigeria landed at Kano in:
- (a) 1900
 - (b) 1905
 - (c) 1959
 - (d) 1960
8. The Capital of Mauritania Republic is:
- (a) Masocrusouk
 - (b) Nounkchott
 - (c) Accra
 - (d) Cotonou
9. Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) was established in:
- (a) 1976
 - (b) 1977
 - (c) 1978
 - (d) 1979
10. The first Black American Woman to be nominated for appointment as United States of America Secretary of State is:
- (a) Ms. Denburger
 - (b) Ms. Janmila
 - (c) Ms. Schulzer
 - (d) Ms. Rice
11. The Secretary General of the Commonwealth is:
- (a) Alpha Koare
 - (b) Don McKinnon
 - (c) Emeka anyaoku
 - (d) Omar Bongo
12. The President of African Union is:
- (a) Alpha Koare
 - (b) Gyassingbe Eyadema
 - (c) Olusegun Obasanjo
 - (d) Laurent Gbagbo
13. The draft Bill submitted to the National Assembly by the INEC pegs the 2007 Campaign spending for Presidential Candidates at:
- (a) 20m
 - (b) 50m



- (c) 30m
(d) 4m
14. Acronym PENGASSAN means:
(a) Petroleum Engineering & Natural Gas Association of Senior Staff of Nigeria
(b) Petroleum & Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria
(c) Petroleum Exporting and Gas Association of Senior Staff of Nigeria
(d) Petroleum & Gas Exporting Association of Senior Staff of Nigeria.
15. The President of Air Transport Services Senior Staff Association of Nigeria is:
(a) Mrs. Peace Obiajulu
(b) Mr. Uche Okoro
(c) Mr. Solomon Ohioma
(d) Mr. Louis Ogbeifun
16. The “Biafran” hero’s wife who was reabsorbed into the services of Enugu State School Management Board is:
(a) Mrs. Peace Obiajulu
(b) Mrs. Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu
(c) Mrs. Joy Onyegbula
(d) Mrs. Chimaroke Nnamani
17. The number of delegations to be nominated by President Olusegun Obasanjo in the proposed National Dialogue is:
(a) 75
(b) 47
(c) 55
(d) 50
18. The Full meaning of NEEDS is:
(a) National Economic Empowerment and Development Systems
(b) National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
(c) National Economic Empowerment and Development Scheme
(d) National Economic Empowerment and Development Society
19. The 13-year old boy who was showered with gifts for his honesty after returning a missing GSM handset during a party is:
(a) Sheikh Dada
(b) Sekiru Dada
(c) Shakuru Dada
(d) Saidu Dada
20. The Hosting Right of the 2006 World Cup was given to:
(a) South Africa
(b) Nigeria
(c) Germany
(d) Cameroon
21. The Sudanese Region involved in conflict with its Central Government is called:
(a) Dakar



- (b) Darfur
 - (c) Daisalam
 - (d) Adis-Ababa
22. The leaders of the two powerful vigilante groups in Niger Delta Region of Nigeria are:
- (a) Dokubo Asare and Orincevila
 - (b) Dokubo Asare and Atete
 - (c) Atete and Ekorodu
 - (d) Atete and Yellowe
23. The Veterinary Research Institute of Nigeria is located in:
- (a) Gombe, Bauchi State
 - (b) Vom, Plateau State
 - (c) Oshodi, Lagos State
 - (d) Ibadan, Oyo State
24. All these are registered political parties in Nigeria **Except**
- (a) All Peoples Party
 - (b) Nigeria Farmers Congress
 - (c) All Progressive Grand Alliance
 - (d) Peoples Democratic Party
25. AGOA means
- (a) African Growth and Opportunities Action
 - (b) African Growth and Opportunities Activities
 - (c) African Growth and Opportunities Act
 - (d) African Growth and Opportunities Association
26. A policy of 3Rs was introduced by Gowon Administration immediately after the Nigerian Civil War. The full meanings of the 3Rs are:
- (a) Restitution, Restoration and Revival
 - (b) Rejection, Reception and Restoration
 - (c) Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation
 - (d) Reconstruction, Restitution and Revival
27. The United States Presidential Election was between:
- (a) Algore and John
 - (b) John and Kennedy
 - (c) George W. Bush and John Kerry
 - (d) George Bush and Blaire
28. The Director General of the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria is:
- (a) Prof. Abdullahi Musa
 - (b) Prof. Ahmed Musa
 - (c) Prof. Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah
 - (d) Prof. Saidu Mohammed
29. The Chief Executive of Africa Independent Television (AIT) is:
- (a) Dokpesi James
 - (b) Raymond Dokpesi



