

SSLC MODEL EXAMINATION, FEBRUARY - 2025**ENGLISH**

Second Language

Time : 2½ Hours

Total Score : 80

Instructions :

- The first 15 minutes is the cool-off time. You may use the time to read the questions and plan the answers.
- Read the questions carefully before answering them.
- 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.

Score

(Questions 1 - 5) Read the excerpt from 'The Best Investment I Ever Made' and answer the questions that follow.

5x1=5

As he regained his strength, he told us his story. His parents were dead. An uncle had found him a position (as clerk in a London solicitor's office). He had been in the city only six months. Utterly friendless, he had fallen victim to the loose society of the streets, had made bad companions and like a young fool, eager to taste pleasure far beyond his means, (had begun to bet on horses). Soon he had lost all his small savings, had pledged his belongings and owed the book-maker a disastrous amount. In an effort to recoup, he had taken a sum of money from the office safe for a final gamble that, he was assured, was certain to win. But this last resort had failed. Terrified of the prosecution that must follow, sick at heart, sunk in despair, he had shut himself in his room and turned on the gas.

A long bar of silence throbbed in the little attic when he concluded this halting confession. Then, gruffly, the sergeant asked how much he had stolen. Seven pounds ten shillings - the answer sounded pitiful. For this paltry sum he had almost thrown away his life. There was a pause. The three of us, the sergeant, the landlady and me, as the sole witnesses of the near tragedy, had the same unspoken thought in our minds. We decided to give the young man a fresh start.

1. ✓ Where was Mr. John employed ?
2. ✓ How did Mr. John end up losing all his savings and belongings ?
3. ✓ Why did Mr. John feel compelled to attempt ending his life ?
4. ✓ Which word in the passage means 'spoken in a low, unfriendly tone' ?
(A) pitiful (B) halting (C) gruffly (D) pledge
5. ✓ What common thought arose in the minds of the witnesses after hearing Mr. John's story ?
(A) To demand that he repay the stolen money immediately
(B) To punish him for his actions
(C) To give him a second chance and help him rebuild his life
(D) To inform the solicitor

(Questions 6 - 9) Read the lines from 'Lines written in Early Spring' and answer the questions given below.

4x1=4

I heard a thousand blended notes, ʌ
While in a grove I sate reclined, ʋ
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts ʌ
Bring sad thoughts to the mind. ʋ

To her fair works did Nature link ʌ
The human soul that through me ran; ʋ
And much it grieved my heart to think ʌ
What man has made of man. ʋ

6. ✓ What specific thought brought sorrow to the poet's heart ?
7. ✓ Which literary device is used in the line 'I heard a thousand blended notes' ?
(A) personification (B) hyperbole
(C) metaphor (D) alliteration
8. ✓ How did Nature establish a connection with the poet's soul ?
9. ✓ Identify the rhyme scheme followed in the lines above.

10. Read the lines from 'The Ballad of Father Gilligan' and prepare a note of appreciation focussing on the theme, images, and other poetic devices. 5

The old priest Peter Gilligan
Was weary night and day
For half his flock were in their beds
Or under green sods lay.

Once, while he nodded in a chair
At the moth-hour of the eve
Another poor man sent for him,
And he began to grieve.

(Questions 11 - 15) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

5x1=5

Have you ever wondered about the amazing fruits that grow around the world? Some of them are so unique that they feel like nature's little treasures. Take the *Durian*, for example. Known as the "king of fruits," it has a strong, unusual smell, but don't let that stop you! Inside, it is creamy and sweet, packed with vitamins to boost your immune system. What about the *Cherimoya* from South America? This soft and creamy fruit tastes like a mix of banana and pineapple. It's rich in fibre and antioxidants, making it great for digestion. Have you seen the *Rambutan* from Malaysia? It looks like a little red ball covered in hair, but inside, it has sweet and juicy flesh. It's full of vitamins and iron, perfect for healthy skin.

In Asia, there's the *Mangosteen*, called the "queen of fruits." Its soft, white flesh is both tangy and sweet, and it's loaded with antioxidants and vitamins. From Africa comes the *Baobab fruit*. During the rainy season, the Baobab tree absorbs and stores water in its vast trunk, enabling it to produce a nutrient-dense fruit in the dry season. This is how it became known as "The Tree of Life".

11. Why is the Cherimoya fruit considered good for digestion?
- (A) It is rich in fibre and antioxidants.
 - (B) It has a creamy texture.
 - (C) It is sweet like pineapple and banana.
 - (D) It is soft and juicy.
12. Which sentence in the passage describes an uncommon characteristic of the "king of fruits"?

13. Why is the Baobab tree known as "The Tree of Life" ?

14. What is the taste of the "queen of fruits" ?

15. Which fruit is loaded with nutrients for a healthy skin ?

(Questions 16 - 17) Answer *any one* of the following in about 120 words.

1x7=7

16. The story 'Vanka' portrays the heart-wrenching experiences of a young orphan boy longing for love and freedom. Prepare a **narrative** on Vanka's unforgettable and heartbreaking experiences, in your words.

(Hints : *works as an apprentice - faces harsh treatment - writes a letter - misses the warmth of his village - longs for love and care - incomplete address - dreams of rescue*)

17. The article 'Project Tiger' by Satyajit Ray recounts his observations of movie making in Hollywood and Indian film industry involving animals, his search for a tiger for one of his movies, and the unpredictable challenges faced during the shoot. Prepare a **write-up** on the topic "Filming Animals - A Challenging Experience", based on Ray's experiences.

(Hints : *Hollywood animal stars - stand-in actor - Hitchcock uses ravens - search for a tiger - tiger behaves wildly - camera fails - reshoot - tiger charges at crowd*)

(Questions 18 - 20) Answer *any two* of the following.

