(31) English Language

Structure of the Question Paper

Paper I – Duration 1 hour. Total marks 40.
Number of questions 08. All questions should be answered. Each question carries 5 marks making a total of 40 marks. This paper consists of three tasks on Reading carrying 15 marks, **two tasks on Vocabulary** carrying 10 marks, one task on Grammar & Language Functions carrying 5 marks and **two tasks on Writing** carrying 10 marks making a total of 40 marks.

Paper II – Duration 2 hours. Total marks 60.
Number of questions 08. All questions should be answered. This paper consists of three tasks on Reading carrying 20 marks, one task on Vocabulary carrying 5 marks, two tasks on Grammar & Language Functions carrying 10 marks and two tasks on Writing carrying 25 marks making a total of 60 marks.

Area of Testing	Paper I		Paper II		% of Total Marks
	No. of Items	Marks	No. of Items	Marks	
A. Reading	3	15	3	20	35%
B. Vocabulary	2	10	1	5	15%
C. Grammar & Language Functions	1	5	2	10	15%
D. Writing	2	10	2	25	35%
Total	**08**	**40**	**08**	**60**	**100%**

The test items in the G.C.E.(O.L) English Language paper from 2016 will measure competencies related to Reading, Vocabulary, Grammar & Language Functions and Writing. The items will be based on a variety of text types (stimuli) and will be organized from easy to demanding. Testing techniques for each section may vary from year to year.

Calculation of Final Mark :
Paper I = 40
Paper II = 60
Final Marks = 100

The board suggested the following revisions / changes in paper I.

- There should be a picture based test item for question 3.
- Test 6 should be an item of Writing using parallel or guided techniques.
- Test 8 should include a test item on free writing and the topics should be very familiar to the students. The students should be able to write effectively on the given topic within the stipulated word limit. There can be a choice of two topics for it.
- In all test items in paper I and paper II text types may vary.

The text types

Dialogues	Notes / notices	Descriptions
Advertisements	Programmes	Invitations / messages
Posters	Stories	Reports
Letters	Minutes	Pictures
Itinerary	Prefaces	Extracts
Poems	Diary pages / e-mails	Biographies
Academic texts		

English Language I

Important :

* Answer **all** questions **on this paper** itself. **One hour**

❍ **Test 1**

Fill in the blanks in the following dialogue between mother and Dinu at the supermarket. Use the words given in the box. Write the correct letter in the blank. *The first one is done for you.*

a) tin	b) packet	c) pot,
d) bar	e) tube	f) ~~carton~~

Dinu : Mother, we need a (1) …*f*… of milk and two kilos of sugar.
Mother : What did father ask you to bring?
Dinu : Well, he wants a (2) ……. of glue.
Mother : Alright. What else is there on the list?
Dinu : Er.. a (3) …… of biscuits and a tub of ice cream.
Mother : We have to get a (4)…….....…. of tea as well.
Dinu : Mother, let's buy a (5)……. of curd for grandmother.
Mother : Yes. And don't forget to buy a (6) ……. of chocolate for your brother.

Q. 1

1 ×
Total 5

❍ **Test 2**

Read the following dialogue and fill in the blanks. Use the words given in the box. There is **one** extra word. *The first one is done for you* .

it, ~~my~~, me, I, they, myself, we

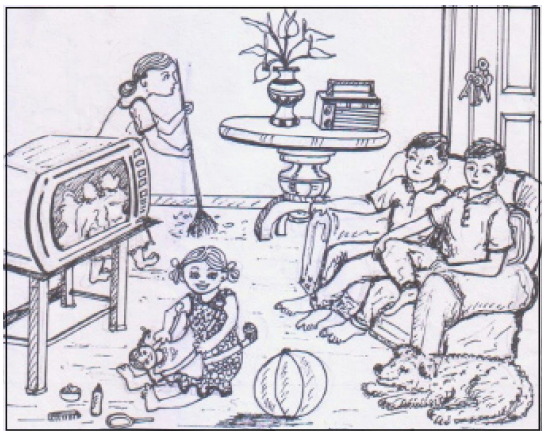
Amal - Hey, Ruwan ! You look happy.
Ruwan - Yes. It's (1) .....*my*..... birthday today.
Amal - Happy Birthday Ruwan !
Ruwan - Thank you.
Amal - Any special plans?
Ruwan - Yes, I'm visiting a children's home with my parents.
(2) ..... are going to donate some story books to the children there.
Amal - How kind of you! I'm sure (3) ..... will be delighted.
Ruwan - By the way, my father bought (4) ..... a flute yesterday.
Amal - How wonderful! Can you play (5) .....?
Ruwan - No, I'm going to learn to play it by (6) ..... .
Amal - That would be nice!

