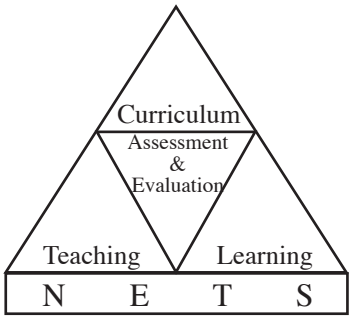
G.C.E.(O.L.) Examination - 2017

Marking Scheme

31 - English Language



Research and Development Branch
National Evaluation and Testing Service
Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka

Part II

2.0 Information regarding questions and answers

2.1 Question paper I

2.1.1 Structure of the question paper I

* Time allocated for paper I is **one** hour.
* Paper I includes **eight** tests and **all** tests are **compulsory**.
* Total mark for paper I is **40**.

Question (Test) No.	Area of testing	Marks Distribution	Total
1	Vocabulary	1 × 5	05
2	Grammar	1 × 5	05
3	Vocabulary	½ × 10	05
4	Reading	1 × 5	05
5	Reading	1 × 5	05
6	Writing	C - 2, L - 3	05
7	Reading	1 × 5	05
8	Writing	C - 2, L - 3	05

2.1.2 Tests and expected answers, marking scheme, observations and comments

* Observations and comments for the given answers for all the questions in Paper I are based on Graphs 1 and 3 given in page 8 and 11 respectively.

- Test 1 – Vocabulary

Objective : *Assess the ability to use words appropriately and accurately to convey precise meaning.*

Technique : *Completing a dialogue.*

❍ **Test 1**

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

Kishan : Uncle Nimal, when will the train (1) ..(b).. ?

Nimal : In about fifteen (2) ..(g).. .

Kishan : What's the (3) ..(e).. now, uncle?

Nimal : It's only 7.30.

Kishan : How long will the train (4) ..(d).. here?

Nimal : For about ten minutes.

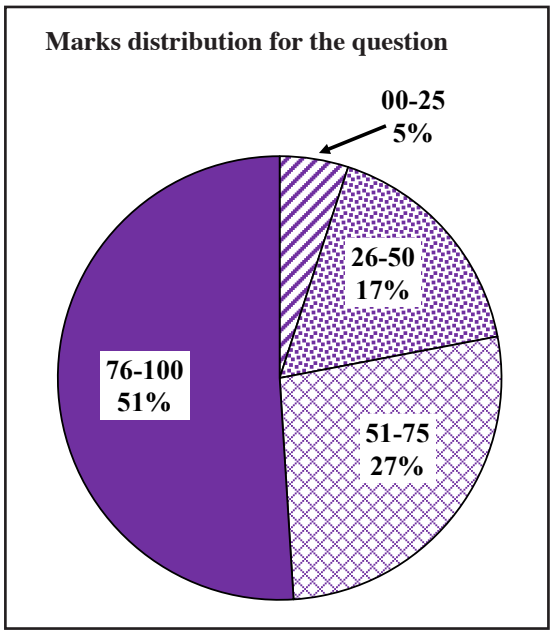
Kishan : Oh! Can I (5) ..(a).. a book at the bookstore?

Nimal : Yes of course, but be quick.

Kishan : Sure. I'll be back (6) ..(f).. .

(*a*) buy
(*b*) ~~come~~
(*c*) close
(*d*) stop
(*e*) time
(*f*) soon
(*g*) minutes

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 1 :



Almost all the candidates have attempted test 1. Marks allocated for test 1 is 05. The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 5%
26 - 50 range - 17%
51 - 75 range - 27%
76 - 100 range - 51%

51% of candidates have obtained more than 76 marks and 5% of candidates have obtained less than 25 marks. 27% of candidates have obtained between 51 - 75 marks. Only 22% of candidates have scored below 50 marks.

- Test 2 – Grammar

Objective – Assess the ability to use correct from of the verb to complete a dialogue.

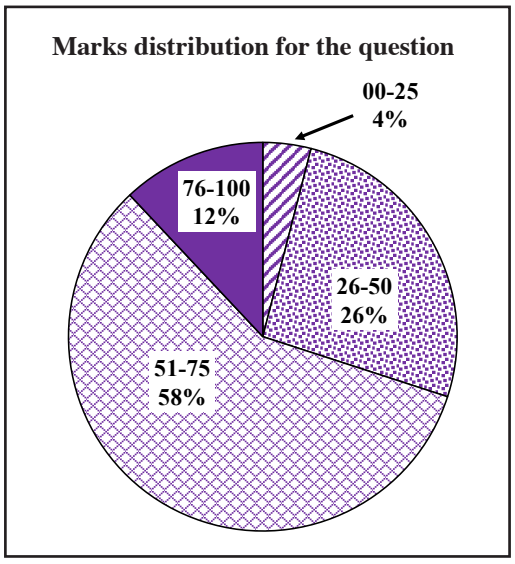
Technique – Binary choice.

❍ **Test 2 with expected answers :**

Underline the correct answer. *The first one is done for you.*

Kaveesh	: Tell me what you did after I (1) ..... yesterday?	(leave, left)
Nirmala	: Well, we (2) ..... to the town.	(walked, walk)
Gimhani	: There was a small shop (3) ..... masks.	(sold, selling)
Kaveesh	: So you (4) ..... a mask. Let me see it.	(will buy, bought)
Nirmala	: No, the shop was closed. Ha! ha! ha!	
Gimhani	: Tomorrow we (5) ..... there again.	(are going, going)
Kaveesh	: I wish I (6) ..... join you.	(could, can)
Nirmala	: You can't. You have to study.	

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 2 :



Almost all the candidates have attempted test 02. Five marks have been allocated for this test. The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 4%
26 - 50 range - 26%
51 - 75 range - 58%
76 - 100 range - 12%

12% of candidates have scored more than 76 marks and 4% of candidates have scored less than 25 marks. 58% of candidates have scored between 51 - 75 marks . Only 30% of candidates have scored below 50 marks.

