

SSLC EXAMINATION, MARCH - 2014

ENGLISH

Time: 2^{1/2} Hours

Total Score: 80

Questions 1-5: Read the excerpt from the story 'Games at Twilight' and answer the questions that follow:

It then occurred to him that he could have slipped out long ago, dashed across the yard to the veranda and touched the 'den.' It was necessary to do that to win. He had forgotten. He had only remembered the part of hiding and trying to elude the seeker. He had done that successfully. With a whimper he rushed out of the shed and flung himself at the white pillar and bawled, 'Den! Den! Den!

Out of the lawn, the children stopped chanting. They all turned to stare at him in amazement. They stared, wondering at his reappearance, his passion, his wild animal howling. Their mother rose from her basket chair and came toward him, worried, annoyed, saying, 'Stop it, stop it, Ravi. Don't be a baby. Have you hurt yourself?'

Q1) What was the most necessary thing to do to win the game? 1

Q2) Which aspect of the game did Ravi alone remember? 1

Q3) How do we know that the children at play had forgotten all about Ravi? 2

Q4) Was Ravi crying? How do we know about it from the passage above? 1

Q5) Which word in the passage means 'extreme surprise'? 1

Solution:

Q1) The most necessary thing to do to win the game was to touch the 'den.'

Q2) Ravi alone remembered the aspect of hiding and trying to elude the seeker.

Q3) We know that the children had forgotten all about Ravi because they stopped chanting and stared at him in amazement when he reappeared, showing they had not been expecting him.

Q4) Yes, Ravi was crying. We know this from the words "whimper," "bawled," and "wild animal howling" in the passage.

Q5) The word in the passage that means 'extreme surprise' is "amazement."

Questions 6-9: Read the lines from the poem 'The Master' and answer the questions follow:

And he installed himself and his brushes amid the dung
and the flies,

and studied the horses - their bodies' keen alertness -
eye-sparkle of one, another's sensitive stance,

the way a third moved graceful in his bulk -

and painted at last the emperor's favourite,
the charger named 'Nightshining White,'

Whose likeness after centuries still dazzles.

Q6) Pick out the lines which show the dedication of Han Kan to his craft. [1]

Q7) How did his stay in the stables help Han Kan? [1]

Q8) What did Han Kan paint? [1]

Q9) The painting by Han Kan has stood the test of time. Which line gives you this idea? [1]

Solution:

Q6) The line "And he installed himself and his brushes amid the dung and the flies," shows Han Kan's dedication to his craft.

Q7) Han Kan's stay in the stables helped him observe the horses closely—their alertness, eye sparkle, stance, and movements—allowing him to paint them realistically.

Q8) Han Kan painted the emperor's favourite horse, 'Nightshining White.'

Q9) The line "Whose likeness after centuries still dazzles." suggests that Han Kan's painting has stood the test of time.

Questions 10-13: Read the lines from the poem 'Once Upon a Time' and answer the questions that follow:

But believe me, son.

I want to be what I used to be
when I was like you. I want
to unlearn all these muting things.
Most of all, I want to relearn
how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror
shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!

Q10) Who is the speaker in the poem and who is he speaking to? 1

Q11) The poet himself wants to change. How? 1

Q12) The poet intends to 'unlearn' and 'relearn' many things. What are they? 1

Q13) Pick out an instance of simile from the above lines. Comment on the aptness of the comparison. 1

Solution:

Q10) The speaker in the poem is a father, and he is speaking to his son.

Q11) The poet wants to change by unlearning false, mechanical behaviour and relearning genuine, heartfelt emotions.

Q12) The poet intends to 'unlearn' insincere, pretentious social habits and 'relearn' how to laugh sincerely and express true emotions.

Q13) The simile is "my laugh in the mirror shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs." The comparison is apt because it shows how the poet's laugh has become cold, artificial, and threatening, like a snake's fangs without warmth or joy.