Q. 2

1 ×
Total 5

❍ **Test 3**

Study the picture and fill in the blanks in the text given below.



Q. 3

½ ×
Total
5

This is a picture of a sitting room. There is a woman, a child and two (1) ....., in the picture. The woman near the (2) ..... is sweeping the room. The child sitting on the (3) ..... is playing with a (4) ..... . There is a round (5) ..... with decorative (6) ..... . A (7) ..... of flowers is there on it. A (8) ..... is sleeping near the sofa. The (9) ..... behind the sofa is closed. There is a bunch of (10) ..... hanging from the key hole.

❍ **Test 4**

Match the extracts with the given sections of a newspaper. Write the correct letter in the blanks provided.
The first one is done for you.

	Extracts	**Sections**
1.	"Winter Melodies" the musical evening was held at BMICH on the 27th December. (*e*)	(a) SPORTS (b) HEALTH AND WELL-BEING (c) JOBS (d) TEXTILE (e) ~~ARTS AND MUSIC~~ (f) BUSINESS AND FINANCE
2.	The 15th Junior Athletic Championship will be held at Sugathdasa Stadium from 4th to 6th of April. (.....)	
3.	Good sources of iron; dark leafy vegetables, brown rice, meat and fish. (.....)	
4.	The Asian Development Bank will allocate US$ 3 billion for Sri Lanka for the period of 2016 – 2018. (.....)	
5.	Applicantions are invited for the post of accountant in a leading import - export firm. (.....)	
6.	Buy beautiful sarees at special prices. Star Handlooms Pvt (Ltd), No - 310, Galle Road, Colombo 04. (.....)	

Q. 4

1 ×
Total
5

❍ **Test 5**

Read the following conversation and fill in the blanks in the summary given below.
The first one is done for you.

Rashmi : Samitha, we have to work on our Science project. Are you coming to my house tomorrow?
Samitha : Yes. Please tell me how to get there.
Samitha : How are you coming? By bus or train?
Rashmi : By train. I hope to catch the 9.30 train.
Samitha : That's a slow train. Take the 9 o'clock express train from Colombo Fort to Polgahawela.
Rashmi : Alright.
Samitha : Then, get off at the Gampaha station.
Rashmi : Is it the second stop?
Samitha : No. It's the third stop. Go over the level crossing. Then turn to your left and walk straight until you come to a roundabout.
Rashmi : Do I have to walk far?
Samitha : No, it's about 200 metres. Now turn left into the First Lane.
Rashmi : And then?
Smitha : Walk past the bank and the library and take the second lane to your right.
Rashmi : Does the lane have a name?
Samitha : Yes. It's called School Lane. My house is the fourth one on the right.

Q. 5

1 ×
Total 5

One can easily reach Samitha's house by train. If you catch the (1) ***express*** train , you have to get down at Gampaha that is the (2) .... , from Colombo. You have to cross the (3) .... , near the station and turn left. You have to walk about two hundred metres to come to a (4) ..... . turn left and walk past the bank and the library. Take the (5) .... to your right. That's the (6) .... The fourth house on the right is Samitha's house.

❍ **Test 6**

You received the following note from your friend. Write a suitable response in the space provided.
Use about **40 - 50** words.

Nisha,

I'm not well and won't be able to come to school for a few days. I hope to go on the school trip. Please send me the date and the time of departure, places to be visited, and things to be brought.

