

SSLC EXAMINATION, MARCH – 2016

ENGLISH

Time: 2^{1/2} Hours

Total Score: 80

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

1×5=5

'He is very violent, especially with boys who come late. Some days ago a boy was made to stay on his knees for a whole period in a corner of the class because he came late and that too after getting six cuts from the cane and having his ears twisted. I wouldn't like to go late to Samuel's class.'

'If he's so violent, why not tell your headmaster about it?'

'They say that even the headmaster is afraid of him. He is such a violent man.' 'He is very violent, especially with boys who come late.'

And then Swami gave a lurid account of Samuel's violence; how when he started caning he would not stop till he saw blood on the boy's hand, which he made the boy press to his forehead like a vermilion marking. Swami hoped that with this his father would be made to see that he couldn't go to his class late. But Father's behaviour took an unexpected turn.

1. Mention the context of the conversation between Swami and his father.
2. How did Samuel punish the boy besides caning?
3. What was Swami's lurid account of Samuel's violence?
4. What did Swami think his father would do?
5. What was the 'unexpected turn' referred to in this passage?

Solution:

1. Swami was trying to convince his father that he should not go to school late because his teacher, Samuel, was very violent. He exaggerated Samuel's strictness, hoping his father would allow him to stay home.
2. Besides caning, Samuel punished the boy by making him stay on his knees for a whole period in a corner of the class and twisting his ears.
3. Swami claimed that Samuel would not stop caning until he saw blood on a boy's hand, which he then forced the boy to press to his forehead like a vermilion mark.
4. Swami thought that his father would be convinced by his exaggerated story and excuse him from going to school late.
5. The 'unexpected turn' was that instead of allowing Swami to stay home, his father wrote a complaint letter to the headmaster about Samuel's harsh punishments and insisted that Swami deliver it himself.

Questions 6-9: Read the lines from 'Night of the Scorpion' and answer the questions that follow:

1×4=4

My mother twisted through and through,
 groaning on a mat.
 My father, sceptic, rationalist,
 trying every curse and blessing,
 powder, mixture, herb and hybrid.
 He even poured a little paraffin
 upon the bitten toe and put a match to it.
 I watched the flame feeding on my mother.
 I watched the holy man perform his rites
 to tame the poison with an incantation.
 After twenty hours it lost its sting.

6. What are the phrases used by the poet to present the mother's pain?
7. What did the father do to bring down the pain suffered by the mother?
8. What did the holy man do?
9. When was the mother relieved of her pains?

Solution:

6. The poet uses phrases like "twisted through and through" and "groaning on a mat" to depict the mother's intense pain.
7. The father, despite being a sceptic and rationalist, tried every possible remedy, including curses, blessings, powders, mixtures, herbs, and hybrids. He even poured paraffin on the bitten toe and set it on fire, hoping to counteract the poison.
8. The holy man performed rituals and recited incantations in an attempt to neutralise the poison.
9. The mother was relieved of her pain after twenty hours when the poison lost its sting.

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

1×4=4

When Han Kan was summoned
 to the imperial capital
 it was suggested he sit at the feet of
 the illustrious senior court painter
 to learn from him the refinements of the art.
 'No, thank you,' he replied,
 'I shall apprentice myself to the stables.'

10. Where was Han Kan called to?
11. What was Han Kan supposed to learn from the senior court painter?
12. What does the word 'illustrious' refer to in these lines?
13. What was the decision of Han Kan?

Solution:

10. Han Kan was called to the imperial capital.

11. Han Kan was supposed to learn the refinements of art from the senior court painter.
12. The word "illustrious" refers to someone who is highly respected, famous, and distinguished in their field—in this case, the senior court painter.
13. Han Kan decided to apprentice himself to the stables instead of learning from the senior court painter.

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

5×1=5

Studies show that animals are quite intelligent and sensitive. But, we humans often think that our minds separate us from other animals.