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

A robot is a special kind of machine. It is a machine that moves and follows instructions. The instructions come from a computer. It does not usually make mistakes, doesn't get tired and it never complains unless you tell it to! Robots are all around us. Some robots are used to make things. For example, robots can help make cars. Some robots are used to explore dangerous places. For example, robots can help explore volcanoes. Some robots are used to clean things. Some robots can even recognize words and they can be used to help answer telephone calls. Some robots look like humans. But most robots do not. Most robots just look like machines.

Long ago, people imagined robots. Over 2,000 years ago, a famous poet imagined robots. The poet's name was Homer. His robots were made of gold. They cleaned things and they made things. But they were not real but imaginary. Nobody was then able to make a real robot. The first real robot was made in 1961. It was called Unimate. It was used to help make cars. It looked like a giant arm. In the future, we will have even more robots. They will do things that we can't do. Or they will do things that we don't want to do. Or they will do things that are too dangerous for us. Robots will help us fight fires. They will help us fight wars. They will help us fight sickness. They will help us discover things. They will help make life better.

Q14) What idea do you get about a robot?

Q15) Robots help us in many ways. Write two ways in which they help us?

Q16) What was the poet's imagination about robots?

Q17) When was the first real robot made? What was it called?

Q18) How will robots help us in the future?

Solution:

Q14) A robot is a special kind of machine that moves and follows instructions from a computer. It does not get tired, make mistakes, or complain.

Q15) Robots help us by:

- Making things, such as helping in car manufacturing.
- Exploring dangerous places, like volcanoes.

Q16) The poet Homer imagined robots made of gold that could clean and make things, but they were not real.

Q17) The first real robot was made in 1961 and was called Unimate. It was used to help make cars and looked like a giant arm.

Q18) In the future, robots will help fight fires, wars, and sickness, discover new things, and improve our lives.

Q19) Answer any one of the following in about 120 words.

[7]

(A) The resistance against autocratic governance is depicted in the play 'The Beggar and the King'. Prepare a brief review of the play in about 120 words highlighting the theme.

[Hints: the king represents authority - the beggar stands for the common man - king intolerant to the cries of the beggar - beggar cries for food - issues orders to kill the

beggar - the beggar overcomes the punishments - acquires strength to dethrone the king - the collective strength of the common people is greater]

OR

(B) Imagine that the speaker in the story 'The Blue Bouquet' tells you the strange experience he had while he was walking alone in the Street. What would he tell? Describe his strange experience in the words of the speaker. You may begin like this: I was staying in a hotel...

Solution:

(A) Review of 'The Beggar and the King'

The play *The Beggar and the King* by Winthrop Parkhurst portrays the resistance against autocratic rule. The King, representing absolute power, is intolerant of the Beggar's cries for food. He issues orders to silence and even kill the Beggar, but every attempt fails. The Beggar, symbolising the common man, continues to demand his rights fearlessly. Despite the King's arrogance, the Beggar's persistence grows stronger, ultimately proving that no ruler can suppress the collective strength of the people. The play highlights the idea that oppressive rulers can be overthrown when the common people unite. Through this, it delivers a powerful message about the resilience of the oppressed and the downfall of tyranny when faced with the people's will.

Q20) On the evening of the eventful day Swami gets back home and narrates the day's events to his mother. What would Swami tell her? Narrate the events in Swami's own words. You may begin like this:

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Solution:

Swami's Narration to His Mother

Mother, you won't believe what happened today! It all started when I was in school, dreading my homework as usual. But then, something unexpected happened. The headmaster was furious because someone had broken the window panes in the classroom. He questioned and punished the students harshly. I was terrified and decided I couldn't take it anymore. So, I ran away from school!

I wandered aimlessly for hours, not knowing where to go. My heart pounded with fear, and I even thought about never returning home. But as the evening approached, I felt lonely and hungry. I realised I couldn't stay away forever. So, I gathered my courage and came back. Mother, I don't think I can ever run away again!

Q21) Pepe's mother is thankful to Balthazar for gifting her son with the beautiful cage. She expresses her happiness and admiration for Balthazar's work in a letter. Draft the likely letter written by Pepe's mother addressed to Balthazar.