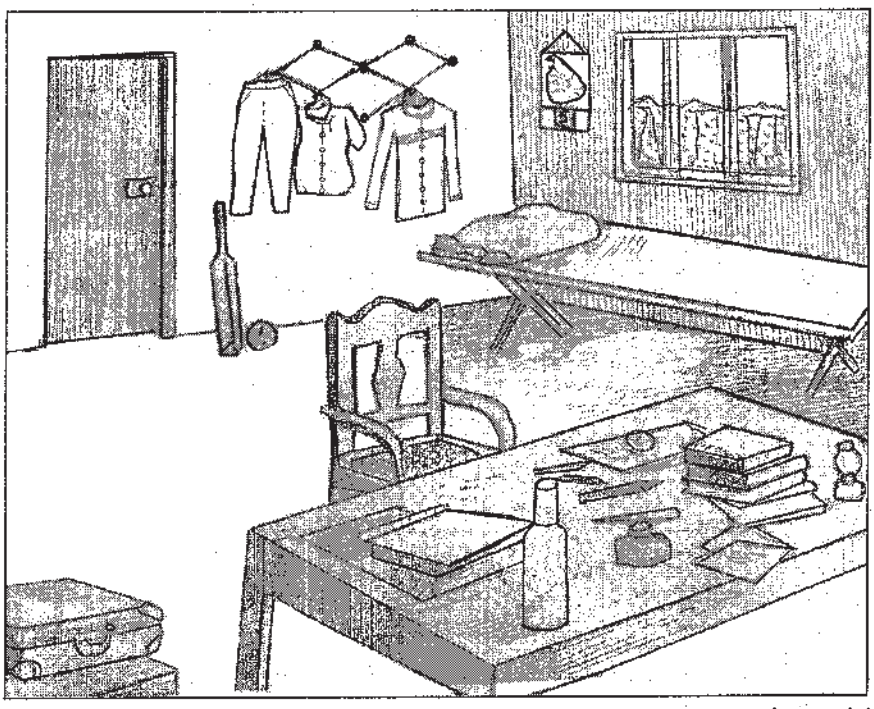
- Test 3 – Vocabulary

Objective – Assess the ability to use appropriate words in context.

Technique – Fill in the blanks.

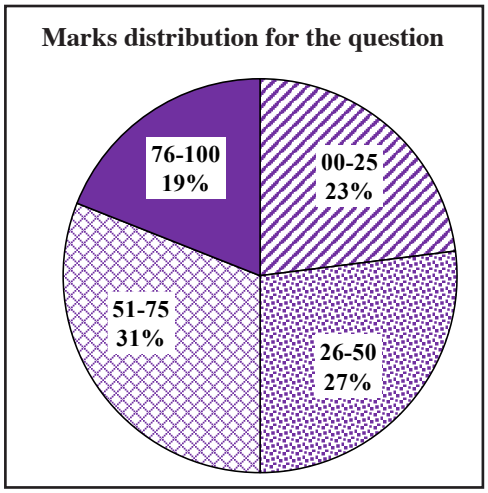
❍ **Test 3 with expected answers :**

Study the picture and fill in the blanks in the text given below. Use only **one** word in each blank.



This is Kamal's room. He has gone out and the door is (1) .closed/locked . His bed is near the (2) .....window..... and there is a curtain partly covering it. There is a (3) .....calendar..... of Sri Lanka hanging on the (4) .....wall..... . His bed is a very narrow one with a (5) .....pillow..... on one side. Two (6) shirts/T-shirts and a pair of (7) .....trousers/pants/jeans.....are hung on the wall hanger. He has a big (8) .....chair.....to sit on when he is studying. On his (9) .....table..... are several books. His mother has placed a (10) .....bottle..... of water on it for him to drink when he is thirsty. His room is neat and clean.

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 3 :



Almost all the candidates have attempted Test 3. 05 marks have been allocated for this test.

The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 23%
26 - 50 range - 27%
51 - 75 range - 31%
76 - 100 range - 19%

19% of candidates have scored above 76 marks whereas 23% of candidates have scored below 25 marks. 31% of candidates have scored between 51 - 75 marks. 50% of candidates have scored less than 50 marks.

- Test 4 – Reading

Objective – Assess the ability to interpret indirectly stated information.
Technique – Matching

❍ **Test 4 with expected answers :**

Match the extracts with the headings. Write the correct letter in the blank provided. *The first one is done for you.*

Extracts

(1) A tribute to all actors and actresses at the Tower Hall. (..f..)

(2) Henry Ford is famous for founding the Ford Motor Company. (..d..)

(3) A doctor says being out in the mornings help to get ample amounts of vitamin D. (..a..)

(4) Watch a musical show presented by the students of Central College on TV tomorrow. (..b..)

(5) Drought in the dry zone has destroyed village life. (..c..)

(6) Use your own cloth bag when you go shopping. (..e..)

Headings

(*a*) Let the sun shine on you and be well

(*b*) Enjoy our programme. Forget your worries

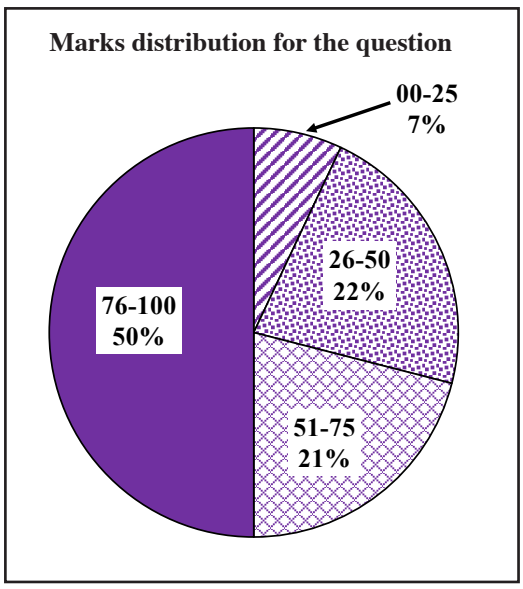
(*c*) Missing water; our life blood

(*d*) Travel made easy for all of us

(*e*) Be a nature lover. Say no to polythene

(*f*) Stars brighten a ~~cloudless night~~

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 4 :



Most of the students have attempted the Test (4). 05 marks have been allocated for this question.
The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 7%
26 - 50 range - 22%
51 - 75 range - 21%
76 - 100 range - 50%

50% of candidates have scored above 76% marks while 7% of students have scored below 25 marks. 29% of candidates have scored below 50 marks where as 71% of candidates have scored above 50 marks.

- Test 5 – Reading

Objective – Assess the ability to read and extract information from a letter to complete a dialogue.

Technique – Transferring information.

❍ **Test 5 with expected answers :**

Read the following letter and complete the dialogue. Use only one word in each blank. *The first one is done for you.*

26.11.2017

Dear Srinath,

I came to Nuwara Eliya, but it's too cold and gloomy. So I moved to a tea plantation bungalow in Thalawakele, where my uncle lives. Here it's warmer and I feel comfortable. The view is beautiful. I keep walking on the hills every morning until my feet hurt. I get tasty food to eat prepared by my uncle's cook. I'm fine here.

