

# SSLC EXAMINATION, MARCH – 2018

## ENGLISH

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

Total Score: 80

Questions 1-6. Read the following excerpt from 'The Scholarship Jacket' and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries one score.

1×6=6

We couldn't participate in sports at school because there were registration fees, uniform costs, and trips out of town; so, even though our family was quite agile and athletic there would never be a school sports jacket for us. This one, the scholarship jacket, was our only chance.

In May, close to graduation, spring fever had struck as usual with a vengeance. No one paid any attention in class; instead we stared out of the windows and at each other, wanting to speed up the last few weeks of school. I despaired every time I looked in the mirror. Pencil thin, not a curve anywhere. I was called 'beanpole' and 'string bean' and I knew that's what I looked like. That really wasn't much for a fourteen-year-old to work with, I thought, as I absentmindedly wandered from my history class to the gym....

1. Why couldn't the narrator participate in sports at school?
2. Pick out the sentence which tells us that the narrator was athletic by nature.
3. 'No one paid any attention in class; instead we stared out of the windows and at each other...' Why does the narrator say so?
4. Why did the narrator feel despair every time she looked into the mirror?
5. Find out the word from the passage which means 'the ability to move quickly.'
6. What were the narrator's nicknames?

**Solution:**

1. The narrator couldn't participate in sports at school because there were registration fees, uniform costs, and travel expenses, which her family couldn't afford.
2. "Even though our family was quite agile and athletic there would never be a school sports jacket for us."
3. The narrator says so because it was nearing graduation, and spring fever made students restless and distracted, eager for the school year to end.
4. The narrator felt despair because she was very thin and lacked curves, leading to teasing and making her feel self-conscious.
5. The word is "agile."
6. The narrator's nicknames were "beanpole" and "string bean."

Questions 7 to 10. Read the lines from 'Mother to Son' and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries one score.

1×4=4

Well, son, I'll tell you :  
 Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.  
     It's had tacks in it,  
     And splinters,  
     And boards torn up,  
 And places with no carpet on the floor-  
     Bare.  
     But all the time  
 I've 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.

7. Who is the 'I' referred to here?
8. What does the speaker compare her life to?
9. What is the speaker's advice to her son?
10. What impression do you get about the speaker from these lines?

**Solution:**

7. The 'I' referred to here is the mother.
  8. The speaker compares her life to a staircase that is rough and difficult to climb, with tacks, splinters, and missing boards.
  9. The speaker advises her son not to give up despite hardships and to keep moving forward with determination.
  10. The speaker appears to be strong, resilient, and determined, having faced many struggles but never giving up.
11. Read the lines from the poem 'The School Boy' and attempt a brief appreciation focusing on the theme and the poetic devices used by William Blake.

5

How can the bird that is born for joy  
     Sit in a cage and sing?  
 How can a child, when fears annoy,  
     But droop his tender wing,  
     And forget his youthful spring!  
 O father and mother if buds are nipped,  
     And blossoms blown away;  
 And if the tender plants are stripped  
     Of their joy in the springing day,  
     By Sorrow and care's dismay,-  
 How shall the summer arise in joy,  
     Or the summer fruits appear?  
 Or how shall we gather what griefs destroy,

Or bless the mellowing year,  
When the blasts of winter appear?

**Solution:**

William Blake's poem *The School Boy* presents the theme of lost childhood freedom and the negative impact of forced education. The poet compares a child to a caged bird, suggesting that just as a bird cannot sing joyfully in captivity, a child cannot thrive under fear and restriction. The imagery of "buds nipped" and "blossoms blown away" symbolises how rigid schooling stifles a child's natural growth and happiness.

Blake uses rhetorical questions to emphasise the sorrow of a constrained childhood. Metaphors like "tender wing" and "blasts of winter" highlight the contrast between youthful joy and the harsh effects of oppression. The poem's melancholic tone and natural imagery reinforce its central message: childhood should be a time of joy and freedom, not fear and restraint.

Questions 12-16. Read the following story and answer the questions given below.  
Each question carries one score.

