

## SSLC MODEL EXAMINATION—FEBRUARY, 2013

## ENGLISH

Time : 2 hrs.

Total Score : 80

**Instructions:**

1. Attempt all questions.
2. Write the answers neatly and legibly.
3. Use the 'cool-off time' to read the questions and plan your answers.

SCORE

**Questions 1 — 6. Read the excerpt from the story 'Fathes's Help' and answer the questions that follow:**

Swami stood at the entrance to his class. Samuel was teaching arithmetic. He looked at Swami for a moment. Swami stood hoping that Samuel would fall on him and tear his skin off. But Samuel merely asked, 'Are you just coming to the class?'

'Yes, sir.'

'You are half an hour late.'

'I know it.' Swami hoped that he would be attacked now. He almost prayed: 'God of Thirupathi, please make Samuel beat me.'

'Why are you late?'

Swami wanted to reply, 'Just to see what you can do.' But he merely said, 'I have a headache, sir.'

'Then why did you come to the school at all?'

A most unexpected question from Samuel. 'My father said that I shouldn't miss the class, sir,' said Swami.

This seemed to impress Samuel. 'Your father is quite right; a very sensible man. We want more parents like him.'

1. How late was Swami to the class? [1]
2. What was Swami's hope when he entered the class? [1]
3. What was Swami's prayer? [1]
4. Pick out the sentences from the passage that tell us Samuel was impressed by Swami's father. [1]
5. Samuel's question took Swami by surprise. What was the question? [1]

6. Look at the piece of conversation between Swami and Samuel and answer the questions that follow:

[2]

Samuel: 'Why are you late?'

Swami: 'I have a headache, sir.'

- (a) What did Samuel ask Swami?  
 (b) What was Swami's reply?

**Questions 7—11. Read the lines from 'In the Country' and answer the questions that follow:**

This life is sweetest; in the wood  
 I hear no children cry for food;  
 I see no woman, white with care;  
 No man, with muscles wasting here.

No doubt it is a selfish thing  
 To fly from human suffering;  
 No doubt he is a selfish man,  
 Who shuns poor creatures sad and wan.

But it's a wretched life to face  
 Hunger in almost every place;  
 Cursed with a hand that's empty, when  
 The heart is full to help all men.

7. How does the poet describe the life in the woods? [1]  
 8. Who according to the poet is a selfish man? [1]  
 9. Pick out the lines from the stanzas that show that the poet wishes to help the suffering people. [1]  
 10. Write the rhyme scheme followed in the first stanza. [1]  
 11. Why is life in the cities described as 'wretched'? [1]

**Questions 12—15. 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.

The peasants came like swarms of flies  
 And buzzed the name of God a hundred times  
 to paralyse the Evil One.

With candles and with lanterns  
 throwing giant scorpion shadows  
 on the mud-baked walls  
 they searched for him: he was not found.

12. Who is the 'I' referred to in the poem? [1]
13. Pick out words/phrases that are used by the poet to describe the scorpion. [1]
14. Identify a visual image employed by the poet in the above lines. [1]
15. What details of time and weather can you get from the first four lines of the poem given above? [2]

**Questions 16—20. Read the following anecdote and answer the questions that follow:**

Before taking up a new diplomatic assignment in Srilanka, I spent a week in a big hotel in New Delhi. It was one of those modern hotels where every room is the same size and has the same furniture, and looks just like every other room. My room was 311 on the third floor. One night, quite late, I got back to the hotel after a very good dinner with some friends. I walked into the lift and pressed the button. When the lift stopped, I got out and walked to my room. When I opened the door, I saw an astonishing scene. A man was pointing a revolver at a woman sitting in an armchair, and the woman was saying in a frightened voice; 'Please don't shoot me.' I turned round, ran along the corridor and down the stairs. I found the night porter in the hall. 'Quick,' I cried, 'Someone is being murdered in my room.' Controlling his surprise he came back with me, but when we opened the door of 311, the room was empty. The porter looked at me strangely and said, 'I think sir; you had better go to bed,' and left. I was too bewildered to protest, and so, I followed his advice. At least I thought, I haven't heard a revolver shot.

The next morning I made some enquiries and the explanation was really quite simple. I had gone to room 411 on the floor above, where a famous actor and his wife had been rehearsing a scene from their new play. When I told them it was I who had burst into their room, they laughed and gave me a ticket to see the play on the opening night.

16. Pick out the word from the passage that means 'confused.' [1]
17. What was the astonishing scene the narrator saw? [1]
18. For the narrator, the sight in the room was\_\_\_\_\_. Choose the appropriate answer from the choices given below. [1]  
(difficult to explain/common and usual/terrifying and frustrating)
19. Why did the porter advise the narrator to go to bed? [1]
20. Suggest a suitable title to the passage. [1]

Question 21. Answer any one of the following in about 120 words:

[7]

- A. The narrator in the story 'The Blue Bouquet' had a strange experience in the street that night. Back in the hotel room he writes a letter to his wife describing what happened in the street at night. What would he write? Write the letter.