Sorry, I missed the match. See you next week.
Give my regards to Arjuna.
Isuru

Srinath : I received a letter from (1) ..Isuru.. .

Arjuna : Isuru? Where has he gone? I didn't see him at the match yesterday.

Srinath : Well, he didn't come to the match.
He is in (2) ..Thalawakele.. staying with his (3) ..uncle.. .

Arjuna : How nice! It must be cool and nice there.

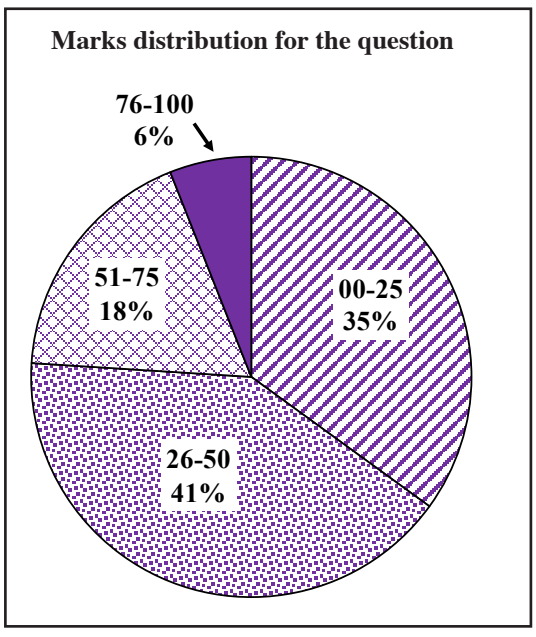
Srinath : No, not as cold as in (4) ..Nuwara Eliya.., he says.

Arjuna : What is he doing there?

Srinath : Something he never does here; (5) ..walking/walk/hiking.. .
By the way, he is sending you his (6) ..regards.. .

Arjuna : I must thank him when I see him.

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 5 :



Almost all the candidates have attempted Test 5. 05 marks have been allocated for this test. The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 35%
26 - 50 range - 41%
51 - 75 range - 18%
76 - 100 range - 6%

6% of candidates have scored above 76 marks and 35% of candidates have scored below 25 marks. 76% of candidates have scored less than 50 marks while 24% of candidates have scored above 50 marks.

• Test 6 – Writing

Objective – Assess the ability to write a notice.

Technique – Guided writing

❍ **Test 6 :**

The English Club in your school has organized a workshop on "English for Everyone" to be held in the main hall of the school. Write a notice informing about the workshop. Include the following. Use about **40 - 50** words.

- purpose of the workshop - date, time and venue - participants

Expected Answer :

NOTICE

A workshop.

The English club of Gamini Maha Vidyalaya has organized a workshop on "English for Everyone" to make the students aware of the importance of English. This will be held on the 15th of January from 8.30 a.m to 2.30 p.m in the school Main Hall. All the students from grade 6 - 13 are requested to be present.

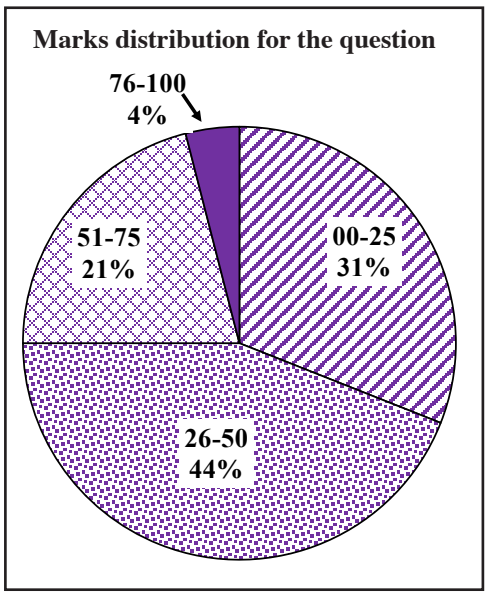
Sgd.

Date : 19.12.2017 Secretary

The English club

Gamini M.V

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 6 :



Almost all the candidates have attempted Test 6. 05 marks have been allocated for this test. Out of the total of 05 marks, 02 marks are allocated for Content and 03 marks are allocated for Language. The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 31%
26 - 50 range - 44%
51 - 75 range - 21%
76 - 100 range - 4%

Only 4% of candidates have scored more than 76 marks. 31% of candidates have scored less than 25 marks. 75% of candidates have scored below 50 marks.

- Test 7 – Reading

Objective – Assess the ability to read and understand directly and undirectly stated information in a text.
Technique – Answering Questions.

❍ **Test 7 with expected answers :**

Observations and Comments on Test 7 :

Read the following text and answer the questions.

Vikum and Harsha were the best of friends until a misunderstanding made them drift apart. Their classmates Sajani, Hiruni and Lahiru wanted them to be friends again. They tried hard, but nothing worked.

One day Lahiru suggested a bike race because he knew that Vikum and Harsha loved bike racing. So he met the 'two angry birds' and asked them to take part in the race. Vikum said, "Alright I'm ready to face the challenge." They were to meet at the school playground the following Saturday.

Vikum checked his old bike to make sure everything was alright. Harsha did nothing. His bike was a brand new one. Nothing would go wrong. He wanted to defeat Vikum. After all he was his rival.

Vikum and Harsha arrived at the playground. All their friends were there. Lahiru shouted. "Ready, Steady, Go" and the two boys began to pedal. Suddenly there was a loud noise. The chain had fallen off Harsha's bike. Vikum stopped peddling and turned back to help Harsha.

Then the friends came running. Vikum and Harsha were laughing and hugging each other. "Who is the loser?" asked Hiruni giggling. "No losers. Both are winners," said Lahiru.

(1) What made the good friends drift apart? (a)misunderstanding

(2) Who were the 'two angry birds'? Vikum and Hanrsha

(3) Write the sentence which says the two boys became friends again.
Vikum and Harsha were laughing and hugging each other

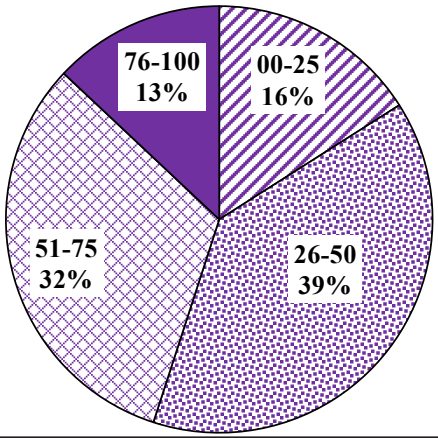
● Underline the correct answers.