1×5=5

There was a time when all house-work was done by the women or girls in the family. Few husbands never dreamt of washing up, preparing breakfast or attending the baby. Such duties were no concern of theirs. And the normal school boy assumed that if help were needed at home, his sisters would be called on to give it. The whole family supported the view that the male child could not or should not clean, mend, wash, cook or make beds.

Things are very different today. Doctors, barristers or managers find nothing shameful in putting on an apron to help in the kitchen or nursery and even boast of being good at washing clothes and personal linen. The school boy is more often expected to help his mother now.

One reason for the change is the shortage of domestic servants. Girls could once be found to do the hard work in middle and upper class homes. Such girls now-a-days either go to schools or work in factories. Thus, the wife now does the household work with the aid of labour saving machines, and she expects some help from her husband and children.

12. Who usually did all house work in the past?
13. Certain household work were not done by men in the past. What were they?
14. How did the whole family view the male child?
15. The writer says that things are different now. How?
16. What is the reason for the change in men's attitude towards household work?

**Solution:**

12. In the past, all housework was usually done by the women or girls in the family.
13. Men in the past did not wash up, prepare breakfast, attend to the baby, clean, mend, wash, cook, or make beds.
14. The whole family believed that the male child could not or should not do household chores.

15. Now, men, including professionals like doctors and managers, help with household work and even take pride in it.
16. The change is due to the shortage of domestic servants, as more girls now attend school or work in factories.

Questions 17-21. Given below is the list of recipients of Bharat Ratna. Study the table and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries one score.

1×5=5

Year	Recipients	Field	Year
1990	Nelson Mandela	International politics	1990
1997	Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam	Science and Technology	1997
1999	Dr. Amartya Sen	Economics	1999
2001	Lata Mangeshkar	Music	2001
2014	Sachin Tendulkar	Sports	2014

17. Dr. Amartya Sen was given the Bharat Ratna for his contributions in \_\_\_\_\_.
18. The playback singer who was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2001 is \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Who has been awarded the Bharat Ratna for his contributions to International Politics?
20. The sportsperson who was given the Bharat Ratna is \_\_\_\_\_.
21. The former President of India was awarded the Bharat Ratna for his contributions in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Solution:**

17. Dr. Amartya Sen was given the Bharat Ratna for his contributions in **Economics**.
18. The playback singer who was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2001 is **Lata Mangeshkar**.
19. Nelson Mandela has been awarded the Bharat Ratna for his contributions to International Politics.
20. The sportsperson who was given the Bharat Ratna is **Sachin Tendulkar**.
21. The former President of India was awarded the Bharat Ratna for his contributions in **Science and Technology**.

Questions 22-23. Answer any ONE of the following in about 120 words.

7×1=7

22. According to Satyajit Ray, shooting a scene with an animal is a difficult task. He narrates one such experience in 'Project Tiger'. Prepare a write - up, detailing the

difficulties Ray faced in shooting the scene with a tiger for the film 'Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne'.

(Hints: Scene with a tiger - approaches Bharat Circus Company - tiger brought to the bamboo grove - difficult to control the tiger - tiger calms down - shoots the scene - too dark - retake)

23. Mr. John's life underwent a complete change after he was rescued from his suicide attempt. Prepare a narrative describing the incidents in Mr. John's life.

(Hints: an orphan - looked after by his uncle - a victim of bad company - steals money from office shelf - tries to return the money - fails - suicide attempt - the landlady, the sergeant and the doctor help - becomes a charity worker)

### **Solution:**

#### **23. A New Beginning for Mr. John**

Mr. John had always felt the weight of loneliness. An orphan from a young age, he was raised by his uncle, who did his best to provide for him. However, as John grew older, he fell into bad company. The friends he trusted led him astray, and soon he found himself entangled in wrongdoing.

One fateful evening, desperate and misguided, John stole money from the office shelf. The guilt consumed him, and he decided to return the stolen money. But before he could do so, he was caught, leaving him in despair. Feeling hopeless and ashamed, he saw no way out and attempted to take his own life.

