

**SSLC EXAMINATION, MARCH - 2024****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.
- 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 Snake and the Mirror' and answer the questions that follow.**

5x1=5

I took a close look at my face in the mirror. I made an important decision - I would shave daily and grow a thin moustache to look more handsome. I was, after all, a bachelor, and a doctor! I looked into the mirror and smiled. It was an attractive smile. I made another earthshaking decision. I would always keep that attractive smile on my face... to look more handsome. I was after all a bachelor, and a doctor too on top of it!

Again came that noise from above.

I got up, lit a beedi and paced up and down the room. Then another lovely thought struck me. I would marry. I would get married to a woman doctor who had plenty of money and a good medical practice. She had to be fat; for a valid reason. If I made some silly mistake and needed to run away she should not be able to run after me and catch me!

With such thoughts in my mind I resumed my seat in the chair in front of the table. There were no more sounds from above. Suddenly there came a dull thud as if a rubber tube had fallen to the ground... surely nothing to worry about. Even so I thought I would turn around and take a look. No sooner had I turned than a fat snake wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on my shoulder. The snake's landing on me and my turning were simultaneous.

P.T.O.

1. What were the two important decisions taken by the homeopath ?
2. Why did the homeopath want to marry a fat lady doctor ?
3. How did the homeopath react when the snake landed on his shoulder ?
4. Pick out a word from the passage that means 'happening or done at the same time'.
5. What lovely thought struck the homeopath's mind ?

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

**4x1=4**

But all the time  
I 'se 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.  
Don't you set down on the steps.  
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.  
Don't you fall now-  
For I'se still goin', honey,  
I'se still climbin',  
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair

6. What is the message conveyed in the given lines ?
7. What does the expression 'reachin' landin's' imply ?
8. How did the speaker face the challenges in her life ?
9. Which figure of speech is used in the line 'And life for me ain't been no crystal stair' ?

10. Read the lines from the poem '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.

'I have no rest, nor joy, nor peace,  
For people die and die;  
And after cried he, 'God forgive!  
My body spake not I!'

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

5x1=5

An old man named Santiago had been fishing for days without catching anything. He was tired and hungry, but he was determined to catch a fish. One day, early in the morning, Santiago felt a tug on his line. He knew that this was no ordinary fish. This was the biggest fish he had ever caught. The fish fought hard, pulling the old man's boat far out to sea. Santiago fought back, reeling in the line as fast as he could. After hours of struggle, the old man finally landed the fish. It was a huge marlin, the largest he had ever seen. Santiago was exhausted, but he was also proud. He had caught the fish of a lifetime. As he was tying up the marlin, a group of sharks appeared. They began to circle the boat, waiting for a chance to attack. Santiago fought off the sharks for hours, but they were too many for him. One by one, they took pieces of the marlin, until there was nothing left but its skeleton. Santiago was heartbroken, but he knew that he had done his best. He had caught the fish of a lifetime, and he had fought bravely to protect it.

11. What was old Santiago determined to do ?
12. How did the fish react when it was caught by Santiago ?
13. Santiago was proud. Why ?
14. What happened to the marlin caught by Santiago ?
15. What did Santiago feel about his effort though he got only the skeleton of the marlin ?

P.T.O.

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

16. I've never owed a penny in my life - cash down, that's my motto and I want you to do the same'. These are the words of Aunt Jane from the play 'The Never-Never Nest'. She was disappointed with Jack's and Jill's way of life. Their expenditure was beyond their earnings. In the light of your reading of the play, prepare a **review** of it.

(Hints-Jack and Jill live in a house with all modern amenities - Aunt Jane visits them - upset to see them moving into a debt trap - advises them - warns them to change their lifestyle)

17. The boy in the story 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree' was excited and thrilled to witness the fight between the cobra and the mongoose. After reaching the house, he narrates the fight scene to his grandfather. Prepare the likely **narrative**.

(Hints - Boy sits on a platform - a huge black cobra glides out of a clump of cactus - a mongoose also emerges - come face to face - starts fighting - myna and jungle crow arrive - cobra strikes the crow - cobra weakens - mongoose wins the fight)

**Questions 18-20. Answer any two of the following. Each question carries five marks.**

2x5=10

18. The Literary Club of your school has decided to conduct a 'Book Fest' and an exhibition of Vaikom Muhammed Basheer's works on July 5, Basheer Day. Prepare a **notice** inviting the public to the Fest.
19. Nilkanta was quite shocked when he saw Kiran pulling out the missing inkstand from his box. He was upset that Kiran had found out his prank. His last hope of proving himself innocent failed miserably. He decided to leave the house. Before leaving, he jotted down his feelings in his diary. Prepare the likely **diary entry**.
20. Anton Chekhov's short story 'Vanka' portrays the plight of a nine year old boy named Vanka. Write a **paragraph** on the sufferings of the boy in Alyakhin's house.

