

# SSLC EXAMINATION, MARCH – 2015

## ENGLISH

Time: 2<sup>1/2</sup> Hours

Total Score: 80

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.

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

**Solution:**

1. The marvellous thing to Jose Montiel's wife was Balthazar's beautifully crafted cage.

2. Jose Montiel remained indifferent to Balthazar's achievement and showed no excitement.

3. According to Jose Montiel's wife, the living room would turn into a 'grandstand' if the crowd gathered outside rushed inside to see the cage.

4. The word that means 'sleep taken in the early afternoon' is "siesta."

5. The two qualities of Balthazar mentioned in the passage are:

- Skill (as he was called for carpentry jobs)
- Forthrightness (his direct way of dealing with people)

6. The sentence that shows Balthazar's attitude towards rich people is: "But he never felt at ease among the rich."

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

**Solution:**

7. The steady rain for ten hours made the scorpion hide under the sack of rice.
8. The visual image used to show the devilish nature of the scorpion is "flash of diabolic tail in the dark room."
9. The expression that conveys the idea that the scorpion stung the mother is "Parting with his poison."
10. The instance of simile used in the lines above is "The peasants came like swarms of flies."

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

**Solution:**

11. The speaker can't help people in misery because he himself is poor and has empty hands despite having a heart full of kindness.

12. The poet cannot admire the great statue because there are starving people suffering at its feet.

13. The poet describes the park's green tree as a "roof for homeless misery," highlighting the contrast between nature's beauty and human suffering.

14. The rhyme scheme followed in the poem is AABB.

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

**Solution:**

15. Jagadananda Roy taught Mathematics at the Santiniketan school.

16. Jagadananda Roy refused to obey Tagore's instruction when he was asked to release a student from his class for a play rehearsal.

17. Tagore solved the issue by suggesting that the only way Jagadananda would release the boy was by making him part of the play.

18. The teachers of Santiniketan were embarrassed because Jagadananda Roy rudely refused to send the student for the rehearsal.

19. The word that means 'someone that you work with' is "colleague."

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)

**Solution:**

**(A) Narration of 'Blue Bouquet'**

I was staying in a hotel when I decided to go out for a walk despite the hotel keeper's warning. The night was calm and beautiful, with the scent of flowers in the air. I wandered through the dark streets, enjoying the silence. Suddenly, I sensed someone following me. A stranger appeared and blocked my way. He held a knife and demanded my eyes! Terrified, I tried to escape, but he was determined. He examined my eyes closely, muttering about needing blue ones. Luckily, he realised mine were not blue. With a sigh, he vanished into the darkness. Shaken, I rushed back to my hotel, now understanding the keeper's warning.

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

**Solution:**

Samuel, in Father's Help, is portrayed differently by Swami and in reality.

**Swami's Portrayal:** Swami describes Samuel as a harsh and violent teacher. He tells his father that Samuel is bad-tempered, punishes students severely, and is always angry. Swami exaggerates his claims to avoid going to school, making Samuel seem like a cruel teacher.

**The Real Samuel:** In reality, Samuel is a kind and considerate teacher. He patiently waits for Swami, does not scold him for being late, and even teaches with dedication. He treats students fairly, disproving Swami's false accusations.

The contrast shows how Swami manipulates the truth to suit his interests, while Samuel is actually a responsible and caring teacher.

22. You are asked to speak in your school assembly on the topic, 'Disappearing public spaces'. 5

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.

**Solution:**

**Disappearing Public Spaces**

Good morning everyone,  
 Today, I want to talk about the importance of public spaces, especially tea shops, in Kerala society. Tea shops are more than just places for refreshment; they serve as hubs of communal harmony and social interaction. People from all walks of life—farmers, workers, traders, and intellectuals—gather here to discuss politics, culture, and everyday life. These spaces foster unity, breaking barriers of caste, class, and religion.

However, modernisation and urbanisation are causing these spaces to disappear. As we lose them, we also lose opportunities for dialogue and togetherness. It is important to preserve and promote such spaces to maintain social harmony and community bonding.

Thank you.

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

### **Solution:**

Government High School, Kalaburagi  
 Film Club Notice

🎬 Children's Film Festival – Grand Inauguration 🎬 ✨

The Film Club is delighted to announce a Children's Film Festival, showcasing inspiring and entertaining films for young minds.

📅 Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March

🕒 Time: 11.00 a.m.

