

SSLC EXAMINATION, MARCH – 2023

ENGLISH

Time:2.5hrs

Total score: 80

Questions 1-5. Read the excerpt from 'Vanka' and answer the questions that follow.

1×5=5

Vanka gave a sharp sigh and once more gazed at the Windowpane. He remembered his grandfather going to get a Christmas tree for the gentry and taking his grandson with him. Oh, what happy times those had been! Grandfather would give a chuckle, and the frost-bound wood chuckled, and Vanka, following their example, chuckled, too. Before chopping down the fir-tree, Grandfather would smoke a pipe, take a long pinch of snuff, and laugh at the shivering Vanka... The young fir-trees, coated with frost, stood motionless, waiting to see which one of them was to die. And suddenly a hare would come leaping over a snow-drift, swift as an arrow. Grandfather could never help shouting:

'Stop it, stop it . . . stop it! Oh, you stub-tailed devil!'

1. What does Vanka remember about his grandfather during Christmas?
2. Pick out a sentence that tells you, Vanka really missed his happy times.
3. How are the fir-trees described in the passage?
4. Identify the word from the passage that means 'to cut down a tree'.
5. What is the movement of the hare compared to?

Solution:

1. Vanka remembers how his grandfather would take him to get a Christmas tree, laugh together, and enjoy the moment, with his grandfather chuckling and the frost-bound wood doing the same.
2. "Vanka gave a sharp sigh and once more gazed at the Windowpane."
3. The fir-trees are described as "coated with frost" and "motionless," waiting to be chosen for cutting.
4. The word is "chopping."
5. The hare's movement is compared to "swift as an arrow."

Questions 6-9. Read the lines from the poem 'Lines written in Early Spring' and answer the questions given below.

1×4=4

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played,
Their thoughts I cannot measure:-
But the least motion which they made
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

6. What is the poet's faith?
7. Pick out any two visual images from the stanzas given above.
8. What feelings do the movement of the birds evoke in the poet's mind?
9. Identify the rhyme scheme followed in the lines given.

Solution:

6. The poet's faith is that every flower enjoys the air it breathes.
7. Two visual images from the stanza are:
"Through primrose tufts, in that green bower."
"The periwinkle trailed its wreaths."
8. The movement of the birds evokes a feeling of joy and pleasure in the poet's mind, as it seems that every motion of the birds is a thrill of happiness.
9. The rhyme scheme followed in the lines is ABAB.

10. Read the lines from the poem 'The Ballad of Father Gilligan' and prepare a note of appreciation considering the theme, imagery and other poetic devices. 5

The old priest Peter Gilligan
Was weary night and day
For half his flock were in their beds
Or under green sods lay.

Once, while he nodded in a chair
At the moth-hour of the eve
Another poor man sent for him,
And he began to grieve.

'I have no rest, nor joy, nor peace,
For people die and die;
And after cried he, 'God forgive!
My body spake not I!'

Solution:

Appreciation of 'The Ballad of Father Gilligan'

Theme:

The poem portrays Father Gilligan's selfless devotion, highlighting themes of compassion, the inevitability of death, and divine grace.

Imagery:

Vivid imagery like "half his flock were in their beds or under green sods lay" depicts widespread loss, while "moth-hour of the eve" creates a mystical twilight atmosphere.

Poetic Devices:

Alliteration: "Die and die" emphasizes the ongoing deaths.

Contrast: The priest's exhaustion contrasts with his unwavering duty.

Personification: "Moth-hour" gives nature a mystical quality, enhancing emotional depth.

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

1×5=5

Everyone needs sleep, but its biological purpose remains a mystery. It is a fact that sleep is important in our daily routine. We spend about one-third of our time sleeping. Without proper sleep one finds it difficult to concentrate and respond quickly to various situations.

Sleep is important to a number of brain functions, including the communication of nerve cells (neurons) with each other. In fact, our brain and body stay remarkably active while we sleep. Recent research suggests that sleep plays a housekeeping role by removing toxins that are formed in our brain, while we are awake.

Lack of sleep affects almost every type of tissue and system in the body - from the brain, heart, and lungs to metabolism, immune function and mood. Chronic sleep disorders increase the risk of diseases like high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, depression, and obesity.

