

General Certificate of Education (Adv. Level) Examination, August 2012

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General English I - සාමාන්‍ය ඉංග්‍රීසි I

Three hours - පැය තුනකි

Instructions :

- * Answer **all** questions **on this paper** itself.
- * Marks will be deducted for bad punctuation (Omission of full stops, capital letters, etc.) and for mistakes in basic grammar. (The supervisor will provide you with sheets for rough work.)

PART A - GRAMMAR (40 marks)

- I. Fill in each blank with a suitable **preposition** from the list given below. Use each preposition only **once**. (10 marks)

on of into with in out of over round for towards

A small truck loaded (1) glassware backed out of a factory driveway into the path of a large truck. Most of the glass was broken (2)the crash, and the driver seemed (3) the verge of tears. A big crowd gathered and a benevolent old gentleman said compassionately, "I suppose you will have to make this good (4) your own pocket ? "

"I'm afraid so," lamented the driver.

"Well, well," said the gentleman. "Here's hundred rupee note (5)you. Let me pass (6) your hat and I am sure that some of these kind people will help you out too."

(7) a hundred people dropped their contribution (8) the outstretched hat. The driver, counting the money as the crowd dispersed, nodded (9) the retreating figure (10) the benevolent old gentleman and said, "That is what I call a smart guy - he's my boss."

- II. Fill in each blank with the correct form of the **verb** given in brackets. (10 marks)

A new lawyer had just opened up his office. "Ah! A client already," he (1) (**think**) as he saw the door (2) (**open**). "I (3) (**impress**) him." He picked up the telephone and (4) (**start**) talking. "No, I'm very sorry, but I (5) (**not take**) your case, even for Rs. 10,000. I'm just too busy." He (6) (**replace**) the receiver and looked at his visitor.

"And now, what (7) I..... (**do**) for you ?" he asked briskly. "Nothing really," (8) (**be**) the reply. "I (9) (**be**) from the Telephone Department. I just came (10) (**connect**) your telephone."

III. Construct **questions** to get the words in bold print as answer.

(05 marks)

- (1) He buys **his provisions** at the supermarket.

..... ?

- (2) Murali went to Galle **last month**.

..... ?

- (3) There are **ten** boys in that room.

..... ?

- (4) It will take six **hours** to reach Badulla.

..... ?

- (5) The teacher told the children a **story about a fox**.

..... ?

IV. Fill in each blank with a suitable word from the list given below.

(15 marks)

outside, imagine, window, when, peacefully, involvement, comfortable, afternoon, wonderful, sailed, describing, blind, overlooked, amidst, elbow

Making Others Happy

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only (1) The other man had to spend all his lifetime flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their (2) in military service, where they had been on vacation. Every (3) when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by (4) to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one hour periods (5) his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and colour of the world (6)

The window (7) a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children (8) their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm (9) flowers of every colour and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and (10) the picturesque scene. Days and weeks passed. One morning, the day nurse arrived with water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window who had died (11) in his sleep. She was saddened and asked the hospital attendants to take the body away.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved to the bed next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was (12) she left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one (13) to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to slowly turn to look out of the window beside the bed.

It faced a blank wall. The man asked the nurse what could have made his deceased roommate to describe such (14) things outside this window.

The nurse responded that the man was (15) and could not even see the wall. She said "Perhaps he just wanted to make you happy."

Epilogue : There is tremendous happiness in making others happy despite our own situations.

PART B - COMPREHENSION (20 marks)

I. Of the options given below each sentence in bold print, **underline** the one that best expresses its meaning. (05 marks)

(1) **The chief minister never wanted the supermarket to be built, nor did the local residents.**

- (i) Although the chief minister never wanted, the local residents wanted the supermarket to be built.
- (ii) Although the local residents never wanted, the chief minister wanted the supermarket to be built.
- (iii) The local residents wanted the chief minister to take steps to build the supermarket.
- (iv) Both the chief minister and the local residents never wanted the supermarket to be built.

(2) **So thick was the ice that there was no danger of the skaters falling through.**

- (i) The ice was thick and therefore, there was no danger of the skaters falling through.
- (ii) The ice was thick and it was likely that the skaters were falling through.
- (iii) Although the ice was thick, there was no danger of the skaters falling through.
- (iv) The skaters were falling through because the ice was thick, but it was not dangerous.

(3) **The man who Mr. Rathnasiri is meeting for lunch is from Kandy.**

- (i) Mr. Rathnasiri is from Kandy.
- (ii) Mr. Rathnasiri is meeting a man from Kandy for lunch.
- (iii) Mr. Rathnasiri who is from Kandy is meeting a man for lunch.
- (iv) The man who comes from Kandy for lunch is Mr. Rathnasiri.

- (4) Having completed the book he had a holiday.

