

**T.H.S.L.C. EXAMINATION, MARCH - 2014****English**

Time : 2.30 Hours

Total Score : 80

Instructions :

- 1) 15 minutes is given as cool-off time.
- 2) This time is to be spent for reading the question paper.
- 3) You are not supposed to write anything during the cool-off time.
- 4) Attempt questions according to instructions.

[SCORE]

Questions 1-4. Read the following passage from the story 'The Blue Bouquet' and answer the questions that follow.

The night was murmurous with the sounds of leaves and insects. The crickets had bivouacked among the tall weeds. I raised my eyes: up there the stars were also camping out. I thought that the whole universe was a grand system of signals, a conversation among enormous beings. My own actions, the creak of a cricket, the blinking of a star, were merely pauses and syllables, odd fragments of that dialogue. I was only one syllable, of only one word. But what was that word? Who was uttering it? And to whom? I tossed my cigarette onto the sidewalk. It fell in a glowing arc, giving off sparks like a miniature comet.

- Q1)** How is the night described? **[1]**
- Q2)** 'I was only one syllable, of only one word.' What does the author mean by this? **[1]**
- Q3)** What is the cigarette tossing compared to? **[1]**
- Q4)** Pick out a word from the passage that is opposite in meaning to the word 'miniature'. **[1]**



Questions 5-8. Read the lines taken from the poem 'Cactus' and answer the questions given below.

Thorns are my language.
I announce my existence
with a bleeding touch.
Once these thorns were flowers.
I loathe lovers who betray.
Poets have abandoned the deserts
to go back to the gardens.

- Q5) Who is the 'I' referred to in these lines? [1]
- Q6) What does 'bleeding touch' mean? [1]
- Q7) Who does the speaker hate? [1]
- Q8) Why have the poets abandoned the deserts? [1]

Questions 9-12. Read the lines from the poem 'The Arrow and the Song' and answer the questions that follow.

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroken;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.

- Q9) Why does the poet say that 'I knew not where' the song fell? [1]
- Q10) What did the poet find in the heart of a friend? [1]
- Q11) Pick out an instance of alliteration from these lines. [1]
- Q12) Write down the rhyme scheme of the first stanza. [1]



Questions 13-17. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The night was very dark and Mohan was frightened. He had always been afraid of ghosts. And tonight it was so dark that one could barely see one's own hand. Mohan had to go from one room to another.

As he stepped out of the room, his feet seemed to turn to lead and his heart began to beat like a drum. Rambha, their old maidservant was standing by the door.

'What's the matter, son?' she asked with a laugh.

'I am frightened, Dai,' Mohan answered.

'Frightened, child! Frightened of what?'

'See how dark it is! I'm afraid of ghosts!' Mohan whispered in a terrified voice.

Rambha patted his head affectionately and said, 'Think of Rama and no ghost will dare come near you. No one will touch a hair of your head.' Rambha's words gave Mohan courage. Repeating the name of Rama, he left the room. And from that day, Mohan was never lonely or afraid. He believed that as long as Rama was with him, he was safe from the danger.

This faith gave Gandhiji strength throughout his life, and even when he died the name of Rama was on his lips.

Q13) Why was Mohan frightened? [1]

Q14) What did Rambha say to console Mohan? [1]

Q15) How did Mohan overcome the fear of ghosts? [1]

Q16) Pick out a line which tells that Mohan was frightened of ghosts. [1]

Q17) Give suitable title to the passage. [1]



Q18) Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120 words. [7]

- a) After reading the story 'Father's Help', you tell the story to one of your friends. **Narrate** the story in your own words. The given hints will help you. You may begin like this:

Swami was lazy and did not like to go to school. One Monday morning.....

(**Hints:** headache - father insists - tells lie - teacher cruel and rude - beats pupils - father writes letter to Headmaster - reaches school - Samuel very generous - feels bad - tries to provoke him - makes nuisance in class - gets beating - goes to Headmaster - he is on leave - takes the letter back to father - You deserve your Samuel)

- b) The beggar in the one-act play 'The Beggar and the King' is a true representative of the present society. Do you agree with this statement? Prepare a brief **write-up** justifying the statement. You may use the hints given below.

