

SSLC EXAMINATION, MARCH – 2022

ENGLISH

Part I

Time: 2^{1/2} Hours
80

Total Score:

Questions 1-6: Read the excerpt from 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree' and answer any FOUR questions that follow.

1×4=4

Though the house and grounds of our home in India were Grandfather's domain, the magnificent old banyan tree was mine-chiefly because Grandfather, at the age of sixty-five, could no longer climb it. Grandmother used to tease him about this, and would speak of a certain Countess of Desmond, an English woman who lived upto the age of 117, and would have lived longer if she hadn't fallen while climbing an apple tree. The spreading branches of the banyan tree, which curved to the ground and took root again, forming a maze of arches, gave me endless pleasure. The tree was older than the house, older than Grandfather, as old as the town of Dehra, nestling in a valley at the foot of the Himalayas.

1. 'The magnificent old banyan tree was mine ...' Why does the boy think so?
2. How does the grandmother tease the grandfather?
3. Which town is referred to in the passage?
4. How does the boy establish that the banyan tree was very old?
5. The banyan tree formed a maze of arches. How?
6. Pick out the word from the passage that means 'a land a person controls'.

Solution:

1. The boy thinks the banyan tree is his because his grandfather, at the age of sixty-five, could no longer climb it.
2. The grandmother teases the grandfather by mentioning the Countess of Desmond, who lived up to 117 years but died after falling from an apple tree.
3. The town referred to in the passage is Dehra.
4. The boy establishes that the banyan tree is very old by stating that it is older than the house, older than his grandfather, and as old as the town of Dehra.
5. The banyan tree formed a maze of arches because its spreading branches curved to the ground and took root again, creating a network of arches.
6. The word from the passage that means 'a land a person controls' is 'domain'.

Questions 7-10. Read the lines from the poem 'Blowin in the wind' and answer the questions given below.

1×4=4

Yes, 'n' how many years can a mountain exist

Before it's washed to the sea?

Yes, 'n' how many years can some people exist

Before they're allowed to be free?

Yes, 'n' how many times can a man turn his head
Pretending he just doesn't see?

7. Who may be 'some people' referred to in the poem?
8. What do the lines 'Yes, and how many years can a mountain exist/ Before it is washed to the sea'? Indicate.
 - (a) A mountain never perishes
 - (b) The long years of suffering of the people
 - (c) The strong protest of the people
9. The expression 'turn his head' in the above lines means _____
10. What does the man pretend?

Solution:

7. 'Some people' refers to oppressed individuals or groups who are denied freedom and equality.
8. (b) The long years of suffering of the people
9. The expression 'turn his head' means ignoring or avoiding the truth.
10. The man pretends not to see injustice or suffering around him.

Part II

Read the lines from the poem 'Mother to Son' and answer any THREE questions that follow.

3×2=6

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.

11. Who is the speaker of the poem?
12. Pick out two expressions that describe the boards on the stair.
13. Why is the stair described as 'bare'?
14. After reaching the landing, what are the two things the speaker experiences?
15. 'There ain't been no light'. Why?

Solution:

11. The speaker of the poem is a mother speaking to her son.

12. Two expressions that describe the boards on the stair are “tacks in it” and “boards torn up”.
13. The stair is described as ‘bare’ because it has no carpet, symbolising hardships and struggles in life.
14. After reaching the landing, the speaker experiences rest (a brief pause) and new challenges (turning corners).
15. ‘There ain’t been no light’ because the mother has faced difficult and uncertain times without guidance or support.

Questions 16-18: Read the excerpt from 'My Sister's Shoes' and answer any TWO questions that follow.

$2 \times 2 = 4$

He goes to the pile of boxes in front of the shop and picks the bundle of nan and then looks for the bag of shoes. Unable to find it, he places the bag of nan atop the vegetable boxes and begins to search underneath. First, he puts his hand and then his head in the gap between the boxes of vegetables, which upsets them all. The vegetable boxes tumble and vegetables scatter on the ground. On hearing the sound, Akbar comes running from inside the shop and sees the vegetables strewn on the ground.

Akbar: (annoyed) What the hell are you doing? Why did you spill these? Are you crazy?

Ali: (looking at him with guilt) My sister's shoes have disappeared.

Akbar: Get lost. Beat it.

Ali: I left my sister's shoes here.

Akbar: I said get lost! (bangs his fist on the pile of boxes.) Ali runs away, scared.

16. Describe two actions of Ali after getting out of the shop.
17. Why were the boxes of vegetables upset?
18. What are the two expressions of Akbar that shows his annoyance?