Fortunately, fate had other plans. His landlady, sensing something was wrong, intervened just in time. She called the sergeant, who, along with a doctor, saved John's life. Their kindness and support gave him a new perspective, making him realise that mistakes did not define a person—what mattered was the will to change.

Determined to turn his life around, John dedicated himself to helping others. He became a charity worker, using his experiences to guide and support those in need. His life, once filled with despair, became a beacon of hope for many. Through compassion and resilience, he proved that redemption was always possible.

Questions 24-26. Answer any two of the following. Each question carries five scores.  
5×2=10

24. The Homeopath in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' was not even able to cry out, when the snake landed on his shoulder. The doctor sat like a stone image. Later, he wrote his feelings in his diary. What would the diary entry be? Write it.

25. The English Club of your school has decided to prepare and stage a play based on the story 'Adolf'. Draft a notice inviting all teachers and students to watch the play.

26. Vanka writes a letter to his grandfather detailing his sufferings at the shoemaker's house. Imagine that you meet Vanka after he posted the letter. Write the likely conversation between Vanka and you. (Write at least five exchanges.)

### **Solution:**

24. Diary Entry – The Snake and the Mirror  
10th June, 9:30 PM




What a terrifying night! I never imagined I would come so close to death. As I sat admiring myself in the mirror, lost in thoughts of my future, fate had other plans. Out of nowhere, a snake fell onto my shoulder and coiled around my arm. My entire body froze—I couldn't even cry out for help. I sat like a lifeless statue, feeling my heart pound in terror.

I dared not move. The snake's cold body pressed against mine, its hood spread out. My only thought was: Is this the end? But just when I had lost all hope, it turned its gaze to the mirror and slowly slithered away. That moment was a gift of life, a second chance. I will never forget this night—nor will I ever sit admiring myself so vainly again!

25. Notice – English Club Play Announcement  
 Government High School, Kalaburagi  
 English Club Presents – A Stage Play Based on 'Adolf'

Dear Students and Teachers,

The English Club is excited to present a stage adaptation of the heartwarming story Adolf. Join us for an evening filled with emotions, friendship, and the unbreakable bond between a boy and his pet squirrel.

-  Date: [Insert Date]
-  Time: [Insert Time]
-  Venue: School Auditorium

Come and witness this touching tale brought to life on stage. We look forward to your support and enthusiasm!

- English Club Coordinator

Questions 27 - 31. Answer any three of the following. Each question carries six scores.

6×3=18

27. Write a short profile of Majid Majidi using the details given below:

Born: April 17, 1959

Occupation: Film director, producer and screenwriter

Place of birth: Tehran, Iran

Nationality: Iranian

Notable works: The Color of Paradise, The Song of Sparrows, Children of Heaven

Awards and honours: Grand Pix of America Best Award in 1999

Nominated for Academy Award in 1998

28. Martha was shocked when the principal informed her that the policy regarding the scholarship jacket had been changed that year. But finally she won it. Imagine

that she writes a letter to her friend describing her experiences. Draft the likely letter.

29. 'A single story about something won't give you a clear picture of it.' Do you agree with the statement? Write a paragraph supporting your answer using the points from the speech 'The Danger of a Single Story'.

30. Think-Tank is an amusing character in the play 'The Book that Saved the Earth'. He enjoys his power as the commander-in-chief. Attempt a character sketch of Think-Tank.

31. The story 'Vanka' hints at the troubles faced by a poor child. Your school conducts a seminar on 'the problems faced by children today' in the light of the story 'Vanka'. Prepare a report of the seminar focussing on the points discussed.

### **Solution:**

#### **27. Short Profile of Majid Majidi**

Majid Majidi is a renowned Iranian film director, producer, and screenwriter, born on April 17, 1959, in Tehran, Iran. He is known for his deeply emotional and realistic storytelling, often focusing on themes of childhood, family, and human struggles. Some of his most notable works include *The Color of Paradise*, *The Song of Sparrows*, and *Children of Heaven*. His contributions to cinema have earned him prestigious accolades, including the Grand Prix of America Best Award in 1999. In 1998, he was nominated for an Academy Award, making him one of the most influential filmmakers in Iranian cinema.