11. Our brain and body stay _____ while we sleep.

- (a) passive
- (b) active
- (c) still
- (d) idle

12. How much time do we spend sleeping?

13. How does lack of sleep affect our body?

14. What is the finding of recent research mentioned in the passage?

15. Pick out a word from the passage that means 'something that is difficult to understand',

Solution:

11. (b) active

12. We spend about one-third of our time sleeping.

13. Lack of sleep affects the brain, heart, lungs, metabolism, immune function, and mood. It increases the risk of diseases like high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, depression, and obesity.

14. Recent research suggests that sleep helps remove toxins formed in the brain while we are awake.

15. The word is "mystery."

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

1×7=7

16. The boy in the story 'Adventures in a Banyan Tree' enjoys sitting on the banyan tree reading books and watching the world beneath it. The story describes vividly the sights and sounds of nature. Prepare a write-up on the topic 'Nature - a treasure house of knowledge' based on the boy's observation of his surroundings and his joy of experiencing nature.

(Hints : makes friends with the squirrel - watches exciting fight between snake and the mongoose - interference of crow and myna-strange case of the grey squirrel and the white mongoose)

17. The story 'The Castaway' depicts the emotional journey of Nilkanta who was taken care of by the kind-hearted lady, Kiran. Prepare a brief narrative on the unforgettable experiences of Nilkanta in your words.

(Hints : survives a boat tragedy - turns up at Kiran's place - Kiran takes pity on him - gives freedom - falls into bad company - Sharat hates him-does not get Kiran's attention - steals Satish's inkstand - Kiran finds out - Nilkanta out in the street)

Solution:

16. Nature – A Treasure House of Knowledge

The boy in Adventures in a Banyan Tree finds immense joy and wisdom in the lap of nature. Sitting on the banyan tree, he befriends a playful squirrel, observing its habits and forming a bond. Nature unfolds its drama before him, especially during the thrilling fight between the snake and the mongoose. He watches with fascination how the crow and myna interfere, adding more excitement to the spectacle. The boy also witnesses the unique case of the grey squirrel and the white mongoose, a symbol of nature's surprises. These experiences teach him the beauty of coexistence, the unpredictability of life, and the intricate balance of ecosystems, proving that nature is indeed a treasure house of knowledge.

17. The Unforgettable Experiences of Nilkanta

Nilkanta, the boy in The Castaway, undergoes an emotional journey filled with memorable experiences. After surviving a boat tragedy, he finds refuge at Kiran's house, where her kindness and care become a new lease on life. She grants him freedom, but Nilkanta falls into bad company, much to Sharat's disapproval. Feeling neglected when Kiran's attention shifts to Satish, Nilkanta's frustration leads him to steal Satish's inkstand. Kiran's discovery of the theft shatters their bond, and Nilkanta finds himself out on the street. His journey highlights his search for belonging, his struggles with acceptance, and the fleeting moments of warmth in a life filled with challenges.

Questions 18-20. Answer any two of the following. Each question carries five marks.
2×5=10

18. The Film Club of your school has decided to conduct a film festival featuring the popular films of renowned film directors Satyajit Ray and Majid Majidi. Prepare a notice inviting everyone to the festival.

19. Aunt Jane in the play 'The Never Never Nest' was shocked to see the luxurious life led by Jack and Jill despite their low income. She writes her thoughts and feelings in her diary. Prepare the likely diary entry of Aunt Jane.

20. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in her enlightening speech discusses the danger of a single story. You get an opportunity to interview her. Prepare five questions you may ask her.

Solution:

19. Aunt Jane's Diary Entry

Date: 24th January

Today, I visited Jack and Jill, and I am utterly shocked by what I saw. Their luxurious lifestyle—complete with a car, a modern flat, and beautiful furniture—is beyond their means. How can they live so extravagantly with such a low income? It pains me

to know that they rely entirely on loans, mortgaging their future happiness for temporary comfort. I tried to warn them, but they don't seem to grasp the seriousness of their financial situation. I fear they are heading toward disaster. I only hope they realize their folly before it's too late.

20. Five Questions for Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

- (i) What inspired you to deliver your speech on the "danger of a single story"?
- (ii) How has your personal experience influenced your perspective on stereotypes?
- (iii) What steps can individuals take to overcome the single-story mindset?
- (iv) Do you think literature and storytelling can effectively challenge cultural biases?
- (v) How do you envision a world that embraces diverse narratives?