(4) Hearing a loud noise, Vikum
(a) fell off his bike. (b) went to help Harsha. (c) started peddling faster.

(5) The word 'challenge' means
(a) a difficult task. (b) an easy activity. (c) a tiring race.

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 7 :

Marks distribution for the question



Most of the candidates have attempted Test 7. 05 marks have been allocated for this test. The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 16%
26 - 50 range - 39%
51 - 75 range - 32%
76 - 100 range - 13%

13% of candidates have scored over 76 marks and 16% of candidates have scored below 25 marks. 45% of candidates have scored over 50 marks.

- Test 8 – Writing

Objective – Assess the ability to write a paragraph on a given topic.
Technique – Free writing

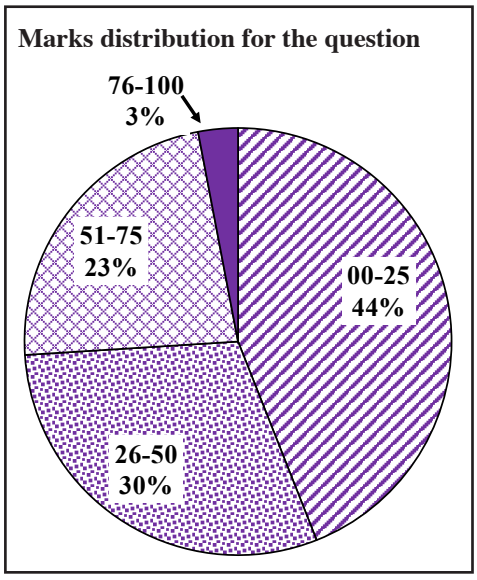
❍ **Test 8 :**

Write on **one** of the following topics. Use about **50** to **60** words.
(a) An unforgettable day in my life (b) An interesting person I know

Expected Answer :

An unforgettable day in my life :
It was the 1st of October 2010. My mother woke me up. She told me that the results of the scholarship examination were out. My father was trying to find my results on the internet. I ran to him. I was very excited. My heart was beating fast. My father suddenly jumped up and hugged me. I had scored 190 marks. My mother shed happy tears and kissed me. I got telephone calls from my teachers and relations. They congratulated me. So, that was an unforgettable day in my life.

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 8 :



Almost all the candidates have attempted Test 8. 05 marks have been allocated for the test 02 marks are given for Content and 03 marks are given for Language. The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 44%
26 - 50 range - 30%
51 - 75 range - 23%
76 - 100 range - 3%

Only 03% of the candidates have scored more than 76 marks while 44% of candidates have scored less than 25 marks. 26% of candidates have scored over 50 marks while 74% of candidates have scored below 50 marks.

2.2 Question paper II

2.2.1 Structure of the question paper II

* Time allocated for paper II is **two** hours.
* Paper II includes **eight** tests and **all** tests are **compulsory**. Test 14 has two choices whereas test 16 has four.
* The total mark for paper II is **60**.

Question (Test) No.	Area of testing	Marks Distribution	Total
9	Vocabulary	½ × 10	05
10	Grammar	½ × 10	05
11	Language Proficiency	½ × 14	07
12	Grammar	1 × 5	05
13	Reading	1 × 5	05
14	Writing	C - 3, L - 3, O - 2, M - 2	10
15	Reading	1 - ½ × 2 2 - ½ × 2 3 - ½ × 2 4 - 1 × 1 5 - 1 × 1 6 - ½ × 2 7 - 1 × 1 8 - 1 × 1	01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01
16	Writing	C - 5, L - 5, O - 2, M - 3	15

2.2.2 Tests and expected answers, marking scheme, observations and comments

* Observations and comments on answering all the questions in Paper II are based on Graphs 2(a), 2(b) and 3.

- Test 9 – Vocabulary

Objective – ***Assess the ability to use appropriate word class in context.***

Technique – ***Selection***

❍ **Test 9 with expected answers :**

Complete the sentences selecting a word. There are two extra words.

(1) management, managerial, managing, manager, manage

(a) You must learn to ..... manage ..... your time efficiently.

(b) The hotel is under a new ..... management ..... now.

(c) The ..... manager ..... of the company is Mr. S. Perera.

(2) participatory, participant, participate, participative, participation

(a) The rebels agreed to ..... participate ..... in the peace talks.

(b) More ..... participation ..... of the younger generation in community work is necessary.

(c) Ruwan is an active ..... participant ..... in the Science Association.

(3) inventor, invention, inventive, invent

(a) Global communication was transformed by the ..... invention ..... of the internet.

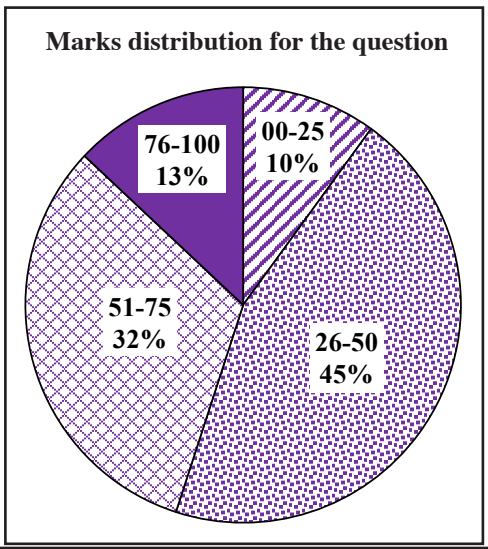
(b) He would ..... invent ..... any excuse to avoid doing homework.

(4) competitor, compete, competition, competitive

(a) Her dream is to ..... compete ..... in the Olympics.

(b) 'A' Level is a ..... competitive ..... examination.

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 9 :



Almost all the candidates have attempted Test 9. Five marks have been allocated for this test item. The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 10%
26 - 50 range - 45%
51 - 75 range - 32%
76 - 100 range - 13%

Only 13% of candidates have obtained more than 76 marks. 10% of candidates have scored below 25 marks. 55% of candidates have scored below 50 marks and 45% of candidates have scored above 50 marks.

- Test 10 – Grammar

Objective – Assess the ability use words appropriately to complete a factual text.
Technique – Fill in the blanks.