- (c) Ray Ekpo
(d) Ruth Obiageli
30. The Senator that slapped a fellow Senator is called:
- (a) Hon. Madubuike Okeke
(b) Hon. Giwa Abiodun
(c) Hon. Isa Mohammed
(d) Hon. Arthur Nzeribe
31. The first University College in Nigeria was established in:
- (a) 1946
(b) 1963
(c) 1948
(d) 1961
32. The Pilot who was killed by an unknown gunman was
- (a) Captain Joseph Agbe
(b) Captain Jerry Agbeyegbe
(c) Captain James Agbeyegbe
(d) Captain Henri Agbese
33. The Federal Executive Council meets every:
- (a) Tuesday
(b) Monday
(c) Forth-nightly
(d) Wednesday
34. There are _____ members in the Senate:
- (a) 106
(b) 107
(c) 108
(d) 109
35. The name of the 12-year old Junior Secondary School boy who was allegedly shot dead by the Police during a pro-labour protest in Kaduna in October, 2004 was:
- (a) Sani Mahammed
(b) Shehu abdullahi
(c) Hamisu Idri
(d) Patrick Yewenu
36. INEC Chairman is called:
- (a) Abraham Odumola
(b) Abel Guobadia
(c) Humphrey Nwosu
(d) Ovie Whisky
37. The youngest Head of State ever to have ruled Nigeria is:
- (a) Aguyi Ironsi
(b) General Murtala Mohammed
(c) General Tunde Idiagbon
(d) General Yakubu Gowon



38. NEPAD means:
- (a) Nigerian Employers Partnership for Advance and Development
 - (b) National Educational Partnership for African Development
 - (c) New Partnership for African Development
 - (d) Newspaper Association Decree
39. The first Senior Soccer World Cup Competition was hosted by Uruguay in:
- (a) 1920
 - (b) 1930
 - (c) 1940
 - (d) 1960
40. The first storey building in Nigeria was built in:
- (a) Calabar
 - (b) Badagry
 - (c) Ibadan
 - (d) Lokoja



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2010 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into the Administrative and Special Departmental Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services

28th January, 2010

35 Minutes

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PAPER II 40 Marks

1. The first woman to be elected president of UN General Assembly was ...
 - (a) Indra Gandhi
 - (b) Vijaya Pandit
 - (c) Corazon Aquino
 - (d) Margret Thatcher

2. The ECOWAS Commission has As its President
 - (a) John Koffo
 - (b) Umaru Yar'Adua
 - (c) Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas
 - (d) Dr. Mahammed Columbus

3. Who was the first indigenous Inspector General of Police In Nigeria?
 - (a) Taffa Balogun
 - (b) Mike Okiro
 - (c) Ogbonnaya Onovo
 - (d) Louis Edet

4. The Millennium Declaration was made:
 - (a) September, 2000
 - (b) January, 1999
 - (c) September, 2002
 - (d) January, 2000

5. Service compact with all Nigerian was introduced by the Government in:
 - (a) 1999
 - (b) 2000
 - (c) 2004
 - (d) 2006



