



Official Competition Word List
Harare, March 2026
Senior Individual Rounds

Senior Individual Round 1

No.	Word	Definition	Used in a Sentence	Language Origin	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	Griot	A traditional West African storyteller and historian	The griot preserved history through oral storytelling.	French from Mandé	GREE-oh
2	Banyarwanda	A term referring to the people of Rwanda	The Banyarwanda share language and cultural traditions.	Kinyarwanda	ban-yar-WAN-da
3	Axumite	Relating to the ancient kingdom of Axum in Ethiopia	Axumite traders connected Africa with Arabia and India.	Ge'ez	AK-soo-mite
4	Ngorongoro	A large volcanic crater in Tanzania	Many animals live inside the Ngorongoro crater.	Maasai	ngaw-rawng-GAW-raw
5	Moshoeshoe	Founder of the Basotho nation	Moshoeshoe united several groups to form the Basotho kingdom.	Sesotho	mo-SHWE-shwe
6	Songhai	A historic West African empire	The Songhai Empire controlled trade across the Sahel.	Songhai language	SONG-hai
7	Mangbetu	An ethnic group of northeastern Congo	Mangbetu culture is known for distinctive art and history.	Mangbetu language	mang-BEH-too
8	Khamsin	A hot, dry desert wind in North Africa	The khamsin wind often brings sandstorms.	Arabic	KAM-sin
9	Oubangui	A major river in Central Africa	The Oubangui River flows into	French from local languages	oo-ban-GHEE

			the Congo River.		
10	Tutankhamun	Famous Egyptian pharaoh whose tomb was discovered intact	Tutankhamun became king of Egypt at a young age.	Egyptian	too-tank-ha-MOON
11	Thutmose	Name of several Egyptian pharaohs	Thutmose III expanded Egypt's empire.	Egyptian	THOOT-mohs
12	Agulhas	A warm ocean current off South Africa	The Agulhas current flows along the southeastern coast of Africa.	Portuguese	ah-GOOL-has
13	Djenné	Historic Malian city known for its mud-brick mosque	Djenné has been an important center of trade and scholarship.	French from Songhai	jen-NAY
14	Sirocco	A hot wind blowing north from the Sahara	The sirocco carried warm desert air toward the Mediterranean.	Arabic	si-ROK-oh
15	Maasai	A pastoral people of Kenya and Tanzania	The Maasai are known for their distinctive culture and traditions.	Maasai language	MAH-sigh
16	Ruwenzori	Mountain range between Uganda and the DRC	The Ruwenzori Mountains are sometimes called the Mountains of the Moon.	Local Bantu languages	roo-wen-ZOR-ee
17	Amenhotep	Name of several Egyptian pharaohs	Amenhotep III ruled during Egypt's golden age.	Egyptian	ah-men-HO-tep

18	Sekhukhune	A king of the Pedi people in South Africa	Sekhukhune resisted colonial expansion.	Sepedi	se-KHU-khu-ne
19	Ramesses	Name of several powerful Egyptian pharaohs	Ramesses II built many temples and monuments.	Egyptian	RAM-uh-seez
20	Calima	A dust-laden wind affecting parts of Africa and nearby regions	The calima reduced visibility with fine desert dust.	Spanish	kah-LEE-ma
21	Harmattan	A dry desert wind blowing from the Sahara	The Harmattan wind brings dust across West Africa.	Arabic	HAR-muh-tan
22	Akhenaten	An Egyptian pharaoh known for religious reforms	Akhenaten introduced worship centered on the sun disk Aten.	Egyptian	ak-KEH-na-ten
23	Cetshwayo	King of the Zulu Kingdom during the Anglo-Zulu War	Cetshwayo led the Zulu nation during a turbulent period.	Zulu	ket-SHWY-oh
24	Kalenjin	A group of related ethnic communities in Kenya	Many famous runners come from the Kalenjin community.	Nilotic	kah-LEN-jin
25	Tshiluba	A Bantu language spoken in the Congo region	Tshiluba is widely spoken in the Kasai region.	Bantu	chee-LOO-ba
26	Hatshepsut	A powerful female pharaoh of ancient Egypt	Hatshepsut ruled Egypt during a time of prosperity and building.	Egyptian	hat-SHEP-soot