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Solution:

[Pepe's Mother's Letter to Balthazar]

Dear Balthazar,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the beautiful cage you gifted to my son, Pepe. It is truly a work of art, crafted with such skill and dedication. Pepe was overjoyed when he saw it, and I could see the happiness in his eyes. Your generosity and kindness in giving it to him without expecting payment show your noble heart. Your craftsmanship is remarkable, and I admire the effort you put into creating something so exquisite. It is rare to find someone who values passion over profit. Thank you once again for bringing such joy to my son. May your talent continue to bring beauty into the world.

With gratitude,
Pepe's Mother

Q22) A seminar cum photo exhibition is held in your school on the topic 'Milestones in Indian cinema'. Prepare a report of the event including details about the inauguration of the function, paper presenters, the photos exhibited etc.

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Solution:

Report on Seminar cum Photo Exhibition: 'Milestones in Indian Cinema'

Government High School, Kalaburagi, organised a seminar cum photo exhibition on Milestones in Indian Cinema on 25th February 2025. The event was inaugurated by renowned filmmaker Mr. Rajan Desai, who spoke about the evolution of Indian cinema from silent films to the digital era.

Eminent film scholars and critics presented papers on topics such as Dadasaheb Phalke and the Birth of Indian Cinema, The Golden Age of Bollywood, and Regional Cinema's Contribution to Indian Film Industry. Students actively participated in discussions, gaining valuable insights into cinema's historical and cultural significance.

The photo exhibition showcased rare images of legendary filmmakers, iconic movie posters, and behind-the-scenes moments from classic films. The event was a great success, leaving students inspired by the rich legacy of Indian cinema.

Q23) Swami speaks of his teacher Samuel as a very violent, harsh and unkind person who spares no occasion to cane his students. But as the story advances, we come across a totally different Samuel. Prepare a character sketch of Samuel.

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Solution:

Character Sketch of Samuel

Samuel, Swami's teacher in Swami and Friends by R.K. Narayan, is initially portrayed as a harsh and violent teacher. Swami describes him as someone who never misses a chance to punish students, creating an image of a strict disciplinarian. However, as the story progresses, we see a completely different side of Samuel.

He is, in fact, a patient and dedicated teacher who maintains discipline without unnecessary cruelty. When Swami arrives late, expecting severe punishment, Samuel remains calm and even gives him a chance to explain. He teaches his

students sincerely and does not resort to harsh methods unless absolutely necessary. This contrast between perception and reality highlights Swami's exaggerated fears, proving Samuel to be a firm yet fair educator rather than a ruthless figure.

Q24) Write a short profile of Nissim Ezekiel, one of the prominent figures in Indian English literature, making use of the hints given below.

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Born	:	24 December, 1924
Place of birth	:	Mumbai, India
Noted as	:	poet, playwright, critic, broadcaster, social commentator
Major works	:	Time to Change, Sixty Poems, The Unfinished Man, The Exact Name, The Three Plays
Notable poems	:	In the Theatre, The Couple, The Professor, Night of the Scorpion
Awards	:	Sahitya Akademi Award (1983) Padmashri (1988)
Died on	:	9 January 2004 (Aged 80)

Solution:

Profile of Nissim Ezekiel

Nissim Ezekiel was a prominent figure in Indian English literature, known for his contributions as a poet, playwright, critic, broadcaster, and social commentator. He was born on 24th December 1924 in Mumbai, India.

Ezekiel's major works include Time to Change, Sixty Poems, The Unfinished Man, The Exact Name, and The Three Plays. Some of his notable poems are In the Theatre, The Couple, The Professor, and Night of the Scorpion, which is widely studied for its vivid imagery and deep themes.

His literary achievements earned him prestigious awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983 and the Padmashri in 1988. He passed away on 9th January 2004 at the age of 80, leaving behind a rich legacy in Indian English poetry.

