

## SSLC EXAMINATION, MARCH - 2015.

### ENGLISH

Time : 2½ Hours

Total Score : 80

**Instructions :**

- Attempt all questions.
- The first fifteen minutes is cool-off time.
- Use the cool-off time to read the questions and plan the answers.

Score

**Question 1 - 6. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.**

In truth, Jose Montiel was not as rich as he seemed. In his house, a few blocks from Balthazar's, he remained indifferent to the news of the cage. His wife was lying in bed with her eyes open, while he took his siesta. Hearing a clamour outside, she opened the door to the living room and found a crowd in front of the house and Balthazar with the cage in the middle of the crowd, dressed in white and freshly shaved.

"What a marvellous thing!" Jose Montiel's wife exclaimed, with a radiant expression, leading Balthazar inside. 'I've never seen anything like it in my life,' she said, and added, annoyed by the crowd which piled up at the door.

"Bring it inside before they turn the living room into a grandstand."

Balthazar was no stranger to Jose Montiel's house. On different occasions, because of his skill and forthright way of dealing, he had been called in to do minor carpentry jobs. But he never felt at ease among the rich.

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|----|--|---|
| 1. | 'What a marvellous thing!' What appeared marvellous to Jose Montiel's wife ?                                 | 1 |
| 2. | How did Jose Montiel react to Balthazar's achievement ?  | 1 |
| 3. | In what way, according to Jose Montiel's wife, will the living room be made a 'grandstand' ?                 | 1 |
| 4. | Pick out the word from the passage that means, 'sleep taken in the early afternoon'.                         | 1 |
| 5. | What are the two qualities of Balthazar mentioned in the passage above ?                                     | 2 |
| 6. | Pick out the sentence from the passage that shows Balthazar's attitude towards people who have lot of money. | 1 |

Question 7 - 10. Read the lines from 'Night of the Scorpion' and answer the questions that follow :

I remember the night my mother  
was stung by a scorpion. Ten hours  
of steady rain had driven him  
to crawl beneath a sack of rice.

Parting with his poison - flash  
of diabolic tail in the dark room -  
he risked the rain again.

The peasants came like swarms of flies  
and buzzed the name of God a hundred times  
to paralyse the Evil One.

7. What made the scorpion hide under the sack of rice ? 1
8. Pick out the visual image that is used in the above lines to show the devilish nature of the scorpion. 1
9. Which expression is used to convey the idea that the scorpion stung the mother ? 1
10. Pick out an instance of simile used in the lines above ? 1

Question 11 - 14. Read the lines from 'In the Country' and answer the questions that follow :

But it's a wretched life to face  
Hunger in almost every place;  
Cursed with a hand that's empty, when  
The heart is full to help all men.

Can I admire the statue great,  
When living men starve at its feet ?  
Can I admire the park's green tree,  
A roof for homeless misery ?

11. The speaker says that he can't help the people in misery. Why ? 1
12. What prevents the poet from 'admiring the statue great' ? 1
13. How does the poet describe the park's green tree ? 1
14. Identify the rhyme scheme followed in the poem. 1

Question 15 - 19. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

Jagadananda Roy was one of the teachers at the Santiniketan school. He was known for his strictness and fiery temper. Once, Rabindranath Tagore had decided to stage a play at Santiniketan. A young boy was chosen for a particular role in the play. Tagore sent for the boy to be fetched from his class. Jagadananda Roy was then taking the boy's mathematics class. Visibly annoyed by the student's performance he sent back the messenger with the terse reply, "Tell Gurudev that during my class boys don't go dancing and performing". Tagore's colleagues were visibly embarrassed at Jagadananda's reply but Tagore was unmoved. Smiling he replied, "The teacher is angry. The only way he's going to release the boy now is to ask him to be part of the play". That year Jagadananda performed in the play himself. He never disagreed to release one of his students for a rehearsal later!

15. What was the subject taught by Jagadananda Roy at the Santiniketan school ? 1
16. On what occasion did Jagadananda Roy refuse to obey Tagore's instruction ? 1
17. How did Tagore solve the issue of fetching the boy from Jagadananda Roy's class ? 1
18. Why were the teachers of Santiniketan embarrassed ? 1
19. Pick out the word from the passage that means, 'someone that you work with'. 1

Question 20. Answer any one of the following in about 120 words. 7

20. (A) Imagine that you are narrating the story 'Blue Bouquet' to one of your friends. You **narrate** the horrifying experience of meeting a stranger who tried to gouge your eyes. What would you narrate ?

You may begin like : *I was staying in a hotel.*

(Hints : neglects the warnings of the hotel keeper - goes out into the dark - enjoys the beauty of night - stranger follows - threatens - demands eyes - tries to gouge them - finds the eyes not blue - disappears - returns to the hotel)

OR

- (B) The beggar in the play 'The Beggar and the King' is not a mere beggar. He is the representative of the people who are forced to live in misery under autocratic rulers. Prepare a **write up** substantiating this view.