(Hints: the central character - dictators suppress the demands of the people - cries of the downtrodden - neglected - characters of the play represents the downtrodden - dominates at the end of the play - king becomes submissive - servant later inclined to him)

Q19) Imagine that the next day you happened to see Balthazar on your way to school. What will be your conversation with him? Write the likely **conversation (at least six exchanges). [6]**

Q20) You felt bad about the 'high born' who reaches the tea-shop, spiriting valuables from his *tharavad*. You decide to write a letter to him talking about his bad behaviour. What would the letter be? Write the likely **letter. [6]**

Q21) Imagine that the Film Club of your school is organising a Film Festival. Prepare a **notice giving details of the programme such as: the chief guest, the films to be screened, date, time and venue of the fest, programme etc. [6]**



Questions 22-26. Read the following railway timetable carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Thiruvananthapuram Railway Station

Train No.	Train Name	Arrival	Departure	Destination	Platform
16604	Maveli Express		19:25	Mangalore	1
12217	Sampark Kranthi		10:15	Chandigarh	2
12275	Janashadabti		06.00	Kozhikode	4
16312	Bikaner Express	21: 20	21.30	Kanyakumari	3
16603	Parasuram Express	18.00	18.10	Nagercoil	1

Q22) If you want to visit Chandigarh, which train would you travel in? [1]

Q23) How long does the Bikaner Express stay at the station? [1]

Q24) From which platform does the Janashadabti depart? [1]

Q25) Which train reaches the railway station in the evening? [1]

Q26) Where does Maveli Express travel to? [1]

Q27) Read the following details carefully and prepare a **profile** of Anton Chekhov. [5]

Name : Anton Pavlovich Chekhov
Birth and Death : 1860 and 1904
Place of birth : Russia
Famous as : Fictionist, short story writer and playwright
Fictions : *The Duel, The Darling, The Black Mont*
Plays : *Three Sisters, The Cherry Orchard*
Profession : Practising physician



Q28) Look at the following sentences:

[3]

- a) The height and weight of a wooden is the same.
- b) He drew the picture carefully and clearly.
- c) The children played and enjoyed.

In sentence (a) two noun phrases are combined using the linker 'and'.
In sentence (b) two adverbs are linked using 'and'. In sentence (c)
two verb phrases are linked using 'and'.

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

Q29) Complete the following passage choosing appropriate words from [5]
the brackets given below.

Resul Pookutty was born in a small village named Vilakkupara / (a)
Kollam district, Kerala. He always wanted / (b) be a film-maker, but
he did not get admission in FTII (Film and Television Institute / (c)
India, Pune) to learn film direction. He studied / (d) the Film Insti-
tute. He specialized in sound designing. Later he won the Oscar
Award / (e) Best Sound Mixing.

(to, in, on, of, at, a, for)

Q30) Read the following conversation and rewrite them as directed. [2]

Mother : Why don't you go in a jutka?

Swami : It is already late.

- a) Swami's mother asked him
- b) Swami replied

Q31) There are some errors in the passage given below. They are in bold [5]
letters. Edit the passage.

Ravi stood frozen inside the shed. Then he **shiver** (a) all over. Some-
thing had tickled the back of **her** (b) neck. It took a while to pick up
his **cowrage** (c) to lift his hand and explore. It was **a** (d) insect - per-
haps a spider-exploring him. He squashed it and **wonder** (e) how
many more creatures were watching him.



[SCORE]

Q32) Replace the underlined words with the words given in brackets. [5]

The narrator put on (a) his shirt and went downstairs. Even though the hotelkeeper had warned him, he made up his mind (b) to go out. The stranger turned up (c) from the darkness. The stranger verified his eyes and gave up (d) the idea of making a blue-eyed bouquet. The narrator decided to put off (e) his works in the town and return to his native place.

(postponed, tolerate, decided, wore, abandoned, arrived)

Q33) Complete the conversation suitably.

[5]

- Father : You gave the letter to the headmaster, _____a_____?
- Swami : No, I did not.
- Father : _____b_____?
- Swami : He has gone for a tour.
- Father : If you gave the letter, _____c_____.
- Swami : I'll give it to the headmaster when he comes back.
- Father : You'd better _____d_____.
- Swami : No. I will not throw it into the waste basket.
- Father : The more you disobey me _____e_____.
- Swami : Sorry father.

Q34) Look at the following word pyramid.

[3]

Flower
The flower
The beautiful flower
The beautiful flower in our school garden
The beautiful flower in our school garden which blossomed yesterday

Now, construct a similar word-pyramid with the word 'tree'.

