



SSLC PRE-MODEL EXAMINATION
ENGLISH (Set-1)
SECOND LANGUAGE



Maximum Score: 80

Time: 2 ½ Hours

General instructions to candidates:

- 15 minutes is 'cool-off- time'.
- This time is to be used for reading the question paper
- Attempt the questions according to the instructions.

PART-1

(Each question carries 1 score)

Question 1-6 . Read the excerpt from 'Vanka' and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries one score. (6X1=6)

'Dear Grandad Konstantin Makarich,' he wrote. 'I am writing a letter to you. I send you Christmas greetings and hope God will send you his blessings. I have no Father and no Mummie and you are all I have left.'

Vanka raised his eyes to the dark window-pane, in which the reflection of the candle flickered, and in his imagination distinctly saw his grandfather, Konstantin Makarich, who was a night watchman on the estate of some gentlefolk called Zhivarev. He was a small, lean, old man about sixty-five, but remarkably lively and agile, with a smiling face and eyes bleary with drink. In the daytime he either slept in the back kitchen, or sat joking with the cook and the kitchen-maids, and in the night, wrapped in a great sheepskin coat, he walked round and round the estate, sounding his rattle. After him, with drooping heads, went old Kashtanka and another dog, called Eel, on account of his black coat and long, weasel-like body. Eel was wonderfully respectful and insinuating, and turned the same appealing glance on friends and strangers alike, but he inspired confidence in no one. His deferential manner and docility were a cloak for the most Jesuitical spite and malice. He was an adept at stealing up to snap at a foot, creeping into the ice-house, or snatching a peasant's chicken. His hind-legs had been slashed again and again, twice he had been strung up, he was beaten within an inch of his life every week, but he survived it all.

- 1) What idea do you get about Vanka's life from the letter?
- 2) Describe the appearance of Konstantin Makarich.
- 3) How is Eel described in the passage?
- 4) What did Vanka see in his imagination?
- 5) What impression do you get about the character of Konstantin Makarich?
 - a. brave and efficient
 - b. fun loving and agile
 - c. stubborn and adamant
- 6) Pick out a word from the passage that is the opposite in meaning to the word 'vaguely'.

Questions 7-10. Read the lines from 'Mother to Son' and answer the questions that follow.
Each question carries one score. (4X1=4)

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've been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.

7. What is the mother trying to tell her son?
8. 'Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.' Describe the phrase 'no crystal stair'.
9. Life is not easy for the mother. How does she describe the difficulties of life?
10. What does 'turnin' corners' signify?

11. Read the following lines from 'The Ballad of Father Gilligan' and write an appreciation focusing on the theme, imagery and other poetic devices. (1X5=5)

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

He knelt, and leaning on the chair
He prayed and fell asleep;
And the moth-hour went from the fields,
And stars began to peep.

They slowly into millions grew,
And leaves shook in the wind
And God covered the world with shade
And whispered to mankind.

Questions 12-16. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries one score. (5X1=5)

It was a cold and windy night. My friend and I had met after a long time. We decided to take an autorickshaw to go to our house. It started raining, so none of the auto rickshaws stopped for us, except one. The driver asked us where we wanted to go and we told the place. Without saying anything about the fare, he said, 'Please get in!' We thanked him and got in. Since it was very cold, I asked the driver to stop at any small restaurant or a tea shop. We wanted to have a cup of hot tea. The driver stopped near a small restaurant. We ordered tea, and asked the driver to join us. The driver refused. My friend asked, 'Will you not take tea from this shop?' The driver replied, 'No Sir, I don't feel like having tea now.' I was really surprised at his behaviour and told my friend not to compel him. In 15 minutes, we reached our house. We paid the fare and the driver thanked us. On an impulse, I stopped him and asked why he refused to drink tea with us at the restaurant. He thought for a moment and replied, 'Sir, my son passed away this noon in an accident. I don't have enough money for his funeral. So I took a vow not to drink even water, until I earn enough money for my son's funeral. That's why I didn't drink tea when you offered.' We both were shattered and offered him more money for his son's funeral. He politely refused, 'Thank you for your generosity sir. In one or two hours, if I get one or two more customers, I will earn the money I need.' And he left the place.

12. When does the incident take place?
13. Why did the narrator ask the driver to stop the rickshaw?
14. Pick out the sentence which tells you about the climate.
15. Why did the driver refuse to have tea with the narrator?
16. Why didn't the driver accept the extra amount given by the narrator?

Questions 17-18. Answer any ONE of the following. Each question carries seven score.

(1X7=7)

17. The story 'Snake and the Mirror' narrates the Homeopath's encounter with the snake. Narrate the incident in the story, in your own words.