Solution:

16. After getting out of the shop, Ali picks up the bundle of nan and searches for the bag of shoes by looking under the vegetable boxes.

17. The boxes of vegetables were upset because Ali put his hand and head in the gap between them while searching for the shoes, causing them to tumble.

18. Two expressions of Akbar that show his annoyance are “What the hell are you doing?” and “I said get lost!”.

Part III

Questions 19-23: Answer any THREE of the following.

$3 \times 4 = 12$

19. Complete the following passage choosing the right phrases from those given in the box.

After reaching my room I _____ (a) my coat and white shirt and hung them up. I had to _____ (b) a lot of rats who were running around my room. I _____ (c) but I could not sleep. I _____ (d) and went out to the veranda for a little air.

lay down, get up, put up with, take off

20. Read the passage given below. There are certain errors in it. They are underlined. Edit them.

All my characters was (a) white and blue-eyed, they playing (b) in the snow, they ate apples, and they talked a lot about the weather. How lovely it was which (c) the sun has come (d) out!

21. Complete the conversation suitably.

Boy: You didn't see the fight in the garden, _____ (a) ?

Grandmother: No dear. _____ (b) ?

Boy: I saw the fight between a mongoose and a cobra.

Grandmother: _____ (c)?

Boy: Yea, the cobra was killed.

Grandmother: If the mongoose had not killed the cobra, _____ (d)?

Boy: The mongoose did it for us.

22. A few words are missing in the following passage. Choose the right ones from the box given below and fill in the blanks.

As he spoke _____ (a) real feeling, I got _____ (b) vivid picture of the work these two people were doing. I learned how they took derelict adolescents _____ (c) were put in juvenile courts to a special centre. Then they would place these young people in a healthy environment _____ (d) heal them in mind and body.

and, with, a, from, who

23. Read the following sentences and identify the noun phrases in the subject position of each sentence.

(i) Adichie went to the US for her studies.

(ii) Her American roommate was shocked.

(iii) All the students in the class looked at her whenever Africa was referred to.

(iv) The single story about Africa which we believe may not be the only story.

Solution:

19. Complete the passage:

(a) took off

(b) put up with

(c) laid down

(d) got up

20. Edit the passage:

(a) was → were

(b) playing → played

(c) which → when

(d) has come → came

21. Complete the conversation:

- (a) did you
- (b) What happened
- (c) Who won the fight
- (d) what would have happened

22. Fill in the blanks:

- (a) with
- (b) a
- (c) who
- (d) to

23. Identify the noun phrases in subject position:

- (i) Adichie
- (ii) Her American roommate
- (iii) All the students in the class
- (iv) The single story about Africa which we believe

Questions 24-25. Answer any ONE of the following.

4×1=4

24. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

One day a father and a son went to a restaurant to have dinner. The father was so old that his hands shook while eating and spilled food on his shirt and trousers. Other diners watched the father in disgust, but this did not embarrass the son in any way. After eating, the son quietly led him to the wash, removed the food particles on his father's dress and combed his hair. When they came out of the wash, the entire restaurant was watching them in dead silence. The son settled the bill and was walking out with his father when an old man among the diners called out to him 'Son, now I have a hope to live on'.

- (i) Where does the incident take place?
- (ii) Why did the other diners watch the father in disgust?
- (iii) How did the son help his father?
- (iv) What was the reaction of the other old man who watched the scene?

25. Details of a few films are given below. Study the table and answer the questions that follow.

Film	Director	Year of release	Language
Rashomon	Akira Kurosawa	1950	Japanese
Piravi	Shaji N. Karun	1989	Malayalam
Samskara	Pattabhirama Reddy	1970	Kannada

The Way Home	Lee Jeong Hyang	2002	Korean
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- (i) Who directed the movie 'Samskara'?
- (ii) Which is the only Malayalam film listed in the table?
- (iii) 'The Way Home' was released in
- (iv) The film is directed by Akira Kurosawa.

Solution:

24.

- (i) The incident takes place in a restaurant.
- (ii) The other diners watched the father in disgust because his hands were shaking, and he spilled food on his shirt and trousers.
- (iii) The son helped his father by leading him to the wash, removing the food particles from his father's dress, and combing his hair.
- (iv) The reaction of the old man who watched the scene was that he said, "Son, now I have a hope to live on," expressing admiration and inspiration from the son's care for his father.

25.

- (i) The movie 'Samskara' was directed by Pattabhirama Reddy.
- (ii) The only Malayalam film listed in the table is 'Piravi'.
- (iii) 'The Way Home' was released in 2002.
- (iv) The film 'Rashomon' is directed by Akira Kurosawa.