 - (i) He completed the book during his holiday.
 - (ii) He had had a holiday before he completed the book.
 - (iii) He had a holiday while he was completing the book.
 - (iv) After he had completed the book he had a holiday.

- (5) If Farook had asked Ajith, Ajith would have lent him the book.

 - (i) Farook lent the book to Ajith.
 - (ii) Farook did not ask Ajith the book.
 - (iii) Farook asked Ajith to give him the book but Ajith refused.
 - (iv) Ajith lent the book to Farook.

II. Read the following text and do the activities that follow.

(05 marks)

*My first love was the ten-ton truck
They gave me when I started.
And though **she** played the witch with me
I grieved when we were parted.*

Since then I've had a dozen more,
The wound was quick to heal,
And now it's easier to say
I'm married to my wheel.

*I've trunked it north, I've trunked it south,
On wagons good and bad,
But none was ever really like
The first I ever had.*

*The life is hard, the hours are long,
Sometimes I cease to feel,
But I go on, for it seems to me
I'm married to my wheel.*

*Often I think of my home and kids,
Out on the road at night,
And think of taking a local job
Provided the money's right*

*Two nights a week I see my wife,
And eat a decent meal,
But otherwise, for all my life,
I'm married to my wheel.*

(2) Write whether the following sentence is **true** or **false** in the space provided.
The speaker of the poem took a local job recently and it provided him with a lot of money.

(3) Answer the following questions.

(i) Write **one** word from the poem, which means the same as the following.
felt deep sorrow

(ii) Who or what does the pronoun in bold print in the first stanza refer to ?
she

(iii) Write **one** sentence describing how the speaker thinks/ feels about his family.

.....
.....

III. Read the following text and do the activities that follow.

(05 marks)

Sri Lanka has a theatrical history that goes far back in history. There are dramatists who make spectacular dramas to please the audience. However, when looking at the number of theatres we have in Sri Lanka, there was always the need and space for more. The newest answer to this was the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Performing Arts Theatre in Colombo 7, funded by the Chinese government and maintained by armed forces.

In this theatre complex, its stage stands out as the most prominent feature. The stage is 9 m in height. It has stage elevators that can be raised or brought down individually or as a whole. Their moving length is 7.5 m. There is also an orchestra elevator that can be used in musical shows. What is so special about the stage is that it is not only the first of its kind in Sri Lanka, but also it is made of very delicate material. Due to this, high heels and rough objects are not allowed on stage as a rule.

Nelum Pokuna has a special metal curtain that can resist fire. This not only blocks the fire from spreading but also saves the actors on stage. More than 470 lights are used to light the stage. Out of them 170 are used to change the colour. Nelum Pokuna also has one of the most advanced sound systems used in various other countries today. Two-sound mixtures are used to control and enhance the produced sound.

(Daily Mirror, January 26, 2012)

(I) Answer the following questions by completing the missing parts of the answer.

(i) Why are rough objects not permitted on stage ?
It is because the stage is

(ii) What is the function of the stage elevators ?
The stage elevators

(iii) Who provided the financial grants for the construction of Nelum Pokuna ?
..... provided grants for this purpose.

(iv) What is the function of the special metal curtain ?
The special curtain will be able to

(2) Write one word from the text, which means the same as the following.

Thing that hoists something/ Lift

IV. Read the following two e-mail messages (A & B) and fill in the five blanks in the second e-mail (B). The second e-mail is a reply to the first one. Use the information in the first one (A) to fill in the blanks. Do not use more than three words in each blank. (05 marks)

Message A :

From : maithree@yahoo.com

To : rizvana@yahoo.com

Date & Time : 04.12.2011 : 4.32

You must have received all my e-mails. We have had only one from you in November. I know you are busy, but I worry if I do not hear from you. Have you received the parcel of pickle I sent you by air-mail ? I requested your uncle next door to mail it for me. I did not let your father know about this. So don't tell him about this. You know how much fuss he makes over food parcels. He always gives me big lectures that food in America is thousand times better and more nutritious. As if that is enough !

Shani's wedding date was fixed up today and it would be in March. Please plan to be here. Everyone would be upset if you miss the first wedding of the family. Most of our shopping is complete except the jewellery. Anyway, we have already made a good selection of jewellery. You should have seen the necklace !

Deepa aunty asked me the other day if I was expecting an American son-in-law. Imagine her guts ! I retorted, "Of course not. Our daughter is as she was before and she would not do such a thing. She went to America to study, not to catch a husband."

Send me an e-mail soon and remember the wedding date.

Message B :

From : rizvana@yahoo.com

To : maithree@yahoo.com

Date & time : 06.12.2011 10.29

It was nice to hear from you and get all the news. I am happy to know that (1) is fixed. But (2) will be a difficult month for me. The classes will be in full session and it would be a loss of nearly three to four weeks of my work here.