[Hints: - Homeopath lives alone in a rented house – his thoughts after having dinner one night – decides to marry – a snake falls down from the roof – coils around his left arm – the snake looks into the mirror and moves towards the mirror – the Homeopath runs out of the room.]

18. Anton Chekhov's 'Vanka' is a sad story of a nine-year-old boy. Vanka went through intense sufferings at the house of Alyakhin. In the light of your reading of the story, prepare a write-up on the Topic 'Preventing Child abuse in our society.'

[Hints:- Vanka – orphan child – poverty – physical and mental abuse – unable to react – unaware of child rights – sufferings of parentless children – lack of care – wishes to run away]

Questions 19 – 21. Answer any Two of the following. Each question carries five score.

(2X5=10)

19. Ali lost his sister's shoes and he started searching for it everywhere. Zahra became very sad when she heard about it. Prepare the likely conversation between Zahra and Ali.

20. The English club of your school has decided to organise a Documentary film festival in your school. As the Convenor of the club, draft a notice inviting the parents and the students to attend this programme.

21. Nilkanta's last hope of being proved innocent hits the dust. He decides to leave Kiran's house. Imagine that before leaving, he wrote a diary expressing his emotions. Write the likely Diary entry.

Questions 22– 26. Answer any Three of the following. Each question carries Six score.

(3X6=18)

22. 'I've never owed a penny in my life—cash down, that's my motto' These are the words of Aunt Jane from the One act play 'Never Never Nest'. Now, prepare the **character sketch** of Aunt Jane.

23. Suppose you get a chance to meet Ruskin Bond, the writer of 'The Adventures on the Banyan tree' prepare a **Questionnaire of Six questions** you would ask him.

24. "Then if you pay for it, Martha, it is not a Scholarship Jacket, is it?" The wise words of her grandfather motivated her to question the unjust decision of the Principal. So she writes a letter of complaint to the Managing Director of the school. Draft the likely letter.

25. Single stories create stereotypes. What does Adichie mean by this? Write a **paragraph** based on the reading of the speech - 'The Danger of a Single story'.

26. Prepare a **Profile** of Bob Dylan based on the following hints:

Name : Bob Dylan

Born : May 24, 1941, Minnesota

Other Names : Bob Landy, Blindboy, Grunt, Lucky Wilbury

Famous as : Singer, song writer, Artist.

Notable works : The free-wheelin' Bob Dylan, Bringing It All Back

Home

Awards and Accolades: Golden Globe Award, Academy Award, Grammy Award, Nobel Prize for Literature.

Questions 27-31. Read the following news headlines and answer the following questions.

(5X1=5)

BIRD FLU DETECTED IN ALAPPUZHA
JUNKO TABELI, FIRST WOMAN TO CONQUER EVEREST, DIES
PETROL PRICE INFLAMMABLE
SIX DIE IN ROAD MISHAP
MAN ENTERS SPACE

27. Name the head line which may upset a bike owner.

28. Which head line is related to road mishap?

29. Which head line mourns the death of the first mountaineer?

30. Name the head line which talks about a deadly virus.

31. The head line which is related to space is-----.

32. Read the conversation and answer the following questions (1×2=2)

Martha : Where is grandfather?

Grandmother : He has gone to the fields.

a What did Martha ask grandmother?

b What did grandmother reply?

33. There are a few errors in the passage given below. Edit them. (4x1=4)

Halfway up the tree I had builed (a) a small platform on which I would often spent (b) the afternoons when it wasn't too hot. I could read their, (c) propping myselves (d) up against the bole of the tree with cushions taken from the drawing room.

34. Complete the following passage choosing the right phrases from those given in the bracket (1×5=5)

Alyakhin and his wife treated Vanka cruelly. Vanka could not their rude behaviour. He to run away from there, but he had no boots. So he wrote a letter to his grandfather. He his coat and ran to the post office. In the market he the postman. He gave the letter to the postman and returned home. Vanka at his master's house before they came back from the church.

(put on, turn up, give up, put up with, put out, come across, made up his mind)

35. Fill in the blanks using the words given in brackets. (4x1=4)

Grandpa didn't say anything, he just gave me..... pat on the shoulder and a smile. He pulled..... the crumpled red handkerchief that he always carried..... his back pocket and wiped the sweat.....his forehead.

(of, in, a, out, off)

36. Complete the conversation suitably. (5X1=5)

Friend: You look sad,.....(a).....?

Martha : Yeah, I never thought the board would change it's policy.

Friend :(b).....?

Martha : No. I won't get the scholarship jacket this year. I have no money to pay for it.

Friend :(c).....?

Martha ; I think they took such a decision in favour of another student.

Friend : You had better(d).....

Martha : No, I can't pay the amount they demanded.

Friend : If you ask your grandfather,.....(e).....

Martha :I don't think so.