Animal intelligence is not found only in mammals alone. It can be found in other animals, such as birds too. Our 'feathered friends' can be very smart. Some of them can solve puzzles. For example, ravens can untie knots. Some birds can use tools. Some crows, for example, use twigs as spears. Some birds can even use our language. An African Grey Parrot named 'Alex' does more than just imitate human sounds. This parrot can name dozens of objects. It also seems to understand the ideas of 'same', 'different' and 'amount'.

Animals are able to feel emotion too. This ability can be painful for them as it is for humans. For example, some baboons live in groups, where the leaders control through fear. Low-ranking baboons live in a constant state of stress. This stress can cause health problems, just as it does in humans.

14. Which of the following points does not support the idea that birds are smart?

- (A) Some birds can solve puzzles.
- (B) Some birds are not intelligent and sensitive.
- (C) Some birds can use our language.
- (D) Some birds can use tools.

15. Identify from the passage, which group of animals does 'Alex' belong to?

- (A) Baboons
- (B) Crows
- (C) African Grey Parrot
- (D) Ravens

16. The 'feathered friends' mentioned in the passage means -

17. What, according to the writer, is one of the causes of health problems in humans?

18. What misconception does humans have with regard to their superiority against other beings?

Solution:

14. (B) Some birds are not intelligent and sensitive.

15. (C) African Grey Parrot.

16. The phrase "feathered friends" refers to birds.

17. According to the writer, stress is one of the causes of health problems in humans, similar to low-ranking baboons who suffer from constant stress.

18. Humans often believe that their minds separate them from other animals, assuming superiority over them.

19. Answer any one of the following in about 120 words. You may use the hints given along with them.

7

(A) 'Eating habits reflect the life of a society and its economy'. Discuss this topic in the light of the article 'Tea-shops in Malayalam Cinema' and prepare a write-up to be published in the school magazine.

(Hints: Panthibhojanam - caste-ridden society in Kerala - tea-shops helped in mixed eating-tea-shops accelerated the social transformation-films use tea-shop as a public space)

OR

(B) You are a news reporter staying at the same hotel where the narrator in the story 'The Blue Bouquet' was also staying. You heard about the encounter between the narrator and a stranger in the street. Prepare a news report based on the incidents in the story.

[Hints : hotelier's warning against night-walk - narrator goes out - deserted street no streetlights - feels somebody following - demands eyes for his sweetheart - for a blue bouquet - looks at the narrator's eyes- strange experience...]

Solution:

Tea shops in Malayalam Cinema

Eating habits reflect the life of a society and its economy. In Kerala, traditional caste divisions restricted people from eating together, a practice known as Panthibhojanam was introduced to break such barriers. Tea-shops played a crucial role in this transformation by serving as public spaces where people from different backgrounds could sit and eat together.

These tea-shops became symbols of social equality and change, gradually breaking the rigid caste system. Malayalam cinema has often depicted tea-shops as places where people discuss politics, social issues, and daily life, highlighting their importance in Kerala's social evolution.

Thus, food habits are more than just about survival; they reflect cultural shifts, economic conditions, and the progressive changes within a society.

20. Given below are some events from the story 'Balthazar's Marvellous Afternoon'. Arrange them in sequence and write a paragraph.

6

- How much will you charge ?' Ursula asked.
- 'It's sold,' said Ursula.
- 'Fine. Then I'll take it,' said Doctor Octavio Giraldo.
- A lot of people including the doctor also came to see the cage.
- 'I am going to ask for thirty pesos,' replied Balthazar.
- Balthazar took the cage to Jose Montiel's house.
- The cage was finished and Balthazar hung it under the eaves.

Solution:

After finishing the beautiful cage, Balthazar hung it under the eaves. Many people, including Doctor Octavio Giraldo, came to see it. Ursula, Balthazar's wife, asked how much he would charge for it. Balthazar replied that he was going to ask for thirty pesos. The doctor was impressed and decided to buy it, saying, "Fine. Then I'll take it." However, Ursula immediately declared, "It's sold." Later, Balthazar took the cage to José Montiel's house, expecting to receive payment for his craftsmanship.