❍ **Test 10 with expected answers :**

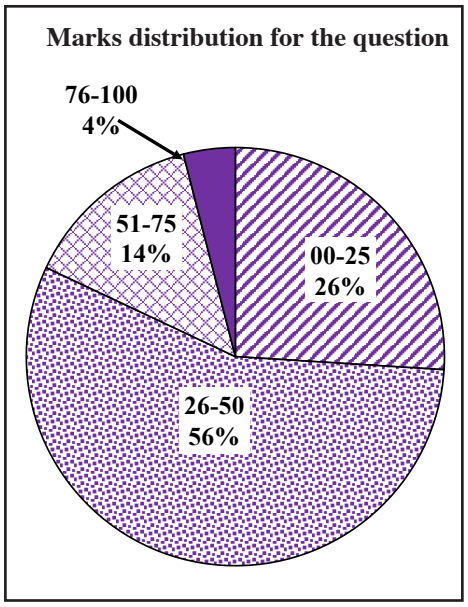
Fill in the blanks with the following verbs.

made up,	settled down,	turn back,	turned off,	fell into
ran into,	took off,	called off,	make for,	got up

Last Sunday was a rainy day. Mr Jayanath had to attend a meeting in school. His alarm didn't work and he (1) ...got up..... late, dressed quickly and ran to the bus stop. When he was about ten yards away the bus (2) .....took off..... . He began to walk, disappointed. Half way through, he (3) ...ran into..... an old friend and (4) .....fell into..... a deep conversation. All of a sudden it started to rain. Mr Jayanath wanted to (5) ...turn back..... , but he (6) ...made up... his mind to go because he thought it was important to (7) .....make for..... the meeting. When he reached the main hall there was no one. The lights were on. He (8) ...turned off... the lights and left the place.

It was only then that he saw the notice on the wall, "Due to bad weather the meeting is (9) ...called off... ." Back at home he drank a hot cup of tea and (10)setted downto read a book.

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 10 :



Almost all the students have attempted for Test 10. Five marks have been allocated for this question. The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 26%
26 - 50 range - 56%
51 - 75 range - 14%
76 - 100 range - 4%

Only 4% of the students have obtained more than 76 marks and 26% of the candidates have scored less than 25 marks. 82% of the candidates have scored below 50 marks.

- Test 11 – Language Proficiency

Objective – ***Assess the ability to identify the specific information.***
Technique – ***Overall proficiency of the language modified close.***

❍ **Test 11 with expected answers :**

Fill in the blanks with the words given within the box. There are three extra words.

interviewing,	salesmen,	say,	called,	pen,	looked,	to,	rupees,	in,
asking,	my,	there,	favourite,	and,	different,	at,	he	

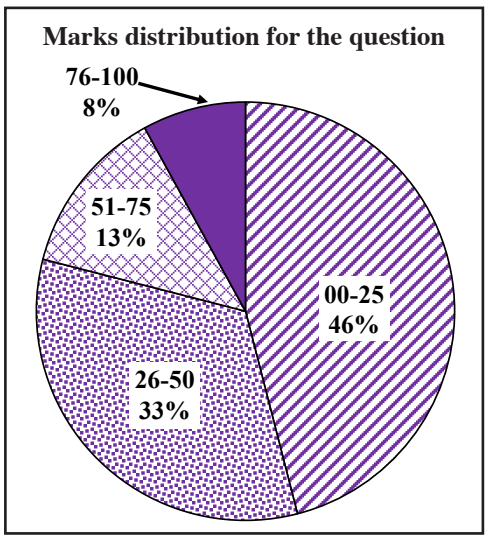
When I was the manager of a trading company in Colombo, it was my duty to interview young men and women for posts vacant in my department.

One of my (1) ...favourite..... techniques in interviewing prospective (2) ..salesmen... was to hand them (3) .....my..... expensive fountain pen and (4) .....say..... "Try to sell this (5) .....to..... me."

One day after (6) interviewing several applicants who used (7) ...different.... marketing skills, I was surprised (8) .....at..... the skills of an applicant. (9) .....He..... picked up my pen (10) .....looked..... at it, put it (11) .....in..... his pocket, sat back (12) .....and..... said, "Sir, for thousand (13) .....rupees..... you can have your (14) .....pen..... back."

I was so impressed I appointed him as an assistant manager within weeks.

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 11 :



Almost all the candidates have attempted Test 11. 07 marks have been allocated for this test The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 46%
26 - 50 range - 33%
51 - 75 range - 13%
76 - 100 range - 8%

Only 8% of the candidates have scored more than 76 marks and 46% of the candidates have scored below 25 marks. 79% of candidates have scored below 50.

- Test 12 – Grammar

Objective – Assess the ability to report information correctly.
Technique – Completion.

❍ **Test 12 with expected answers :**

A comedy show called "**Don't Look Now**", is at a theatre in Colombo these days. These are the comments made by some newspapers and viewers.

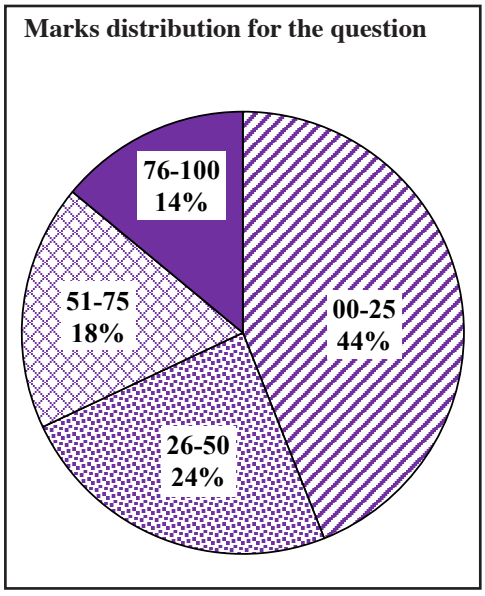
1. "People will love it" (The Daily News)
2. "It's a fantastic show" (The Daily Mirror)
3. "It will be a great success" (The Island)
4. "It's the funniest play I have ever seen" (An actor)
5. "The production is perfect" (A film producer)
6. "I can't remember a better show" (A singer)

Now report what the newspapers and viewers said.

e.g. :

1. The Daily News said that the people would love it.
2. The Daily Mirror said that ..... it was a fantastic show ..... .
3. The Island said that it ..... would be ..... a great success.
4. An actor said that it ..... was the funniest play he had ..... ever seen.
5. A film producer said that the ..... production was perfect ..... .
6. A singer said that he ..... could not remember ..... better show.