**Questions 21-25. Answer any three of the following. Each question carries six marks.**

3x6=18

21. The boy in the story 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree' was very much thrilled about his acquaintance with the grey squirrel. He writes a letter to one of his friends telling him about his friendship with the squirrel. Prepare the likely **letter**.

22. Martha Salinas was awarded the Scholarship Jacket for maintaining the highest grades for eight years by her school. She delivered a speech after receiving the Scholarship Jacket. Prepare the text of the **speech**.
23. You were inspired by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's speech and decided to include an interview with Adichie in your school magazine. As one of the editors of the school magazine, prepare **six questions** to interview her.
24. Kiran, one of the central characters in the story 'The Castaway', was loved by everyone in the family. Based on the reading of the story, prepare a **character sketch** of Kiran.
25. Prepare a **profile** of Rabindranath Tagore using the details given.
- Birth : 7 May 1861, Kolkata
- Occupation : Poet, Novelist, Dramatist, Essayist, Fictionist, Playwright.
- Spouse : Mrinalini Devi
- Notable Works : *Gitanjali, Bhikharini, Kabuliwala, The Hungry Stones, The Runway, The Broken Nest.*
- Awards and Honours : Nobel Prize in Literature (1913)
- Death : 7 August 1941, Kolkata.

Questions 26-30. Details of the batsmen who hit centuries in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 are given in the table below. Study the table and answer the questions that follow :

5

Batsman	Country	Centuries	Runs	Score & Against
Quinton de Kock	South Africa	4	594	174 (Bangladesh)
Rachin Ravindra	New Zealand	3	578	123 (England)
Virat Kohli	India	3	765	117 (New Zealand)
Glenn Maxwell	Australia	2	397	201 (Afghanistan)
Mitchell Marsh	Australia	2	426	177 (Bangladesh)

26. Who hit the most number of centuries in the ICC World Cup 2023 ?
27. Who is the highest aggregator of runs in the ICC World Cup 2023 ?

28. Glenn Maxwell scored 201 in the ICC World Cup 2023 against \_\_\_\_\_.
29. How many centuries did Mitchell Marsh score in ICC World Cup 2023 ?
30. Which country is represented by two players in the table ?

31. Report the following dialogue.

2

Satyajit Ray : What can we do to let the tiger free in the bamboo grove ?

Thorat : We can tie a thin wire round the tiger's neck.

- (a) Satyajit Ray asked .....
- (b) Thorat replied .....

32. Complete the following passage using the appropriate forms of the phrasal verbs from the ones given below.

4

Vanka \_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_ his mind to post the letter he had written. He \_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_ his coat and ran to the place where the post box was kept. It was not easy for him to \_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_ the cold outside. He wanted to come back before his master and mistress \_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_.

(make up, put up with, turn up, put on)

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

4

Kiran have (a) enjoyed being with the villagers steaming with fun. But here of (b) the riverside, she could not tolerate the heavy burdan (c) of doing nothing. That was their point of discussion. He lost his spirit when she suddenly stopped responding and turn (d) her head away.

## 34. Complete the conversation between Ali and Zahra.

- Zahra : You are upset, \_\_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- Ali : Yes, dear.
- Zahra : \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- Ali : I lost your shoes at Akbar Aqa's shop.
- Zahra : \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- Ali : Yes, I searched the place properly, but couldn't find it.
- Zahra : If you don't get my shoes, \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_
- Ali : Don't tell Father, he will beat both of us.
- Zahra : What shall I wear tomorrow ?
- Ali : You had better \_\_\_\_\_ (e) \_\_\_\_\_
- Zahra : OK. I will wear your sneakers.

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

Grandad was probably standing \_\_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_ the gate at this moment, screwing up his eyes to look at the bright red light coming \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the church windows, or stumping about in his felt boots, fooling \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ the servants. His rattle would be fastened \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_ his belt.

(at, from, in, with, to)

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

- (a) A long supporting gable rested on the beam over the wall.
- (b) The boy turned out to be a boon to everyone in the village.