

SSLC Model exam 2026

English Answer key

Part I: Reading Comprehension

Questions 1-5: *Trills and Thrills*

- 1. The question commonly posed to Dr. Salim Ali is about the thrilling adventures he has had in his lifetime of exploring for birds.
- 2. Any birdwatcher can make exciting discoveries in India because the country possesses a rich and varied bird life.
- 3. (B) Birdwatching as a hobby is growing in popularity.
- 4. The author describes ornithology as one of the most peaceful pursuits because it is generally a calm activity, even though it contains its own unique excitement and thrills.
- 5. (D) Birds had not read the text books.

Questions 6-9: *Mirror*

- 6. In this stanza, the mirror is compared to a lake.
- 7. (D) They hide the truth about ageing.
- 8. (C) Fear of ageing.
- 9. When looking into the mirror, the woman searches for her true self, her real identity, and what she really is beneath the surface of her appearance.

Question 10 [A]: Appreciation of 'Another Day in Paradise'

The song "Another Day in Paradise" by Phil Collins is a poignant critique of social indifference toward homelessness. The theme centers on the stark contrast between the "paradise" of a comfortable life and the harsh reality of those struggling on the streets. Collins uses powerful imagery, such as the woman calling out in the cold with "nowhere to sleep," to evoke empathy. The tone is both pleading and accusatory, particularly when describing the man who "pretends he can't hear her" and "starts to whistle" to mask his embarrassment. The repetitive refrain "think twice" serves as a poetic technique to urge the listener to reflect on their privilege. This song remains highly relevant today, as it challenges the modern tendency to ignore systemic poverty in our search for personal comfort.

OR

Question 10 [B]: Comparison of Brutus and Mark Antony's Speeches

Both Brutus and Mark Antony address the Roman public following Caesar's death, but their themes and approaches differ significantly. Brutus's speech is logical and self-justifying; he emphasizes that his love for Rome outweighed his love for Caesar. He

portrays Caesar's ambition as a fatal flaw that necessitated his death to preserve Roman freedom. In contrast, Mark Antony's speech is emotional and ironic. While he repeatedly calls Brutus "honourable," he provides evidence of Caesar's humbleness—such as weeping for the poor and filling the public treasury—to subtly disprove the charge of ambition. While Brutus appeals to the citizens' sense of duty, Antony appeals to their hearts and sense of loss.

Questions 11–14: Digital Detox and Mental Health

- 11. According to the passage, excessive screen time mainly affects students by reducing concentration and disturbing sleep.
 - 12. When students use mobile phones late at night, it suppresses melatonin, the hormone responsible for sleep, causing them to wake up tired and unfocused.
 - 13. The correct option is (C) Only (i), (iii) and (iv) are true. (Statement (ii) is false because digital detox encourages *mindful* use, not complete avoidance).
 - 14. The term digital dependence refers to a condition where individuals become mentally dependent or addicted to digital devices, often feeling restless or anxious when their phones are out of reach.
-

Question 15 [A]: Review of 'Beloved Boles'

"Beloved Boles" is a moving narrative that explores the psychological landscape of Teresa, a Polish lady living in a state of profound alienation. The story highlights her emotional and social loneliness, exacerbated by the prejudice she faces from the society around her. To escape the harsh reality of her isolation, Teresa creates an imagined relationship with a man named Boles. This illusion acts as a vital emotional support system, providing her with a sense of belonging that the real world denies her. The narrative beautifully illustrates how the sustaining power of illusion can provide hope and a reason to live, even when one is surrounded by cold indifference and social exclusion.

+1

OR

Question 15 [B]: Speech – "When Conscience Speaks Louder Than Fear"

"Good morning everyone. Today, I want to discuss a theme central to the story *In the Attic*: 'When Conscience Speaks Louder Than Fear'. Set against a backdrop of extreme cruelty and violence, the story shows us that innocent lives are often the first to be endangered. However, the narrative underscores that moral courage—the ability to act on one's conscience despite the risk—is the ultimate resistance to cruelty. The attic serves as a powerful symbol of shelter and hope. By choosing empathy over fear, a character can perform a compassionate act that rekindles faith in humanity.

This reminds us all that even one small voice of conscience can be louder than the loudest fear."

Question 16 [A]: Character Sketch of Hauchecome

Hauchecome, the central character in 'A Piece of String,' is a man defined by his simplicity and extreme thriftiness. He is a peasant who possesses an unyielding sense of pride and self-respect. His downfall begins not with a crime, but with a simple, misunderstood action—picking up a piece of string from the mud. Because of his past reputation for being cunning, he becomes a victim of social prejudice and suspicion. Despite his innocence, the more he tries to defend his honor, the more the community mocks him. This tragic cycle of distrust eventually breaks his spirit, showing how social stigma can destroy an innocent life.

Question 17 [A]: News Article – The Emotional Toll of War

STRENGTH AMIDST SORROW: THE UNSEEN BATTLE OF PARENTS By Staff Reporter

SULMONA – As the train departed for the front lines this morning, a different kind of war was visible within the cramped carriage: the internal struggle of parents. The journey captured a profound emotional spectrum, ranging from the stoic endurance of those who have already lost children to the sharp, fresh agony of those whose sons are currently departing.