Questions 21-25. Answer any three of the following. Each question carries six marks.

3×6=18

21. 'The Snake and the Mirror' is an interesting story written by Vaikom Muhammad Basheer. After reading the story, you decide to write a letter to one of your friends describing the various events in the story. Prepare the likely letter.

22. Martha in 'The Scholarship Jacket' overcomes the obstacles in her life with confidence and determination. Prepare a character sketch of Martha.

23. Write a short profile of Anton Chekhov using the hints given below.

Birth: January 29, 1860, Taganrog, Russia

Occupation: Physician, short story writer, playwright

Famous as: Most cherished story teller, one of the masters of the modern short story

Notable works: A Dreary Story, Ivanov, Peasants, The Bear, The Cherry Orchard

Awards: Pushkin Prize

Death: July 15, 1904, Badenweiler, Germany

24. The shooting of the film Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne by Satyajit Ray in Notun Gram attracted media attention. The news appeared in a daily, the following day. Prepare the likely news report.

25. Mr. John in 'The Best Investment I Ever Made' goes through unforgettable experiences in his life and career. Prepare a paragraph on the circumstances that led Mr. John to think of ending his life.

Solution:

21. Letter Describing 'The Snake and the Mirror'

Begur, Bengaluru

24th January

Dear Mohan,

I hope this letter finds you well. I recently read an amusing story, The Snake and the Mirror by Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, and I couldn't wait to share it with you. It's about a young doctor living alone in a rented house. One night, as he sat in front of a mirror admiring himself, a snake suddenly dropped onto his shoulder! Terrified, he froze as the snake coiled around his arm and looked into the mirror. Strangely, the snake slithered away toward the mirror, seemingly enchanted by its reflection. It's an unforgettable tale of suspense, humor, and irony. You should definitely read it!

Take care,
Neil

22. Character Sketch of Martha

Martha, the protagonist of *The Scholarship Jacket*, is a determined and resilient young girl. Despite facing poverty and discrimination, she maintains her integrity and never compromises her values. Martha works hard academically, hoping to win the coveted scholarship jacket. She refuses to pay for the jacket when the school tries to impose a fee, standing firm in her belief that merit, not money, should decide the winner. Her unwavering confidence and inner strength make her an inspiring character.

23. Profile of Anton Chekhov

Anton Chekhov, born on January 29, 1860, in Taganrog, Russia, was a renowned physician, short story writer, and playwright. He is celebrated as one of the masters of the modern short story and a cherished storyteller. His notable works include *A Dreary Story*, *Ivanov*, *Peasants*, *The Bear*, and *The Cherry Orchard*. Chekhov's contributions to literature earned him the prestigious Pushkin Prize. He passed away on July 15, 1904, in Badenweiler, Germany, leaving behind a legacy of timeless literary works.

24. News Report on the Film Shooting

Shooting of Satyajit Ray's Film Draws Attention

Notun Gram, 24th January

The small village of Notun Gram witnessed great excitement as legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray began shooting his iconic film *Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne*. The serene location came alive with the cast, crew, and elaborate sets. Media representatives flocked to cover the event, praising Ray's creative vision. Villagers expressed pride in hosting such a renowned director and eagerly participated in the shooting process. The film is expected to capture the charm of the rural setting beautifully.

25. In 'The Best Investment I Ever Made', Mr. John finds himself in a desperate situation due to poor decisions and misfortune. As a young man, he gambled away his inheritance and fell into severe debt. Consumed by guilt and hopelessness, he tried to end his life but was saved by the narrator and his friends. This act of kindness became a turning point, inspiring Mr. John to transform his life and dedicate himself to helping others.

Questions 26-30. Details of the winners of the Golden Crow Pheasant for the best film are given in the table below. Study the table and answer the questions that follow:

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Winners of the Golden Crow Pheasant for Best Film				
Year	Film (Original Title)	English Title	Director	Country
2003	Abouna	Our Father	Mahamat Saleh Haroun	Chad

2005	Sheng si jie	Stolen Life	Shaohong Li	China
2006	Nirontor	Forever Flows	Abu Sayeed	Bangladesh
2009	Jermal	Fishing Platform	Ravi Bharwani	Indonesia
2015	Ottaal	The Trap	Jayaraj	India

26. Which year did an Indonesian film get the award? -
 27. Name the director of the film that won an award in 2015.
 28. What is the English title of the film directed by Abu Sayeed?
 29. Which country does the director Mahamat Saleh Haroun belong to?
 30. Who is the director of the film 'Sheng si jie'?