(Hints : - the beggar begs even after his tongue is cut - the words of the servant - the way the beggar deals with the king - the king's fear - the beggar begs again - the king orders to close the window)

21. Samuel in the story 'Father's Help' is portrayed as a teacher who has great consideration for his students. But Swami gives a different picture of Samuel. Prepare a **character sketch** of Samuel comparing Swami's portrayal of Samuel and the real Samuel. 5

22. You are asked to speak in your school assembly on the topic, 'Disappearing public spaces'. Prepare a **speech** highlighting the role of tea-shops in Kerala society in maintaining communal harmony and providing a space for free interaction among different sections of people. 5
23. The Film Club of your school has decided to organise a Children's Film Festival. The Festival is to be inaugurated by Sri. M. T. Vasudevan Nair. Draft a **notice** for the inaugural ceremony of the festival. 5
24. Imagine that you make a visit to Balthazar's home to buy the cage. Write the likely **conversation** between Balthazar and you. 5
25. Prepare a **profile** of Sri. K. Satchidanandan, poet and critic writing in Malayalam and English, using the details given below : 5
- Birth : 28 May 1946, Pulloot, Kodungallur, Kerala
- Education : Maharajas College Ernakulam  
PhD - Calicut University
- Career : Professor - Christ College, Irinjalakuda  
Editor - Indian Literature  
Secretary - Kendra Sahitya Akademi
- Notable works : Anchu Sooryan (1971), Venal Mazha (1982), Ivanekoodi (1987), Kavibudhan (1992), Mukhamukham (2006)
- Awards : Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award (1989), Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award (2012)
26. Prepare a **summary** of the film, 'Sunshine through the Rain' by sequencing and developing the hints given below. 5
- ( ) A fox comes and hands over a dagger to the mother
  - ( ) Mother prevents the boy from going out
  - ( ) Boy watches foxes' wedding
  - ( ) The sun shines when it rains
  - ( ) The boy walks out of home and reaches the valley of rainbows
  - ( ) The boy goes out to the forest and hides behind a tree
  - ( ) A boy stands in the veranda and watches the rain
  - ( ) Mother shuts the door

Question 27 - 31. Look at the front covers of the following books and answer the questions that follow.

SUNSTONE  
*A long poem*  
OCTAVIO PAZ  
A New Directions  
Book

Penguin  
MALGUDI DAYS  
*Collection of stories*  
R K NARAYAN

AKIRA KUROSAWA  
The Seven Samurai  
and other screenplays  
Faber & Faber

6 One Act Plays  
ANTON CHEKHOV  
Broadway Books

GABRIEL  
GARCIA  
MARQUEZ  
LIVING TO TELL  
THE TALE  
Penguin

27. If you wish to buy a book written by an Indian author which book will you select? 1
28. Which publisher has presented two titles for you to select? 1
29. Name the only poet out of the above authors. 1
30. Who authored '6 One Act Plays'? 1
31. Which book has a world famous film as its title? 1
32. The banker and the young lawyer are talking about capital punishment. Read the dialogue between them and complete it suitably. 5
- Banker : You don't mind imprisonment for life, \_\_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- Lawyer : No, if I can earn a huge amount like this.
- Banker : \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- Lawyer : Yes, I've thought about it very well.
- Banker : If you were in jail, \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_
- Lawyer : I stake my freedom for two millions!
- Banker : \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- Lawyer : I'm trying to prove imprisonment for life is better than death penalty.
- Banker : The more you argue \_\_\_\_\_ (e) \_\_\_\_\_

33. The following paragraph is from the letter written by Swami to his friend. There are a few errors in it. They are underlined. Edit them. 4

I have lied (a) to my father yesterday. I had to face all sorts of problems because of that. When I reached the school Samuel sir took (b) the class. He asked me why was I (c) late. Again, I had to lie and told him that I had a headache. I was surprising (d) when he allowed me to enter the class.

34. Look at the following word pyramid. 3

Girl  
 The girl  
 The girl with pearl earrings  
 The girl with pearl earrings who sells bangles

Now, construct a similar word pyramid with Pen.

35. Choose the appropriate phrasal verbs from the ones given and complete the passage given below. 4

Mother rejected (a) the children's plea for going out and play. Finally they were allowed to play within the compound. They started (b) to play hide and seek. Ravi hid in a shed and could not understand (c) what was happening outside. When he came out, the other children had abandoned (d) hide and seek and had started another game.

give up	set out	turn down	put on	make up	make out
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36. Read the piece of conversation and answer the questions that follow :

Holmes : Do you think our visitor is a doctor ?

Watson : There is a possibility to be so.

(a) What did Holmes ask Watson ?

(b) What was Watson's reply ?

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