(Questions 25-29): Study the table given below and answer the questions that follow:

5×1=5

Writer	Country	Language	Category	Award
Mo Yan	China	Chinese	Short Story, Novel	Nobel Prize in Literature - 2012
Yann Martel	Canada	English	Fantasy and Adventure Novel	Man Booker Prize for Fiction-2002
Kiran Desai	India	English	Novel	Man Booker Prize for Fiction-2006
Doris Lessing	United	English	Novel, Drama, Poetry, Short Story, Memoir	Nobel Prize in Literature-2007
Seamus Heaney	Ireland	English	Poetry	Nobel Prize in Literature -1995
Peter Carey	Australia	English	Historical Novel	Man Booker Prize for Fiction-2001

Q25) Who is the Nobel Laureate in Literature in 2012?

Q26) The only Irish poet in the list is _____

Q27) What are the varieties of works written by Doris Lessing?

Q28) Name the author who won the Man Booker Prize in 2006.

Q29) Under what category can we place Yann Martel's works?

Solution:

Q25) The Nobel Laureate in Literature in 2012 is Mo Yan.

Q26) The only Irish poet in the list is Seamus Heaney.

Q27) Doris Lessing wrote novels, dramas, poetry, short stories, and memoirs.

Q28) The author who won the Man Booker Prize in 2006 is Kiran Desai.

Q29) Yann Martel's works fall under the category of Fantasy and Adventure Novel.

Q30) Look at the notice given. There are a few errors in it which are underlined. Edit the notice.

[5]

NOTICE

Our class have(a) decided to bring out a new class magazine titled 'Our Voice'. All students is (b) invited to contribute there (c) creative articles to this new endeavour. The articles should submit (d) to the chief editor in(e) or before 14 th November. For further details, please contact the chief editor.

Solution:

NOTICE

Our class **has** decided to bring out a new class magazine titled 'Our Voice'. All students **are** invited to contribute **their** creative articles to this new endeavour. The articles **should be submitted** to the chief editor **on** or before 14 th November. For further details, please contact the chief editor.

Q31) Complete the following conversation suitably.

Narrator: I had a frightful experience yesterday.

Wife: ___(a)___?

Narrator: I was attacked by a stranger. ___(b)___.

Wife: Your eyes! What for?

Narrator: To gift to his lover.

Wife: Eyes! For his lover? Sounds strange.

Narrator: If I had blue eyes, he ___(c)___.

Wife: Thank god. You shouted for help, ___(d)___?

Narrator: There was not a single soul in the street. Somehow I returned to my hotel room. I want to get away from here at the earliest.

Wife: You had better ___(e)___.

Solution:

(a) What happened?

(b) He wanted to take my eyes.

(c) would have taken them.

(d) didn't you?

(e) leave this place soon.

Q32) Fill in the blanks with suitable phrasal verbs choosing from the box given below: [4]

One morning, Swami ___(a)___his uniform and started to school. On his way a stray dog ___(b)___ him. Swami ran very fast calling out for help. The people around could not ___(c)___ what he was shouting for. Poor Swami was again late for school. Samuel, his teacher could not ___(d)___ this and warned him for being late.

went for	gave up	make out	put up with	put on
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Solution:

One morning, Swami **put on** his uniform and started to school. On his way, a stray dog **went for** him. Swami ran very fast, calling out for help. The people around could not **make out** what he was shouting for. Poor Swami was again late for school. Samuel, his teacher, could not **put up with** this and warned him for being late.

Q33) Read the following dialogue and answer the questions that follow:

Boy: Why did the fox come here?

Mother: The fox came here to give this baton.

a) What did the boy ask the mother? [1]

b) What did the mother reply? [1]

Solution:

(a) The boy asked the mother why the fox had come there.

(b) The mother replied that the fox had come there to give the baton.

Q34) Read the following sentences:

a) My sister played the music and I danced to the tune.

b) The Principal was strict but gentle.

c) The boys went to the ground and practised their play.

In the first sentences, 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 of them using 'and' and one using 'but' as in the same pattern as above. [3]

Solution:

(a) She cooked the food and I set the table. (Two sentences combined using 'and')

(b) The teacher was kind but firm. (Two adjectives linked using 'but')

(c) They finished their homework and went out to play. (Two verb phrases linked using 'and')