PART - IV

Questions 26-29: Answer any THREE of the following in about 80 words each.

3×6=18

26. Read the following lines taken from the poem 'The Ballad of Father Gilligan' and prepare a note of appreciation focusing on the theme, imagery and other poetic devices.

The old priest Peter Gilligan
 Was weary night and day
 For half his folks were in their beds
 Or under green sods lay.
 Once, while he nodded in chair
 At the moth-hour of the eve
 Another poor man sent for him
 And he began to grieve.

27. Martha was upset when she was informed by the principal that she should pay for the Scholarship Jacket. She approached her grandfather for the money. But the grandfather was not ready to pay for the Jacket. She expressed her feelings in her diary. Attempt the likely diary entry.

28. The homeopath in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' found his room cleaned out by a thief when he came back the next day. You meet him after this incident. Prepare a set of six questions that you would like to ask him.

29. Satyajit Ray had to face a lot of difficulties in shooting the scenes with a tiger for his movie 'Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne'. He writes a letter to his friend describing his experiences. Prepare the likely letter.

Solution:

26. Appreciation of "The Ballad of Father Gilligan"

William Butler Yeats' poem 'The Ballad of Father Gilligan' portrays the deep faith, duty, and divine intervention in the life of an old priest. The poem highlights Father Gilligan's exhaustion, as he tirelessly serves his parishioners, many of whom are sick or dead. The imagery of "green sods" symbolises graves, reinforcing the sorrowful tone. The phrase "moth-hour of the eve" creates a peaceful yet melancholic setting. The poem follows a ballad form with a rhythmic flow, and its theme of divine grace and selfless service is beautifully conveyed through simple yet powerful language.

27. Diary Entry by Martha

Wednesday, 10th March

Dear Diary,

Today was one of the saddest days of my life. I was so excited to receive the Scholarship Jacket, but the principal told me that I had to pay fifteen dollars for it. I couldn't believe it! It was supposed to be a reward for my hard work, not something to be bought. I asked Grandpa for the money, but he refused. He said if it had to be bought, it wasn't a scholarship jacket. I felt heartbroken, but deep inside, I knew he was right. I just hope the school realises their mistake.

Martha

28. Questions to the Homeopath (from The Snake and the Mirror)

- (i) What was your first reaction when you found that a thief had cleaned out your room?
- (ii) Was there anything valuable left behind?
- (iii) How did you feel about losing your belongings, especially after the snake incident?
- (iv) Do you think the thief was amused by your looks in the mirror, just like you were?
- (v) Did this incident change your perspective on life in any way?
- (vi) Have you ever faced another similar situation?

29. Letter from Satyajit Ray to a Friend

12th June 1968

Kolkata

Dear Ritwik,

I hope you are doing well. I must tell you about the unexpected troubles I faced while shooting with the tiger for "Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne"! We had hired a trained

tiger from Bharat Circus, but things didn't go as planned. The trainer assured us that the tiger was calm, but as soon as we started shooting, it refused to move! Worse, it growled menacingly at our crew, scaring everyone.

We had to change our shooting strategy and use clever camera tricks. Finally, after several takes and a lot of patience, we managed to get the shot. It was one of the most challenging experiences of my career, but also one of the most memorable! I can't wait for you to see the final film.

Write back soon!

Yours,
Satyajit Ray

Questions 30-32: Answer any TWO of the following in about 80 words.

2×6=12

30. The Film Club of your school has made a short film based on the play 'Never Never Nest'. A well-known actor has consented to inaugurate the function. Prepare a notice inviting all the students to the function.

31. Prepare a profile of Anton Chekhov using the hints given.

Born: January 29, 1860, Taganrog, Russia

Education: First Moscow State Medical University

Occupation: Physician, Short Story Writer, Playwright

Famous as: Playwright, Short story Writer

Notable works: Three Sisters, The Cherry Orchard, The Lady with the Dog

Awards and Honours: Pushkin Prize

Died: July 14, 1904, Germany

32. Ali was deeply distressed when he realised that he had lost his sister's shoes. When he reached home, Zahra, his sister asked him about her shoes. Prepare the likely conversation between Ali and Zahra. (Write at least six exchanges.)

Solution:

30. Notice – Film Club Event

📍 Government High School, Kalaburagi

🎬 Film Club Presents: Short Film Screening 🎬

The Film Club of our school proudly invites all students to the inauguration and screening of our short film based on the play 'Never Never Nest' ✨. We are honoured to have Rishab Shetty as our Chief Guest for the event.

📅 Date: 1st February

🕒 Time: 11.00 A.M.