21. The Literary Club of your school is organizing a review writing competition. Those who wish to participate should write a review of the play 'The Beggar and the King' as a screening test. Consider yourself a participant and draft a brief review. (beggar cries for food - king becomes intolerant - orders to kill the beggar - acquires strength to dethrone the king-the king represents authority, the beggar the common man- the collective strength of the common people)

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Solution:

Review of the Play 'The Beggar and the King'

The Beggar and the King is a thought-provoking play that symbolically portrays the conflict between authority and the common people. The story revolves around a beggar who persistently cries for food outside the king's palace. The king, annoyed by his cries, orders his servants to silence him, even going to the extent of commanding his execution. However, the beggar remains unfazed, showing an unusual strength that challenges the king's authority.

The play highlights the power dynamics between rulers and the oppressed, suggesting that the collective strength of the common people can overthrow even the mightiest rulers. The king represents tyranny, while the beggar symbolises the voice of the masses. With its simple yet impactful narrative, the play effectively conveys a strong message about social justice and power struggles.

22. The Film Club of your school is going to organize a children's film festival titled 'Monsoon Mania'. Dr. C. S. Venkitesawaran and Resul Pookutty will be the chief guests of its inaugural ceremony. The films going to be screened include 'The Colour of Paradise' and 'Children of Heaven'. Add more details of your own and draft a notice for circulation.

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Solution:


Government High School, Kalaburagi
Film Club Notice

🎬🗓️ Monsoon Mania – A Children's Film Festival 🎥💡

The Film Club of our school is excited to announce 'Monsoon Mania', a special Children's Film Festival, featuring award-winning films that capture the innocence and beauty of childhood.

📅 Date: 24th February

 Time: 11 a.m.
 Venue: School Auditorium


 Films to be screened:

The Colour of Paradise
 Children of Heaven
 [Add more films if needed]

 Special Guests:

We are honoured to welcome Dr. C. S. Venkiteswaran, renowned film critic, and Resul Pookutty, Oscar-winning sound designer, as our chief guests for the inaugural ceremony.

All students and teachers are invited to attend this exciting festival and experience the magic of cinema!

 For more details, contact: Ayush Badoni

- Film Club Coordinator
 20th February

23. Imagine that a few days after the horrifying incident, the stranger of the story 'The Blue Bouquet' writes a letter to the narrator seeking apology for his rude behaviour in the street. What would be the letter like? Write the letter.

6

Solution:

Johnson Street, London
 20th February

Dear Sir,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. I am writing to express my sincere apologies for the terrifying encounter you had with me that night in the street. Looking back, I deeply regret my actions and the fear I must have caused you. It was never my intention to harm you, but desperation clouded my judgment. I was blinded by an absurd belief, and in that moment, I failed to see how cruel and unreasonable my behaviour was. Your words and the way you handled the situation made me realise my mistake, and I am truly sorry for putting you through such distress.

Please accept my heartfelt apology. I understand if my actions are unforgivable, but I wanted to let you know that I have reflected on my wrongdoing and will never repeat such an act again. I hope you can move past this unfortunate incident and that life brings you kindness and peace.

Wishing you all the best,
 Adam (Stranger)

24. Write a short profile of Svetlana Alexievich, the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature for the year 2014. Make use of the details given below.

6

Born: 31 May 1948

Career: Investigative journalist and non-fiction prose writer

Language: Russian

Language: Russian

Nobel Prize motivation: 'her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time

Other works: War's Unwomanly Face (1984),

The last witnesses: The Book of Unchildlike Stories, Voices from Chernobyl, Secondhand Time, Enchanted with Death (1993)

Awards: Order of the Badge of Honour, National Books Critics Circle Award

Speciality: First journalist to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature

Solution:

Svetlana Alexievich – A Literary Icon

Svetlana Alexievich, born on 31 May 1948, is a renowned investigative journalist and non-fiction prose writer. She writes in Russian and is known for her unique polyphonic style, which captures the voices of ordinary people and presents a deep emotional narrative of historical events.

In 2014, she won the Nobel Prize for Literature for "her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time." She is the first journalist to receive this prestigious award. Her notable works include War's Unwomanly Face (1984), The Last Witnesses, Voices from Chernobyl, Secondhand Time, and Enchanted with Death (1993).