Thanks so much for sending the food parcel. No, I won't tell (3) a word about it. The (4)! Even the idea makes my mouth water !

By the way, please tell Deepa aunty that I have not changed that much yet !

Why did you complete your shopping so early ? Anyway, it's good that you don't want to pick (5) up until just before the wedding. It's not safe.

How are you and father ? I sent him a long e-mail giving all details of our university and life here. Please take care of yourself and don't go out everyday on errands.

PART C - SUMMARISING (10 marks)

- I. Write a **summary** of the following text. You may **use any number of sentences** but **do not use more than thirty two (32) words**. If you **exceed the word limit** you will **not get any marks** for this summary. Write only **one** word in each cage. (05 marks)

In a traffic court, the judge was explaining to an elderly defendant that he was being charged for going through a stop sign, failure to produce the driver's license and over speeding. In addition, his record showed that he had many unpaid parking tickets. The judge told the man that he would be fined Rs. 1500 and would lose his driver's license for one year.

"I know I did all those things, your Honour," said the man, "I'll pay the fine. But you can't take my license."

"Why not ?" the judge asked.

"Because," he replied, "I've never had a driver's license."

Reason	Driver's license	Unpaid parking tickets	Over speeding

- II. Write a **summary** of the following text. You may **use any number of sentences** but **do not use more than thirty five (35) words**. If you **exceed the word limit** you will **not get any marks** for this summary. Write only **one** word in each cage. (05 marks)

A young man with little money in his pocket saw a restaurant sign reading 'Eat now. Your grandson can pay the bill later.' Not believing his good luck, he went inside and asked the manager if the sign was correct.

"Yes," the manager replied, "our patrons can eat and drink all they want and their grandsons will pay the bill later."

The young man, still unmarried, ordered a huge meal and a large bottle of coke. When he had finished, the waiter brought him a huge bill. "What ? I spoke to the manager about your sign. Why are you presenting this bill to me ?"

"Sir," said the waiter, "this is the bill for the dinner your grandfather ate here , many years ago."

PART D - WRITING (30 marks)

- I. Imagine your family has moved into a newly built house in a beautiful village. Write a letter to your best friend. Include the following:

 - (a) why your family decided to move into the new place
 - (b) a brief description of the new house and the locality
 - (c) a brief description of your immediate neighbours
 - (d) your new address

Use about **125 - 150** words. **Do not** exceed this word limit.

(15 marks)

II. You have hired a building in Maradana where you run a studio. You wish to complain about the condition of the building to the owner. Write a letter of complaint including the following problems and say that as a tenant, you realize it's your responsibility to keep it clean and tidy, but it is impossible to do so at present.

- the pipe under the trough is leaking: a pool of water on rainy days
 - the door doesn't close properly: leaves and other rubbish blow in
 - a further problem: pigeons nesting in the roof

(15 marks)

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General English II - සාමාන්‍ය ඉංග්‍රීසි II

Two and a half hours - පැය දෙකක් විනාඩි තිහයි

- * Answer **all** questions **on this paper itself**.
- * Marks will be deducted for bad punctuation (Omission of full stops, capital letters, etc.) and for mistakes in basic grammar.
(The supervisor will provide you with sheets for rough work.)

PART A - VOCABULARY (25 marks)

I. Underline the correct word ending selecting from those given in brackets. (05 marks)

- (1) You seemed con..... (fusion, fusing, fused) about the instructions I gave yesterday.
- (2) The time of depart (ure, ed, s) will be 10.00 a.m.
- (3) You must apolo (gy, gise, gising) to your friend for hurting him.
- (4) She walked home very slow (ness, er, ly).
- (5) Watch.....(ed, ing, es) too much television is bad for your eyes.

II. Read the following texts and write the meaning of the words in **bold print** as they appear in the text, in the space given. (10 marks)

(1) The moment the train came to a **halt**, I called a porter who carried my luggage out of the station and found me a taxi.

(2) Steps have been taken to **commence** a programme where foreign tourists would have the opportunity to visit prisons, said Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms.

(3) After a **hasty** breakfast at the station restaurant, Lal soon set about the task of finding a room where he could live for the next few days.

(4) Vidhura College, Kandy scored a thrilling 45 run win over Wayamba Maha Vidyalaya in their schools under 19 cricket tournament which **concluded** yesterday.

(5) When I got to the airport, I **learnt** that the plane from Cairo, on which my brother was travelling, had been delayed at Paris due to engine trouble.

(6) The noise upstairs was terrible. By now Rajan's patience was exhausted. He leapt out of bed and marched **resolutely** up the stairs to his neighbour's flat.

(7) A small crowd had gathered round the entrance to the park. Her **curiosity** roused, Ramani crossed the road to see what was happening.

(8) More archaeological research would be conducted this year to **verify** the origin of Sri Lankans, who are now believed to have arrived from Africa, said the former Commissioner General of Archaeology.