27	Ouidah	Historic coastal city in Benin	Ouidah was once a major port in West Africa.	Fon language	wee-DAH
28	Mapungubwe	An ancient Southern African kingdom and archaeological site	Mapungubwe was an important trading center centuries ago.	Xitsonga/Shona region	mah-poong-GOOB-weh
29	Kikuyu	An ethnic group of Kenya	The Kikuyu people played a key role in Kenya's history.	Bantu	kee-KOO-yoo
30	Benguela	A cold ocean current along southwest Africa	The Benguela current brings nutrient-rich waters to the coast.	Portuguese	ben-GWEL-ah
31	Nyiragongo	An active volcano in the Democratic Republic of Congo	Mount Nyiragongo contains one of the world's largest lava lakes.	Kinyarwanda	nee-rah-GON-go
32	Nyamuragira	A volcano in the Virunga Mountains of Central Africa	Nyamuragira erupts frequently in the Congo region.	Kinyarwanda	nya-moo-rah-GEE-rah

Senior Individual Round 2

No.	Word	Definition	Used in a Sentence	Language Origin	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	lynx	A wild cat with short tail and tufted ears	The lynx moved silently through the forest.	Greek	links
2	caracal	A medium-sized wild cat with long ear tufts	The caracal leapt high to catch its prey.	Turkish	KAR-uh-kal
3	marabou	A large African stork	A marabou stood near the watering hole.	French	MAR-uh-boo
4	pangolin	A scaly anteater-like mammal	The pangolin curled into a ball when threatened.	Malay	PANG-guh-lin
5	ichneumon	A type of mongoose	The ichneumon hunted along the riverbank.	Greek	ik-NEW-mon
6	axolotl	A Mexican salamander that retains larval features	The axolotl is famous for regenerating limbs.	Nahuatl	AK-suh-LOT-ul
7	quokka	A small Australian marsupial	The quokka appeared curious near the campsite.	Noongar	KWOK-uh
8	quoll	A carnivorous marsupial	The quoll hunts insects and small animals.	Aboriginal Australian	kwol

9	wallaby	A small kangaroo-like marsupial	A wallaby hopped across the clearing.	Dharug	WAL-uh-bee
10	cassowary	A large flightless bird of New Guinea and Australia	The cassowary moved through the rainforest.	Malay	KAS-uh-wair-ee
11	capybara	The world's largest rodent	The capybara relaxed beside the river.	Tupi	kap-ee-BAHR-uh
12	chinchilla	A small South American rodent with soft fur	The chinchilla is known for its dense fur.	Spanish	chin-CHIL-uh
13	jerboa	A small desert rodent with long hind legs	The jerboa jumped quickly across the sand.	Arabic	jer-BOH-uh
14	kinkajou	A nocturnal rainforest mammal	The kinkajou climbed through the branches at night.	French	KING-kuh-joo
15	ocelot	A spotted wild cat	The ocelot prowled quietly through the jungle.	Nahuatl	OSS-uh-lot
16	narwhal	A whale with a long spiral tusk	The narwhal swims in icy Arctic waters.	Norse	NAR-wahl
17	platypus	A duck-billed egg-laying mammal	The platypus is one of the strangest mammals.	Greek	PLAT-ih-pus
18	echidna	A spiny egg-laying mammal	The echidna dug into the soil	Greek	ih-KID-nuh

			searching for ants.		
19	manatee	A large aquatic herbivorous mammal	A manatee floated slowly in the warm water.	Spanish	MAN-uh-tee
20	binturong	A Southeast Asian mammal also called a bearcat	The binturong climbed the tree branches.	Malay	bin-TOO-rong
21	tarsier	A small primate with very large eyes	The tarsier clung to the tree trunk.	French	TAR-see-er
22	colobus	A type of African monkey	The colobus leapt easily between trees.	Greek	KOL-uh-bus
23	lemur	A primate native to Madagascar	The lemur used its tail for balance.	Latin	LEE-mer
24	hoopoe	A bird with a distinctive crown of feathers	The hoopoe searched the ground for insects.	Greek	HOO-poo
25	toucan	A tropical bird with a large colorful bill	The toucan perched on a high branch.	Tupi	TOO-kan
26	ptarmigan	A grouse that lives in cold regions	The ptarmigan changes color in winter.	Scottish Gaelic	TAR-mi-gun
27	kakapo	A rare flightless parrot	The kakapo is one of the world's rarest birds.	Maori	KAH-kah-poh
28	genet	A small spotted carnivore	The genet crept along the stone wall.	French	JEN-it
29	civet	A nocturnal mammal	The civet emerged	French	SIV-it

		related to the mongoose	from the forest at dusk.		
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Senior Individual Round 3