She has also been honoured with several awards, including the Order of the Badge of Honour and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Through her writings, Alexievich has documented human suffering and resilience, making her a significant literary voice of our time.

Questions 25-29: Read the newspaper headlines given below and answer the questions that follow:

5×1=5

(A) GREENING MISSION GREAT SUCCESS

(B) INSTITUTIONS URGED TO CONDUCT CARBON AUDIT

(C) ENGLAND CONSIDERS THIRD SPINNER OPTION

(D) NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTEM BY MARCH

(E) SPEED THRILLS BUT KILLS

25. Which headline reports a space science achievement?

26. Pick out the headline associated with sports and games.

27. Select the headline that warns of accidents.

28. Find out the headline that speaks about planting trees.

29. Which headline is connected with pollution control?

Solution:

25. D) NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTEM BY MARCH
 26. C) ENGLAND CONSIDERS THIRD SPINNER OPTION
 27. E) SPEED THRILLS BUT KILLS
 28. A) GREENING MISSION GREAT SUCCESS
 29. B) INSTITUTIONS URGED TO CONDUCT CARBON AUDIT

30. The following is a notice to students about classroom manners. But there are certain errors crept in while printing, which are underlined. Edit the notice.

4

All students are requested to be on (a) the class by 9:30 a.m. When the teacher enters the class, students should stood up (b) and wish the teacher. Each student should respond to the roll call standing up and then sit down quitely (c). If a student is late by any emergency, she/he are (d) free to seek permission of the teacher to enter the class.

Solution:

All students are requested to be in (a) the class by 9:30 a.m. When the teacher enters the class, students should stand up (b) and wish the teacher. Each student should respond to the roll call standing up and then sit down quietly (c). If a student is late due to any emergency, she/he is (d) free to seek permission from the teacher to enter the class.

31. Complete the following conversation suitably:

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Hotelkeeper: _____ (a) ?

Narrator: Out in the street. It is too hot to stay in my room.

Hotelkeeper: But we don't have any streetlights there.

You'd better _____ (b)

Narrator: I will be right back.

(In the street)

Stranger: Don't move, señor, or you're dead.

Narrator: _____ (c) ?

Stranger: I want your eyes, señor.

Narrator: _____ (d) ?

Stranger: It's my sweetheart's idea. She'd like to have a bouquet of blue eyes.

Narrator: My eyes are not blue, _____ (e) ?

Solution:

Hotelkeeper: **Where are you going at this hour** (a)?

Narrator: Out in the street. It is too hot to stay in my room.

Hotelkeeper: But we don't have any streetlights there.

You'd better **stay inside for your safety** (b).

Narrator: I will be right back.

(In the street)

Stranger: Don't move, señor, or you're dead.

Narrator: **What do you want from me** (c)?

Stranger: I want your eyes, señor.

Narrator: **Why do you need my eyes** (d)?

Stranger: It's my sweetheart's idea. She'd like to have a bouquet of blue eyes.

Narrator: My eyes are not blue, **are they** (e)?

32. Read the dialogue given below and answer the questions that follow:

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Banker: What kind of punishment is better ?

Lawyer: Both the punishments are immoral.

(a) What did the banker ask the lawyer?

(b) What did the lawyer reply?

Solution:

(a) The banker asked the lawyer which kind of punishment is better.

(b) The lawyer replied that both punishments are immoral.

33. Fill in the blanks with suitable forms of phrasal verbs from the box given below:

4

The results of the annual exam have been ____ (a) on the notice board of the school.

Mira reached home and ____ (b) her uniform, and ____ (c) to school. She checked the results and informed her classmate Ravi that he had ____ (d) the examination.

set off, get through, put up, put on, put up with

Solution:

(a) put up

(b) put on

(c) set off

(d) got through

34. Look at the following word pyramid.

Eyes

The eyes

The blue eyes

The blue eyes of my friend

The blue eyes of my friend in the picture

Now, construct a word pyramid in the above pattern using the word, 'Mother'.

Solution:

Mother

My mother

My kind mother

My kind mother loves me

My kind mother loves me dearly