(9) When Sita arrived at office at 9.00 a.m. she was surprised to find all the officers having a chat. Later she found out that the manager came up every morning from Galle on the same train arriving promptly in office at 9.35 so that his staff knew precisely when to start work.

(10) A young Palastenian woman who was imprisoned for 10 years in a series of dark rooms by her father revealed today that she survived the **ordeal** by listening to the radio, dreaming of seeing sunshine again and finding small pleasure in an apple she was fed with each day.

III. Select any **five** words from the list given below and use each of them in a **sentence** to bring out its meaning clearly. You may use the verbs in any tense. Do **not** change the form of the other words. (05 marks)

complexion, friendly, devoted, communication, borrow,
encourage, enormous, interested, internationally, confidential

- (1)
.....
- (2)
.....
- (3)
.....
- (4)
.....
- (5)
.....

IV. **Underline** the most appropriate word from those given in brackets. (05 marks)

- (1) The two companies have been working in (**consideration, collaboration, coincidence**) with each other for a number of years.
- (2) Please let me know what time will be (**comfortable, considerable, convenient**) for you to meet me.
- (3) Under the new education (**system, knowledge, symbol**) English is a compulsory subject.
- (4) According to (**resourceful, reliable, sincere**) information, the manager is going to resign soon.
- (5) Many prisoners (**rescued, caught, escaped**) from the prison recently.

PART B - DIALOGUES (25 marks)

- I. Read the following situations. How would you respond in each situation ? Write **one** sentence for each, beginning with the words given. **(05 marks)**

(1) A friend of yours asks you some favour, but you are unable to help him.

I wish

(2) A friend of yours complains of a sudden pain in his chest and you ask him to see a doctor immediately.

You'd better

(3) You are a Manager of a private firm and your Assistant Manager has suddenly decided to leave the job and you can't understand why.

I'd like to know why

(4) You have been served coffee in a restaurant but you haven't been given any sugar and you would like to request the waiter.

Could I

(5) You have come to Colombo. You hope to get a certificate from the Department of Examinations. But you don't know how to get there. You speak to a person on the road.

Could you

- II. You find the following information about a stage drama. You would like to see it but not alone. You talk to a friend of yours, Chamika, on the phone and invite him to see the drama. Complete the missing parts of the dialogue. Do **not** use more than **one** sentence/question in each blank. **(05 marks)**

**Raman Krishnan's newest stage drama
The Night Mail
6.30 show on 25th Saturday & 26th Sunday
at Vijaya Auditorium, Rathnapura.**

Chamika : Hello ! What can I do for you ?

You : Chami, there's a good stage drama at Vijaya auditorium. Shall
(1)

Chamika : Mmm, what's the name of it and who is it by ?

You : **(2)**

Chamika : Never heard of it. (3) ?
You : It will be on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th.
Chamika : Well, (4) ?
You : I'd like to see it on Saturday.
Chamika : (5) It'll make a nice evening out. Bye.
You : Bye.

III. Write a suitable dialogue between the Managing Director (MD) and Office Assistant (OA) based on the given guidelines. Use the space provided below. (05 marks)

Situation : The Managing Director (MD) of a company talks to an Office Assistant (OA). The Office Assistant has taken more than eight days of leave during the last month. He has ignored the company regulations. The Managing Director is very angry. The Office Assistant admits his fault and says his mother had been hospitalized. He makes an apology and assures that this will never happen in the future.

Guidelines for writing the dialogue:

- MD : Scolds OA for being absent.
OA : Admits his fault, gives reason and makes an apology.
MD : Reminds him of company regulations.
OA : Assures that this will not happen again.
MD : Warns him.

The Dialogue :

MD :

OA :

MD :

OA :

MD :

IV. You find an advertisement in the Sunday Observer for the post of Trainee Marketing Executive in ABC (Pvt.) Ltd. You are interested in working there. However, the advertisement does not give you the following information.

- whether a pass in A/L General English is essential
 - whether vacancies exist in Colombo office
 - the amount of allowance during the training period

Imagine that you speak to the Manager of ABC (Pvt.) Ltd. to obtain these details. Write out the telephone conversation you will have with the Manager. Each one should speak at least five times. (10 marks)

(10 marks)

PART C - COMPREHENSION (30 marks)

I. Read the following part of the report on Advertising Strategies, Mr. Sameem, the Managing Director of Majid Brothers Pvt. Ltd., Colombo, has just received from ABC Marketing Research Pvt. Ltd. and do the activities that follow: (10 marks)

Majid Brothers Pvt. Ltd. needs to focus advertising on Internet sites that appeal to young people. According to surveys, 78% of the target market uses the internet for five hours or more per week. The following list shows in order of popularity the most frequent sites, Google being the most popular.

