

**SSLC EXAMINATION, MARCH - 2020****ENGLISH**

## Second Language

Time : 2½ Hours

Total Score : 80

**Instructions :**

- The first 15 minutes is cool-off time. You may use the time to read questions and plan the answers.
- Read the questions carefully before answering.
- Certain sections of the questions have choices. Follow the Instructions.

Score

**Questions 1 - 5 : Read the excerpt from 'The Scholarship Jacket' and answer the questions that follow.**

5x1=5

It seemed a cruel coincidence that I had overheard that conversation. The next day when the principal called me into his office I knew what it would be about. He looked uncomfortable and unhappy. (I decided I wasn't going to make it any easier for him, so I looked at him straight in the eyes.) He looked away and fidgeted with the papers on his desk. ('Martha,' he said, 'there's been a change in policy this year regarding the scholarship Jacket. As you know, it has always been free.' He cleared his throat and continued. ('This year the Board has decided to charge fifteen dollars, which still won't cover the complete cost of the Jacket.'

1. Why did Martha look straight into the principal's eyes ?
  2. What change in policy is described in the passage above ?
  3. How did the principal appear to Martha when she entered his room ?
  4. 'He looked away and fidgeted with the papers on his desk.' The principal was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Choose your answer from the options given.
- (a) confident      (b) nervous      (c) optimistic      (d) comfortable
5. Pick out the word from the passage that means 'two things happening at the same time by chance'.

**Questions 6 - 9 :** Read the following lines from the poem 'Mother to Son' and answer the questions given below.

4x1=4

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.

6. What do 'tacks and splinters' imply ?
7. Pick out an instance of metaphor from the stanza.
8. What does the phrase 'no crystal stair' mean ?
9. The use of the word 'Bare' as the last line of the stanza indicates \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Read the following lines from the poem 'Poetry' and prepare a note of appreciation 5 considering the theme, imagery and other poetic devices.

And it was at that age.... Poetry arrived  
 in search of me. I don't know, I don't know where  
 it came from, from winter or a river.  
 I don't know how or when,  
 no they were not voices, they were not  
 words, nor silence,  
 but from a street I was summoned,  
 from the branches of night,  
 abruptly from the others  
 among violent fires  
 or returning alone,  
 there I was without a face  
 and it touched me

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

5x1=5

Once, there was a renowned teacher who lived in a beautiful monastery with many of his pupils. (He was known as a very effective teacher. Many of his students grew up to become great masters.) One day, one of them was caught for stealing from his fellow-students. They reported the incident to the teacher. But he took no action against the boy. A few days later the same boy was again caught stealing. And again the teacher did nothing to punish him. This made the other students angry. (They requested the teacher to dismiss the thief.) (They even threatened to leave as a group if the boy was allowed to stay in the monastery.) The teacher called a meeting of the students. When they had assembled, he said to them: "You are good boys who know what is right and what is wrong. If you leave, you will have no trouble in joining some other school. (But what about your brother who does not even know the difference between right and wrong? Who will teach him if I don't? No, I cannot ask him to go even if it means losing all of you." Tears rolled down the cheeks of the boy who had stolen. He never stole and in later life became renowned for his integrity thereafter.

11. Why was the teacher known to be very effective ?
12. What was the request of the other boys when the boy stole things again ?
13. How did the other boys threaten the teacher for his inaction ?
14. Why was the teacher not worried about the other boys ?
15. What reason did the teacher give for not dismissing the boy ?

Questions 16 - 17 : Answer any ONE of the following in about 120 words.

1x7=7

16. Satyajit Ray had to face several difficulties while shooting the film 'Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne.' Prepare a **narrative** based on Ray's experiences in shooting the film with the tiger.  
(Hints : Shooting at Notun Gram - needs tiger for shooting - meets Mr. Thorat - two tigers - unable to control the tigers - shots taken - dark - retake - shooting at Boral - tiger charges at the villagers - shots taken - perfect scenes)
17. Anton Chekhov's 'Vanka' is a sad story of a nine year old boy. Vanka went through intense sufferings at the house of Alyakhin. In the light of your reading of the story, prepare a **write-up** on the topic 'Preventing child abuse.'  
(Hints : vanka - orphaned child - poverty - physical and mental abuse - unable to react - unaware of child rights - sufferings of parentless children - lack of care - wishes to run away)

Questions 18 - 20 : Answer any TWO of the following. Each question carries five scores. 2x5=10

~~18.~~ Imagine that you meet the boy in the story 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree'. You ask him about the fight between the mongoose and the cobra. Prepare the likely **conversation**.