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 12 :



Almost all the candidates have attempted Test 12. 05 marks have been allocated for this test. The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25 range - 44%
26 - 50 range - 24%
51 - 75 range - 18%
76 - 100 range - 14%

Only 14% of candidates have scored more than 76 marks. 44% of the candidates have scored below 25 marks. And 68% of candidates have scored below 50 marks.

- Test 13 – Reading

Objective – Assess the ability to read and understand a set of instructions.
Technique – Categorizing.

❍ **Test 13 with expected answers :**

Read the poem and answer the questions given.

Under Ground

In the deep kingdom under ground
There is no light and little sound.
Down below the earth's green floor
The rabbit and the mole explore.
The quarrying ants run to and fro
To make their populous empires grow.
Do **they**, as I pass overhead,
Stop in their work to hear my tread?
Some creatures sleep and do not toil,
Secure and warm beneath the soil.
Sometimes a fork or spade intrudes
Upon their earthly solitudes.
Downward the branching tree-roots spread
Into the country of the dead.
Deep down, the buried rocks and stones
Are like the earth's gigantic bones.
In the dark kingdom under ground
How many marvellous things are found.

James Reeves

(1) (a) Is the kingdom under ground a quiet world or a noisy world?
a quiet world

(b) Which words tell you this? little sound

(2) Find **two** other words / phrases in the poem which mean 'under'.
(i) below/deep down (ii) beneath

(3) The poet says 'they' stop their work to hear his walk. Who are referred to as 'they' in line 7? ants

(4) What **two** tools disturb the silence of the earth occasionally?
(i) fork (ii) spade

(5) (a) How do some creatures who do not work find their sleep under ground?
secure and warm

(b) Who seem to be the busiest creatures? ants

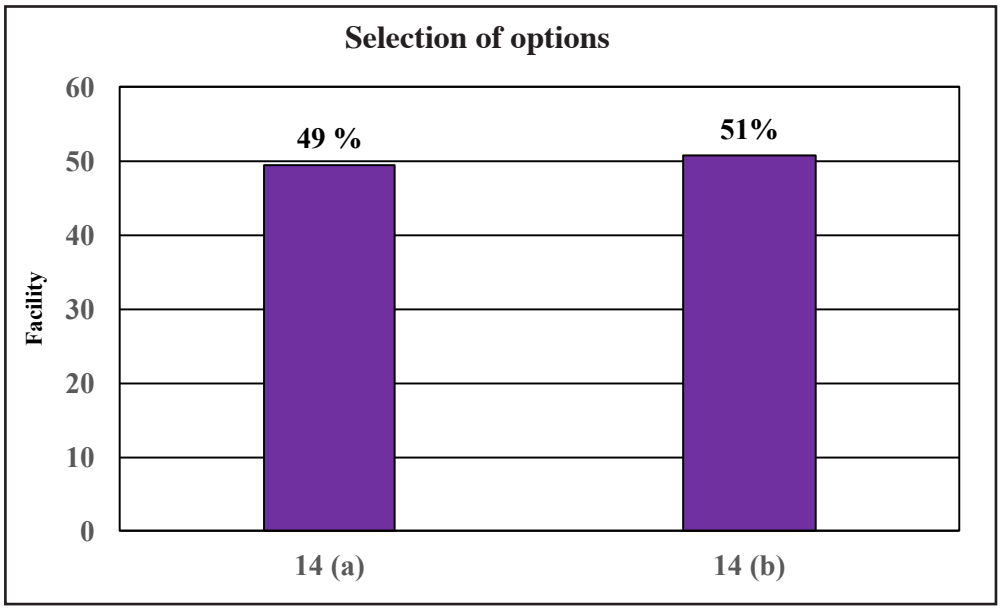
- Test 14 – Writing

Objectives – (a) Assess the ability to write an informal letter
(b) Assess the ability a description interpreting the information given in the table
Technique – Guided writing

❍ **Test 14 :**

(a) You plan to visit your uncle after the examination. Write him a letter informing him about it. Include the following. Use about **100** words.
- how you feel about the exam
- when you expect to visit him, for how long
- things you like to do
- places you like to visit

Test 14 : Selection of options



Expected Answer :

No : 325,
Grand Street,
Mawanella.
09.12.2017

Dear Uncle,

Are you doing well nowadays? I'm so sorry for not been able to write to you for a long time as I was busy with my O/L exam. Now I feel so relaxed because I faced that exam well.

Uncle, we hope to visit you next Sunday. I wish to stay for a few days with your family. I'm eagerly waiting to see you all.

I'm sure my cousins Mahesh and Maheshi are also waiting to spend the time with me, I still can remember how we spent our last vacation with them. I'm willing to taste aunty's famous "Ambulthiyal" and "Polos" curry. I love to meet village friends and play cricket with them in the paddy field behind your house.

I like to visit the village temple to see the ancient paintings and watch the movie "The lost world - 4" .

Please give my loving regards to all at home . Hoping to see you soon. God bless you!

Your loving son
Ayesh

OR

(b) The following table tells you where 125 students in your school like to study after their A/L Examination. Write a description based on the information given in the table. Use about **100** words.

	Country	Number	Percentage (%)
1	America	30	24
2	England	28	22.4
3	Japan	25	20
4	India	10	8
5	Russia	10	8
6	Australia	15	12
7	Other countries	7	5.6
	Total	125	100

Expected Answers :

This table shows where 125 students of our school like to study after their A/L examination.

According to this table, most of the students like to study in America while the least number of students likes to study in the other countries which are not mentioned in the table. An equal number of students likes to study in India and Russia. That is 8%. Twenty eight students like to study in England while 25 students like to study in Japan. Their percentages are 22.4 and 20 respectively. Twelve percent of students like to study in Australia.

The information in the table gives an indication that the majority of the students likes to study in the developed countries of the world.

- Test 15 – Reading

Objective – Assess the ability to read, understand and interpret directly and indirectly stated information in a descriptive text.

Technique – Answering questions.

❍ **Test 15 with expected answers :**

Read the text and answer the questions.

① Back in the 16th century in a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a very poor family. In order to keep food on the table for his family, Durer, the father worked almost 18 hours a day at his trade. Despite their poverty, two of Durer's sons, Albrecht the younger and Albert the elder had a dream. They both wanted to study art at the academy in Nuremberg, but they knew that their father would never be financially able to send either of them there.

② After many long discussions at night, the two boys finally had a plan. They would toss a coin. The loser would go to work in the nearby mines and with his earnings support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, in four years, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies, he would support the other brother at the academy with sales of his artwork.