Solution:

26. The Indonesian film won the award in 2009.
 27. The director of the film that won an award in 2015 is Jayaraj.
 28. The English title of the film directed by Abu Sayeed is Forever Flows.
 29. The director Mahamat Saleh Haroun belongs to Chad.
 30. The director of the film Sheng si jie is Shaohong Li.

31. Report the following dialogue. 2

A friend: Why are you worried?

Homeopath: A snake coiled around my arm.

- (a) A friend asked the Homeopath
 (b) The Homeopath replied

Solution:

- (a) A friend asked the Homeopath **why he was worried**.
 (b) The Homeopath replied **that a snake had coiled around his arm**.

32. Complete the following passage using the appropriate forms of the phrasal verbs from the ones given below. 4

Martha could not ____ (a) the decision of the board. But she was not ready to ____ (b) her hopes to win the Scholarship Jacket. Totally fearless, Martha ____ (c) her thoughts to the principal. The principal was ____ (d) by Martha's response and finally changed his decision.

(give up, put across, taken a-back, put up with)

Solution:

Martha could not **put up with** (a) the decision of the board. But she was not ready to **give up** (b) her hopes to win the Scholarship Jacket. Totally fearless, Martha **put across** (c) her thoughts to the principal. The principal was **taken a-back** (d) by Martha's response and finally changed his decision.

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

In the spring, where (a) the banyan tree was full of small red figs, birds of all kinds will (b) flock into its branches. The red-bottomed bulbul, rosy-pastors, parrots and crows, squabble (c) with each other all the time. During the fig season, the banyan tree was the noisiest place in (d) the road.

Solution:

In the spring, when (a) the banyan tree was full of small red figs, birds of all kinds flocked (b) into its branches. The red-bottomed bulbul, rosy-pastors, parrots, and crows squabbled (c) with each other all the time. During the fig season, the banyan tree was the noisiest place on (d) the road.

34. Complete the conversation between Dr. A J Cronin and Mr. John. 4

Dr. A J Cronin: You were watching me closely, ____ (a) ____?

Mr. John: Yes of course. ____ (b) ____?

Dr. A J Cronin: No, I'm sorry, I don't remember you.

Mr. John: You saved me, some 25 years ago, when you were practicing in London.

Dr. A J Cronin: Yes, now I remember you. ____ (c) ____?

Mr. John: I'm working as the director of a charitable organisation.

Dr. A J Cronin: Good to learn that.

Mr. John: If you hadn't saved my life, ____ (d) ____

Dr. A J Cronin: Glad to hear that.

Solution:

Dr. A J Cronin: You were watching me closely, weren't you (a)?

Mr. John: Yes of course. Don't you remember me (b)?

Dr. A J Cronin: No, I'm sorry, I don't remember you.

Mr. John: You saved me, some 25 years ago, when you were practicing in London.

Dr. A J Cronin: Yes, now I remember you. How have you been (c)?

Mr. John: I'm working as the director of a charitable organisation.

Dr. A J Cronin: Good to learn that.

Mr. John: If you hadn't saved my life, I wouldn't have been here today (d).

Dr. A J Cronin: Glad to hear that.

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

Satyajit Ray realised how reverently the animal-actors were treated when he happened to see the shooting ____ (a) a film twenty years ago in Disney Studio ____ (b) Hollywood. ____ (c) main character in the film was ____ (d) large dog. (a ,the, in, of, on)

Solution:

Satyajit Ray realised how reverently the animal-actors were treated when he happened to see the shooting of (a) a film twenty years ago in Disney Studio in (b) Hollywood. The (c) main character in the film was a (d) large dog.

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

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- (a) The ship moved on through the still darkness of the night.
- (b) All my characters were white and blue-eyed.
- (c) The American and British books stirred my imagination.

Solution:

- (a) **The ship** moved on through the still darkness of the night.
- (b) **All my characters** were white and blue-eyed.
- (c) **The American and British books** stirred my imagination.