

# SSLC EXAMINATION, MARCH – 2020

## ENGLISH

### Part I

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

Total Score: 80

Questions 1-5: Read the excerpt from 'The Scholarship Jacket' and answer the questions that follow.

5×1=5

It seemed a cruel coincidence that I had overheard that conversation. The next day when the principal called me into his office I knew what it would be about. He looked uncomfortable and unhappy. (I decided I wasn't going to make it any easier for him, so I looked at him straight in the eyes. (He looked away and fidgeted with the papers on his desk.) 'Martha,' he said, 'there's been a change in policy this year regarding the scholarship Jacket. As you know, it has always been free.' He cleared his throat and continued. ('This year the Board has decided to charge fifteen dollars, which still won't cover the complete cost of the Jacket.'

1. Why did Martha look straight into the principal's eyes?
2. What change in policy is described in the passage above?
3. How did the principal appear to Martha when she entered his room?
4. 'He looked away and fidgeted with the papers on his desk.' The principal was \_\_\_\_ .  
Choose your answer from the options given.

- (a) confident
- (b) nervous
- (c) optimistic
- (d) comfortable

5. Pick out the word from the passage that means 'two things happening at the same time by chance'.

**Solution:**

1. Martha looked straight into the principal's eyes because she wanted to make it harder for him to deliver the difficult news about the change in policy.
2. The change in policy described is that the scholarship jacket, which had always been free, would now cost fifteen dollars, although it still wouldn't cover the full cost.
3. When Martha entered the room, the principal appeared uncomfortable and unhappy.
4. The principal was (b) nervous.
5. The word from the passage that means 'two things happening at the same time by chance' is coincidence.

Questions 6-9: Read the following lines from the poem 'Mother to Son' and answer the questions given below.

4×1=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.

6. What do 'tacks and splinters' imply?
7. Pick out an instance of metaphor from the stanza.
8. What does the phrase 'no crystal stair' mean?
9. The use of the word 'Bare' as the last line of the stanza indicates \_\_\_\_\_.

**Solution:**

6. The 'tacks and splinters' imply the hardships, difficulties, and painful experiences the speaker has faced in life.
7. The metaphor in the stanza is 'Life for me ain't been no crystal stair,' comparing life to a stair, with the crystal stair symbolising an easy and smooth life.
8. The phrase 'no crystal stair' means that the speaker's life has not been easy or luxurious but has been filled with struggles and challenges.
9. The use of the word 'Bare' as the last line of the stanza indicates a lack of comfort and a sense of hardship or emptiness in the speaker's life.

Question 10: Read the lines from the poem 'Poetry' and prepare a note of appreciation focusing on its theme, imagery and poetic devices.

5

And it was at that age.... Poetry arrived  
 in search of me. I don't know, I don't know where  
 it came from, from winter or a river.  
 I don't know how or when,  
 no they were not voices, they were not  
 words, nor silence,  
 but from a street I was summoned,  
 from the branches of night,  
 abruptly from the others  
 among violent fires  
 or returning alone,  
 there I was without a face  
 and it touched me

**Solution:**

**Note of Appreciation for the Poem "Poetry"**

The poem highlights how poetry arrives unexpectedly, not through intention but as a powerful, mysterious force that touches the poet.

**Theme:**

It portrays poetry as an innate experience, emerging spontaneously to evoke emotions.

**Imagery:**

Vivid images like "winter or a river" and "branches of night" convey poetry's elusive and emotional nature.

**Poetic Devices:**

**Metaphor & Personification:** Poetry is described as a living force.

**Alliteration:** "Violent fires" intensifies the emotion.

The poem effectively captures the mysterious and powerful nature of poetic inspiration.

