

S.S.L.C. EXAMINATION, MARCH-2013
ENGLISH

Time : 2½ hours

Total Score : 80

Instructions :

- The first 15 minutes is cool-off time.
- This time is to be spent for reading the question paper.
- You are not supposed to write anything during the cool-off time.
- Read the instructions carefully and attempt the questions.

Score

Questions 1 to 6 : Read the following excerpt from 'The Method of Sherlock Holmes' and answer the questions that follow :

It was a fine, thick piece of wood, bulbous headed. Just under the head was a broad silver band nearly an inch across. 'To James Mortimer, M.R.C.S., from his friends of the C.C.H.,' was engraved upon it, with the date '1884'. It was just such a stick as the old fashioned family practitioner used to carry dignified, solid, and reassuring.

'Well, Watson, what do you make of it?'

Holmes was sitting with his back to me, and I had given him no sign of my occupation.

'How did you know what I was doing? I believe you have eyes in the back of your head'.

'I have, at least, a well-polished, silver plated coffee pot in front of me', said he. 'But, tell me, Watson, what do you make of our visitor's stick? Since we have been so unfortunate as to miss him and have no idea of the purpose of his visit, this stick gains importance. Let me hear you reconstruct the man by an examination of it.'

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| 1. | What was written on the stick ? | 1 |
| 2. | How did Sherlock Holmes understand that Watson was examining the stick though Holmes was sitting with his back to Watson ? | 1 |
| 3. | Pick out the sentence that hints at Watson's admiration for Holme's skills as a detective. | 1 |
| 4. | Why, according to Holmes, is the stick important ? | 1 |
| 5. | What was the task Holmes assigned to Watson ? | 1 |
| 6. | Identify the word from the passage that means 'doctor'. | 1 |

P.T.O.

Questions 7 to 10 : Read the lines from 'Night of the Scorpion' and answer the questions that follow :

I remember the night my mother
was stung by a scorpion. Ten hours
of steady rain had driven him
to crawl beneath a sack of rice.
Parting with his poison - flash
of diabolic tail in the dark room -
he risked the rain again.

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| 7. | What made the scorpion crawl beneath the sack of rice ? | 1 |
| 8. | The poet also uses another expression to say that the scorpion stung his mother. Identify it. | 1 |
| 9. | Which line suggests that the scorpion left the place ? | 1 |
| 10. | Pick out a visual image from the lines. | 1 |

Questions 11 to 14 : Read the following lines from the poem 'The Arrow and the Song' and answer the questions that follow :

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong
That it can follow the flight of song ?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroken;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.

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| 11. | Where did the song the speaker breathed fall ? | 1 |
| 12. | Why could the speaker not follow the flight of the song ? | 1 |
| 13. | Write the rhyme scheme followed in the first stanza of the poem. | 1 |
| 14. | Pick out the line/lines you like most from the above stanzas and say why you like it/them. | 1 |

Questions 15 to 18 : Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

Once, Mahatma Gandhi was visiting Tagore. He spent time with Tagore, discussing many topics. After lunch, Gandhiji went to take rest when some of the followers of Tagore, approached him.

'Can you help us, Gandhiji ?' they asked.

'What is it ?' asked the Mahatma.

'We are worried about Tagore's health', they explained. 'The doctors advised him to take rest, but he refuses. After lunch, he immediately goes back to work and does not take a moment's rest'. Gandhiji asked, 'Why do you want me to tell him to rest ?' They replied, 'We know he will not go against your advice.'

Gandhiji went to Tagore's room and saw that he was deeply immersed in his work. When Tagore looked up and saw Gandhiji standing there he asked him, 'Are you not comfortable that you have come out from your rest so soon ?'

Gandhiji replied : 'I have come to ask you to take rest after your lunch so your health does not fail'.

Tagore replied : 'When I was twelve, I took a vow never to rest at any time during the day for any reason. Up to now I have kept that vow.' Gandhiji was impressed by his commitment to his goal and told him, 'Now I know the secret of your success !'

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| 15. | What was Tagore's follower's request to Gandhiji ? | 1 |
| 16. | Why did Tagore's followers seek the help of Gandhiji to speak to Tagore ? | 1 |
| 17. | What was Tagore's reaction on seeing Gandhiji ? | 1 |
| 18. | Did Gandhiji compel Tagore to take rest ? Why ? | 2 |
| 19. | Answer any one of the following in about 120 words. You may use the hints given along with them. | 7 |
| (A) | How does Dr. C. S. Venkiteswaran in his article 'Tea-shops in Malayalam Cinema' substantiate his argument that the tea-shop is an ideal place to reveal the messages and concerns of a film ? Prepare a write-up in about 120 words. | |

[Hints : tea-shops as product of social change - offers space for free interaction - tea-shop as a centre of activity in film *Neelakkuyil* - other films in which tea-shop plays a crucial role - the space for depicting conflict between individual and society - cinema as a document of our lives and times]

OR

P.T.O.