📍 Venue: 3rd floor Auditorium

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to watch our students' creative work and interact with a famous actor! 🎬 ✨

Principal

Government High School, Kalaburagi

31. Profile of Anton Chekhov

Anton Chekhov was a renowned Russian playwright and short story writer. He was born on January 29, 1860, in Taganrog, Russia. He pursued his education at First Moscow State Medical University and was a physician by profession. Despite his medical career, he became famous as a playwright and short story writer. Some of his notable works include *Three Sisters*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *The Lady with the Dog*. His contributions to literature earned him the Pushkin Prize. He passed away on July 14, 1904, in Germany.

32. Conversation between Ali and Zahra

Zahra: Ali, where are my shoes? You said you would bring them back!

Ali: Zahra... I'm so sorry. I lost them.

Zahra: What?! How could you lose them? They were my only pair!

Ali: I left them near the shop for a moment, and when I looked back, they were gone.

Zahra: Did you search for them properly? Maybe someone took them by mistake.

Ali: Yes, I searched everywhere! Even the shopkeeper got angry with me.

Zahra: Ali, what will I wear to school now?

Ali: Don't worry, Zahra. I will find a way. I promise.

Zahra: I hope so, Ali. I really need those shoes.

PART - V

Questions 33-35: Answer any TWO of the following in about 120 words.

2×8=16

33. 'The Scholarship Jacket' describes the struggles of Martha for justice. She narrates the 8 incidents at school to one of her friends. Prepare the likely narrative. (Hints : Texas school - Martha expects to win the Scholarship Jacket - overhears the conversation between her teachers - change in policy - needs fifteen dollars - grandfather refuses - meets the Principal - changes decision - Martha gets the jacket)

34. The story, 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree' portrays a boy's close-knit relationship with Nature. Narrate in your own words the incidents which the boy witnesses. (Hints: Banyan tree-a favourite spot of the boy - friendship with a grey squirrel - birds - the fight between the mongoose and the cobra - the strange case of the grey squirrel and the white rat)

35. The life of John in the story 'The Best Investment I Ever Made' is a good example of how reckless life spoils a young man. The transformation in John's life is inspiring. Prepare the text of a speech on the need to keep away from bad friendship and the importance of leading a socially committed life.

(Hints : John loses his parents at an early age - leads a lonely life in London - falls in bad companionship - engages in gambling - steals money - attempts to commit

suicide - saved by a doctor, sergeant of police, landlady - starts a new life - dedicates his life for derelict adolescents)

Solution:

33.

Narrative – Martha’s Struggle for Justice in The Scholarship Jacket

Martha, a hardworking girl in a Texas school, had always dreamed of winning the Scholarship Jacket, awarded to the top student. She was confident she would receive it, as she had maintained the highest grades for years. However, one day, she accidentally overheard a conversation between her teachers. They were discussing how they wanted to give the jacket to another student whose father was an influential school board member.

Soon, the school changed its policy, stating that the winner had to pay fifteen dollars for the jacket. Heartbroken, Martha approached her grandfather for the money, but he refused, saying that if the jacket had to be bought, it wasn’t a real scholarship. Disappointed, Martha informed the principal of her grandfather’s decision. The principal, realising the unfairness of the situation, reversed the decision and awarded the jacket to Martha for free. Her honesty and determination had won against injustice.

34. The Boy’s Relationship with Nature – Adventures in a Banyan Tree

The boy in Adventures in a Banyan Tree develops a close bond with nature, especially with the ancient banyan tree in his grandparents’ house. Since his grandfather was too old to climb it, the tree became his own special place. He spent hours there, observing the beauty of birds, animals, and insects.

One day, he befriended a grey squirrel, which initially feared him but later became comfortable in his presence. The boy also witnessed an intense battle between a mongoose and a cobra. The fight was fierce, but in the end, the mongoose killed the cobra, showing the power of nature’s instincts.

Another fascinating incident was the friendship between a white rat and the grey squirrel. They were often seen together, and to his surprise, they even had baby squirrels with white patches, suggesting that the white rat might have been their father. These experiences deepened the boy’s love and respect for nature.