Google

Yahoo

Facebook

EBay

Shifting the efforts from other media sources such as radio and magazine to these popular internet sites will more effectively promote company's product sales. Young adults are spending more and more time on the internet downloading music, communicating and researching for homework and less and less time reading paper magazines and listening to the radio. As is the trend for cultural icons to go digital, so must be the marketing plans of the company.

It used to be common to advertise for company's products on shows like *Friends Indeed* for target audience but even the face of television is changing. Young adults are turning into reality television shows for their entertainment. Results from the focus group show that the target audience of the company is more interested in shows like *Sri Lanka's Dancing Star*, *The Mind Star* and *The Super Fortune*. The only non-reality television show to be ranked in the top ten most commonly watched shows by males and females 18-25 is *Desperate Housewives*. It is apparent that the company needs to focus the advertising budget on reality television shows and reduce the amount of advertising spent on other programmes.

By refocusing the advertising efforts of this new line of clothing, the company will be able to maximize the exposure of its products to the target market and therefore increase its sales of garments. Tapping into the trends of young adults will help the company gain market share and sales through effective advertising.

1. Answer the following questions. Do **not** use more than one sentence in each answer. (02 marks)

(i) What is the purpose of this part of the report ?

.....

(ii) According to the report, why should the company be ready to change its attitudes towards advertising ?

.....

2. Which of the following are direct findings of the market research and surveys mentioned in the report ? **Underline** the two appropriate statements. (02 marks)

(a) Advertising on reality TV shows will reduce the advertising cost.

(b) Out of the top ten TV shows most popular among those between 18-25, nine are reality shows.

(c) Majority of young adults use internet daily.

(d) Advertising on television is more expensive than advertising on internet.

(e) Google is more popular than Yahoo among the target audience.

(f) 78% of young adults download music from the internet.

3. After the Managing Director read this report, he wrote the following memo to the Advertising Manager. Complete the missing parts of this memo. (06 marks)

Majid Brothers Pvt Ltd, Colombo

Memorandum

To : Advertising Manager
From : Managing Director
Date : 07.08.2012

Subject : (1)

I am enclosing a copy of the above report for your comments.

According to this report, it has been discovered that our current (2) media need to be reprioritized and changed. Findings from focus groups and surveys have made it apparent that we need to update our advertising efforts to align them with the styles and trends of our target market, particularly of (3) today. No longer are they interested in tele-dramas as they watch (4) television shows. Also it has become increasingly important to use the (5) as a tool to communicate with our target audience to show our dominance in the (6) industry.

If possible, I would like to receive your comments on this report before the next board meeting on 11 September.

- II. Read the following text and do the activities that follow : (20 marks)

After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie. She said "I love you but I know this other woman loves you and would love to spend some time with you."

The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my mother, who had been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally.

That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie.

"What's wrong, are you well?" she asked. My mother was the type of woman who suspected that a late night call or a surprise invitation was a sign of bad news.

"I thought that it would be pleasant to be with you," I responded. "Just the two of us." She thought about it for a moment, and then said, "I would like that very much."

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's.

"I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed," she said, as she got into the car. "They can't wait to hear about our meeting". We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cosy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down I had to read the menu. Half way through the entries, I lifted my eyes and saw my mother sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips. "It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small," she said. "Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favour," I responded.

During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation - nothing extraordinary, but catching up on recent events of each other's life. We talked so much that we missed the movie.

As we arrived at **her** house late, she said, "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you." I agreed.

"How was your dinner date ?" asked my wife when I got home. "Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined," I answered.

A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I could not do anything for her.

Sometime later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said; "I paid this bill in advance. I wasn't sure that I could be there; but nevertheless, I paid for two plates-one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you, son."

At that moment, I understood the importance of saying in time: "I LOVE YOU!" and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is more important than your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off till "some other time". A successful relationship requires falling in love many times - with the same person.

(A) Fill in the blanks in the following passage using the information in the above text. Do **not** use more than **three** words in each blank. (12 marks)

My (1) once requested me to accompany my mother to dinner and a (2) My (3) had died 19 years ago. But my work and the responsibility of my (4) children prevented me to visit (5) frequently.

My mother was very happy to hear my invitation. She had told (6) about our meeting. She was wearing the dress she had worn on the day of her (7)

My mother and I had dinner at a (8) We had good conversation there. We talked so much that we missed (9) At the end, she said that she would like to dine with me again if only I let her invite me. We agreed to meet again.

A few days later, I received the message of the (10) of my mother.

After sometime, I received a message from the (11) where we had dined together, saying that my mother had paid a bill in advance for two plates - for me and for (12) She had attached a note expressing her gratefulness for making her extremely happy that night.