Randi

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Q. 6

C L
Total 5

❍ **Test 7**

Read the following text and answer the questions.

The two boys walked slowly across the valley. Then suddenly Isuru stopped and sat down on a large stone. "It's no use," he said. "I can't go any further. I'm absolutely exhausted!"

Gayan looked at him for a minute. "Oh come on!" he said. "It's not very far now. "Yes, but it's uphill most of the way," Isuru said. He pointed to the path in front of them. It went straight up the side of the valley. Gayan sat down too. For a while the two boys said nothing. Then Isuru pointed to some trees about half a mile ahead.

"There's a hut among those trees, he said. "Perhaps we can spend the night there."
I'll go and take a look." Gayan said. He ran down the path towards the hut and vanishing among the trees. Isuru followed more slowly.
"What's it like inside?" he asked when he reached the hut.
"Not bad, Gayan called back. "It feels a little damp, but there's some wood in one corner, so we can light a fire."

The two boys cleaned out the hut and lit a fire. Then they had dinner. They were both tired and they did not talk much. Before they went to bed, they put plenty of wood on the fire. Gayan fell asleep almost at once, but Isuru lay awake for a long time,watching the flames.Then he too fell asleep.
Suddenly he was awake again. The fire was nearly out. He could hear noises outside. It sounded like voices. He woke up Gayan.

"It's only the wind," he grumbled. "Go to sleep again!"
But it wasn't the wind! The voices came nearer until they were just outside the hut. The door opened and a light shone on their faces. "They are here!" a voice called out. A policeman was standing in the doorway. He addressed the two boys. "You've given us a lot of trouble," he said. "We've looked all over the valley for you two!"

1. What were the names of the two boys?

   ....

2. Where did they spend the night?

   .....

3. What did they do before they go to bed?

   .....

4. What did Isuru do before he fell asleep?

   .....

5. Who found the boys?

   .....

Q. 7

1 ×
Total 5

❍ **Test 8**

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following. Use about **50 – 60** words.

(1) Kindness to animals.
(2) A historical place.

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Q. 8

1 ×
Total 5

* * *

English Language II

Important :

* Answer **all** questions **on this paper itself.** **Two hours**

❍ **Test 9**

The following sentences are taken from a paragraph written by a student. There is a mistake in each sentence. Rewrite the sentences correcting the mistake. *The first one is done for you.*

1. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is a famous writer of adventure story.
   Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is a famous writer of adventure stories.
2. Sherlock Holmes is a fictional character create by him.
   .....
3. Holmes was a detection.
   .....
4. Dr. John Watson is the other main character in her stories.
   .....
5. Together they solves many mysteries.
   .....
6. Doyle's books are much love by many readers in the world.
   .....

Q. 9

1 ×
Total
5

❍ **Test 10**

Select a word from the box which has a similar meaning to the phrases given within brackets and wite it in the space given. There are **three** extra words.

~~investigate,~~ prove, evidence, sentence,
arrest, fine, innocent, crime, person

The police

They do a number of things. When someone does something illegal, the police must (1) .....***investigate***..... (try to find out what happened). If they find persons responsible for the crime, they (2) ..... (take them to the police station) them. At the police station, they question the suspects that committed the (3) ..... (breaks the law), then they are charged with the crime they are believed to have done. The suspects must then go to court for trial.

In court, the persons charged with the crime, now called the defendants or accused must try to (4) ..... (provide facts to show something), that they did not commit the crime; in other words that they are (5) ..... (not guilty). The jury listens to all the (6) ..... (information about the crime) and then makes their decision.

Q. 10

1 ×
Total
5

❍ **Test 11**

Read the following paragraph and fill in the blanks using the words given below.

air, that, coal, absorb, such, and, due, getting, ~~lifestyles,~~ unhygeinic, motor, in, to, fauna, gases

With the changing (1) ..*lifestyles*.. and industrial development, our environment is getting polluted day by day. The land, water, and (2) ..... are becoming contaminated and (3) ..... for sustaining biological system, (4) ..... is growth of flora, (5) ..... , vegetation and people. Due (6) ..... emissions of industries and (7) ..... vehicles the atmosphere is (8) ..... polluted with dangerous chemicals (9) ..... the form of gases. These (10) ..... , mainly carbon dioxide, are produced (11) ..... to burning of fuels (12) ..... as petrol, diesel, wood (13) ..... etc.

