

# S.S.L.C. EXAMINATION, MARCH - 2017

## ENGLISH

Second Language

Time : 2½ Hours

Total Score : 8

### Instructions :

- 15 minutes is given as cool-off time.
- This time is to be used for reading the questions paper.
- You are not supposed to write anything during the cool-off time.
- Attempt all questions according to the instructions.

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Questions 1 - 5 : Read the excerpt from Adichie's speech 'The Danger of a Single Story' and answer the questions that follow :

A professor once told me that my characters were too much like him, an educated and middle-class man. My characters drove cars. They were not starving. Therefore they were not authentically African.

When I learned, some years ago that writers were expected to have had really unhappy childhoods to be successful, I began to think about how I could invent horrible things my parents had done to me. But the truth is that I had a very happy childhood, full of laughter and love, in a very close-knit family.

1. Why did the Professor think that Adichie's characters were not authentically African ?
2. What kind of a person was the Professor ?
3. Adichie thought of inventing horrible things her parents had done to her. Why ?
4. What kind of a childhood did Adichie have ?
5. Find out from the passage an expression that means 'closely connected'.

Questions 6 - 9 : Read the lines from the poem 'The School Boy' and answer the questions that follow :

I love to rise in a summer morn,  
When the birds sing on every tree;  
The distant huntsman winds his horn,  
And the skylark sings with me:  
O what sweet company!

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But to go to school in a summer morn,  
 O it drives all joy away!  
 Under a cruel eye outworn,  
 The little ones spend the day  
 In sighing and dismay.

6. What are the sounds that welcome the boy in a summer morning ?
7. What drives 'all joy away' from the boy's mind ?
8. Whose cruel eyes keep the children under control ?
9. How do the children spend their day at the school ?
10. Read the poem 'Mother to Son' by Langston Hughes.

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'se been a-climbin' on,  
 And reachin' landin's,  
 And turnin' corners,  
 And sometimes goin' in the dark  
 Where there ain't been no light.  
 So, boy, don't you turn back...

Attempt a brief appreciation of the poem, focusing on the theme, imagery and the language in the poem.

112326 *Abhishek*  
 Questions 11 - 14 : Read the following story and answer the questions given below :

There was once a big flood in the river. The water came down from the mountain and the hills, the river came up and up, and a lot of houses on the low land were soon under the water.

The Red Cross sent some men, and they brought food and dry clothes and took some people to higher ground on boats.

An old man lived in a small house near the river. He was poor and there were no houses near his. There was a heavy rain one night and in the morning, the old man looked out of the window and saw the flood. The water was nearly up to his bedroom window.

The water came up and up. Then the flood got worse and the old man went up on to the roof. "What am I going to do?" he said. "The water is very deep and I can't swim".

But after three hours, the old man saw a boat. It slowly came near, and the old man saw two young men in it. "We've come from the Red Cross ...", one of the young men said.

"I'm sorry", the old man answered, "but I've just given you some money this month, and I haven't got much. I'm a poor man".

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|---|---|
| 11. Where did the water come from ?         | 1 |
| 12. When did the old man see the flood ?    | 1 |
| 13. Why did the old man go up to his roof ? | 1 |
| 14. Why did the Red Cross men go there ?    | 1 |

P.T.O.

Questions 15 - 20 : The following are the online advertisements of some Tour Operators. Study the details and answer the questions that follow :

Tourient Travels	Miles of Smiles	My Happy Journey
You can book flights, hotels, car rentals, activity plans and full holiday packages.	Our title is derived from ensuring that our customers are happy about the services provided to them.	My happy Journey was established with the sole aim of offering the most exclusive and memorable experience to travellers and vacationers.
Enjoy the best of tourism with Tourient -- a name tourism oriented like no other.	We have customised and unique packages for international tours such as to Thailand, Europe, East Asia, Australia and New Zealand.	Since its inception in 2007, our company has surpassed many milestones.
	We regularly review our management procedures and evaluate service delivery.	We are an ISO certified company with comfortable travel options, wonderful restaurants and shopping places which our clients would love to know to make their travel experience.