③ They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning. Albrecht won the toss and went off to Nuremberg. Albert went down into the dangerous mines and for the next four years financed his brother. Albrecht's works of art were far better than those of most of his professors and by the time he graduated he was beginning to earn lots of money.

④ When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner to celebrate his triumphant homecoming. After the memorable meal, Albrecht rose to thank his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled him to fulfil his ambition. He said, "Albert, Blessed brother of mine, now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream and I will take care of you."

⑤ Tears streamed down Albert's pale face. He said softly, "No brother, I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed. Lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly that I cannot hold a pen or a brush to make delicate lines on parchment or canvas. No brother, for me it's too late."

⑥ More than 450 years have passed. Now, Albrecht Durer's hundreds of portraits, pen and silver-point sketches and copper engravings hang in every great museum in the world. Albrecht Durer's work of art "Praying Hands" is world famous.

⑦ Some believe that Albrecht Durer drew his brother's abused hands with palms together in honour of his brother Albert. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands", but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love, "Praying Hands".

Let this work be your reminder that no one ever makes it alone!

(A condensed version – Writer unknown)

1. Select the most suitable phrase and underline it.

(i) Both Albrecht and Albert, the two brothers

(a) were able to go to Nuremberg academy.

(b) wanted to go to Nuremberg to study art.

(c) wanted their father to finance them to study art.

(ii) Albrecht's works of art were

(a) not good as those of his teachers.

(b) not upto his professor's expectations.

(c) much better than those of his teachers. (01 *mark*)

2. According to their plan, what did the two brothers do during the four years?

(a) Albrecht – went to study at the academy/ studied at the academy/studied

(b) Albert – worked in the mines/supported/financed his brother/

(accept any relevant grammatically correct answer)

(01 *mark*)

3. Select words from the passage to complete the sentences. (Use only one word in each blank)

(a) To feed his family Durer ..... worked ..... for long hours daily.

(b) After Albrecht's graduation, he came back to his own ..... village/family/home .....

(01 *mark*)

4. How did Albrecht and Albert decide who should go to the academy?

tossed a coin/by tossing a coin/tossing a coin

(01 *mark*)

5. Who was honoured by the masterpiece titled "Praying Hands"?

Albert/Alberecht's brother

(01 *mark*)

6. Read paragraph ④ and find a word which has the same meaning as the following.

(a) successful and undefeated - triuphant

(b) cannot be forgotten - memorable (01 *mark*)

7. Write the sentence which says that Albert's hands have been damaged.

The bones in every finger have been smashed

(01 *mark*)

8. Underline the correct answer.

The best title for the passage is,

(a) 'Sacrifice of a poor family.'

(b) 'Tribute to a loving brother.'

(c) 'How to realize a dream.'

- Test 16 – Writing

Objective – Assess the ability to write
1. *an article to a newspaper*
2. *a speech on a given topic*
3. *an essay on given topic*
4. *a story*

Technique – (a), (b), (c), (d) Guided writing.

❍ **Test 16 :**

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

(a) Write an article to a Children's newspaper on the following topic.
'Watching TV: its advantages and disadvantages'
- ▲ form of entertainment
- ▲ useful for studies
- ▲ can get addicted
- ▲ neglect studies and other works

(b) Imagine you have been appointed as the head prefect of your school. Write a speech you would make at the morning assembly on 'Lets make our school the best school in the district'.
Include:
- ▲ attention to studies
- ▲ sports etc.

(c) Write an essay on 'Our responsibility towards preventing Dengue in our area'.
Include:
- ▲ keeping the environment clean
- ▲ destroying dengue breeding places
- ▲ constant supervision (you may include other information also)

(d) Write a story. Begin as follows:

Expected Answer :

(c)

Our responsibility towards preventing Dengue

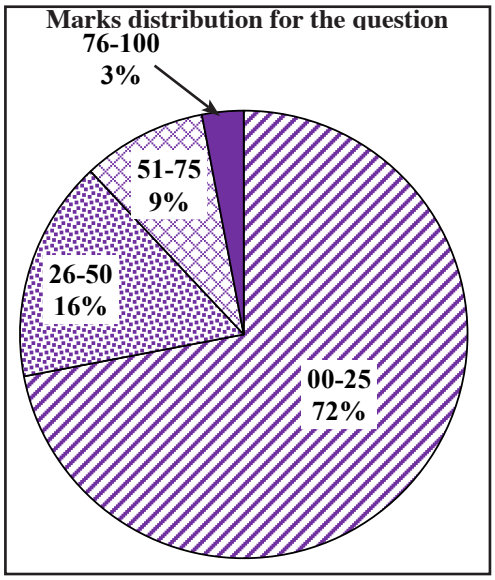
Dengue is a deadly disease spread by a mosquito. It can be seen everywhere in the country and it causes a lot of deaths. I wonder how such a little insect could cause that many deaths. However, it's our responsibility to take actions to prevent this disease.

When talking about preventing dengue, it is very important to keep the environment clean. It has been found even a carelessly thrown egg shell in which the rain water collects is a breeding ground for the mosquitoes. It is the truth, even though it is unbelievable. Therefore, we should clean our house and the garden properly. We must pay much attention to the places where water collects and stagnates, such as drains, ponds, pits and dilapidated wells. We also must avoid throwing coconut shells, tins, plastic bottles, polythene wrappers and bags everywhere in the garden. Refrigerators must be cleaned regularly. It is very essential to check the vases and flower pots.

As a precautionary action the government has introduced the 3 Rs; Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The Ministry of Health conducts programmes to make the people aware of reducing the breeding of dengue.

Therefore, it's our duty to prevent dengue and help each other to lead a healthy life.

Overall observations, conclusions and suggestions regarding the answer to Question 16 :



Majority of the students have attempted Test 16. 15 marks have been allocated for it. The candidates have scored as follows.

00 - 25	range	-	72%
26 - 50	range	-	16%
51 - 75	range	-	9%
76 - 100	range	-	3%

(1) **Expected Answer**

Test 16 - (a)

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

(a) Write an article to a Children's newspaper on the following topic.
'Watching TV: its advantages and disadvantages'

- ▲ form of entertainment
- ▲ useful for studies
- ▲ can get addicted
- ▲ neglect studies and other works

Watching TV : its advantages and disadvantages.

Television is the most popular and the most interesting media in the world. In Sri Lanka, we can find a television in every nook and corner. People gather around a television every evening for entertainment.

It is an interesting form of entertainment. There are different kinds of entertainment programmes such as musical, dancing, cookery, cartoons, films, tele-dramas and various competitions. Some programmes are very interesting and some are not. Sometimes, we can learn a lot through TV but sometimes not. The educational programmes are really helpful for our studies because we can learn or listen to the same lesson that we have learnt in school. It helps us to understand better.