We are burning wood (14) ..... cutting down trees which (15) ..... carbon dioxide in the process of producing food. It causes green house effect, which is believed to be the cause of a gradual warming of the surface of the Earth.

Q. 11

½ ×
Total
7

❍ **Test 12**

Given below is a conversation Pubudu had with Udara. Complete the extract from a letter Pubudu wrote to another friend a few weeks later mentioning about this conversation. *The first one is done for you.*

Pubudu : Hi, Udara! Where are you going?
Udara : Hi! I'm on my way to the book fair to buy a dictionary.
Pubudu : Really! My uncle gave me one recently.
Udara : Do you know how to use it?
Pubudu : Yes. My sister is helping me.
Udara : By the way, would you like to come with me?
Pubudu : I'm sorry, I can't. I have volleyball practices.
Udara : Then it's OK. I'll bring my new dictionary to school tomorrow.
Pubudu : I'll bring mine too. See you!

I met Udara a few weeks ago. He said that (1) ..*he was on his way to the book fair to buy a dictionary*
I told him that my uncle (2) …… recently. Udara asked me if I knew how to use it and I told him that my sister (3) …….. . Then he invited me to join him to go to the book fair but I said I couldn't because (4) ……..…… . He said that (5) …… . I said that (6) ……..…… …… too.

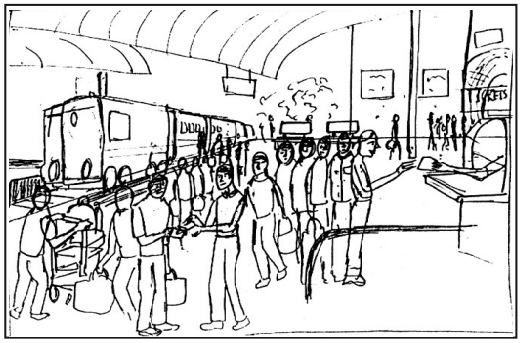
Q. 12

1 ×
Total
5

❍ **Test 13**

Study the two pictures given and select the sentences which describe each picture. Write the correct letter in the relevant column. *One is done for you*.

Picture **A**



Picture **B**



a. The station is deserted.
b. The luggage barrow is empty.
c. The porter is wheeling the luggage.
d. There is a young man sitting on a bench reading a newspaper.
e. The station is crowded.
f. Many passengers are getting off the train that has just arrived.
g. There is a dog sleeping on the platform.
h. There is a long queue of people waiting to buy tickets.
i. It seems that a train has not arrived for a long time.
j. The ticket collector is collecting the tickets from the passengers leaving the station.
k. The porter is leaning against a pillar by the luggage barrow.

Picture **A**	Picture **B**
	a

Q. 13

½ ×
Total
5

❍ **Test 14**

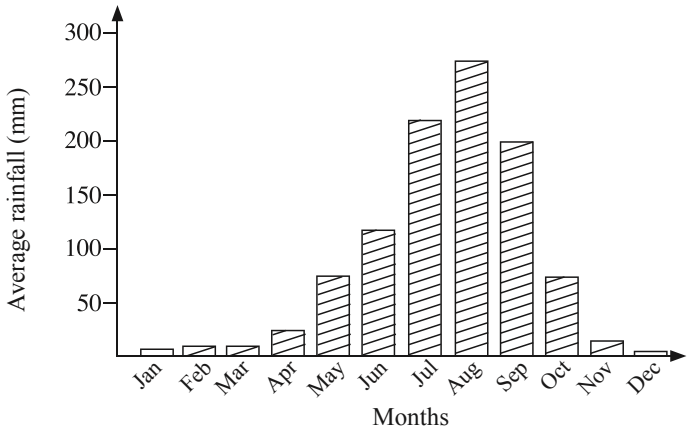
(a) You had a cultural show in your school recently. Write a letter to a friend abroad describing the event. Include the following.