~~19.~~ The Film Club of your school has decided to conduct a Documentary Film Festival. Draft a **notice** inviting everyone to the festival.

~~20.~~ The Homoeopath managed to reach his friend's house after the terrible incident. He was unable to sleep that night. He jotted down his feelings in his diary. Write the likely **diary entry**.

Questions 21 - 25 : Answer any THREE of the following. Each question carries six scores. 3x6=18

21. After reading the anecdote 'The Best Investment I Ever Made', you decide to send a letter to Mr. John congratulating him. Prepare the likely **letter**.

~~22.~~ Prepare a **profile** of Anton Chekhov using the details given below.

Born	:	January 29, 1860 Taganrog, Russia
Occupation	:	Physician, writer
Famous as	:	Playwright, short story writer, master of modern short story, representative of 19 <sup>th</sup> - century Russian realism
Spouse	:	Olga Knipper
Notable works	:	The Seagull, The Cherry Orchard, Ward Number Six, Uncle Vanya
Awards	:	Pushkin Prize
Death	:	1904, Badenweiler, Germany

23. Kiran in the story 'The Castaway' has always been caring and affectionate towards Nilkanta. Prepare a brief **character sketch** of Kiran.

~~24.~~ You have read the play The Never-Never Nest. Write a **paragraph** describing how Jack and Jill represent the present day consumer culture prevalent in our society.

~~25.~~ Martha in her thanksgiving speech describes how she overcame the problems she faced in winning the scholarship jacket. Prepare the likely **speech** of Martha.

Questions 26 - 30 : A few news headlines are given below. Read them carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- Kerala and TN emerge as top performers in NITI Aayog's education quality index
- P.V. Sindhu becomes first Indian to win Badminton World Championship
- Anaemia among men a major public health problem
- Drama festival in Kerala draws huge crowd
- Antarctica's temperature to rise by 3 degrees by the end of the century

26. The headline that voices concerns about environment is \_\_\_\_\_.

27. Which headline is related to public health ?

28. Identify the headline that brings cheer to a sports enthusiast.

29. The headline which is related to education is \_\_\_\_\_.

30. The piece of news that attracts theatre enthusiasts is \_\_\_\_\_.

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

Adichie came (a) for <sup>from</sup> a conventional middle class family. Her father was a professor and her mother was (b) a <sup>an</sup> administrator. She grew up on a university campus in Nigeria. They (c) have <sup>had</sup> a boy named Fide for domestic help. The only thing Adichie knew about Fide was that his family (d) were <sup>was</sup> very poor.

32. Report the following dialogue. 2

Mr. John : Do you remember me ?  
Dr. Cronin : I have never seen you in my life.

You may begin like this :

- (a) Mr. John asked Dr Cronin.....did you.....  
(b) Dr. Cronin replied.....I had.....

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

Nilkanta turned out to be a boon (a) / <sup>of</sup> everyone in the house. Kiran had a warm interest in him (b) / <sup>and</sup> he had escaped from the clutches of death. Sharat (c) / <sup>and</sup> his mother were also happy. Nilkanta felt delighted as he had become a part of (d) / <sup>a</sup> wealthy family.

(<sup>c</sup>and, <sup>a</sup>for, <sup>b</sup>of, <sup>d</sup>as, a, was)  
3 1 2 4

34. Complete the following passage choosing appropriate phrasal verbs from the ones given below. 4

Aunt Jane thought Jack and Jill were working hard to \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ very well in their life. But she could not \_\_\_\_\_ b \_\_\_\_\_ the idea of instalment plans. She gave them a cheque and asked them to \_\_\_\_\_ c \_\_\_\_\_ one of their bills. She reminded them that if they didn't pay their bills they would \_\_\_\_\_ d \_\_\_\_\_ in the streets.

(put up with, pay off, end up, get along, taken aback)

35. Complete the conversation between Adichie and her roommate. 4

Roommate : You are from Nigeria, \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Adichie : Yes.

Roommate : \_\_\_\_\_ b \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Adichie : Because English is our official language.

Roommate : Your official language ! That information is new to me.

Adichie : I used to read a lot of English books when I was a child.

Roommate : \_\_\_\_\_ c \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Adichie : No, I don't listen to tribal music.

Roommate : But, Africa is known for its tribal music.

Adichie : May be. If you want to listen to Mariah Carey \_\_\_\_\_ d \_\_\_\_\_.

Roommate : No, Thank you. I have a good collection of her songs.

36. Read the following sentences and identify the Noun Phrase in the subject position. 3

- (a) Mr. John spoke with real feeling.  
 (b) The shooting was taking place near Shiuri in Birbhoom.  
 (c) A few drops of blood glistened on the cobra's back.

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