6. In what year did FIFA introduce the Red and Yellow Cards in the game of football:
- (a) 1966
 - (b) 1970
 - (c) 1979
 - (d) 1968
7. Who was the first speaker of the House of representatives in Nigeria
- (a) Alhaji Ibrahim Jalo Gombe
 - (b) Mr. Benjamin A Chads
 - (c) Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke
 - (d) Alhaji Salisu Buhari
8. Who is the current President of OPEC
- (a) Dr. Rilwanu Lukeman
 - (b) Chakib Kheli,
 - (c) Mr. Odien Ajumogobia
 - (d) Iyayi Boni
9. When was NEEDS launched in Nigeria?
- (a) May, 29 1999
 - (b) June 10, 2005
 - (c) August 15, 2006
 - (d) May 29, 2004
10. The ruling by the World Court that ceded Bakassik to Cameroun was delivered on
- (a) 10th October, 2002
 - (b) 12th October, 2003
 - (c) August 15, 2006
 - (d) 14th February, 2004
11. The first Nigerian to win Olympic medal as a Coach and athlete was ...
The first Nigerian to win Olympic medal as a Coach and athlete was...
- (a) Iniobong Udobong
 - (b) Mary Onyiali
 - (c) Sunday Bada
 - (d) Innocent Egbunike
12. The present Director General of NAFDAC is
- (a) Prof. Dora Akunyili
 - (b) Mrs. Waziri
 - (c) Dr. Paul Orhii
 - (d) Dr. Sebastine Enume
13. The democratic system we operate in Nigeria is referred to as:
- (a) Unitary System
 - (b) Merit System
 - (c) Presidentialism
 - (d) Parliamentary System
14. Vision 20: 2020 means that:
- (a) Nigeria will join the 20 leading International Organisations of developed countries



- (b) Nigeria will have a stable political system in the year 2020
(c) Nigeria will have stable power supply by year 2020
(d) Nigeria will be among the 20 most developed economies in the world
15. The offer of Amnesty by the President was open to all the militants in the Niger Delta for the period of
- (a) 100 days
(b) 70 days
(c) 90 days
(d) 60 days
16. Which one of the following countries won the 2009 Confederation Cup in South Africa (2009)?
- (a) Italy
(b) Spain
(c) Brazil
(d) USA
17. Which of these countries in Central America had democratically elected government unseated through a Military Coup?
- (a) Guyana
(b) Guatemala
(c) Costa Rica
(d) Honduras
18. A National Assembly that consists of Senate and House of Representatives is referred to as:
- (a) Bi-cameral legislature
(b) Unicameral legislation
(c) Parliamentary legislature
(d) All of the above
19. ... was the Chairman of the 1976 Local Government Reforms Committee in Nigeria
- (a) Alh. Kassim Ibrahim
(b) Alh. Ibrahim Dasuki
(c) Mr. Olu Sanya
(d) Alh. Bamayi Tukur
20. Who is the Zimbabwean Prime Minister ...
- (a) Tambo Mbeki
(b) Robert Mugabe
(c) Morgan Tsvangirai
(d) Maurice Cecke
21. Who is the Russian President?
- (a) Viadimir Putin
(b) Dmitri Medvedev
(c) Michael Gorbachev
(d) Ian Pushkinov
22. In which year was Mount Everest first surmounted?



- (a) 1952
 - (b) 1953
 - (c) 1955
 - (d) 1956
23. How many goals did Cristiano Ronaldo score for Manchester United in 2007 – 2008 season.
- (a) 40
 - (b) 42
 - (c) 44
 - (d) 45
24. Which of these institutions is responsible for selecting winners of the Noble Peace Prize?
- (a) The Norwigean Parliament
 - (b) The Oslo Academy
 - (c) The Michigan University
 - (d) Oxford University.
25. The name of the Nigeria that won the US President's Excellence Award for students in 2009 is ...
- (a) Miss Aisha Dalhatu
 - (b) Jonathan Okere
 - (c) Mary Ebureke
 - (d) Sola Olufemi
26. The Nigerian Minister of State for Petroleum is...
- (a) Dr. Levi Ajonoma
 - (b) Dr. Rilwanu Lukeman
 - (c) Mr. Odien Ajumogobia
 - (d) Engr. Tajudeen Daramola
27. Nigerian rebranding crusade has as its theme
- (a) Honest people one Nation
 - (b) Good people Great Nation
 - (c) Great people good Nation
 - (d) One Indivisible Nation
28. The official Capital of Tanzania is
- (a) Dares Salaam
 - (b) Dodoma
 - (c) Ngode
 - (d) Sukuma
29. The highest mountain in Africa (Kilimanjaro) is found in which of the following countries?
- (a) Kenyan
 - (b) Uganda
 - (c) Tanzania
 - (d) Ethiopia