15. Which company was established in 2007 ? 1
16. Which tour operator says it wants to ensure customer satisfaction ? 1
17. Which company should we opt for, if we want to make an international trip ? 1
18. Which company is ISO certified ? 1
19. Which tour operator offers full holiday packages ? 1
20. Name the company that conducts reviews of services delivered. 1

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21. Answer any ONE of the following in about 120 words.

"I could hardly believe my ears. I spoke in a trembling rush. 'Oh! Thank you sir!' Suddenly I felt great". These words of happiness show how much the scholarship jacket means to Martha. Briefly **narrate** her story in your own words. You may use the hints given.

(Hints : wishes to get the scholarship jacket - works hard - overhears the conversation between Boone and Schmidt - principal asks her to pay for the scholarship jacket - grandpa refuses - finally awarded)

OR

"As we sat in silence, I could not but reflect that it was the best investment I had made in my life. It had paid me no dividends in worldly goods, but had turned out to be immensely profitable." Why does the narrator say so? **Narrate** in your words the events that led to this remark.

(Hints : The narrator meets a man on his way back from New York - he recounts an old incident - goes to attend one who had attempted suicide - young man saved - he later becomes a solicitor and a social activist - the meeting prompts the narrator to reflect on the best investment he had made )

22. 'Now, things changed when I discovered African books'. Prepare a **write-up** on how the reading of African books influenced Adichie's writing. 5
23. Satyajit Ray meets the manager of Bharat Circus to provide him with the service of a tiger for the shooting of his film. Write the likely **conversation** between Ray and the manager? 5
24. The doctor in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' writes about his strange experience in his diary. Prepare the likely **diary entry**. 5
25. Poor Vanka is in a miserable condition. Imagine that as a resident of the locality, you come to know about Vanka's pitiable life at the shoemaker's house. Write a **letter** to a police official describing Vanka's hardships and also the cruelty of his master, and requesting him to save the child. 5

P.T.O.

26. The English Club of your schools is organizing a debate on 'Social Media : A Boon or Bane'. You are the secretary of the club. Draft a notice inviting the students and teachers to the programme. 5
27. Complete the following conversation between Martha and a News reporter. 5
- Reporter : You are Martha, (a) ?
- Martha : Yes. I am.
- Reporter : (b) ?
- Martha : I'm in class eight.
- Reporter : You won the Scholarship Jacket, (c) ?
- Martha : Yes. I did.
- Reporter : (d) ?
- Martha : No, I didn't pay anything.
- Reporter : Indeed you deserve it. (e) !
- Martha : Thank you sir.
28. There are a few errors in the passage given below. They are underlined. Edit the passage making corrections. 4
- Another lovely thought struck me. I would got (a) married to a woman doctor who have (b) Plenty of money and a good medical practice. She had to be fat; for a valid reason. If I made some mistake silly (c) and needed to run away, she should not be able to ran after (d) me.
29. Report the following dialogue. 2
- Son : Where did you get it, father ?
- Father : I picked it up.
- You may begin in this manner :*
- The Son asked his father .....
- The father .....

30. Supply the missing words in the passage given below.

Needless to say, in our own country it/<sup>I</sup>(a) not at all easy to find trained animals,<sup>that</sup> (b) some films have been made/<sup>I</sup>(c) Bombay and Madras that involved working/<sup>with</sup>(d) elephants, horses and tigers.

(in, is, that, although, with)

31. Complete the following passage choosing appropriate phrasal verbs given in the box. 4

Amal has never been able to (a) early from bed. Though his mother would set the alarm clock, Amal simply turned it off and went back to sleep. Every morning, he would (b) late to school. So he (c) the class late every day. Amal knew well that his class teacher would not (d) with the situation.

put up with, get up, give up, put out, set out, get into

1

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2

3

32. Write a short profile of Rabindranath Tagore using the details given below : 5

Born : 1861  
 Famous as : poet, short story writer, musician, educationist and philosopher  
 Achievement : The first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature  
 Important works : 'Gitanjali', 'The Golden Boat', 'Cabuliwalah', 'The Post Office', 'The Broken Nest' etc.  
 Died : 1941