Question 11-15: Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

5×1=5

Once, there was a renowned teacher who lived in a beautiful monastery with many of his pupils. (He was known as a very effective teacher. Many of his students grew up to become great masters. One day, one of them was caught for stealing from his fellow-students. They reported the incident to the teacher. But he took no action against the boy. A few days later the same boy was again caught stealing. And again the teacher did nothing to punish him. This made the other students angry. They requested the teacher to dismiss the thief. They even threatened to leave as a group if the boy was allowed to stay in the monastery. The teacher called a meeting of the students. When they had assembled, he said to them: "You are good boys who know what is right and what is wrong. If you leave, you will have no trouble in joining some other school. But what about your brother who does not even know the difference between right and wrong? Who will teach him if I don't? No, I cannot ask him to go even if it means losing all of you." Tears rolled down the cheeks of the boy who had stolen. He never stole and in later life became renowned for his integrity thereafter.

11. Why was the teacher known to be very effective?
12. What was the request of the other boys when the boy stole things again?
13. How did the other boys threaten the teacher for his inaction?
14. Why was the teacher not worried about the other boys?
15. What reason did the teacher give for not dismissing the boy?

**Solution:**

11. The teacher was known to be very effective because many of his students grew up to become great masters.
12. The other boys requested the teacher to dismiss the boy who had stolen.
13. The other boys threatened to leave the monastery as a group if the boy was allowed to stay.
14. The teacher was not worried about the other boys because he believed they were good and would easily find another school if they left.
15. The teacher did not dismiss the boy because he felt it was his responsibility to teach him the difference between right and wrong, as the boy did not know it.

Questions 16-17: Answer any ONE of the following in about 120 words.

1×7=7

16. Satyajit Ray had to face several difficulties while shooting the film 'Goop Gyne Bagha Byne.' Prepare a narrative based on Ray's experiences in shooting the film with the tiger.

(Hints : Shooting at Noun Gram - needs tiger for shooting - meets Mr. Thorat - two tigers - unable to control the tigers - shots taken - dark - retake - shooting at Boral - tiger charges at the villagers shots taken - perfect scenes)

17. Anton Chekhov's 'Vanka' is a sad story of a nine year old boy. Vanka went through intense sufferings at the house of Alyakhin. In the light of your reading of the story, prepare a write-up on the topic 'Preventing child abuse.'

(Hints : vanka - orphaned child - poverty - physical and mental abuse - unable to react - unaware of child rights - sufferings of parentless children - lack of care - wishes to run away)

### **Solution:**

#### **16. Satyajit Ray's Experience in Shooting 'Goop Gyne Bagha Byne' with the Tiger**

While shooting his film Goop Gyne Bagha Byne, Satyajit Ray faced significant challenges, especially while working with tigers. To film a crucial scene, he needed a tiger, so he sought the help of Mr. Thorat, who brought two tigers for the shoot. However, controlling the tigers proved to be nearly impossible. The crew found it difficult to get the tigers to perform the required actions on cue.

Despite numerous attempts, the shots taken were often dark or not as planned, leading to multiple retakes. Finally, the crew shifted the shooting location to Boral, where they had to contend with the unpredictable behaviour of the tigers. In one memorable scene, a tiger charged at the villagers, creating a dangerous moment. Nevertheless, with persistence and great care, they managed to capture the perfect shots. The difficulties Satyajit Ray faced in working with the tigers added a layer of realism and intensity to the film, contributing to its eventual success.

#### **17. Preventing Child Abuse - Vanka's Suffering**

Anton Chekhov's Vanka highlights the heart-wrenching story of a nine-year-old orphan boy who endures physical and mental abuse at the hands of his cruel master, Alyakhin. Vanka's suffering is a stark reminder of the tragic consequences of child abuse, especially when a child is left without proper care or guidance. Lacking the ability to react or stand up for himself, Vanka remains unaware of his rights as a child and continues to endure harsh conditions.

This story underscores the importance of preventing child abuse and ensuring that every child is treated with kindness and respect. Children, especially orphans or those in vulnerable situations, need care, education, and protection from physical and emotional harm. Public awareness of child rights and proper laws are crucial in preventing such abuse. It is essential to create safe environments for children where they can grow, learn, and live without fear.

Questions 18-20: Answer any TWO of the following. Each question carries five scores.