#### **28. Letter from Martha to a Friend**

Begur, Bengaluru  
15<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Dear Mary,

I hope you are doing well. I have something incredible to share! I finally received the scholarship jacket, but it wasn't easy. This year, the school changed its policy and decided to charge for the jacket. I was devastated because my grandfather refused to pay, believing that awards should be earned, not bought.

I felt hopeless when the principal told me about the change. But the next day, he called me back and said I would receive the jacket after all! I was overjoyed! It turned out that standing up for what is right mattered in the end.

This experience has taught me the value of perseverance and fairness. I'll never forget it. Write back soon!

Love,  
Martha

#### **29. The Danger of a Single Story**

I completely agree with the statement that a single story does not provide a complete picture. In *The Danger of a Single Story*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie explains how hearing only one perspective about a person, culture, or place can lead to stereotypes and misunderstandings. She shares her own experiences, such as how Western literature shaped her childhood view of stories and how people in the West had a narrow view of Africa as a land of poverty and suffering.

A single story limits our understanding and creates false impressions. For example, if we only hear negative news about a country, we assume it has no positive aspects. To truly understand anything, we need multiple perspectives. This speech teaches us to question stereotypes and seek diverse viewpoints.

32. Complete the following conversation between the Doctor and his friend.

5

Friend: You look frightened, \_\_\_\_\_ (a)?

Doctor: Yes, I am.

Friend: \_\_\_\_\_(b)?

Doctor: A snake fell from the roof of my room and landed on my shoulder.

Friend: Oh! \_\_\_\_\_(c)?

Doctor: No, it didn't do anything.

Friend: What? It didn't bite you?

Doctor: If I had moved a little, \_\_\_\_\_(d)

Friend: Then you had better \_\_\_\_\_(e)

Doctor: Yea, I'm thinking of finding a new house.

**Solution:**

(a) What happened?

(b) Why are you so scared?

(c) Did it bite you?

(d) It might have bitten me.

(e) moved out immediately.

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

4

Ali had lost the bag in which he had kept his sister's shoes from (a) the vegetable shop. He searched the place where he has kept (b) it. He put his hands in the gap between the boxes. But he didn't found (c) anything. Then he put his head inside the gap and the boxes fell down. The vegetables was (d) scattered all over the ground.

**Solution:**

(a) at the vegetable shop.

(b) had kept it.

(c) find anything.

(d) The vegetables were scattered all over the ground.

34. Report the following dialogue.

2

Adichie: Who made this basket?

Fide's mother: Fide's brother has made it.

You may begin like this:

Adichie asked Fide's mother \_\_\_\_\_.

Fide's mother replied \_\_\_\_\_.

**Solution:**



Adichie asked Fide's mother **who had made that basket.**  
 Fide's mother replied **that Fide's brother had made it.**

35. Complete the passage choosing suitable words given below.

4

Think-Tank misinterpreted the nursery rhyme given/(a) the book. He thought/(b) the Earthlings could grow rare metals and high explosives in gardens. The Earthlings have taught their domesticated animals musical culture/(c) space techniques. He warned his team to be conscious of/(d) interplanetary attack by the Earthlings using their cows.

(that, in, if, and, the)

**Solution:**

(a) **in** the book.

(b) **that** the Earthlings could grow rare metals and high explosives in gardens.

(c) The Earthlings have taught their domesticated animals musical culture **and** space techniques.

(d) He warned his team to be conscious of **an** interplanetary attack by the Earthlings using their cows.

36. Complete the passage using appropriate phrasal verbs given below.

3

Adolf created some problems in our home. Our mother couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ (a) it. One day Adolf \_\_\_\_\_ (b) the curtain - rod with a smash. We \_\_\_\_\_ (c) our hope to tame him. Finally we decided to send him away to the wild woods.

(put up with, gave up, pulled down, take off)

**Solution:**

(a) put up with

(b) pulled down

(c) gave up

37. Read the following sentences and pick out any two verb phrases from them.

2

Vanka's grandfather had been serving the zhivarev family. He was growing old.

**Solution:**

had been serving

was growing