35. Speech on Good Friendship and a Responsible Life

Respected teachers and dear friends,

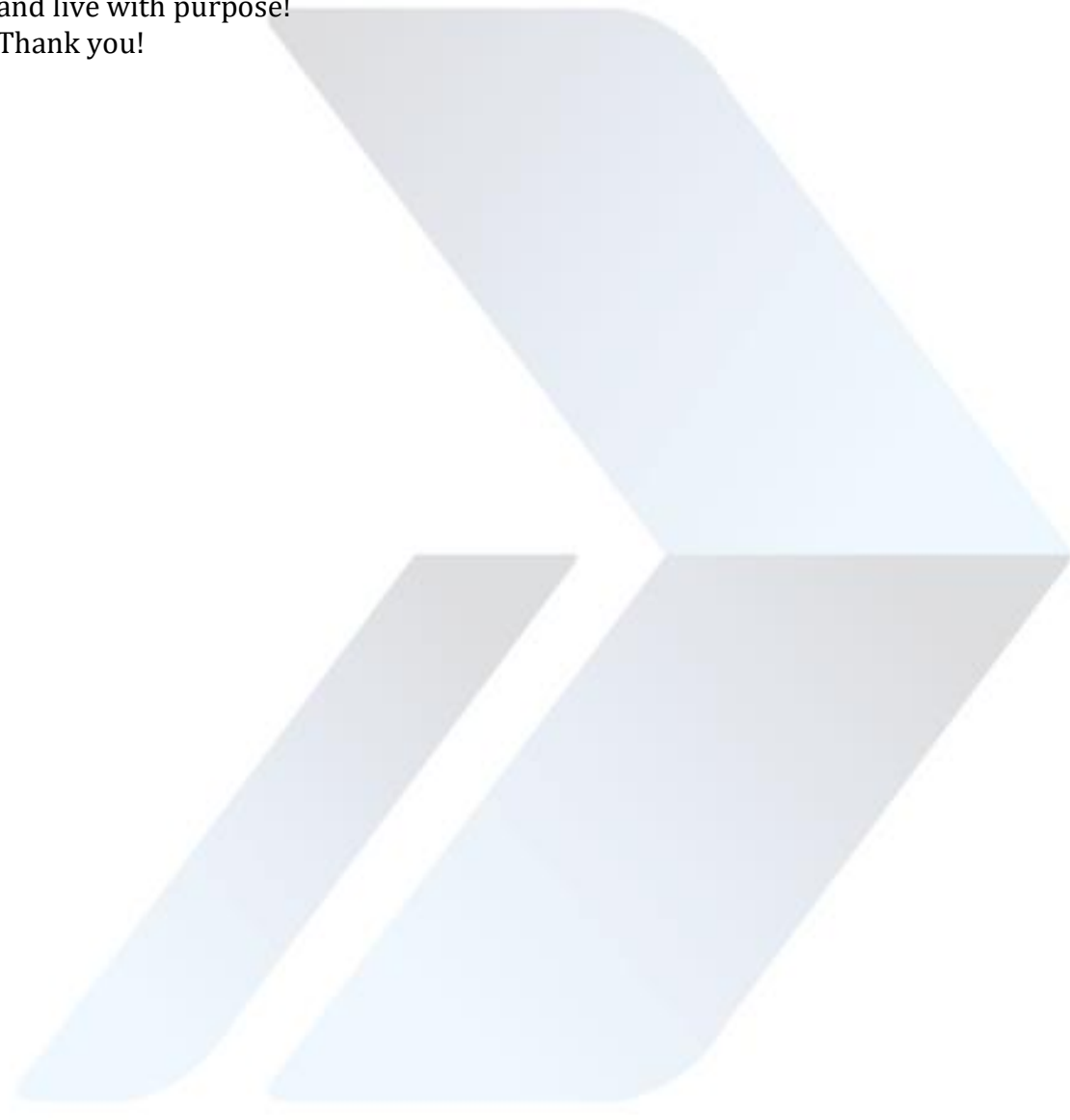
Today, I would like to talk about the importance of good friendships and leading a responsible life. The story The Best Investment I Ever Made teaches us a valuable lesson about how bad companionship can ruin a person’s life.

John, the main character, lost his parents at a young age and grew up alone in London. Without proper guidance, he fell into bad company, got involved in gambling, and eventually stole money to pay off his debts. Overcome with guilt, he attempted suicide but was rescued by a doctor, a police sergeant, and his landlady. This act of kindness changed his life forever. He realised his mistakes, turned his life around, and dedicated himself to helping troubled young people.

Like John, many young people today fall into bad habits due to negative influences. It is essential to choose friends wisely and stay away from harmful activities. Instead of making reckless decisions, we should focus on helping others and building a better society.

Good friends lift us up, while bad company drags us down. Let's make wise choices and live with purpose!

Thank you!

A large, abstract graphic composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of light blue and grey. The shapes are arranged in a way that suggests movement and depth, with some shapes pointing towards the right and others towards the bottom. The overall effect is a modern, minimalist design element.