📍 Venue: School Auditorium

🎤 Chief Guest: Sri. M. T. Vasudevan Nair (Renowned Writer & Filmmaker)

Join us for an unforgettable cinematic experience! All students and teachers are invited to attend the inaugural ceremony.

🎬 Film screenings to follow after the inauguration.

Signed  
 Mohan Nair  
 Secretary, Film Club  
 25<sup>th</sup> February

24. Imagine that you make a visit to Balthazar's home to buy the cage. Write the likely conversation between Balthazar and you.

5

**Solution:**

Conversation Between Balthazar and Me

**Me:** Good afternoon, sir! I heard about your beautifully crafted cage and would love to buy one. Do you have any available?

**Balthazar:** Good afternoon! Yes, I just made a special one, but it was for a customer. What kind of cage are you looking for?

**Me:** Something strong yet artistic, like the one everyone is talking about. How much would it cost?

**Balthazar:** That particular cage was quite special. I put a lot of effort into it. Normally, a cage costs a few pesos, but this one was worth much more.

**Me:** I can see that! Would you be willing to make a similar one for me?

**Balthazar:** Of course! It will take a couple of days, but I promise you'll love it.

**Me:** That sounds great! I'll come back to collect it. Thank you, Balthazar!

**Balthazar:** You're welcome! See you soon.

25. Prepare a profile of Sri. K. Satchidanandan, poet and critic writing in Malayalam and English, using the details given below:

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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)

**Solution:**

**Profile: Sri. K. Satchidanandan**

Sri. K. Satchidanandan is a renowned poet and critic who writes in both Malayalam and English. He was born on 28 May 1946 in Pulloot, Kodungallur, Kerala. He pursued his education at Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, and later obtained a PhD from Calicut University.

His career includes serving as a Professor at Christ College, Irinjalakuda, Editor of Indian Literature, and Secretary of the Kendra Sahitya Akademi. Some of his notable works include Anchu Sooryan (1971), Venal Mazha (1982), Ivanekoodi (1987), Kavibudhan (1992), and Mukhamukham (2006).

For his contributions to literature, he has received several awards, including the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award (1989) and the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award (2012).

26. Prepare a summary of the film, 'Sunshine through the Rain' by sequencing and developing the hints given below.

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- 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

**Solution:**

#### **Summary of Sunshine Through the Rain**

A young boy stands on the veranda, watching the rain as the sun shines, creating a mystical atmosphere. His mother warns him not to go out, saying that foxes hold their wedding during such weather and do not like to be seen. However, the boy sneaks out into the forest and hides behind a tree, where he watches the foxes' wedding in a secret ceremony.

Realising he has witnessed something forbidden, he rushes home, but his mother shuts the door, telling him that a fox has come and left a dagger, meaning he must now seek forgiveness. With no choice, the boy walks to the valley of rainbows, beginning his uncertain journey.

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

**Solution:**

27. 'Malgudi days' is a book written by an Indian author R K Narayan.  
 28. Penguin has presented two titles: Malgudi days and Living to tell the tale.  
 29. Octavio Paz is the only poet out of the above authors.  
 30. Anton Chekov authored 6 One Act Plays.  
 31. The book 'The Seven Samurai' has a world famous film as its title.

32. The banker and the young lawyer are talking about capital punishment. Read the dialogue between them and complete it suitably. 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)\_\_\_

**Solution:**



- (a) do you?
- (b) Are you sure about your decision?
- (c) how would you survive such loneliness?
- (d) Why are you taking such a risk?
- (e) the more convinced I am that the death penalty is justified.

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.

**Solution:**

I **lied** to my father yesterday. I had to face all sorts of problems because of that. When I reached the school, Samuel sir **was taking** the class. He asked me **why I was** late. Again, I had to lie and told him that I had a headache. I was **surprised** 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.

**Solution:**

Pen  
 A pen  
 A blue pen  
 A blue pen with a silver cap  
 A blue pen with a silver cap that writes smoothly

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

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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**Solution:**

Mother **turned down** the children's plea for going out and playing. Finally, they were allowed to play within the compound. They **set out** to play hide and seek. Ravi

hid in a shed and could not **make out** what was happening outside. When he came out, the other children had **given up** hide and seek and had started another game.

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? 1

(b) What was Watson's reply? 1

**Solution:**

(a) Holmes asked Watson whether he thought their visitor was a doctor.

(b) Watson replied that there was a possibility of it being so.