- (B) The play 'The Beggar and the King' discusses the issue of how people in power ignore the common mass. Prepare a **review** of the play in about 120 words.

[Hints : the king and the beggar as the representatives of power and common people - the servant as a mediator - the demand of the beggar - the punishment imposed by the king - the beggar overcomes the punishments - the change in the character of the servant - the beggar as the ultimate winner - how effectively the play discussed the theme]

20. The letter written by Swami's father to the headmaster is not revealed till the end of the story 'Father's Help'. What would Swami's father write to the headmaster? Draft the likely **letter**. 6

[Hints : murmurous night - starry - garden of eyes - fragrance - breeze - sound of cricket - conversation among beings]

21. The night the narrator met with the stranger in the story 'The Blue Bouquet' was elegantly described by Octavio Paz. Write a brief **description** of the night. 5

22. Imagine that you and your friends have decided to honour Balthazar, the artist in a public function. Prepare a **speech** congratulating Balthazar and commenting on the conditions of unknown artists like Balthazar who are neglected and are forced to live in poverty. 6

23. A debate is held in your class on the topic, 'Teachers influence children more than parents'. Prepare a **report** of the debate including details about the major arguments for and against the topic, who acted as moderator etc. 5

24. Write a short **profile** of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, one of the greatest writers of the present world, making use of the following hints. 5

Born	:	6 March 1928 Aracataca, Colombia
Well known as	:	Novelist, Short story writer, Journalist
Education	:	Graduated in Law
Studied at	:	National University of Colombia
Literary movement	:	Magical realism
Notable Novels	:	<i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i> (1967), <i>Love in the Time of Cholera</i> (1985), <i>The General in His Labyrinth</i> (1989)
Autobiography	:	<i>Living to Tell the Tale</i> (2002)
Notable award	:	Nobel Prize for Literature (1982)

25. You meet the narrator of the story 'The Blue Bouquet' after his encounter with the man who tried to gouge his eyes. You wish to know more about the incident. Write the likely **conversation** between you and the narrator. Write at least 5 exchanges. 5

Questions 26 to 30. Study the table showing the details of the sales in a book shop of a few novels by well-known authors and answer the questions that follow.

Title	Author	Country	Year of Publication	No. of copies sold
One Hundred Years of Solitude	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	Colombia	1970	714
The Village by the Sea	Anita Desai	India	1982	411
If on a Winter's Night a Traveler	Italo Calvino	Italy	1981	214
The Alchemist	Paulo Coelho	Brazil	1993	895
Blindness	Jose Saramago	Portugal	1997	495

26. Which is the most recently published novel out of the given list ? 1
27. Pick out the novel that is sold less number of copies than the others. 1
28. Who is the author of the novel which is sold the most ? 1
29. Name the author whose novel stands second on the basis of the sales. 1
30. How many copies of the novel by the Indian author are sold in the bookshop ? 1

P.T.O.

31. The passage given below has a few errors in it. The errors are underlined. Edit the passage :

When I was in Chennai last year, I meet (a) a group of school children playing at the sea-shore. One of the boy (b) in the group did not know swimming. He was keeping away from the other children. But his friends dragged him to their midst and he too joined them final (c). They were playing at the beach which (d) a lot of tourists assembled to watch the sunset. Suddenly the boy who didn't know swimming took (e) away by a huge wave. Fortunately the coast guards on the beach could save him.

32. Read the following dialogue and answer the questions that follow :

The hotelkeeper : Where are you going ?

The author : I am going out for a walk in the street.

- (a) What did the hotelkeeper ask the author ?
 (b) What was the author's reply ?

33. Read the following conversation and fill in the missing exchanges suitably :

Jose Montiel : Who're you ? What do you want ?

Balthazar : I'm Balthazar a carpenter. I (a).

Jose Montiel : You want to meet my son, (b)?

Balthazar : Yes. Is the boy at home ?

Jose Montiel : He's not back from school.

Balthazar : (c)?

Jose Montiel : I don't know. You've to wait till he comes.

Balthazar : If I talk to your wife (d).

Jose Montiel : You can talk to my wife. But don't think we'll pay you.

34. Fill in the blanks with suitable phrases from the box given below :

The hotel keeper _____(a)_____ requesting the author not to go out in the night. But the author _____(b)_____ his requests and went for a walk in the street at night. It was in that odd hour he _____(c)_____ the stranger who tried to gouge his eyes. The author regretted for not following the words of the hotelkeeper.

call at	come across	go on	turn down
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35. Look at the following word pyramid.

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The man

The oldman

The old man at the bus stop

The old man at the bus stop who told me the story

Construct a meaningful word pyramid keeping the same pattern with
'The library'.

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