+1

While some travelers argued that a child's life belongs to the Country, the atmosphere shifted as the unseen pain of war surfaced. The heavy silence following a father's breakdown reminded all present that behind every "heroic" sacrifice is a family left in ruins. The narrative of the parents in 'War' serves as a heartbreaking testament to the fact that while soldiers fight on the battlefield, parents carry the burden of loss and endurance long after the guns fall silent.

Question 17 [B]: Email to the Editor – The Plight of the Winged Old Man

To: editor@dailygazette.com

Subject: A Plea for Humanity: The Mistreatment of the Old Man with Wings

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the shocking treatment of the elderly man with enormous wings who recently appeared in our community.

It is disheartening to witness how this being has been subjected to extreme cruelty, neglect, and public humiliation. Instead of being met with compassion or scientific curiosity, he has been treated like a circus animal—poked with iron rods and kept in a

filthy chicken coop. His pathetic plight is a dark reflection of our own lack of empathy when faced with something we do not understand.

Through your esteemed columns, I wish to urge the public and the authorities to provide him with the dignity and care that every living soul deserves. Let us not allow our curiosity to turn into cruelty.

Yours faithfully, A Concerned Citizen

Question 18 [A]: Diary Entry – 'Préférence Nationale'

Friday, 15th February 2026

Today was one of the most soul-crushing days I have experienced since arriving in France. I went to the bakery with hope, only to be met with the cold wall of social prejudice. The way they looked at me—not as a qualified individual, but as a migrant who didn't belong—hurt more than the rejection itself. I felt so lonely and discriminated against, standing there in my own silence while the world moved on. It is exhausting to constantly have to prove my worth to people who have already decided I have none based on my origin. I just wanted a simple job, but instead, I was reminded that for some, "national preference" is just a polite way to say "you are not welcome".

OR

Question 18 [B]: Promotional Tag Lines

- "Smart Tech, Green Earth: The AI-Powered Future of Waste Collection!"
- "Robotics for a Cleaner Tomorrow—Join the Eco-Friendly Revolution!"

Question 19: Biographical Sketch of Fatou Diome

Fatou Diome: A Voice of Resilience

Fatou Diome is a distinguished contemporary African writer born in 1968 on Niodior Island, Senegal. Her childhood was deeply influenced by the traditional attitudes of her community and the pain of social exclusion, yet it was also enriched by the vibrant culture of oral storytelling. Seeking higher education, she migrated to France, where she studied literature at the University of Strasbourg.

Her life as an immigrant woman was marked by struggles against racism and the conflict of identity, themes that became central to her literary career. She gained significant acclaim with the publication of *La Préférence Nationale*, a work that masterfully blends autobiography with fiction to explore migration, exile, and social injustice. Today, her works are included in academic syllabi, cementing her reputation as a powerful voice in French literature.

Question 20: Event Invitation

THE DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS SHAKUNTALAM

The Drama Club of our school cordially invites you to the stage performance of the legendary play Shakuntalam.

- Date: February 28, 2026
- Time: 2:30 PM
- Venue: School Auditorium
- Special Attractions: Live classical music, traditional costumes, and AI-enhanced stage lighting.

We request the pleasure of the company of students, teachers, parents, and the general public to witness this grand cultural event.

Question 21: Framing Questions (Bablu Kewat)

1. Wh-Question: Who was Bablu Kewat's science teacher?.
 2. Wh-Question: Why did Bablu drop out of school?.
 3. Wh-Question: What did Bablu make under Mrs. Sharma's supervision?.
 4. Yes/No Question: Did Bablu and Gowri have an arranged marriage?.
-

Questions 22–26: Music Composers Table

- 22. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
 - 23. German.
 - 24. (C) Ludwig van Beethoven.
 - 25. (B) Chopin - Nocturnes and Etudes.
 - 26. Romantic.
-

Part III: Grammar & Language Elements

Question 27: Editing

My Journey by the romantic Cochin Forest Tramway was in (a) February 1946, shortly before it was dismantled (b) to make way for the gigantic Parambikulam hydro-electric project. The huge dam and reservoir has now completely (c) submerged Parambikulam and (d) all the lovely country around it. We reached Parambikulam just as it was (e) getting dark. In the verandah of the forest bungalow, I found a large group of Kadar adivasis, and in their (f) midst, a bare-footed 'topless' European male.

Question 28: Phrasal Verbs

- (a) The passengers had set out on their journey to Sulmona at sunrise.
- (b) They tried to sort out their confused and anxious thoughts.
- (c) The woman could not make out how other parents could speak so bravely.
- (d) Her strength almost run out when she thought of sending her son to the front.
- (e) The man's words turned out to be a mask of his pain.

Question 29,

The king entered (a) the hermitage (b) with great humility and respect. He placed his weapons (c) on the ground (d) because of the sages. His actions reflected (e) neither anger (f) nor pride.

Question 30: Conversation Completion

- French Friend: You went to the bakery this morning, didn't you?
- French Friend: Would you mind telling me what happened?
- French Friend: You had better try again.
- Narrator: If people judged me by my qualifications, I would be in a better position.
- French Friend: That's right. Why do people behave this way?

31. Reported Speech

- (a) Mr. Student asked Teresa who she wanted to write to.
- (b) Teresa replied that she wanted to write to Boleslav Kashput in the town, on the Warsaw Road.

Question 32: Vocabulary (Blends)

On our school trip to Mysore, we stopped at a roadside motel (a). We were given a spork (b) to enjoy our fruit bowl, which was served as part of a light brunch (c). We also enjoyed a glass of mocktail (d), which was refreshing and energising.