

S.S.L.C. EXAMINATION, MARCH - 2018

ENGLISH

Second Language

Time : 2½ Hours

Total Score : 80

Instructions :

- There is a cool-off time of 15 minutes in addition to the writing time of 2½ hours.
- Read the questions carefully before answering.
- Certain sections of the questions have choice. Follow the choice regulations.
- When you select a question, all its sub questions (if any) must be answered from the same question itself.

Questions 1 - 6. Read the following excerpt from 'The Scholarship Jacket' and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries *one* score. Score
1x6=6

We couldn't participate in sports at school because there were registration fees, uniform costs, and trips out of town; so, even though our family was quite agile and athletic there would never be a school sports jacket for us. This one, the scholarship jacket, was our only chance.

In May, close to graduation, spring fever had struck as usual with a vengeance. No one paid any attention in class; instead we stared out of the windows and at each other, wanting to speed up the last few weeks of school. I despaired every time I looked in the mirror. Pencil thin, not a curve anywhere. I was called 'beanpole' and 'string bean' and I knew that's what I looked like. That really wasn't much for a fourteen-year-old to work with, I thought, as I absentmindedly wandered from my history class to the gym....

1. Why couldn't the narrator participate in sports at school ?
2. Pick out the sentence which tells us that the narrator was athletic by nature.
3. 'No one paid any attention in class; instead we stared out of the windows and at each other...'
Why does the narrator say so ?
4. Why did the narrator feel despair every time she looked into the mirror ?
5. Find out the word from the passage which means 'the ability to move quickly.'
6. What were the narrator's nicknames ?

Questions 7 - 10. Read the lines from 'Mother to Son' and answer the questions that follow.

Each question carries *one* score.

1x

Well, son, I'll tell you :

Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

It's had tacks in it,

And splinters,

And boards torn up,

And places with no carpet on the floor-

Bare.

But all the time

I've been a-climbin' on,

And reachin' landin's,

And turnin' corners,

And sometimes goin' in the dark

Where there ain't been no light.

So, boy, don't you turn back.

- ~~7.~~ Who is the 'I' referred to here ?
- ~~8.~~ What does the speaker compare her life to ?
- ~~9.~~ What is the speaker's advice to her son ?
- ~~10.~~ What impression do you get about the speaker from these lines ?

1. Read the lines from the poem 'The School Boy' and attempt a brief appreciation focussing on the theme and the poetic devices used by William Blake. 5

How can the bird that is born for joy

Sit in a cage and sing ?

How can a child, when fears annoy,

But droop his tender wing,

And forget his youthful spring!

O father and mother if buds are nipped,

And blossoms blown away;

And if the tender plants are stripped

Of their joy in the springing day,

By Sorrow and care's dismay,-

How shall the summer arise in joy,

Or the summer fruits appear ?

Or how shall we gather what griefs destroy,

Or bless the mellowing year,

When the blasts of winter appear ?

Questions 12 - 16. Read the following story and answer the questions given below. Each question carries *one* score.

There was a time when all house-work was done by the women or girls in the family. Few husbands never dreamt of washing up, preparing breakfast or attending the baby. Such duties were no concern of theirs. And the normal school boy assumed that if help were needed at home, his sisters would be called on to give it. The whole family supported the view that the male child could not or should not clean, mend, wash, cook or make beds.

Things are very different today. Doctors, barristers or managers find nothing shameful in putting on an apron to help in the kitchen or nursery and even boast of being good at washing clothes and personal linen. The school boy is more often expected to help his mother now.

One reason for the change is the shortage of domestic servants. Girls could once be found to do the hard work in middle and upper class homes. Such girls now-a-days either go to schools or work in factories. Thus, the wife now does the household work with the aid of labour saving machines, and she expects some help from her husband and children.

12. Who usually did all house work in the past ?
13. Certain household work were not done by men in the past. What were they ?
14. How did the whole family view the male child ?
15. The writer says that things are different now. How ?
16. What is the reason for the change in men's attitude towards household work ?

Questions 17 - 21. Given below is the list of recipients of *Bharat Ratna*. Study the table and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries *one* score.

1x5=5

Year	Recipients	Field
1990	Nelson Mandela	International politics
1997	Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam	Science and Technology
1999	Dr. Amartya Sen	Economics
2001	Lata Mangeshkar	Music
2014	Sachin Tendulkar	Sports

17. Dr. Amartya Sen was given the *Bharat Ratna* for his contributions in _____.
18. The playback singer who was awarded the *Bharat Ratna* in 2001 is _____.
19. Who has been awarded the *Bharat Ratna* for his contributions to International Politics ?
20. The sportsperson who was given the *Bharat Ratna* is _____.
21. The former President of India was awarded the *Bharat Ratna* for his contributions in _____.