2x5=10

18. The Arts Club of your school has decided to conduct a Literary Theatre Event, featuring Anton Chekhov's works, on July 15 - Chekhov Memorial Day. The highlights of the event include staging of Chekhov's plays, readings of short stories, and discussions on his literary contributions. Prepare a **notice** inviting the public to the event.

19. The homeopath in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' experiences a terrifying encounter with a snake. He writes his thoughts and feelings in his diary after the incident. Prepare the likely **diary entry** of the homeopath.

20. Read the extract below and prepare **five questions** based on it.

I was almost back at my classroom door when I heard voices raised in anger as if in some sort of argument. I stopped. I didn't mean to eavesdrop, I just hesitated, not knowing what to do. I needed those shorts and I was going to be late, but I didn't want to interrupt an argument between my teachers. I recognised the voices : Mr. Schmidt, my History teacher and Mr. Boone, my Math teacher. They seemed to be arguing about me. I couldn't believe it.

(Questions 21 - 24) Answer *any two* of the following.

2x6=12

21. Nilkanta in the story 'The Castaway' faces loneliness and abandonment, and longs for love and care. Prepare a **character sketch** of Nilkanta, highlighting his personality, experiences, and his relationship with Kiran.
22. The boy in the story 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree' had a unique experience when he discovered two white baby squirrels in the old banyan tree. This incident immediately caught media attention. Prepare the likely **news report** that appeared in a daily.
23. According to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the use of animals for entertainment purposes must comply with the norms set forth by the Act. Satyajit Ray writes a letter to the Chairman of the Animal Welfare Board of India, informing him about the details of the shoot with a tiger and assuring strict adherence to the rules. Draft the likely **letter**.
24. In the speech, 'The Danger of a Single Story,' Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie explores the limitations of a 'single story' through personal anecdotes and observations. Write a **paragraph** focusing on how a single story about individuals or cultures creates stereotypes and leads to an incomplete view of reality.

25. Prepare a **profile** of *Ruskin Bond* using the details given below.

1x6=6

Birth	:	19 May, 1934, Kasauli, India
Education	:	Bishop Cotton School, Shimla
Famous as	:	Author, poet
Notable Works	:	<i>The Room on the Roof, Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra, A Flight of Pigeons, The Blue Umbrella...</i>
Notable Awards	:	John Llewellyn Rhys Prize (1957), Sahitya Akademi Award (1992), Padma Shri (1999), Padma Bhushan (2014)
Current Status	:	Resides in Landour, Mussoorie, and continues to write actively...

(Questions 26 - 30) Details of a few prominent tribes of India are given in the table below. Study the table and answer the questions that follow.

5x1=5

Tribe	Region	Language	Cultural Highlight	Lifestyle
Great Andamanese	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Great Andamanese languages	Rich oral traditions of folk songs and stories	Dependant on forest and marine resources
Santhal	Jharkhand and West Bengal	Santhali	Celebrates Sohrai - a harvest festival	Agrarian community
Bhil	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh	Bhili	Ghoomar dance and Pithora painting	Expert in bow - making and hunting techniques
Gond	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	Gondi	Known for Gond art	Farming and raising cattle
Banjara	Seen across India except North-Eastern states and Union Territories	Lambadi	Banjara embroidery with floral and animal designs	Travelling traders and transporters

26. Which tribe celebrates Sohrai festival ?
27. Where are the Banjaras not found in India ?
28. Pick out the tribe which is famous for Pithora painting.
29. What is the language spoken by the Gond tribe ?
30. How do the Great Andamanese earn their living ?
31. Report the following dialogue.

Jill : What do you think of our little nest, Aunt Jane ?

Aunt Jane : Your little nest is really wonderful, my dears.

32. Complete the following passage using the appropriate phrasal verbs from the ones given below. Score 4

Zahra was (a) _____ when Ali told her that he had lost her shoes at the bakery. She didn't have another pair of shoes to (b) _____ to go to school. So, Zahra decided to (c) _____ her concern at home but Ali stopped her knowing that their father would not (d) _____ his carelessness.

(put on, put up with, taken [ⓐ]aback, put across, put aside)

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

Aunt Jane and Jack goes(a) out. Jill looks at the cheque and exclaims 'Ten pounds!' Then she hurried(b) to the table, addresses an envelope, endorses the cheque and slips it inside with a bill who(c) she takes from the bag and sealed(d) the envelope.

34. Complete the conversation between Martha and her sister Rosie. 5

Rosie : You are upset over something, _____ (a) _____ ?

Martha : Yes. This year there's a change in policy regarding the scholarship Jacket.

Rosie : Would you mind _____ (b) _____ ?

Martha : No, I don't, I'll explain. I've been asked to pay 15 dollars for the Jacket.

Rosie : That's unfair! The Jacket is given as a recognition for your hard work. _____ (c) _____ ?

Martha : The Principal spoke to me about the same.

Rosie : You had better _____ (d) _____ .

Martha : I already spoke to Grandpa about this. He says that if we pay for the Jacket, _____ (e) _____ .

Rosie : I agree with him. Meet the Principal tomorrow and tell him what Grandpa said.

35. Complete the following passage choosing the right words from those given in brackets. 4

Mr. Thorat was a South Indian, with features some what like those _____ a Nepali.

He showed us _____ old scar _____ his forearm, which had been cause _____
a tiger.

(on, of, from, by, an)

36. Read the following sentences and identify the Noun Phrase in the subject position in each. 2

(a) A beautifully patterned basket of dyed raffia was shown to us by Fide's mother.

(b) His rimless spectacles gave evidence of a serious and reserved disposition.

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