30. The latest outbreak of pandemic virus "Swine Flu" is otherwise known as:
- (a) H2NI
 - (b) NIN3
 - (c) HINI
 - (d) H2N2
31. The Current World Athletic Champion in 100m, Usain Bolt, is an indigene of which of these countries?
- (a) Brazil
 - (b) Kenya
 - (c) USA
 - (d) Jamaica
32. The world tallest building is found in ...
- (a) Taiwan
 - (b) Hong Kong
 - (c) Dubai
 - (d) China
33. Boko Haram is a Sectarian terminology used to describe the resentment for ...
- (a) Traditional African Religion
 - (b) Western Education/Modernisation
 - (c) Islamic Education
 - (d) Christianity
34. Michael Jackson, the world Pop star died at the age of ...
- (a) 51
 - (b) 50
 - (c) 52
 - (d) 49
35. The latest conversion of N5; N10; N50 Naira notes to the polymer notes took effect from
- (a) August 2009
 - (b) September 2009
 - (c) October 2009
 - (d) November 2009
36. The latest (2009) inclusion into the UN Security Council of non-permanent members included the following except one
- (a) Brazil
 - (b) Gabon
 - (c) Nigeria
 - (d) Canada
37. The scientific study of election trends is known as ...
- (a) Entomology
 - (b) Ethnology
 - (c) Psephology
 - (d) Etymology
38. The World War II is estimated to have killed about ... million people on Earth.



- (a) 40 million
 - (b) 20 million
 - (c) 60 million
 - (d) 50 million
39. Which of these countries is the current champion of the under 20 world cup?
- (a) Brazil
 - (b) USA
 - (c) Argentina
 - (d) Ghana
40. Late Gani Fawehinmi handled a total of Briefs during his practice years?
- (a) 6000
 - (b) 5000
 - (c) 9000
 - (d) 8000



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2011 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into Administrative and Special Departmental
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27th January 2011

35 Minutes

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE PAPER II

40 Marks

1. In which town in Nigeria was free Education first preached?
 - (a) Calabar
 - (b) Badagry
 - (c) Kano
 - (d) Ibadan

2. Who was Ogbonnaya Onovo's immediate past predecessor.
 - (a) Hafiz Rigim
 - (b) Tafa Balogun
 - (c) Sunday Ehindero
 - (d) Louis Edet

3. Who is the current Chief Justice of Nigeria?
 - (a) Justice Isa Salami
 - (b) Justice Olufunlayo Adekeye
 - (c) Justice Aloysious Katsina-Alu
 - (d) Mr. Mohammed Adoke

4. The Chilean Miners that were trapped spent..... number of days under the earth.
 - (a) 59
 - (b) 69
 - (c) 71
 - (d) 72