(B) Which of the following is the most suitable statement to describe the writer's main intention of writing this story ? **Underline**. (01 mark)

- (a) The writer appreciates his wife for helping him to make his mother happy.
- (b) The writer points out the need of giving the loved ones the time they deserve.
- (c) The writer describes how his mother loved him dearly throughout his life.
- (d) The writer describes how his mother enjoyed when she went with him to a restaurant.

(C) Who or what do the pronouns in bold print refer to ? (02 marks)

- (a) **They** :
- (b) **her** :

(D) Answer the following questions. Do **not** write more than **one** sentence in each answer. (03 marks)

- (a) Why did the mother ask "What's wrong?" as soon as she heard the invitation of her son to go out for dinner ?

.....
.....

- (b) According to your opinion, did the mother consider meeting her son very special ? Why ?

.....
.....

- (c) From what is given in the text, what can you say about the speaker's wife ?

.....
.....

(E) Write one word for each blank selecting from the passage, which means the same as each of the given phrases. (02 marks)

- (a) reached somewhere
- (b) looking very bright and happy

PART D - WRITING (20 marks)

I. Write a paragraph beginning with the following sentence.

Smoking is banned in public places because it affects one's health.

Use about 75 – 100 words. Do **not** exceed the word limit. Do **not** write more than **one** paragraph. (05 marks)

.....
.....

II. Complete the following story. Use about 200 words. Do **not** exceed the word limit.

(15 marks)

The telephone rang three times. Manori got up from the armchair slowly. She put her book down, stretched and yawned. Then she walked up to the phone. She was deliberately slow. It made me angry to watch her. Still yawning, she picked up the phone and listened. I saw her face change. The silence was broken by a shriek and then a crash as she dropped the phone and ran out of the room.

PART A - GRAMMAR (40 marks)

- I. (1) with (2) in (3) on (4) out of (5) for
(6) round (7) over (8) into (9) towards (10) of (10 marks)
- II. (1) thought (2) open/ opening
(3) must/ have to/ should/ will ought to/ need to impress (4) started
(5) can't/ cannot/ will not/ won't take/ am not able to/ unable to (6) replaced
(7) can/ shall/ should - do
(8) was (9) am (10) to connect (10 marks)
- III. (1) What does he buy at the super market ?
(2) When did Murali go to Galle ?
(3) How many boys are there in that room ?
(4) How long/ How many hours will it take to reach Badulla ?
(5) What did the teacher tell the children ? (05 marks)
- IV. (1) window (2) involvement (3) afternoon (4) describing (5) when
(6) outside (7) overlooked (8) sailed (9) amidst (10) imagine
(11) peacefully (12) comfortable (13) elbow (14) wonderful (15) blind (15 marks)

PART B - COMPREHENSION (20 marks)

- I.(1)(iv) Both the chief minister and the local residents never wanted the supermarket to be built.
(2) (i) The ice was thick and therefore, there was no danger of the skaters falling through.
(3) (ii) Mr. Rathnasiri is meeting a man from Kandy for lunch.
(4)(iv) After he had completed the book he had a holiday.
(5) (ii) Farook did not ask Ajith the book. (05 marks)
- II. (1) Song of the wagon driver.
(2) False
(3) (i) grieved
 (ii) The ten-ton truck/ The vehicle he drove/ The wagon
 (iii) He loves his family very much.
 He feels he should spend more time with his family.
 He thinks of his family very often when he is away from home. (05 marks)
- III. (1) (i) It is because the stage is made of very delicate material.
 (ii) The stage elevators are there to move up or down/ raise/ bring down the stage.
 The stage elevators can be raised or brought down/ can be moved.
 (iii) Chinese government/ The government of China/ China/ Chinese
 (iv) resist fire/ block the fire from spreading/ save those on stage from fire/ act as fire guard.
(2) elevator. (05 marks)

PART C - SUMMARISING (10 marks)

The	judge	fined	a
defendant	for	traffic	offences
and	asked	him	to
produce	his	driver's	license.
He	agreed	to	all
except	producing	the	license
as	he	never	had
one.			

(05 marks)

A	man.	after	confirming
that	the	bill	can
be	paid	later	by
his	grandson	dined	in
a	restaurant.	But	at
the	end	he	had
to	pay	the	bill
of	his	grandfather.	

(05 marks)

PART D - WRITING (30 marks)

1

"Isuru Uyana"

No. 34/A, Hokandara Rd.
Thalawathugoda,
20th December 2012.

Dear Varuna,

I'm sure you must be enjoying your vacation these days. We had a very busy schedule during the past two weeks since we shifted to our new house in Thalawathugoda.

As you know my father started building this house last year and we managed to complete it only last month. It is located in a beautiful village beyond Thalawathugoda on the Hokandara road overlooking a beautiful lake. The scenic beauty of this location is really marvellous.

The surrounding is very peaceful and quiet. It was such a relief to have moved a way from the hustle and bustle of the city where we lived in a flat. This house has five large rooms, a spacious pantry, a modern sitting room and a verandah. The garden is not very large, but its really beautiful with the green trees.

