

Kerala SSLC Exam March 2026

English – Preliminary Answer Key

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Answers for Questions 1–5

1. Who pecked at the angel while searching for parasites in his wings?

Answer: The hens (chickens) pecked at the angel while searching for parasites in his wings.

2. Why did the people prefer the spider-woman over the angel?

Answer:

(A) The spider-woman offered a clear, dramatic story that people could understand.

Explanation:

People found the spider-woman's story more interesting and understandable than the mysterious angel.

3. What does the angel's patience in the face of mistreatment suggest?

Answer:

(C) A quiet, enduring form of virtue unrecognized by most people.

Explanation:

The angel silently tolerates the cruelty of the villagers, showing deep patience and dignity.

4. Comment on the statement: "even the most merciful threw stones at him."

Answer:

The statement shows the cruelty and hypocrisy of the villagers. Even those considered kind or merciful treated the angel badly. Instead of helping him, they threw stones to make him stand up. It reveals how people can be insensitive and lose compassion when faced with something strange or unfamiliar.

5. Identify the Noun Phrase and Verb Phrase in the sentence.

Sentence:

"The admission fee for the travelling show was less than the fee to see the angel."

- Noun Phrase (Subject): The admission fee for the travelling show
 - Verb Phrase: was less than the fee to see the angel
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Answers for Questions 6–9

6. Who does the woman call out to?

Answer:

She calls out to a man passing by on the street.

7. What does the line “She can't walk but she's trying” suggest?

Answer:

(C) She is resilient and persevering, in spite of her hardships.

8. Why does the lyricist repeat the expression “think twice”?

Answer:

The lyricist repeats the expression to urge people to reflect on the suffering of the poor and homeless. It is a reminder that people should show compassion and help those in need instead of ignoring them.

9. Identify the refrain in the extract.

Answer:

The refrain is:

“Oh, think twice, it's just another day for you and me in paradise.”

Question 10 (A) – Appreciation of the poem “Mirror” by Sylvia Plath

Sample Answer:

The poem Mirror by Sylvia Plath explores the theme of self-reflection, truth, and the passage of time. The mirror speaks in the first person and presents itself as truthful and unbiased. It reflects reality exactly as it is. A woman looks into the mirror searching for her true identity. The mirror becomes important in her life as she depends on it to see herself. As time passes, she realizes that she is aging. The poet uses personification, as the mirror speaks like a human. The poem also uses vivid imagery such as “an old woman rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish.” This metaphor powerfully conveys the woman's fear of aging. The poem highlights the painful truth of growing old and the human desire to hold on to youth.

Question 11–14

11. What rare disorder was Nick Vujicic born with?

Answer:

Tetramelia Syndrome.

12. Name the NGO founded by Nick Vujicic.

Answer:

Life Without Limbs

13. What gave him the desire and self-belief to live?

Answer:

(C) His parents' unconditional love and faith

14. Select the correct option.

Correct statements:

- (i) Fear can be a greater limitation than physical disability.
- (ii) Life's challenges can be transformed into strengths.
- (iv) Love and resilience help us overcome adversity.

Answer:

(B) (i), (ii) and (iv) are correct

Questions 15-18: Extended Writing (Discourses)

- 15(B) Write-up 'A Never-say-die Attitude': Combine the resilience of Srikanth Bolla (blindness to MIT) and Arunachalam Muruganatham (sanitary napkins success).
 - 16(A) Character Sketch (The Student): Describe him as self-effacing and willing to make amends for his misjudgement toward Boles.
 - 17(A) News Report: "30th IFFK Inaugurated in State Capital." Mention the Spirit of Cinema Award to Kelly Fyffe-Marshall and the screening of 206 films.
 - 18(B) Email from Hauchecome: Address to the Mayor of Goderville, pleading innocence regarding the pocketbook and requesting justice.
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Part III: Creative & Grammar Applications

Question 19: Profile of W.B. Yeats

- W.B. Yeats (1865–1939): A legendary 20th-century poet born in Dublin. Famous for works like *The Second Coming* and *Easter 1916*, he won the Nobel Prize in 1923. His work was deeply inspired by Irish folklore and the Irish Literary Renaissance.

Question 20: Event Invitation

- Draft a formal invite for a seminar on racism featuring Chief Guest Fatou Diome. Include Venue, Date, and Time.

Question 21: Framing Questions (Bablu's Gift)

- Wh-1: Why did Bablu decide to surprise Gowri?
- Wh-2: Where did Bablu go to buy the gift?
- Wh-3: What was the price of the napkin pack?

- Yes/No: Was Bablu startled at the price?

Question 22–26 (Headlines)

22. *Headline pointing to Kerala's achievements in public education*

Answer:

"UNICEF report underscores Kerala's achievements in Child Welfare and Public Education."

23. *Health issue causing sudden deaths under 45*

Answer:

Heart disease

24. *What does Kerala plan to develop for its schools?*

Answer:

(C) A state-owned AI engine

25. *Meaning highlighted by the headline*

Correct statements:

- *(ii) The power of determination and perseverance*
- *(iv) The spirit of not giving up after failures*

Answer:

(B) (ii) and (iv) are correct

26. *Common problem highlighted by the two headlines*

Answer:

(C) Air pollution affecting the well-being of people

Question 27 – Editing

Incorrect → Correct

(a) wrote → written

(b) portray → portrays

(c) which → who

(d) realised → realize

(e) make → makes

(f) looked → look

Corrected passage (summary):

The Wild Swans at Coole is a beautiful poem written by W.B. Yeats. It portrays the grief and disappointment of a person who has grown old...

Question 28 – Idioms / Phrasal verbs

Options: *make up one's mind, fire away, put forward, burst out, put down*

- (a) *put forward*
 - (b) *made up his mind*
 - (c) *fire away*
 - (d) *burst out*
-

Question 29 – Choose correct words

- (a) *son*
 - (b) *Their*
 - (c) *There*
 - (d) *sun*
 - (e) *cardiologist*
 - (f) *dermatologist*
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Question 30 – Conversation Completion

- (a) *weren't you?*
 - (b) *Did you see anything?*
 - (c) *how close it was?*
 - (d) *warn me earlier*
 - (e) *it will be quite adventurous*
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Question 31 – Report the dialogue

- (a) *Hauchecome asked the Mayor why he had called him to his office.*
 - (b) *The Mayor replied that he had been seen picking up the lost pocketbook that morning and added that Malandain had seen him.*
-

Question 32 – Fill in the blanks

- (a) *the*
- (b) *and*
- (c) *to*
- (d) *so that*
- (e) *through*
- (f) *in*