5. The first woman to be elected President of UN General Assembly
Was?
 - (a) Corazon Acaquino



- (b) Indra Gandhi
(c) Viyaya Pandit
(d) Helen Sirleaf
6. In what year was the first ever test tube baby born?
- (a) 1958
(b) 1959
(c) 1978
(d) 1977
7. The kind of political system that produces a leader that is feared and not respected is known as
- (a) Monarchy
(b) Democracy
(c) Aristocracy
(d) Autocracy
8. In which of these countries is the Parliament addressed as the Duma?
- (a) Lebanon
(b) Syria
(c) Palestinian
(d) Russia
9. In which year did FIFA introduce the Red Card into the game of football?
- (a) 1970
(b) 1972
(c) 1980
(d) 1975
10. Which of these courts gave the final verdict that deposed Governor Segun Oni and enthroned Governor Kayode Fayemi?
- (a) The Election Tribunal
(b) The High Court
(c) The Supreme Court
(d) The Appeal Court
11. The National Chairman of ANPP is
- (a) Audu Ogbeh
(b) Henry Nwosu
(c) Ogbonnaya Onu
(d) Prof. Usman Bello
12. The slogan: "The Light of the Nation" is found in which of these States?
- (a) Akwa Ibom
(b) Delta



- (c) Anambra
 - (d) Plateau State
13. Which of these African countries was not colonized?
- (a) Ghana
 - (b) Madagascar
 - (c) Gabon
 - (d) Ethiopia
14. The first female General in the Nigerian Armed Forces was?
- (a) Bisi Ugowe
 - (b) Brigadier Ronke Kale
 - (c) Rose Menyan Ukge
 - (d) Francisca Yetunde Emmanuel
15. One of these Universities is regarded as the oldest in Nigeria. Which is correct?
- (a) University of Nigeria, Nsukka
 - (b) Ahmadu Bello University
 - (c) University of Calabar
 - (d) University of Ibadan
16. By the year of its establishment, which of these forces is the oldest?
- (a) Nigerian Navy
 - (b) Nigerian Air-force
 - (c) Nigerian Army
 - (d) Nigerian Police
17. Which of these continents of the world has the largest number of countries in it?
- (a) Africa
 - (b) Europe
 - (c) America
 - (d) Asia
18. When was Lagos territory ceded to the British?
- (a) 1900
 - (b) 1898
 - (c) 1896
 - (d) 1861
19. In which year was Mount Everest first surmounted?
- (a) 1953
 - (b) 1955
 - (c) 1960
 - (d) 1970



20. The death of President Musa Yar'adua made Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to become a substantive President. When did he die?
- (a) 5th May, 2010
 - (b) 10th May, 2010
 - (c) 20th May, 2010
 - (d) 5th June, 2010
21. The slogan for rebranding Nigeria is
- (a) Good people Good Nation
 - (b) Honest people One Nation
 - (c) Great people Good Nation
 - (d) Good people Great Nation
22. The scientific study of election trends is known as
- (a) Psephology
 - (b) Ethnology
 - (c) Etymology
 - (d) Entomology
23. w.w.w. (World Wide Web) was invented by
- (a) Bill Gates
 - (b) Galileo Galilee
 - (c) Tim Berners-Lee
 - (d) Thomas Savery
24. The new National Anthem (Arise O Compatriots) was introduced in the year
- (a) 1972
 - (b) 1982
 - (c) 1980
 - (d) 1979
25. In what year was oil first discovered in Nigeria?
- (a) 1956
 - (b) 1954
 - (c) 1958
 - (d) 1960
26. Which of these countries was the first ever to produce a female Prime Minister?
- (a) Sri-Lanka
 - (b) India
 - (c) Philippines
 - (d) Britain
27. In what year was NYSC established in Nigeria?



- (a) 1974
 - (b) 1973
 - (c) 1983
 - (d) 1977
28. Which of these American Presidents had the shortest period of rule in America?
- (a) George Washington
 - (b) Abraham Lincoln
 - (c) William H. Harrison
 - (d) James A. Garfield
29. The flag officer commanding Eastern Naval Command is:
- (a) Rear Admiral Kutegi Ahmad
 - (b) Rear Admiral Effiong Obot
 - (c) Rear Admir Usaman Jibrin
 - (d) Rear Admiral Kenneth Ikegwuonu
30. What is the name of the Athlete that won Nigeria's first Olympic gold medal?
- (a) Innocent Egbunike
 - (b) Sunday Bada
 - (c) Chioma Ajunwa
 - (d) Mary Onyali
31. Who is the first African to be elected President of the General Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)?
- (a) Dr. Harold Olusegun Demuren
 - (b) Ambassador See Kutani
 - (c) Malamba Sakaja
 - (d) Mzee Menege Kibaki
32. In what year was Operation Feed the Nation launched?
- (a) 19th May, 1975
 - (b) 12th May, 1976
 - (c) 21st September, 1980
 - (d) 12th April, 1971.
33. In what year did Prof. Wole Soyinka win the Noble Prize in Literature?
- (a) 1985
 - (b) 1986
 - (c) 1984
 - (d) 1976
34. What date and year was the seat of Government moved to Abuja?