(Hints: *goes out into the darkness—the night is beautiful—a stranger follows—threatens with knife—demands his eyes—tries to gouge them—offers money and other belongings—finds the eyes not blue—disappears*)

OR

- B. Balthazar returns home and narrates to Ursula the events that happened at Jose Montiel's house. What would Balthazar tell her? Narrate the day's events in Balthazar's own words. You may begin like this:

*I went to Montiel's house ....*

(Hints: *Montiel pleased at first—angry later—questions Pepe very rudely—asks Balthazar to take it away—Pepe shrieks tearlessly—gifts the cage to Pepe—Montiel still angry—shouts his lungs out*)

22. At the end of the eventful day, Swami is regretful of telling lies. He thinks he needs to apologise to Samuel. He knows he has cut a sorry figure before his father too. He writes his thoughts in his diary. What would the likely **diary entry** be? [6]
23. Write a short profile of the famous poet K. Satchidanandan making use of the hints given below: [6]

Name	:	Koyamparambath Satchidanandan
Born on	:	May 28th, 1946
Place of birth	:	Thrissur district in Kerala, India
Occupation	:	academician, poet, playwright, critic, editor, translator
First work	:	Anchu Sooryan (1970)
Literary works	:	23 collections of poetry, 16 collections of translations of poetry, 21 collections of essays, four plays and three travel narratives.
Awards	:	various literary awards; regional and national level, Honoured with the Knighthood of the Order of Merit (Italy). Honoured with the Medallion of Friendship (Poland)

24. The English Club of your school has planned to stage the play 'The Beggar and the King' on Children's Day. Being the Secretary of the club you are asked to prepare a notice to be circulated among the staff and students in the school. Draft the **notice** highlighting the theme and relevance of the play. [6]
25. Pepe is extremely pleased with the cage presented by Balthazar. He was grateful to Balthazar for the gift. That night he talks to his mother about this. What would be the likely conversation between the mother and the son? Prepare at least six exchanges between them. [6]

Questions 26 — 30. Read the newspaper headlines given below and answer the questions that follow:

- (a) 12 INJURED AS BUSES COLLIDE
- (b) U. K. EMBASSY IN IRAN CLOSES AFTER TERRORIST ATTACK
- (c) MISS AUSTRALIA WOULD BE MISS WORLD 2013
- (d) HEAVY RAINS LASH CHENNAI
- (e) B.Ed. CLASSES TO BEGIN IN JULY

26. Which headline is related to international politics? [1]
27. Pick out the headline that speaks about the anger of natural forces. [1]
28. The headline that talks about a beauty pageant is\_\_\_\_\_. [1]
29. The headline that talks of a road accident is\_\_\_\_\_. [1]
30. Identify the headline that can be categorised as educational news. [1]
31. **There are a few errors in the given passage. They are underlined. Edit the passage.** [5×1 = 5]

Many films screened (a) in the film festival organised in our school last week. The festival was inaugurated by Anoop Krishnan, one of the former student (b) of our school which (c) won the best actor award in the State Youth Festival. The festival give (d) us a rare opportunity to watch some of the classics in world cinema. If our school buys an LCD Projector we conduct (e) such film festivals every year.

32. **Complete the following conversation between two friends suitably** [5×1 = 5]

Sona: You visited the book fair in the Stadium, \_\_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_?

Riya: No. I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_?

Sona: Yes. I went there yesterday.

Riya: \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_?

Sona: Yes. There are books for all age groups.

Riya: \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_?

Sona: I think it will go on for a month.

Riya: If my father permits me I \_\_\_\_\_ (e) \_\_\_\_\_.

Sona: Ok, that's fine.

33. **Replace the underlined words with suitable phrases given in brackets** [4]

Dev thought that the exams would be.....(a).....But only yesterday he came to know that there was no change in the timetable. He.....(b).....my brother to inform this. Dev told my brother that he had.....(c).....the timetable and was not ready for all the papers. My brother decided not to .....(d).....this time.

(go through, put off, give in, call on, go on)

34. **Supply the missing word in the following passage choosing the right ones from the box below:** [4]

Mr. Sharma has been the chief guest/(a) several programmes at many places. To be a guest anywhere is an honour. It means they respect you and expect guidance and leadership/(b) you. People look up/(c) you and every attention is focused on you. They take you as a role model and it is your responsibility to create a good impression/(d) them.

on,	from,	for,	to,	at
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35. **Look at the following word pyramid:**

Flowers

Yellow flowers

Those yellow flowers

Those yellow flowers in the bouquet

Those yellow flowers in the bouquet that smell sweet

**Now, construct a similar word pyramid with the word 'cars'.**

[4]