

S.S.L.C MODEL EXAMINATION – FEBRUARY 2015

English

Time: 2½Hours

Total Score: 80

Instructions

- The first 15 minutes is cool-off time.
- This time is to be spent for reading the question paper.
- You are not supposed to write anything during the cool-off time.
- Read the instructions carefully and attempt the questions.

Questions 1-5: Read the excerpt from the story 'Father's Help' and answer the questions that follow:

The teacher came to the end of a section in the textbook and stopped. He proposed to spend the remaining few minutes putting questions to the boys. He ordered the whole class to put away their books, and asked someone in the second row, 'What's the date of Vasco da Gama's arrival in India?'

Swaminathan shot up and screeched, '1648 December 20'.

'You needn't shout,' said the teacher. He asked, 'Has your headache made you mad?'

- ✓ Q.1. When did the teacher stop teaching? (1)
- ✓ Q.2. How did the teacher propose to spend the remaining few minutes? (1)
- ✓ Q.3. What did the teacher order the class to do? (1)
- ✓ Q.4. How do you know that Swami was creating trouble in the class? (1)
- ✓ Q.5. What did the teacher ask Swami when he shouted in the class? (1)

Questions 6-9: Read the lines from the poem 'Cactus' and answer the questions that follow:

Thorns are my language
I announce my existence
With a bleeding touch.
'Once these thorns were flowers.'
'I loathe lovers who betray'
Poets have abandoned the deserts
To go back to the gardens
Only camels remain here, and merchants
Who trample my flowers to dust.

(PTO)

- Q.6. How does the cactus announce its existence? (1)
- Q.7. Pick out the line which states that once the cactus had a different life. (1)
- Q.8. What have the poets done? (1)
- Q.9. Who trample the flowers of the cactus to dust? (1)

Questions 10-13: Read the lines from the poem 'The Himalayas' and answer the questions that follow:

At that time
I am seventeen, and have just started
To wear a sari everyday.
Swami Anand is eighty nine
And almost blind.
His thick glasses don't seem to work,
They only magnify his cloudy eyes.
Mornings he summons me
From the kitchen
And I read to him until lunch time.

- Q.10. How do you know that the speaker in the poem is a woman? (1)
- Q.11. What purpose according to the poet, is served by the thick glasses of Swami Anand? (1)
- Q.12. What does the poet do when Swami Anand summons her? (1)
- Q.13. Pick out two images used in the poem to describe Swami Anand's blindness. (2)

Questions 14-18: Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

There was a poor boy who made a living by selling various objects from door to door, to pay for his school. One day he was very hungry and asked for food at a house. A young girl who came out understood his hunger from his eyes and offered him milk in a huge glass. The boy was astonished. He drank the milk very slowly and asked the girl. "How much do I owe you for this milk?"

The girls replied "I don't accept anything for kindness." With a big smile in the face, the boy thanked the girl and left the place.

Years passed by. The young girl grew up. But she developed a rare disease and was admitted to a hospital. One of the doctors took special interest on her. Someone told her that he was a renowned specialist. He attended to her for several weeks. With the help of the doctor's care and the support of medicines, finally, the woman was completely cured. However, she was worried how she would pay the hospital bill. At last the bill came. The woman was surprised to find it cancelled by the doctor who treated her. There was a note below which said 'Bill paid years ago with a glass of milk.'

(PTO)

- Q.14. How did the boy find money to pay for his school? (1)
- Q.15. How do you know that the young girl was kind and sympathetic? (1)
- Q.16. What happened to the girl when she grew up? (1)
- Q.17. Why was the woman surprised when she saw the bill? (1)
- Q.18. Why was the woman's hospital bill cancelled? (1)

Q.19. Answer any one of the following in about 120 words: (7)

- A. "The rich and the powerful are intolerant, but the poor and the needy are tireless." Analyse this statement in the light of the play 'The Beggar and the King' and write your conclusions in a paragraph.

(Hints: king – sitting in his palace – hears beggar's cry for food – becomes uneasy – orders the beggar to be bound and killed – beggar survives – finally overpowers the king.)