My father always wanted to live in a peaceful environment. There's a good transport service to the city and we do not have any difficulty in travelling to school. Even the neighbours are respectable. There are plenty of shops and super markets in the nearest town where we could do our marketing.

Our new address is given above. Please do not fail to visit us.

Your loving friend,
Nilu.

F - 01
C - 04
O - 02
L - 08

(15 marks)

II.

Nimal's Studio,
Maradana,
02. 06. 2012.

Dear Mr. De Silva,

I, the tenant of your building in which I am running the above studio, wish to inform you that the building is in a dilapidated condition. It needs the repairs mentioned below, for me to be able to keep it clean and tidy as it is my responsibility. But it is impossible to do so at present due to the following defects.

- the pipe under the trough is leaking, which turns the place into a pool of water on rainy days.
- the door of the building does not close properly which allows leaves and other rubbish blow in.
- a further problem is that the pigeons are nesting on the roof and making it unclean and it has become a nuisance.

I do kindly request of you to attend to these urgent repairs for me to keep the place clean.
Thank you,

I am,
Yours sincerely,
Nimal Perera.

Format - 01
Content - 04
Organization - 02
Language - 08

(15 marks)

PART A - VOCABULARY (25 marks)

I. (1) con fused (2) depart ure (3) apolo gise (4) slowly (5) watch ing (05 marks)

II. (1) **halt** - stop
(2) **commence** - begin/ start/ launch/ initiate
(3) **hasty** - quick/ rushed/ hurried
(4) **concluded** - ended/ finished/ came to an end/ came to a close/ wound up
(5) **learnt** - got to know/ came to know/ found out
(6) **resolutely** - determinedly/ with determination
(7) **curiosity** - eager desire to know/ eagerness to know/ strong desire to know/ keen desire to know/ keen to know
(8) **verify** - find out the truth about/ make sure ascertain/ prove/ make certain/ confirm
(9) **precisely** - exactly/ clearly
(10) **ordeal** - nightmare/ horrific experience (10 marks)

III. (1) The **complexion** of her skin made her win the beauty contest.

(2) We negotiated the transaction in a **friendly** manner.

(3) She was a **devoted** wife who respected and understood her responsibilities in life.

(4) Modern **communication** methods have made this world a global village.

(5) I had to **borrow** my friend's Science notes as I was absent from school for a week.

(6) We must always **encourage** children to eat healthy food.

(7) It was an **enormous** portion of meat that was eaten by the dog.

(8) He was quite **interested** in listening to the stories that were related by his grandfather.

(9) A degree from a Sri Lankan university is **internationally** recognized.

(10) Transactions with regard to bank accounts must be strictly **confidential**. (05 marks)

IV. (1) collaboration (2) convenient (3) system (4) reliable (5) escaped (05 marks)

PART B - DIALOGUES (25 marks)

I. (1) I wish I could help you/ I could do some favour/ I could oblige.

(2) You'd better consult/ channel/ contact/ meet/ see/ go to see a doctor, immediately/ make an appointment with a doctor.

(3) I'd like to know why you decided to leave us/ you wanted to leave the job/ you decided to resign suddenly.

(4) Could I have some sugar please ?

Could I get some sugar please ?

(5) Could you please tell me how to get to the Department of Examinations ?/ Could you please direct me to the Department of Examinations ? (05 marks)

II. (1) we watch it ?/ we go to see it ?/ we go there ?

(2) It's the Night mail by 'Raman Krishnan.'

It's a drama called 'Night mail' by 'Raman Krishnan.'

(3) When will it be ?/ When is it ?/ When will it be staged ?

On what day ? / When can we see it ?

(4) When do you hope to go ?/ On which day are you hoping to watch it ?

Which day is convenient for you ?

Which day is possible for you ?

(5) That's fine/ Good idea/ That's nice/ That's good/ Saturday is good. (05 marks)

III. The Dialogue :

M. D. :- Why didn't you come yesterday ?

See ! How many days of leave have you taken since last week ? You have taken more than eight days.

O. A. :- Yes Sir, I have taken eight days already and I'm extremely sorry sir... but my mother is seriously ill in hospital.

M. D. :- But don't you know that you cannot take more than three days of casual leave at a stretch according to company regulations. You should have reported on the third day and applied for no pay leave. You have violated the regulation by not informing us. I'm sorry I'll have to take action against you.

O. A. :- I'm sorry sir, I assure that I would never repeat this mistake and I accept my fault. Please forgive me. In future I shall be more responsible.

M. D. :- I understand your problem. But remember that, this is a warning. (05 marks)

(iv) Receptionist - Good morning ABC private Ltd.

Applicant - Good morning, could I speak to the Manager please?