- (a) 12th December, 1991
 - (b) 29th May 1999
 - (c) 1st October, 1978
 - (d) 10th December, 1991
35. GSM operation was licensed to commence operations in Nigeria in what year?
- (a) 1999
 - (b) 2000
 - (c) 2001
 - (d) 2003
36. The Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Oladimeji Bankole took over from Mrs. Patricia Etteh. How old was he then?
- (a) 38 years
 - (b) 40 years
 - (c) 45 years
 - (d) 35 years
37. The slogan: "The New World" is found in which of these States?
- (a) Taraba
 - (b) Jigawa
 - (c) Bayelsa
 - (d) Osun
38. Which of these continents of the world has the highest number of population?
- (a) Africa
 - (b) Asia
 - (c) Europe
 - (d) North America
39. Which of these countries is the largest by land mass?
- (a) China
 - (b) Russia
 - (c) India
 - (d) USA
40. What position did Nigeria occupy on the Medal Table in the last 2010 Commonwealth Games in India?
- (a) 7th
 - (b) 15th
 - (c) 4th
 - (d) 9th



ADMINISTRATIVE COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

**ASCON 2004
PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION**

**Competitive Examination for Entry into Administrative and Special
Departmental Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services.**

29th January, 2004

1½ Hours

LOGICAL THINKING

ANSWERS ALL QUESTIONS

Identity the premises and conclusion(s) of the following passages. State Whether or not premises support the conclusion. Also state why the premises do or do not support the conclusion. (Note that you are not required to give your own views on the topics discussed in the passages.)

1. So-called 'experts' on children often urge parents to allow their children to have as much freedom as possible in exploring their 'environment'. They argue that children are naturally curious about the world and so should not be prevented from finding out all about it even if this is sometimes inconvenient to their parents. But think of what it would be like if animals –who are also naturally curious – were given the freedom to explore their 'environment' without control. There would be chaos. This being the case, we should pay little attention to the views of the experts.

- Take From Roy van den-Brink- Budgen, Critical thinking for Students.

2. If America were to sanction torture, to begin with extremely rare cases, there might be some immediate gains in security. But, for the democratic West any such gains would be outweighed by greater harm. The prohibition against torture expresses one of the west's most powerful taboos and some taboos (like that against the use of nuclear weapons) are worth preserving even at heavy cost. Though many authoritarian regimes use torture, not one of these openly admits it. A decision by the United States to



employ some forms torture no matter how limited the circumstances, would shatter this taboo. The morale of the west in that may be a long war against terrorism would be gravely set back: to stay strong, the liberal democracies need to certain that they are better than their enemies.

- The Economics, JANUARY 11TH-17TH, 2003

3. The leader of the opposition can hardly accuse us of distorting the truth. He wasn't telling the truth when he said that he would support all measures to combat crime.

4. It is naive to assume that whatever the character or duration of military rule, its end would automatically revive the political process and activate the legislature, the judiciary, the press and other democratic institutions. Experience shows that military rule fundamentally changes the political choice.

- Altaf Gaufar, South: Third World Magazine, 1983

5. Democratic Governance without legitimacy is a hollow shell. Legitimacy is the soul of democracy, it ensures that the people are carried along such that even when difficult decisions or measures are taken, these will not be life-threatening to the democratic system.

- New Age editorial, December 4, 2003.