OR

- B. 'A tea-shop is an ideal venue for communicating the theme and message of a film.' Do you agree? In the light of Dr. C.S. Venkiteswaran's article 'Tea-shops in Malayalam Cinema' prepare a write-up about the role performed by tea-shops in Malayalam films.

(Hints: tea-shops are products of social change – space for free communication – centre of human activity – various films in which tea-shops play a major role.)

- Q.20. The mad lover in the story 'The Blue Bouquet' had a strange meeting with the narrator in the street. Imagine that he narrates his experiences to his sweetheart. Describe his experience in a paragraph of 80 words. (6)

You may begin like this: "I was waiting in the dark street"

- Q.21. Imagine that Pepe's father felt sorry for shouting at Balthazar and asking him to leave the house. He writes a letter of apology promising to pay for the cage he had given to Pepe. Write the likely letter. (6)

- Q.22. Imagine that your school is organizing a film festival in a grand manner. Prepare a report of the event including details of inauguration, films shown, reviews held, etc. (6)

- Q.23. Swami's father is strict. He supports Swami at first and even writes a letter of complaint to the headmaster. But at the end of the story we find a totally different father. Write a character sketch of Swami's father in your own words. (6)

(PTO)

Q.24. Write a short profile of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the great Latin American writer, making use of the hints given below. (6)

Born : 6 March 1928, Columbia

Education : Graduated in Law from National University of Columbia

Career : Novelist, journalist, publisher, political activist

Major works : The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor
One Hundred Years of Solitude (1967)
Love in the Time of Cholera (1985)
Chronicle of a Death Foretold
Living to Tell a Tale (Autobiography)

Award : Nobel Prize for Literature 1982

Literary technique : Magic Realism

Died : 2014

Questions 25-29: The following table gives you some information about a few members of a village club. Read it carefully and answer the questions given below.

Name	Manoj	Mohan	Sundar	Malini
Age	45	56	28	48
Job	Mechanic	IT professional	Auto driver	Journalist
Place of Work	village	city	town	city
Marital Status	married	married	unmarried	married
No. of Children	One boy and two girls	four girls	Nil	One boy only
Hobby	gardening	reading	watching films	stitching

Q.25. What is the hobby of the eldest member of the group? (1)

Q.26. Who among the members work with computers? (1)

Q.27. Who is the only bachelor in the group? (1)

Q.28. Who among the group has the most number of children? (1)

Q.29. Who among the members has a hobby which is an outdoor activity? (1)

(PTO)

Q.30. The following passage is written by Sanjay, a student of Class X. The errors in it are underlined. Edit the passage by correcting the errors. (5)

Mohan go (a) to school everyday. But he hasn't gone (b) yesterday. He was down with fever. But he was (c) well now. I am thinking (d) he goes (e) to school tomorrow.

Q.31. Complete the following conversation suitably (5)

Pepe : Hello Uncle, _____^(a)?

Balthazar : I am making a cage

Pepe : _____^(b)!

Balthazar : Would you like to buy it?

Pepe : If I had money, _____^(c).

Balthazar : Oh I see. You haven't got any money with you, _____^(d)? *have you?*

Pepe : No. _____^(e) me?

Balthazar : Of course, I will gift this cage to you.

Q.32. Fill in the blanks with suitable phrasal verbs choosing from the box given below:

(4)

We _____^(a) to the town early morning itself. It was a long way; perhaps a few kilometers. When I was tired, I _____^(b) my father and asked him to carry me on his shoulders. On the way we _____^(c) a person selling ice-creams. I asked my father to buy me an ice-cream. But he shook his head and _____^(d) my request.

turned down, put up with
turned to, set out, came across

Q.33. Read the following dialogue and answer the questions that follow:

Boy : Where do the foxes live?

Mother : Foxes live under rainbows.

(a). What did the boy ask the mother? (1)

(b). What did the mother reply? (1)

(PTO)

Q.34. Read the following sentences:

(a) Raju brought a ball and we played all afternoon.

(b) The room was warm but dark.

(c) The tourists wandered about in the garden and plucked flowers.

In the first sentence, two sentences are combined using the linker 'and'. In the second sentence, two adjectives are linked using 'but'. In the third two verb phrases are linked using 'and'.

Now frame three sentences of your own, two using 'and' and one using 'but', in the same pattern as above. **(3)**

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