- the organizers
- the purpose
- the items presented
- response from the audience
- the sponsors

Use about **100** words.

OR

(b) The following bar graph shows the average rainfall of the Western Province received in 2014. Study the graph and write a description about it. Use about **100** words.



The following words may help you.

highest
equal
lower than
higher than
very little
increase
decrease
minimum
maximum

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Q. 14

C L O M
Total 10

❍ **Test 15**

Read the following text and answer the questions.

Mark Twain was the pen – name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens. He spent his early boyhood in the little town of Hannibal in Missouri, and it was those happy days he was remembering when he wrote *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

Mark Twain left school at the age of thirteen. He went to work as an apprentice – printer, and later became a wandering printer in the cities of the East and West of America.

In 1856, he journeyed down the Mississippi and became a pilot on that great river. Later he wrote humorous stories for papers, and was a popular lecturer in the far West. In 1869 he published the witty travel book the *Innocents Abroad*, and with this success, he settled down to become a novelist. He married Olivia Langdon, and **they** lived in Hartford, Connecticut, and brought up a family there.

Mark Twain wrote *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* between 1873 and 1875, and his own children loved it. It is a book that has been read and enjoyed by countless boys and girls all over the world because of its delightful mixture of practical jokes and fantasy. It rings true because it is an exaggerated version of Twain's own youth; the exciting times highlighted, and the dull ones ignored. For instance, the cave, full of bats, is actually situated three miles below Hannibal, and was well-known to the young Samuel Clemens.

'A boy's life is not all comedy,' Twain says of his youth. 'Much of the tragic enters into **it**.' And in this book he has shown some of the horror and fear felt by a child in a primitive community. Its great merit lies in the relationship between Tom Sawyer and his Aunt Polly, and with Huckleberry Finn; and in its descriptions of village life in that part of America during the middle of the nineteenth century.

Taken from the abridged
McMillan edition of the
Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

(1) Say whether the following statements are **True** or **False** by writing **T** or **F** against them.

i. Samuel Langhorne Clemens was the real name of Mark Twain. ☐

ii. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is true to life of Mark Twain as he uses his childhood experiences in it. ☐

iii. After leaving school, Mark Twain started working as a carpenter. ☐

iv. Twain's 'Innocents Abroad' was a landmark in his life as a novelist. ☐

(½ × 4 = 2 *marks*)

(2) Why has "Adventures of Tom Sawyer" been enjoyed by children all over the world?

.....

(*1 mark*)

(3) Underline the correct answer.

'A boy's life is not all comedy', means,

(i) It is a mixture of both good and bad times.

(ii) It is full of happiness and enjoyment.

(iii) His whole life is miserable. (*1 mark*)

(4) The **two** adjectives that describe Twain's youthful days are ..... and ..... .

(*1 mark*)

(5) Find the words from the passage which have the **same** meaning as the following.

funny .....

well known ..... (*1 mark*)

(6) Find the words from the passage that have the **opposite** meaning to the following.

failure .....

reality ..... (*1 mark*)

(7) What do the following pronouns refer to.

they ..... (in line 9)

it ..... (in line 17) (*1 mark*)

Q. 15

Total 8

❍ **Test 16**

Write on **one** of the following. Use about 200 words.

(a) An essay on

'**For a greener tomorrow - say 'no' to polythene**'

You may include the following

- environmental issues
  - non decaying material
  - blocking of waterways and sewage system
  - breeding grounds for mosquitoes
  - harmful to animals
  - emission of harmful gases when burnt
- practical solutions
  - minimise, reuse, recycle waste material
  - reforestration

OR

(b) Write the speech you would make at the School Assembly '**Taking care of school**'.

You may include the following :

- Types of school property
- Uses of them
- How to protect them
- Duties / responsibilities as students

OR

(c) Use the following situation to create a story of your own.

Amal – alone at home - heard a knock – puzzled

Opened the door

OR

(d) Complete the following dialogue

Kanchana : Hey, did you see the poster at the main junction?

Chathuri : Oh! what's it about?

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