Word	Definition	Used in a Sentence	Language Origin	Phonetic Pronunciation
adroit	Skillful and clever, especially in handling situations	The debater gave an adroit response that impressed the judges.	French	uh-DROYT
loquacious	Very talkative or fond of talking	The loquacious student enjoyed participating in every class discussion.	Latin	loh-KWAY-shus
coiffure	A style of arranging the hair	The stylist created an elegant coiffure for the ceremony.	French	kwah-FYOOR
coign	A projecting corner or angle, especially of a building	The bird built its nest in a sheltered coign of the old tower.	French/Latin	Koyn
cauldron	A large metal pot used for cooking over a fire	The villagers stirred soup in a large cauldron during the festival.	Latin via French	KAWL-drun
daub	To smear or cover with a thick substance	The painter used a brush to daub colour onto the canvas.	French	Dawb
auburn	A reddish-brown colour, often describing hair	Her auburn hair shone brightly in the sunlight.	French	AW-burn
gauntlet	A severe trial or challenge	The new champion had to run the	French	GAWNT-lit

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		gauntlet of difficult opponents.		
paucity	The presence of something only in small amounts	There was a paucity of rainfall during the drought.	Latin	PAW-si-tee
maudlin	Overly sentimental or emotional	The speech was heartfelt without becoming maudlin.	French	MAWD-lin
inveigle	To persuade someone by flattery or deception	The salesman tried to inveigle customers into buying the product.	Latin	in-VAY-guhl
heinous	Shockingly wicked or evil	The court punished the criminal for his heinous actions.	Germanic via French	HAY-nus
skein	A length of thread or yarn loosely coiled	She bought a skein of wool for her knitting project.	Old French	Skayn
inveigh	To speak or write with strong hostility	The speaker began to inveigh against corruption.	Latin	in-VAY
arraign	To bring someone before a court to answer a charge	The suspect was arraigned before the judge.	French/Latin	uh-RAYN
eulogy	A speech praising someone, especially at a funeral	She delivered a touching eulogy for her mentor.	Greek	YOO-luh-jee
neuter	Neither male nor female; neutral	In Latin class they learned how to identify a neuter noun.	Latin	NYOO-ter

pseudonym	A fictitious name used by an author	The writer published the novel under a pseudonym.	Greek	SOO-duh-nim
leukemia	A type of cancer affecting blood cells	Doctors are researching better treatments for leukemia.	Greek	loo-KEE-mee-uh
queueing	Forming or joining a line	People were queueing outside the theatre for tickets.	French	KYOO-ing
feudatory	A person who holds land under the feudal system	The feudatory pledged loyalty to the king.	Latin	FYOO-duh-tor-ee
aeolian	Relating to the wind	Aeolian harps produce music when wind passes through them.	Greek	ee-OH-lee-uhn
aetiology	The study of causes or origins	Scientists studied the aetiology of the disease.	Greek	ee-tee-OL-uh-jee
sequoia	A very tall evergreen tree	The giant sequoia can live for thousands of years.	Native American via Latin	si-KWOY-uh
coalesce	To come together and form one mass	The small groups began to coalesce into one movement.	Latin	koh-uh-LESS
aeronaut	A person who travels in a balloon or airship	The aeronaut prepared the balloon for flight.	Greek	AIR-uh-nawt
oleander	A flowering shrub often grown in warm climates	Oleander plants lined the garden path.	Greek via Latin	oh-lee-AN-der

oenology	The science of wine and winemaking	She studied oenology at the university.	Greek	ee-NOL-uh-jee
boeotia	A region of ancient Greece known historically for dullness	The teacher referenced Boeotia during the history lesson.	Greek	bee-OH-shuh
aeon	An immeasurably long period of time	It felt like an aeon before the results were announced.	Greek	EE-on
aurelia	A type of jellyfish or a feminine name	The scientist studied the graceful aurelia in the aquarium.	Latin	aw-REE-lee-uh
aureole	A circle of light around a luminous body	The sun formed a bright aureole behind the clouds.	Latin	OR-ee-ohl
aureate	Golden or brilliant in style	The poet used aureate language in the epic.	Latin	OR-ee-it
aureous	Made of or resembling gold	The statue had an aureous glow in the evening light.	Latin	OR-ee-us
eudaemonic	Producing happiness or well-being	Philosophers discussed the eudaemonic life.	Greek	yoo-dee-MON-ik
euclidean	Relating to the geometry of Euclid	Students learned euclidean geometry in mathematics class.	Greek	yoo-KLID-ee-uhn
euphony	A pleasing or harmonious sound	The choir produced a beautiful euphony.	Greek	YOO-fuh-nee

eutrophic	Rich in nutrients, especially in water	The eutrophic lake supported abundant plant life.	Greek	yoo-TROF-ik
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Senior Championship Word List