2×5=10

18. Imagine that you meet the boy in the story 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree'. You ask him about the fight between the mongoose and the cobra. Prepare the likely conversation.

19. The Film Club of your school has decided to conduct a Documentary Film Festival. Draft a notice inviting everyone to the festival.

20. The Homoeopath managed to reach his friend's house after the terrible incident. He was unable to sleep that night. He jotted down his feelings in his diary. Write the likely diary entry.

**Solution:**

**18. Conversation with the Boy in "Adventures in a Banyan Tree" About the Fight Between the Mongoose and the Cobra**

You: Hey, I heard about the fight between the mongoose and the cobra. What happened?

Boy: It was amazing! I saw the mongoose charging at the cobra. The cobra was big and dangerous, but the mongoose was fast and fearless. They fought for a while, with the mongoose outsmarting the cobra in the end.

You: That sounds intense! What happened afterward?

Boy: After the fight, the mongoose was a little tired but victorious. It was quite a sight to see!

**19. Notice for Documentary Film Festival**

Government High School, Ramanagar

Film Club

NOTICE

Date: 6th February 2025

Subject: Documentary Film Festival

The Film Club is organising a Documentary Film Festival on 15<sup>th</sup> February at the school auditorium. The festival will showcase inspiring documentaries on various topics.

Details:

Date & Time: 6<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00 A.M

Venue: School Auditorium

Entry: Free for students and staff

We invite everyone to attend and engage in post-screening discussions.

For more details, contact:

Mohan Basava, 10A

Film Club

Government High School

## 20. Diary Entry of the Homoeopath After the Terrible Incident

6th February 2025

Dear Diary,

Today was overwhelming. I rushed to my friend's house after hearing about the terrible incident. As a homoeopath, I've seen many things, but this was different. I felt helpless, unable to ease the pain. I couldn't sleep tonight, my mind is racing with what happened. Despite my best efforts, there was little I could do. I just hope tomorrow is better.

Yours,

Rekha

Questions 21-25: Answer any THREE of the following. Each question carries six scores.

3×6=18

21. After reading the anecdote 'The Best Investment I Ever Made', you decide to send a letter to Mr. John congratulating him. Prepare the likely letter.

22. Prepare a profile of Anton Chekhov using the details given below.

Born: January 29, 1860 Taganrog, Russia

Occupation: Physician, writer

Famous as: Playwright, short story writer, master of modern short story, representative of 19<sup>th</sup> - century Russian realism

Spouse: Olga Knipper

Notable works: The Seagull, The Cherry Orchard, Ward Number Six, Uncle Vanda

Awards: Pushkin Prize

Death: 1904, Badenweiler, Germany

23. Kiran in the story 'The Castaway' has always been caring and affectionate towards Nilkanta. Prepare a brief character sketch of Kiran.

24. You have read the play The Never-Never Nest. Write a paragraph describing how Jack and Jill represent the present day consumer culture prevalent in our society.

25. Martha in her thanksgiving speech describes how she overcame the problems she faced in winning the scholarship jacket. Prepare the likely speech of Martha.

### **Solution:**

#### **21. Letter of Congratulations to Mr. John**

Date: 6th February 2025

Dear Mr. John,

I hope this letter finds you well. I recently read your anecdote, The Best Investment I Ever Made, and I wanted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you for such a thoughtful and inspiring story. Your experience truly highlights the power of investing in what truly matters—whether it's relationships, learning, or personal growth. It was wonderful to see how your investment paid off not just financially but also in terms of personal satisfaction and the positive impact it had on your life. Your words were a reminder to us all of the importance of making wise decisions that resonate beyond mere monetary gain. I look forward to reading more of your inspiring stories in the future.

Once again, congratulations on your incredible investment and the wisdom you've shared with us.