Receptionist - Hold on

Manager - Good morning, Manager here.

Applicant - Good morning Sir, I need to get some details with regard to the advertisement which appeared in the Sunday Observer, calling applications for the post of Trainee Marketing Executives.

Manager - Well, what is it that you want to know ?

Applicant - Sir, I want to know whether a pass in A/L General English is essential to apply for this post.

- Manager** - Yes, of course. You need to have at least a simple pass.
- Applicant** - I also need to know sir, whether vacancies exist in the Colombo office and the amount of allowance paid during the training period.
- Manager** - Well, I'm sorry we don't have any vacancies in Colombo, but I could fix you up in Gampaha if you have the necessary qualifications.
- Applicant** - Sir, Since I'm a resident of Colombo, it would be much convenient for me if I could get an appointment in Colombo.
- Manager** - If there are any vacancies left I shall consider your request.
- Applicant** - Thank you sir, for the information and your patience.
- Manager** - You're welcome.

(10 marks)

PART C - COMPREHENSION (30 marks)

- I. 1. (i) The purpose of this part of the report is to suggest to the company to update advertising efforts to maximize exposure of its products to the target market and increase its sales/ To recommend to the company the strategies to be taken for attracting more customers/ To find the best method of advertising/ To promote advertising. (01 mark)
- (ii) It will help the company to gain market share and sales through effective advertising/ To increase the sales/ To maximize exposure of company's products to its target audience/ To capture market/ To attract more customers. (05 marks)
2. (b) Out of the top ten TV shows most popular among those between 18 - 25, nine are reality shows.
- (e) Google is more popular than yahoo among the target audience. (02 marks)
3. (1) Advertising Strategies (2) advertising/ propagating
 (3) young adults/ youth/ young people (4) reality
 (5) internet (6) clothing/ garment/ textile/ apparel
- (06 marks)
- II. (A) (1) wife/ spouse (2) movie (3) father (4) three/ own
 (5) my mother (6) some friends/ her friends (7) wedding anniversary
 (8) restaurant/ hotel (9) the movie/ film
 (10) sudden/ unexpected death/ demise/ passing away
 (11) restaurant/ hotel/ same place (12) wife/ spouse (12 marks)

- (B) (b) The writer points out the need of giving the loved ones the time they deserve. (01 mark)
- (C) (a) They - friends of writer's mother/ writer's mother's friends
(b) her - writer's mother's/ speaker's mother's (03 marks)
- (D) (a) She was surprised by the invitation. She thought that her son was going to tell her some bad news. She thought a late night call was a sign of bad news.
(b) Yes, because it was a rare meeting/ because she loved it.
(c) She has very good qualities/ she is an understanding kind woman/ she cared for her husband's mother. (03 marks)
- (E) (a) reached somewhere - arrived
(b) looking very bright and happy - radiant

PART D - WRITING (20 marks)

I.

Smoking is banned in public places because it affects one's health. On the other hand, the other people around the smoker who inhale the smoke emitted by the smoker, become passive smokers, which is even worse than direct smoking. The government has to spend a considerable amount of money to treat them at hospitals. Lung cancer and Tuberculosis have become major threats to society due to smoking. The tax payer's money is spent to treat them. When one falls sick due to smoking, the family becomes helpless and the education of the children gets affected by not getting their requirements. Hence smoking can cause disaster not only to the smoker but also to others around him.

Content and Organization	-	02
Language use	-	03
(05 marks)		

II. **The telephone rang three times. Manori got up from the arm chair slowly. She put her book down, stretched and yawned. Then she walked up to the phone. She was deliberately slow. It made me angry to watch her. Still yawning, she picked up the phone and listened. I saw her face change. The silence was broken by a shriek and then a crash as she dropped the phone and ran out of the room.**

She went straight to her bedroom and started crying so loud that I thought she would bring down the room. I quickly rushed into the room and made a desperate effort to know why she was screaming so much. But she would not give me any reason and continued to cry even more. I got annoyed and nearly lost my temper. I pulled her out of bed and shouted at her. I asked her from whom the telephone call was. Yet she did not want to respond.

Having heard her screaming the next door aunt came running to inquire as to what had happened. I was so embarrassed. We both tried hard to console her yet we failed in all attempts. Finally I heard my parents opening the gate I rushed to them and got my mother to handle the situation.

After some time her screaming stopped and it turned into sobs. I heard my mother talking to her gently. We were seated in the hall waiting impatiently to know who the caller was. Finally my mother came out of the room with a grave face. She informed us that my sister had got to know the result of a blood test from the hospital. Most unfortunately the blood sample had proven to be positive and it had been my sisters own blood test done to detect cancer. The hospital authorities had not known that it was the patient herself who received the call. Eventhough my parents wanted to keep it a secret from all of us they could not do it for long.

Content	-	06
Language use	-	09
(15 marks)		