No	Word	Definition	Used in a Sentence	Language Origin	Phonetic Pronunciation
1	heliocentric	having the sun at the center	The heliocentric model places the sun at the center of the solar system.	Greek	hee-lee-oh-SEN-trik
2	magniloquent	speaking in a grand or lofty style	The speaker used magniloquent language to impress the audience.	Latin	mag-NIL-oh-kwent
3	peripatetic	traveling from place to place	The peripatetic teacher worked in several different cities.	Greek	per-uh-puh-TET-ik
4	obsequious	excessively eager to please	The assistant was obsequious toward the powerful official.	Latin	ob-SEE-kwee-us
5	anemometer	an instrument used to measure wind speed	The meteorologist checked the anemometer during the storm.	Greek	an-uh-MOM-uh-ter
6	cytoplasm	the material within a living cell	The nucleus is surrounded by cytoplasm.	Greek	SY-toh-plaz-um
7	thermodynamics	the science of heat and energy	Thermodynamics explains how engines work.	Greek	thur-moh-dy-NAM-iks
8	spectroscope	an instrument for analyzing light	The scientist used a spectroscope to study the stars.	Latin/Greek	SPEK-troh-skohp
9	electrophoresis	a method of separating molecules using electricity	Electrophoresis is used in genetic research.	Greek	ee-lek-troh-fuh-REE-sis
10	ichthyosaur	an extinct marine reptile	The museum displayed a fossil of an ichthyosaur.	Greek	IK-thee-oh-sor

11	diplodocus	a large herbivorous dinosaur	Diplodocus had an extremely long neck.	Greek	di-PLOD-uh-kus
12	paleobotany	the study of fossil plants	Paleobotany reveals ancient vegetation.	Greek	pay-lee-oh-BOT-uh-nee
13	mycology	the scientific study of fungi	Mycology includes the study of mushrooms.	Greek	my-KOL-uh-jee
14	doppelganger	a ghostly double of a living person	In the novel the hero meets his doppelganger.	German	DOP-uhl-gang-er
15	zeitgeist	the spirit of the time	The invention captured the zeitgeist of the era.	German	TSYTE-gyst
16	wanderlust	a strong desire to travel	Her wanderlust led her across the world.	German	WAN-der-lust
17	leitmotif	a recurring theme in music or literature	The composer repeated a leitmotif throughout the opera.	German	LYTE-moh-teef
18	gestalt	an organized whole perceived as more than the sum of its parts	The design had a pleasing gestalt.	German	geh-SHTALT
19	kapellmeister	a conductor of an orchestra	The kapellmeister raised his baton.	German	kah-PELL-my-ster
20	weltschmerz	a feeling of melancholy about the world	The poet expressed deep weltchmerz.	German	VELT-shmerts
21	wunderkind	a child prodigy	The young pianist was considered a wunderkind.	German	VOON-der-kint
22	schaden	damage or harm	The storm caused great schaden to the village.	German	SHAH-den
23	prosody	the rhythm and sound patterns of language	The poet studied prosody carefully.	Greek	PROS-uh-dee

24	denouement	the final resolution of a story	The denouement revealed the mystery.	French	day-noo-MAHN
25	bildungsroman	a novel about personal development	The book is a classic bildungsroman.	German	BIL-doongs-roh-mahn
26	pastiche	a creative work that imitates others	The novel is a pastiche of detective stories.	French	pas-TEESH
27	allegorical	symbolic in meaning	The allegorical story represented human virtues.	Greek	al-eh-GOR-ih-kul
28	aphoristic	expressed in brief statements	His writing style was aphoristic.	Greek	af-uh-RIS-tik
29	dramaturgy	the art of dramatic composition	Dramaturgy shapes the structure of a play.	Greek	DRAM-uh-ter-jee
30	intertextual	relating to connections between texts	The poem contains intertextual references.	Latin	in-ter-TEKS-choo-ul
31	metonymy	a figure of speech replacing a thing with something associated	Metonymy appears frequently in literature.	Greek	meh-TON-uh-mee
32	palimpsest	a manuscript written over an earlier text	Scholars studied the ancient palimpsest.	Greek	PAL-imp-sest
33	indefatigability	tirelessness	Her indefatigability impressed the entire team.	Latin	in-di-fat-ih-guh-BIL-ih-tee
34	perspicacity	keen understanding	The detective showed great perspicacity.	Latin	per-spih-KASS-ih-tee
35	ubiquitousness	being present everywhere	Smartphones show the ubiquitousness of technology.	Latin	yoo-BIK-wih-tus-ness