Best regards,  
Mohan

## 22. Profile of Anton Chekhov

Name: Anton Chekhov

Born: January 29, 1860, Taganrog, Russia

Occupation: Physician, writer

Famous As: Playwright, short story writer, and master of the modern short story

Notable Works: The Seagull, The Cherry Orchard, Ward Number Six, Uncle Vanda

Awards: Pushkin Prize

Spouse: Olga Knipper

Death: 1904, Badenweiler, Germany

Anton Chekhov was a renowned Russian physician and writer, famous for his contribution to the development of the modern short story. A representative of 19th-century Russian realism, he is widely regarded as a master of creating detailed and insightful characters, exploring themes of human nature and existential struggles. His works like *The Seagull* and *The Cherry Orchard* are staples of world literature. His unique blend of humor, melancholy, and observational skill has made him an enduring figure in literary history.

## 23. Character Sketch of Kiran in "The Castaway"

Kiran in *The Castaway* is portrayed as a caring, compassionate, and empathetic individual. Throughout the story, Kiran demonstrates deep affection for Nilkanta, offering him not only physical support but emotional understanding. She is patient and attentive, always putting Nilkanta's well-being before her own. Her nurturing nature is evident when she consistently comforts him in times of distress and helps him navigate the challenges he faces. Kiran's selflessness makes her an essential character in Nilkanta's journey, as she provides him with the emotional support and love that he desperately needs. Her kindness and devotion play a significant role in Nilkanta's healing and growth throughout the story.

## 24. Jack and Jill in *The Never-Never Nest* and Consumer Culture

In the play *The Never-Never Nest*, Jack and Jill represent the prevalent consumer culture in modern society. Their obsession with material possessions and status symbolises the growing trend of consumerism, where personal happiness and fulfillment are often sought through the accumulation of things. They are constantly trying to keep up with appearances, even if it means sacrificing what truly matters, like relationships and personal well-being. Their characters reflect how consumer culture often prioritises superficial desires and instant gratification over long-term happiness and genuine contentment. Jack and Jill's actions in the play demonstrate the consequences of living in a society focused more on 'things' than meaningful connections and values.

## 25. Martha's Thanksgiving Speech on Overcoming Problems in Winning the Scholarship Jacket

Good morning everyone,

I stand before you today, filled with gratitude and pride. Winning the scholarship jacket was not an easy journey. There were moments of doubt and frustration, but I never gave up. When I first learned about the scholarship, I knew I had to work hard, not just for the jacket, but for the values it represents—hard work, honesty, and perseverance.

Along the way, I faced challenges, especially when I was told that I would have to pay for the jacket, despite being promised it for free. It felt like an unfair obstacle. But I stood my ground. With the support of my family and teachers who believed in me, I managed to overcome the obstacles and prove that integrity should always come first.

This achievement is not just about receiving the jacket. It is a testament to the importance of staying true to one's principles, no matter how tough the situation may seem.

Thank you for believing in me, and for giving me this chance to shine.

Thank you.

Questions 26-30: A few news headlines are given below. Read them carefully and answer the questions that follow.

5

- Kerala and TN emerge as top performers in NITI Aayog's education quality index.
- P.V. Sindhu becomes first Indian to win Badminton World Championship.
- Anaemia among men a major public health problem.
- Drama festival in Kerala draws huge crowd.
- Antarctica's temperature to rise by 3 degrees by the end of the century.

26. The headline that voices concerns about the environment is \_\_\_\_\_.

27. Which headline is related to public health?

28. Identify the headline that brings cheer to a sports enthusiast.

29. The headline which is related to education is \_\_\_\_\_.

30. The piece of news that attracts theatre enthusiasts is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Solution:**

26. The headline that voices concerns about the environment is "Antarctica's temperature to rise by 3 degrees by the end of the century."

27. The headline related to public health is "Anaemia among men a major public health problem."

28. The headline that brings cheer to a sports enthusiast is "P.V. Sindhu becomes first Indian to win Badminton World Championship."

29. The headline related to education is "Kerala and TN emerge as top performers in NITI Aayog's education quality index."