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2003 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into Administrative and Special Departmental
Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services.

30TH January, 2003

1½ Hours

LOGICAL THINKING

100 Marks

Answers All Questions

Identify the premises and conclusion in each of the following passages.
State whether or not the premises support the conclusion. Also state why the
premises do or do not support the conclusion. (Note that you are not required to give
your own views on the topics discussed in the passages.)

1. Helping the poor, the truly poor, is a much worthier goal than merely narrowing inequalities. If the rich get poorer, thanks to high taxation, some people may get pleased but few are better off. If the poor get richer, however the whole country will benefit. Focusing resources and policy on poverty would be worthwhile on humanitarian grounds. But, also, the disadvantages of growing in extreme poverty pose a challenge to a belief in equality of opportunity. And helping the underclass rejoin society is in interests of all.

- The Economist, June 16-22nd 2001



2. I always shudder when I hear demands by this country's minorities for increased government spending for the poor. You can tell that something is wrong with these demands as you consider where the money will go – right into the hands of those who are crying the loudest for it.

- Taken from John Eric Nolt Informal Logic:
Possible Worlds and Imagination

3. It has never been shown that the increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the burning of fossil fuels have caused any alteration in the world's climate. This makes the fear that burning of fossil fuels causes environmental pollution an illusory one.

Adapted from John Eric Nolt, informal Logic:
Possible words and imagination

4. The Notion that underdeveloped nations can progress without active state participation in the economy is erroneous and dangerous.... The IMF assumes that the public sector is intrinsically bad and the private sector is intrinsically good.... But virtually every country that has modernized and attained rapid economic growth has done so with a strong state playing a key role in the process. No country has been propelled to great economic heights by market forces acting alone. For Eastern Asian countries like South Korea and Singapore, which are held up as models of free- market principles, did not advance without state intervention. Their success was not owed to government withdrawing from economic activity; on the contrary, the state exercised high levels of internal power....

- Tunde Obadina, Africa Today,
April/May, 2002.

5. Rather than creating poverty, global integration is a powerful force for poverty reduction in the developing world; the number of people below the poverty line has fallen by 200 million people in the past 20 years. This fall has been concentrated in countries (such as China and India) that are integrated rapidly with the global markets. What this means for Africa is that it should start interacting more forcefully with global markets if the 40 percent of the population who now live in poverty is to be reduced.

Dr. Mamphela Ramphele,



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)#

ASCON 2008

PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

**Competitive Examination for Entry into Administrative and Special Departmental
Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services**

24th January, 2008.

1½ Hours

LOGICAL THINKING

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

Identify the premises and conclusion in each of the following passages. State whether or not the premises support the conclusion. Also state why the premises do or do not support the conclusion. (Note that you are not required to give your own views on the topics discussed in the passages).

1. The need for government among men rests solely on 'original sin' or man's innate criminality. For no association, however constituted can exist without regulatory force of some kind: even a society of angels will still need some form of government if only to ensure that common tasks are assigned and coordinated.

- **Mokwugo Okoye**

2. Seeing that eye and hand and foot and every one of our members have some obvious functions, must we not believe that in like manner, a human being has a function over and above these particular functions?

- **Taken from Aristotle, NICO-Machine Ethnics**



3. The presumption that the creation of states automatically means the creation of development is wrong. There are many areas in this country which have seen no progress even though they have been affected several times by the state creation exercise.

- **Taken from A.G.A. Bellow, introduction to Logic**

4. Since happiness consists in peace of mind, and since durable peace of mind depends on the confidence we have in the future, and since that confidence is based on the science we should have of the nature of God and the soul, it follows that science is necessary for true happiness.

- **Taken from Gottfried Leibniz, Preface to the General Science.**

5. The inquisition must have been justified and beneficial, if whole people evoked and defended it, if men of the loftiest souls founded and created it severally and impartially and its very adversaries applied it on their own account pyre answering to pyre.

- **Taken from Benedetto Croce, Philosophy of the Practical**