36	quintessential	representing the most perfect example	The castle is the quintessential medieval fortress.	Latin	kwin-tuh-SEN-shul
37	electrophysiology	study of electrical activity in living organisms	Electrophysiology explains nerve signals.	Greek	ee-lek-troh-fiz-ee-OL-uh-jee
38	magnetosphere	region around a planet influenced by its magnetic field	Earth's magnetosphere protects it from solar wind.	Greek	mag-NEE-toh-sfeer
39	chromatographic	relating to the separation of mixtures	Chromatographic techniques help analyze chemicals.	Greek	kroh-mat-oh-GRAF-ik
40	photosynthetic	relating to photosynthesis	Photosynthetic organisms produce oxygen.	Greek	foh-toh-sin-THET-ik
41	crystallography	the study of crystal structures	Crystallography helps determine molecular shapes.	Greek	kris-tuh-LOG-ruh-fee
42	thermoregulation	the maintenance of body temperature	Mammals rely on thermoregulation.	Greek	thur-moh-reg-yuh-LAY-shun
43	electrochemistry	study of chemical reactions involving electricity	Electrochemistry is used in batteries.	Greek	ee-lek-troh-KEM-ih-stree
44	counterrevolutionaries	those opposing a revolution	The counterrevolutionaries tried to restore the monarchy.	Latin	kown-ter-rev-uh-LOO-shun-air-eez
45	exegetical	relating to critical interpretation of texts	The scholar wrote an exegetical study.	Greek	ek-seh-JET-ih-kul

46	heterodox	holding unorthodox opinions	His heterodox views caused controversy.	Greek	HET-er-oh-doks
47	iconoclasm	attack on traditional beliefs	The movement encouraged iconoclasm.	Greek	eye-KON-uh-klaz-um
48	jurisprudential	relating to legal theory	The article explored jurisprudential issues.	Latin	joo-ris-proo-DEN-shul
49	lexicography	the writing of dictionaries	Lexicography requires deep language knowledge.	Greek	lek-sih-KOG-ruh-fee
50	numismatics	study of coins and currency	Numismatics reveals economic history.	Greek	noo-miz-MAT-iks
51	paleography	study of ancient writing	Paleography helps read medieval manuscripts.	Greek	pay-lee-OG-ruh-fee
52	philology	study of language history	Philology examines ancient texts.	Greek	fih-LOL-uh-jee
53	semiotics	study of signs and symbols	Semiotics is important in linguistics.	Greek	see-mee-OT-iks
54	tautological	needlessly repetitive	The argument was tautological.	Greek	taw-tuh-LOJ-ih-kul
55	antediluvian	extremely old-fashioned	His ideas seemed antediluvian.	Latin	an-tee-dih-LOO-vee-un
56	crepuscular	active at twilight	Owls are crepuscular animals.	Latin	kreh-PUS-kyuh-lar
57	desuetude	a state of disuse	The law fell into desuetude.	Latin	DES-wih-tood
58	eudaemonia	state of human flourishing	Philosophers debated eudaemonia.	Greek	yoo-dee-MOH-nee-uh
59	grandiloquence	pompous speech	His speech was full of grandiloquence.	Latin	gran-DIL-oh-kwens
60	inveterate	habitual	He was an inveterate traveler.	Latin	in-VET-er-it
61	munificent	very generous	The donor made a munificent gift.	Latin	myoo-NIF-uh-sent

62	perfidious	treacherous	The perfidious ally betrayed them.	Latin	per-FID-ee-us
63	rebarbative	irritating or unpleasant	His tone was rebarbative.	Latin	rih-BAR-buh-tiv
64	sesquicentennial	a 150th anniversary	The town celebrated its sesquicentennial.	Latin	ses-kwi-sen-TEN-ee-ul

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