30. The piece of news that attracts theatre enthusiasts is "Drama festival in Kerala draws huge crowd."



31. There are a few errors in the passage given below. They are underlined. Edit them. 4

Adichie came (a) for a conventional middle class family. Her father was a professor and her mother was (b) a administrator. She grew up on a university campus in Nigeria. They (c) have a boy named Fide for domestic help. The only thing Adichie knew about Fide was that his family (d) were very poor.

**Solution:**

Adichie came **from** a conventional middle-class family. Her father was a professor and her mother was **an** administrator. She grew up on a university campus in Nigeria. They **had** a boy named Fide for domestic help. The only thing Adichie knew about Fide was that his family **was** very poor.

32. Report the following dialogue. 2

Mr. John: Do you remember me?

Dr. Cronin: I have never seen you in my life.

You may begin like this:

(a) Mr. John asked Dr Cronin .....

(b) Dr. Cronin replied .....

**Solution:**

(a) Mr. John asked Dr. Cronin if he remembered him.

(b) Dr. Cronin replied that he had never seen him in his life.

33. Complete the following passage choosing the right words from those given in brackets. 4

Nilkanta turned out to be a boon (a) \_\_\_ everyone in the house. Kiran had a warm interest in him (b) \_\_\_ he had escaped from the clutches of death. Sharat (c) \_\_\_ his mother were also happy. Nilkanta felt delighted as he had become a part of (d) \_\_\_ wealthy family.

(and, for, of, as, a, was)

**Solution:**

Nilkanta turned out to be a boon **for** everyone in the house. Kiran had a warm interest in him **as** he had escaped from the clutches of death. Sharat **and** his mother were also happy. Nilkanta felt delighted as he had become a part of **a** wealthy family.

34. Complete the following passage choosing appropriate phrasal verbs from the ones given below. 4

Aunt Jane thought Jack and Jill were working hard to \_\_\_ (a) very well in their life. But she could not \_\_\_ (b) the idea of instalment plans. She gave them a cheque and asked them to \_\_\_ (c) one of their bills. She reminded them that if they didn't pay their bills they would \_\_\_ (d) in the streets.

(put up with, pay off, end up, get along, taken aback)

**Solution:**

Aunt Jane thought Jack and Jill were working hard to **get along** very well in their life. But she could not **put up with** the idea of instalment plans. She gave them a

cheque and asked them to **pay off** one of their bills. She reminded them that if they didn't pay their bills they would **end up** in the streets.

35. Complete the conversation between Adichie and her roommate.

4

Roommate: You are from Nigeria, \_\_\_\_\_ (a)?

Adichie: Yes.

Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_ (b)?

Adichie: Because English is our official language.

Roommate: Your official language ! That information is new to me.

Adichie: I used to read a lot of English books when I was a child.

Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_ (c)?

Adichie: No, I don't listen to tribal music.

Roommate: But, Africa is known for its tribal music.

Adichie: Maybe. If you want to listen to Mariah Carey \_\_\_\_\_ (d).

Roommate: No, Thank you. I have a good collection of her songs.

**Solution:**

Roommate: You are from Nigeria, **aren't you?**

Adichie: Yes.

Roommate: **Why do you speak English then?**

Adichie: Because English is our official language.

Roommate: Your official language! That information is new to me.

Adichie: I used to read a lot of English books when I was a child.

Roommate: **Don't you listen to tribal music?**

Adichie: No, I don't listen to tribal music.

Roommate: But, Africa is known for its tribal music.

Adichie: Maybe. If you want to listen to Mariah Carey, **I can play some for you** (d).

Roommate: No, Thank you. I have a good collection of her songs.

36. Read the following sentences and identify the Noun Phrase in the subject position.

3

(a) Mr. John spoke with real feeling.

(b) The shooting was taking place near Shiuri in Birbhoom.

(c) A few drops of blood glistened on the cobra's back.

**Solution:**

(a) **Mr. John** spoke with real feeling.

(b) **The shooting** was taking place near Shiuri in Birbhoom.

(c) **A few drops of blood** glistened on the cobra's back.