



THE KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

KNEC/TD/SE/KCSE.QT/TT/26/007

THE 2026 KCSE QUALIFYING TEST EXAMINATION TIMETABLE & INSTRUCTIONS

1.0 GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.1 KNEC will offer a proficiency test measuring candidate's ability to sit for the KCSE examination. The test will be done online.
- 1.2 All candidates registered for the KCSE qualifying examination must report to their County Director of Education offices on **28th September 2026**, for verification of registration documents prior to the actual test.
- 1.3 The results of the Qualifying Test will be used for registration for the 2027 KCSE examination.
- 1.4 The time allowed for each paper is indicated against the name of the paper and **NO EXTRA TIME IS TO BE ALLOWED**. In case of any discrepancy, the time stated on the question paper should be taken as the correct one. Time for reading through questions is part of the time shown on the question paper except where special paper instructions indicate otherwise.

2.0 EXAMINATION PERIOD AND DATE

DAY	PERIOD	ITEM NO.	PAPER/SUBJECT	DURATION
MONDAY 28.09.2026	VERIFICATION OF REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS			
TUESDAY 29.09.2026	REHEARSAL DAY			
WEDNESDAY 30.09.2026	8.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. (1 st session)	1.	QT904 Mathematics & Science	2 hours
	10.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.		BREAK	30 mins
	11.00 a.m – 1.00 p.m. (2 nd session)	2.	QT903/1 English	2 hours
	11.00 a.m – 1.00 p.m. (2 nd session)	3.	QT903/1 English (Hearing Impaired)	2 hours
	1.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.		LUNCH BREAK	1 hour
	2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. (3 rd session)	4.	QT903/2 Kiswahili	2 hours
		5.	QT903/3 Kenyan Sign Language	2 hours

3.0 INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES TO SUB-COUNTY EXAMINATION OFFICERS AND CANDIDATES

3.1 **Sub-County Examination Officers** are advised to ensure that the candidates read these instructions and guidelines carefully and adhere to them. The candidates should be made aware of the penalties for examination irregularities or misconduct.

3.2 INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- 3.2.1 Avail yourself for searching outside the examination room and be seated at your desk/table **15 minutes** before the time fixed for the examination to start in the various papers. The first session will start at **8.30 a.m.** Only in exceptional circumstances will an examination be given to any candidate who is more than **30 minutes** late. Absolute punctuality is essential for all papers.
- 3.2.2 Attend carefully to any general instructions that may be given on the first page of the online paper, e.g. instructions limiting the number of questions that should be answered.
- 3.2.3 Read each question carefully. A lot of time may be wasted in writing down information that is not asked for and no marks will be given for it.
- 3.2.4 Do not spend too much time on one or two questions. Leave yourself adequate time to answer other questions.
- 3.2.5 Withdrawal from the examination should have been notified to the KNEC in writing before the examination begins.

3.3 CAUTION TO THE CANDIDATES

- 3.3.1 You are not allowed to leave the examination room before the end of the period allocated to the paper except with special permission from the supervisor.
- 3.3.2 No communication whatsoever in whatever manner between candidates or with outsiders is allowed during the examination.
- 3.3.3 You are not allowed to have in your possession or in your proximity while in the examination room, any books, notes, papers or any other materials whatsoever except materials expressly authorized by the Kenya National Examinations Council.
- 3.3.4 You may only use mathematical tables printed by the Kenya National Examinations council, and these should not contain any additional notes except the printed information. If you are using a calculator as permitted by the Regulations, it should be the specified non programmable calculator. If in doubt, check with the supervisor.
- 3.3.5 Any misconduct or causing of disturbance in or near the examination room will be treated as an examination irregularity.
- 3.3.6 Cell phones or any other electronic communication device are prohibited in examination centres. Any candidate caught in possession of a cell phone/any other electronic communication device will have his/her results cancelled.

3.4 PENALTY FOR EXAMINATION IRREGULARITIES

3.4.1 The **KNEC Act No. 29 of 2012** Offences and Penalties stated in **Sections 27 to 40** for cases of examination irregularities will apply. Some of the highlights in these **Sections** state that:

- 3.4.1.1 A candidate who commits an examination irregularity in any paper will have the results for the **WHOLE SUBJECT** cancelled. Such a candidate will not be entitled to a result and will be awarded result "Y" overall.
- 3.4.1.2 If there is evidence of wide-spread irregularities in any examination centre, the examination results for the whole centre will be cancelled.
- 3.4.1.3 **Any person who:-**
 - a) gains access to examination material and knowingly reveals the contents, whether orally or in writing, to an unauthorized party, whether a candidate or not, will be in violation of **Section 27** of the **Act** and the penalty will be imprisonment for a term not exceeding **ten years**, or a fine not exceeding **two million shillings** or both;
 - b) willfully and maliciously damages examination material will be in violation of **Section 30** of the **Act** and the penalty will be imprisonment for a term not exceeding **five years** or a fine not exceeding **five million shillings** or both;
 - c) is not registered to take a KNEC examination but, with intent to **impersonate**, presents or attempts to present himself to take the part of an enrolled candidate will be in violation of **Section 31** of the **Act**, and shall be guilty of an offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding **two years** or a fine not exceeding **two million shillings** or both and shall be prohibited from taking an examination conducted by or on behalf of the Council for a period of **three years**.

3.4.2 Please ensure that you do not commit any examination irregularity to avoid having your results cancelled.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER