

SSLC EXAMINATION, MARCH – 2019

ENGLISH

Time: 2^{1/2} Hours

Total Score: 80

Questions 1-6. Read the excerpt from 'The Best Investment I Ever Made' and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries one score.

1×6=6

'Excuse me, Doctor, I wonder if I might introduce myself.' He spoke almost breathlessly, offering me the visiting card he held in his hand and studying my face to see if the name meant anything to me. Then, as it plainly did not, he went on with the same awkwardness. 'If you could spare a few minutes... my wife and I would like to have a word with you.'

A moment later I was occupying the vacant chair beside them. Haltingly he told me that this had been their first visit to America. It was not entirely a holiday trip. They had been making a tour of the New England states, inspecting many of the summer recreational camps for young people there. Afterwards, they had visited settlement houses in New York and other cities to study the methods employed in dealing with cases of backward, maladjusted and delinquent youth.

1. Pick out from the passage the expression that shows the nervousness of the man.
2. What did the man request the narrator?
3. Why did the man visit the New England states?
4. What was the purpose of the man's visit to settlement houses in New York?
5. Find out the word from the passage that means 'having emotional problems'.
6. Pick out the verb phrase from the following sentence.
'They had been making a tour of the New England states.'

Solution:

1. The expressions that show the nervousness of the man are "He spoke almost breathlessly" and "with the same awkwardness."
2. The man requested the narrator to spare a few minutes to have a word with him and his wife.
3. The man visited the New England states to inspect summer recreational camps for young people.
4. The purpose of his visit to settlement houses in New York was to study methods used for dealing with backward, maladjusted, and delinquent youth.
5. The word that means 'having emotional problems' is "maladjusted."
6. The verb phrase in the sentence is "had been making."

Questions 7 to 10. Read the lines from 'A Girl's Garden' and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries one score.

1×4=4

One day she asked her father
 To give her a garden plot
 To plant and tend and reap herself,
 And he said, 'Why not?'
 In casting about for a corner
 He thought of an idle bit
 Of walled-off ground where a shop had stood,
 And he said, 'Just it.'

7. What does the girl want to get from her father?
8. What was the father's response to the girl's request?
9. Pick out the expression that describes the land.
10. What do you think about the father in the poem?

Solution:

7. The girl wants her father to give her a garden plot.
8. The father responds positively and agrees by saying, "Why not?"
9. The expression that describes the land is "an idle bit of walled-off ground where a shop had stood."
10. The father is supportive and encouraging, as he willingly grants his daughter's request and finds a suitable spot for her garden.

11. Read the following lines from the poem 'Blowin' in the Wind' and attempt a brief appreciation focusing on the theme and poetic devices used.

5

How many roads must a man walk down
 Before you call him a man?
 How many seas must a white dove sail
 Before she sleeps in the sand?
 Yes, and how many times must the cannon balls fly
 Before they're forever banned?
 The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
 The answer is blowin' in the wind.

Yes, and how many years can a mountain exist
 Before it is washed to the sea?
 Yes, and how many years can some people exist
 Before they're allowed to be free?
 Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head
 And pretend that he just doesn't see?
 The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
 The answer is blowin' in the wind.

Solution:

Bob Dylan's poem Blowin' in the Wind explores themes of peace, freedom, and social justice. Through rhetorical questions, the poem highlights human struggles, war, and ignorance. The recurring refrain, "The answer is blowin' in the wind," suggests that solutions to these issues are obvious yet ignored.

Dylan employs repetition to emphasize key ideas and symbolism, such as the white dove representing peace and cannonballs symbolizing war. The metaphor of the wind conveys the elusive nature of truth and justice. The poem's simple yet powerful language makes it a timeless call for awareness and change.

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

1×5=5

When I was around four or five I was with my mom at a store buying some Christmas gifts. As we were leaving I saw beautiful little dinosaurs that fit perfectly in my hands. I grabbed two of them and hid one in each of my pockets. My pockets were so small that they made me look like I had two tumours on each of my hips. I still remember the rush of energy I got from actually leaving the store undetected. Well, when my mom and I got to the car, she found them and called the store keeper back and made me apologise. I had the absolute worst social anxiety when I was a kid so I was absolutely sobbing, telling this poor employee how horrible a person I was. I had a mental breakdown, when my mom cried a while afterwards and bought me a nice milkshake!

12. Why did the narrator and his mother visit the store?
13. What did the narrator do when he was leaving the store?
14. 'I still remember the rush of energy I got.' Why do you think the narrator felt so?
15. What was the reaction of the mother when she found out the mistake made by her son?
16. Why did the narrator have a mental breakdown?

Solution:

12. The narrator and his mother visited the store to buy Christmas gifts.
13. While leaving the store, the narrator stole two small dinosaur toys and hid them in his pockets.
14. The narrator felt a rush of energy because he successfully left the store without being caught, experiencing the thrill of getting away with something forbidden.
15. When the mother found out, she called the storekeeper back and made the narrator apologise. Later, she cried and bought him a milkshake.
16. The narrator had a mental breakdown because of his extreme social anxiety, which made apologising to the employee a deeply distressing experience.

Questions 17-21. The table given below shows the details of a few great personalities. Study the table and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries one score.

1×5=5

Name	Occupation	Nationality	Year of birth
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R.K. Narayan	Novelist	Indian	1906
Bertrand Russell	Philosopher	British	1872
Stephen Hawking	Cosmologist	British	1942
Akira Kurosawa	Film maker	Japanese	1910
K. Sachidanandan	Poet	Indian	1948

17. Stephen Hawking was _____ by profession.
18. The only novelist in table given is _____.
19. Who as per the list is the only person born before 1900?
20. Find out the Indian poet enlisted in the table.
21. A Japanese film maker in the list above is _____.

Solution:

17. Stephen Hawking was **cosmologist** by profession.
18. The only novelist in the table is **R.K. Narayan**.
19. The only person born before 1900 is Bertrand Russell.
20. The Indian poet enlisted in the table is K. Sachidanandan.
21. A Japanese filmmaker in the list above is **Akira Kurosawa**.

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

7×1=7

22. Satyajit Ray took pains to shoot the scene with a tiger for his film 'Goop Gene Bagha Byne'. Prepare a write-up describing the difficulties Ray experienced in shooting the scene.

(Hints : contacts Bharat Circus - meets the manager - brings the tiger to the location - tiger springs out - controls - calms down - shoots the scene - too dark - retake)

23. The doctor in the story 'The Best Investment I Ever Made' was excited when he recognised Mr. John after a long time. He narrates the whole incident to his friend after a while. Prepare the likely narrative.

(Hints : meets Mr. John and his wife - introduces - visiting card - remembers the past - tries to commit suicide - saved - becomes a new man - helping maladjusted and delinquent youth)

Solution:

22. Satyajit Ray's Challenges in Shooting the Tiger Scene

Satyajit Ray faced several difficulties while shooting a scene with a tiger for his film Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne. He contacted Bharat Circus and arranged to bring a trained tiger to the location. The manager agreed, and the animal was transported safely. However, as soon as the cage was opened, the tiger sprang out, creating chaos on

the set. The handlers managed to control and calm it down, allowing Ray to proceed with the shoot. Unfortunately, the footage turned out to be too dark, making it unusable. This meant the entire sequence had to be reshot, adding to the challenges Ray had already endured. Despite these setbacks, his dedication ensured the scene was successfully completed.

Questions 24-26. Answer any TWO of the following. Each question carries five scores.

5×2=10

24. Zahra was disappointed and became angry when she knew that she wouldn't get her shoes back. Imagine that you meet Zahra and talk about it. Prepare the likely conversation between Zahra and you.

25. Vanka's Grandfather was sad after he had left the boy at Alyakhin's work place. He writes his feelings in his diary. Prepare the likely diary entry of the Grandfather.

26. The English Club of your school has decided to stage a play based on the story "The Snake and the Mirror". Draft a notice inviting all teachers and students to watch the play.

Solution:

24. Conversation between Zahra and Me

Me: Zahra, you look upset. What happened?

Zahra: I lost my shoes, and now I won't get them back. It's not fair!

Me: I understand how you feel. Those shoes were important to you. Did you tell your parents?

Zahra: Yes, but they can't buy me new ones. We don't have enough money.

Me: That must be really hard for you. Maybe you and your brother can share his shoes for now?

Zahra: That's what we are trying, but it's difficult. I just wish I had my own pair.

Me: I admire your patience, Zahra. I'm sure things will get better soon. Stay strong!

25. Vanka's Grandfather's Diary Entry

December 25

Today, my heart feels heavy. I left my dear Vanka at Alyakhin's workshop, hoping he would have a better future. But I can't stop worrying about him. He is just a small boy, too young to work so hard. I fear he will suffer under that cruel master. I should have taken him with me, but I have nothing to offer him. If only I had enough money, I would bring him back and take care of him. I hope he writes to me soon. I miss him terribly and pray that he stays strong.

26. Notice for the Play "The Snake and the Mirror"

📍 Government High School, Kalaburagi

English Club Presents 🎭

We are excited to invite all teachers and students to the staging of the play "The Snake and the Mirror", based on the famous story by Vaikom Muhammad Basheer.

📅 Date: [Insert Date]

⌚ Time: [Insert Time]

📍 Venue: School Auditorium

Come and enjoy this entertaining and thought-provoking performance. Don't miss it!

English Club Secretary

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

6×3=18

27. Martha was extremely happy on the day she received the Scholarship Jacket. Imagine that she wrote a letter to her friend describing all the incidents that had happened in the school. Prepare the likely letter.

28. Prepare a profile of Rabindranath Tagore using the given details.

Born: 7 May, 1861

Place of Birth: Calcutta, India

Famous as: Writer, Song Composer, Playwright, Essayist, Painter

Nationality: Indian

Notable Works: Gitanjali, The Golden Boat, Chitrangada, The Post Office, Chandalika

Notable Awards: Nobel Prize in Literature

Died: 7 August, 1941

29. Think-Tank believes himself to be the most powerful and intellectual creature in the whole Universe. Prepare a character sketch of Think-Tank.

30. 'A man's life is shaped by the surroundings in which he lives'. Imagine you are asked to deliver a speech in the school assembly on this topic. Prepare the speech in the light of the story 'The Best Investment I Ever Made'.

31. Adolf, the little rabbit creates a lot of problems in the narrator's house. Write a paragraph describing the events that happened in the house.

Solution:

27. Letter from Martha to Her Friend

Kochi

13th February

Dear Teresa,

I have the most wonderful news to share! I received the Scholarship Jacket today! You won't believe what happened at school. A few days ago, I overheard my teachers arguing about giving the jacket to someone else because her father was on the school board. I was heartbroken when the principal said I had to pay \$15 for it, knowing my grandparents couldn't afford it.

But guess what? When I told my grandfather, he firmly said that if the jacket was earned, it shouldn't have a price. The next day, I went to the principal and told him I couldn't pay. At first, he hesitated, but then he said, "You will get your jacket." I was overjoyed! It was the best moment of my life.

I can't wait to show you my jacket when we meet. Write back soon!

Love,

Martha

28. Profile of Rabindranath Tagore

Rabindranath Tagore was a renowned Indian writer, song composer, playwright, essayist, and painter. He was born on 7 May 1861 in Calcutta, India. A literary genius, Tagore's notable works include Gitanjali, The Golden Boat, Chitrangada, The Post Office, and Chandalika. His poetry and prose deeply influenced Indian literature and culture. He was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. Apart from writing, he was also a talented painter and philosopher. Tagore's contributions extended beyond literature, as he played a key role in modernizing Bengali art. He passed away on 7 August 1941, but his legacy continues to inspire generations.

29. Character Sketch of Think-Tank

Think-Tank, the Martian ruler in *The Book That Saved the Earth*, is an arrogant and self-absorbed leader. He considers himself the most powerful and intelligent creature in the universe. However, he is actually quite foolish and easily misinterprets things. His ignorance becomes clear when he mistakes books for sandwiches and believes that humans are planning an attack on Mars. Despite his self-proclaimed intelligence, he depends on his assistants for even the simplest decisions. His cowardly nature is evident when he panics and orders an evacuation of Mars based on a misunderstanding. Think-Tank is a humorous and exaggerated character, representing blind arrogance and lack of real wisdom.

32. Complete the following conversation between Martha and Schmidt.

5

Schmidt: You are getting the scholarship jacket this year, (a).....?

Martha: Yes sir. I'm very happy to get it.

Schmidt:(b)?

Martha: Yes. The school board has changed the decision.

Schmidt: That's good. If you had paid for the jacket, (c).....

Martha: My grandpa also said so.

Schmidt:(d)?

Martha: Yes, I have informed this news to my grandpa. He was very happy to learn that.

Schmidt: You had better (e).....

Martha: Sure. I'll ask grandpa to come to the award ceremony.

Solution:

(a) aren't you?

(b) Did the principal inform you about it?

(c) it wouldn't have been a scholarship jacket.

(d) Have you told your grandpa about it?

(e) invite him to the award ceremony.

33. Complete the following passage choosing the right words from those given in the bracket.

5

We decided to carry Adolf back to/(a) wild woods. We were about/(b) cry when Father took Adolf/(c) his hands. But it didn't show any feeling while going away/(d) home. Father told us/(e) it hopped away with utmost indifference.

(to, from, the, with, in, that)

Solution:

- (a) the
- (b) to
- (c) in
- (d) from
- (e) that

34. Report the following dialogue.

2

Vanka: Where are we going?

Grandfather: We are going to Alyakhin, the shoemaker.

You may begin like this:

Vanka asked his grandfather(a)

Grandfather replied that (b)

Solution:

- (a) where they were going.
- (b) they were going to Alyakhin, the shoemaker.

35. There are a few errors in the passage given below. They are underlined. Edit them.

4

Mr. Thorat had been worked (a) in the company for many years. He was very strong and look (b) like a Nepali. Ray tells (c) him that he wanted a tiger. He was ready to providing (d) a trained tiger for shooting the scene.

Solution:

- (a) had been worked → had been working
- (b) look → looked
- (c) tells → told
- (d) providing → provide

36. Complete the following passage choosing appropriate phrasal verbs from the ones given below.

4

Vanka tried his level best to / (a) the torture his master had inflicted on him. But it was unbearable for him. He tried to / (b) this to other apprentices. But they made fun of him. Then he decided to write a letter to his grandfather hoping he would / (c) the letter and / (d) the troubles Vanka was facing.

(go through, put up with, make out, put across)

Solution:

- (a) put up with

- (b) put across
- (c) go through
- (d) make out