Questions 22 - 23. Answer any one of the following in about 120 words.

22. According to Satyajit Ray, shooting a scene with an animal is a difficult task. He narrates one such experience in 'Project Tiger'. Prepare a **write - up**, detailing the difficulties Ray faced in shooting the scene with a tiger for the film 'Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne'.

(Hints : Scene with a tiger - approaches Bharat Circus Company - tiger brought to the bamboo grove - difficult to control the tiger - tiger calms down - shoots the scene - too dark - retake)

23. Mr. John's life underwent a complete change after he was rescued from his suicide attempt. Prepare a **narrative** describing the incidents in Mr. John's life.

(Hints : an orphan - looked after by his uncle - a victim of bad company - steals money from office shelf - tries to return the money - fails - suicide attempt - the landlady, the sergeant and the doctor help - becomes a charity worker)

Questions 24 - 26. Answer any two of the following. Each question carries *five* scores. 5x2=10

24. The Homeopath in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' was not even able to cry out, when the snake landed on his shoulder. The doctor sat like a stone image. Later, he wrote his feelings in his diary. What would the **diary entry** be? Write it.

25. The English Club of your school has decided to prepare and stage a play based on the story 'Adolf'. Draft a **notice** inviting all teachers and students to watch the play.

26. Vanka writes a letter to his grandfather detailing his sufferings at the shoemaker's house. Imagine that you meet Vanka after he posted the letter. Write the likely **conversation** between Vanka and you. (Write at least five exchanges.)

Questions 27 - 31. Answer any three of the following. Each question carries six scores. 6x3=18

27. Write a short profile of Majid Majidi using the details given below :

Born	:	April 17, 1959
Occupation	:	Film director, producer and screenwriter
Place of birth	:	Tehran, Iran
Nationality	:	Iranian
Notable works	:	The Color of Paradise, The Song of Sparrows, Children of Heaven
Awards and honours	:	Grand Pix of America Best Award in 1999 Nominated for Academy Award in 1998

28. Martha was shocked when the principal informed her that the policy regarding the scholarship jacket had been changed that year. But finally she won it. Imagine that she writes a letter to her friend describing her experiences. Draft the likely letter.

29. 'A single story about something won't give you a clear picture of it.' Do you agree with the statement? Write a paragraph supporting your answer using the points from the speech 'The Danger of a Single Story'.

30. Think-Tank is an amusing character in the play 'The Book that Saved the Earth'. He enjoys his power as the commander-in-chief. Attempt a character sketch of Think-Tank.

31. The story 'Vanka' hints at the troubles faced by a poor child. Your school conducts a seminar on 'the problems faced by children today' in the light of the story 'Vanka'. Prepare a report of the seminar focussing on the points discussed.

32. Complete the following conversation between the Doctor and his friend.

Friend : You look frightened, _____ (a) ?

Doctor : Yes, I am.

Friend : _____ (b) ?

Doctor : A snake fell from the roof of my room and landed on my shoulder.

Friend : Oh! _____ (c) ?

Doctor : No, it didn't do anything.

Friend : What? It didn't bite you?

Doctor : If I had moved a little, _____ (d)

Friend : Then you had better _____ (e)

Doctor : Yea, I'm thinking of finding a new house.

33. There are a few errors in the passage given below. They are underlined. Edit the passage appropriately. 4

Ali had lost the bag in which he had kept his sister's shoes from (a) the vegetable shop. He searched the place where he has kept (b) it. He put his hands in the gap between the boxes. But he didn't found (c) anything. Then he put his head inside the gap and the boxes fell down. The vegetables was (d) scattered all over the ground.

34. Report the following dialogue. 2

Adichie : Who made this basket?

Fide's mother : Fide's brother has made it.

You may begin like this :

Adichie asked Fide's mother _____.

Fide's mother replied _____.

35. Complete the passage choosing suitable words given below. 4

Think - Tank misinterpreted the nursery rhyme given/(a) the book. He thought/(b) the Earthlings could grow rare metals and high explosives in gardens. The Earthlings have taught their domesticated animals musical culture/(c) space techniques. He warned his team to be conscious of/(d) interplanetary attack by the Earthlings using their cows.

(that, in, if, and, the)

36. Complete the passage using appropriate phrasal verbs given below.

Adolf created some problems in our home. Our mother couldn't (a) it. One day Adolf (b) the curtain - rod with a smash. We (c) our hope to tame him. Finally we decided to send him away to the wild woods.

(put up with, gave up, pulled down, take off)

37. Read the following sentences and pick out any two verb phrases from them.

2

Vanka's grandfather had been serving the zhivarev family. He was growing old.

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