



Sl. No. 332611

S.S.L.C. EXAMINATION - MARCH - 2012

ENGLISH

Time : 2 ½ Hours

Total Score : 80

Instructions :

- + 15 minutes is given as 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.
- + Attempt questions according to instructions.

[SCORE]

**Questions 1-4 :** Read the excerpt from the story 'The Blue Bouquet' and answer the questions that follow.

Without turning my head I asked, 'What do you want?'

'Your eyes, senior.' His voice was strangely gentle, almost embarrassed.

'My eyes? What are you going to do with my eyes? Look, I've got a little money on me. Not much, but it's something. I'll give you everything I've got if you'll let me go. Don't kill me.'

'You shouldn't be scared, senior. I'm not going to kill you. I just want your eyes.'

'But what do you want them for?'

'It's my sweetheart's idea. She'd like to have a bouquet of blue eyes. There aren't many people around here that have them.'

'Mine won't do you any good. They aren't blue, they're light brown.'

**Q1)** Which word/words in the excerpt tells you that the stranger was not at all confident in placing his demand? [1]

**Q2)** Would you agree to the statement that the stranger is a passionate lover? Why? [2]

**Q3)** How does the narrator try to save himself from the stranger? [2]

P.T.O.



**Q4)** Read the piece of conversation between the narrator and the stranger and answer the questions that follow:

*Narrator: 'What do you want my eyes for?'*

*Stranger: 'It's my sweetheart's idea.'*

- a) What did the narrator ask the stranger?
- b) What was the stranger's reply?

[2]

**Questions 5-8 :** Read the lines from the poem 'Cactus' and answer the questions that follow.

One thorn for each rare drop of water.

I don't tempt butterflies.

No bird sings my praise.

I don't yield to droughts.

I create another beauty

beyond the moonlight,

this side of dreams,

a sharp, piercing,

parallel language.

**Q5)** Who does 'I' stand for?

[1]

**Q6)** 'I don't tempt butterflies.

No bird sings my praise.' What do these lines signify?

[1]

**Q7)** Pick out the line that states that cactus is a tough fighter.

[1]

**Q8)** What does the expression 'parallel language' imply?

[1]



**Questions 9-12 :** Read the lines from the poem 'Once Upon a Time' and answer the questions that follow.

But believe me, son.

I want to be what I used to be

when I was like you. I want

to unlearn all these muting things.

Most of all, I want to relearn

how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror

shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!

So show me, son,

how to laugh; show me how

I used to laugh and smile

once upon a time when I was like you.

*Q9)* Who is the poet speaking to?

[1]

*Q10)* How does the poet want to change?

[1]

*Q11)* List the ways the poet intends to 'unlearn' and 'relearn' things?

[2]

*Q12)* What does the poet want his son to show him?

[1]



**Questions 13-17 :** Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

There was once a young man who was strong and healthy. He enjoyed his work. In every way he felt on top of the world. He had no sympathy for the common people around him. One day he got an attack of cold. He paid little attention to it and became dangerously ill. When he recovered he could only move slowly. He was easily tired. Life became difficult for him. When he was well enough to go to work he found the journey very trying. He looked at the strong young men sitting comfortably in the train or bus, and noticed how tired some of the older people standing beside him were. Gradually, he got strong again. When he was in a train or bus he now looked around to see if there was any older person in need of a seat. And if there was, he gave up his. 'I've got back my strength now,' he said to himself, 'these older people will never have their strength again.'

**Q13)** The central idea of the passage you have just read is: the need for being

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
Which word will you select from the ones given below?

[1]

*(disinterested, considerate, self-confident, polite)*

**Q14)** Pick out the sentence from the passage which means 'the man felt that he had everything he wished for in life.'

[1]

**Q15)** What was the attitude of the healthy young man towards other people?

[1]

**Q16)** Why did life become difficult for the young man soon after his illness?

[1]

**Q17)** 'He found the journey trying.' What does the word 'trying'

mean - 'attempting' or 'difficult'?

[1]



**Q18) Answer any one of the following in about 120 words.**

[7]

- (A) In connection with the seminar organised in your school, you are asked to deliver a speech on the topic 'Film: not a mere entertainer.' Prepare the **speech** in about 120 words.

(Hints: films - loved by all age groups- provides entertainment to the masses - effective medium for conveying social messages- portrays society's beliefs, customs, food habits, dress codes, practices etc. - film songs helps to ease tensions and pains)

OR

- (B) Imagine that Swami tells you how he put himself into troubles by telling lies one after the other, to escape from attending the school. What would he tell you? Narrate the incident in Swami's own words. You may begin like this:

*It was Monday morning. I was ...*

(Hints: reluctant to go to school - father insists - Swami explains Samuel's cruelty - father writes letter to Headmaster - doesn't give the letter in the morning - tries to provoke Samuel- Samuel punishes him - goes to the headmaster - finds he is on leave)

**Q19) At the end of the day the man in the story 'The Blue Bouquet' makes an entry in his diary on the strange experience he had in the street. What would be the **diary entry** like? Write it.**

[5]

**Q20) Write a short profile of Anita Desai making use of the hints given below:**

[5]

<b>Name</b>	:	Anita Mazumdar Desai
<b>Birthday</b>	:	24 June 1937
<b>Place of birth</b>	:	Mussoorie, India
<b>Occupation</b>	:	Author and Professor
<b>Major Works</b>	:	Cry The Peacock, Fire on the Mountain, Clear Light Of Day, The Village By The Sea, In Custody
<b>Awards</b>	:	Sahitya Academi Award in 1978, Benson Medal of Royal Society of Literature (2003), shortlisted thrice for Booker Prize for Fiction
<b>Employed as</b>	:	Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States of America

P.T.O.



[SCORE]

**Q21)** Pepe is thankful to Balthazar for the cage gifted by him. He expresses his thanks to Balthazar writing a letter. Draft the likely **letter**. [5]

**Q22)** The Movie Club of your school has decided to organise a Film Festival. 'Taare Zameen Par', 'Dreams', 'The Sound of Music' and 'The Kid' will be screened at the festival. Renowned screenplay writer and filmmaker, M. T. Vasudevan Nair will inaugurate the festival. Prepare a **notice** with all details and inviting students to participate in the festival. [5]

**Q23)** Imagine that you meet the beggar who was coming out of the palace after his encounter with the King. Construct the likely **conversation** between you and the beggar. Write at least six exchanges. [6]

**Questions 24-28:** Read the newspaper headlines given below and answer the questions that follow.

- a) **20 KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS**
- b) **INDIA CLINCHES SERIES AGAINST WEST INDIES**
- c) **FROGS MARRIED-OFF IN HOPE OF RAIN**
- d) **CYCLONE KILLS OVER TWENTY**
- e) **M.B.A. CLASSES TO BEGIN ON SEPT. 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Q24)** Which headline is related to the field of sports? [1]

**Q25)** The headline which speaks of nature's fury is \_\_\_\_\_ [1]

**Q26)** Identify the headline that hints at superstitious belief. [1]

**Q27)** The headline that talks of a road mishap is \_\_\_\_\_ [1]

**Q28)** The headline that can be categorised as educational news is \_\_\_\_\_ [1]



[SCORE]

**Q29)** There are a few errors in the given passage. They are given in bold letters. Edit the passage. [1 × 5 = 5]

The city police has decided to **took** (a) stern action against drivers **which** (b) attempt to overtake **in** (c) the left side on city roads. All **driver** (d) who violate this rule will be **punish** (e).

**Q30)** Nizam and his mother are having an argument about keeping his room clean. Complete the conversation suitably. [5]

Mother : \_\_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Nizam : Not yet. I'll clean it up.

Mother : \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Nizam : After dinner.

Mother : You said so the last time also, \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Nizam : Yes, but this time I mean it.

Mother : If you don't keep your word, I \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_ .

Nizam : Father never gets angry that easily.

Mother : You should always keep your room neat and tidy.

Nizam : OK, Mom \_\_\_\_\_ (e) \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Q31)** Complete the following note using suitable phrasal verbs given in brackets. [4]

The king could not -----(a)----- the loud cry for food from the beggar. The beggar -----(b)----- crying in a horrible voice. The King ordered the servant to -----(c)----- the cry by driving the beggar away. The wise servant -----(d)----- a plan to stop the beggar's cry.

(put forward, put up with, went on, put an end to, put in)



**Q32) Supply the missing word in the following passage choosing the right ones from the box below. [4]**

Basketball is a sport / (a) can be played / (b) men, women and children. It is usually played / (c) a court. There is a backboard and a hoop, called a basket, at the end of the court. The rim of the basket is 3m / (d) the floor. The diameter of the rim is 46 cm.

by	from	out	that	and	in
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**Q33) Look at the following sentences: [1 × 3 = 3]**

- a) My mother baked the cake and I ate it.
- b) The teacher was strict but gentle.
- c) The girls went to the hall and practised their skit.

In the first sentence, two sentences are combined using the linker 'and' in the second sentence two adjectives are linked using 'but'. In the third, two verb phrases are linked using 'and'.

**Frame three sentences of the similar pattern.**