Some children get addicted to television and pay more attention to entertain themselves. As a result, they neglect their studies. If you go on watching films and cartoons everyday you will get addicted to them. Spending a lot of time in front of a television is an act of wasting our valuable time.

If we decide to watch selected good quality television programmes it will be an advantage for us. These programs actually help us enhance knowledge around us.

A television is a device which brings both good and bad values to life. Also it telecasts different kinds of programmes. It tries to grab people with different attitudes. Therefore, it is our duty to select the relevant programmes and enhance our knowledge as well as entertain ourselves.

(2) Expected Answer

Test 16 - (b)

(b) Imagine you have been appointed as the head prefect of your school. Write a speech you would make at the morning assembly on 'Lets make our school the best school in the district'.

Include:

- attention to studies
- sports etc.

'Let's make our school the best school in the district'

Good morning! Dear Principal, teachers and my dear friends, As the newly appointed Head Prefect of our school I would like to speak a few words on "Let's make our school the best school in the district".

I suppose it's my duty to bring my school to the top position in the district. It should reach the top through a balanced development in studies and sports. I feel studies and sports go hand in hand. If you and I can have a balanced mind in a physically sound body, we can be healthy citizens for the country.

Studies are very important. We come to school to study from books, share experiences and learn to work together in groups. We must have our own aims and objectives in our studies. It is not merely passing the examinations. But also our skills and personality must develop and we must determine to work hard to raise our school to the top among other schools in the district. Can't we be the best school in the district this year? Yes we can. It should not be a dream.

Well, You all know the glory of our school for sports. Yes, during the past three years we have gained a lot of achievements in sports. It shows the strength of our school. I proudly mention you about the cricket team. Well, being the vice captain of under seventeen cricket team, I was able to bring the Champion's trophy last year. It was a dream to our school. We were able to win the all island champion's trophy,as a result of our dedication and commitment.

Yes, not only cricket the other sports like volleyball, badminton, carrom and chess were also able to bring the school to a good position in the district level.

Well, my dear friends, I would like to make a humble request before I conclude my speech. That is if you love your school and respect it, please be a balanced child, in both education and sports. Then only we can develop good personalities. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Thanks for listening to me. I wish a pleasant day to all of you!

(3) Expected Answer

Test 16 - (c)

(c) Write an essay on 'Our responsibility towards preventing Dengue in our area'.
Include:
- ▲ keeping the environment clean
- ▲ destroying dengue breeding places
- ▲ constant supervision (you may include other information also)

Our responsibility towards preventing Dengue in our area

Dengue is a hazardous health issue in our country. All of us must get together to stop spreading this disease. Each an every one of us have a responsibility towards preventing Dengue.

Keeping the environment clean is the solution to stop spreading dengue. It is our responsibility to keep in and around the place clean where we live. Daily sweeping, dusting and disposing garbage is very important. We should dump them classified into plastic,glass,paper,food waste etc . Removing unnecessary goods are very important to keep our environment clean.

We must find out the dengue breeding places in our surroundings. It is a must to cut down over grown plants, trees and bushes. These are the places where we find the mosquito breeding places. Cleaning drains and waterways is also very important. We must clean the gutters once a month because it is found that there is a possibility of having mosquito breading places in them.

Although we clean our environment we need to have constant supervision. This is also very important as we live in a family. The family members can keep an eye on their surroundings. Then it is easy to identify the breeding places. The constant supervision could be done with the help of the government officials too. Specially, the health inspectors of the area and the Grama Niladhari could make people aware and direct their attention towards keeping the environment clean. Then it is easy to control mosquito breeding.

Conducting "Shramadana", seminars and workshops to aware the community is also important to remove the threat of this deadly disease. It is the responsibility of all citizens to make a collective effort to prevent dengues.

(4) Expected Answer

Test 16 - (d)

(d) Write a story. Begin as follows:

As I approached the deserted house at the end of the road I saw .....

As I approached the deserted house at the end of the road I saw that the door was closed. I looked around to find whether any body was there outside. There was only a dog, which had not taken a proper diet for a long period. It ran away as soon as it saw me.

I noticed that no body had been to this area, because the whole place was covered with big trees, bushes and long grass. I remembered my grand father telling me not to go there as it was declared by the villagers as a haunted house.

My heart began to beat fast. I felt my blood flowing faster I managed to reach the door. It was fully covered with dust. I tapped the door, but no body answered. The door was not locked, neither the windows.

I turned the knob, pushed the door and stepped into the house. I was curious to explore the house, since my grand father asked me not to go there.

Suddenly, to my surprise many bats flew away through the dust; their sound made me scared, and I wanted to run away. However, I made up my mind to go ahead. "Who are you, little brat?" An angry voice was heard behind me. There was a fat man with a big mustache who suddenly pushed me and ran out quickly. I managed to get up and wanted to see who that person was.

Time passed, no body was to be seen. It was getting dark. I could not imagine why I went there. Meanwhile, I heard a creak sound. My curiosity was aroused. I tip toed through the cobwebs and dust I saw a dim-light coming through a door in a room at the back of the house. I peeped through the key hole of that room to see the fat man was packing some valuable things, which were robbed during the past years from our villagers.

Hoping to call 119, I stepped out the deserted house, and swiftly ran back to my house and gave the information to 119. The police had caught the thief red handed with the stolen goods and it was reported in media too. I was proud of my unforgettable adventure.

Part III

3.0 Factors to be considered when answering questions and suggestions for improvement

3.1 Factors to be considered by the candidates when answering questions

General Instructions for the candidates :

* The index number of the candidate should be written clearly and accurately in the spaces provided for it.
* Candidates should always use a blue or black pen to answer questions. They should never answer using a red pen or a pencil.
* Correction fluid should not be used in the answer sheet.
* Handwriting should be legible and clear.
* Each question should be read carefully and the candidates should adhere to the instructions given in the question paper.
* The candidates have to answer all the tests in the question paper itself.
* The candidates are expected to utilize the full time allocated for the paper at the examination.
* The space allocated for the writing tests provides guidance to the candidates about the required length of the answer.

Specific Instructions :

* The candidates must pay their attention to the examples given when answering questions.
* Attention should be paid to spelling when transferring information from a text and copying it as the answer. Candidates will lose marks for spelling errors.
* In reading tasks, the candidates must understand the main idea of the text before answering questions.
* The candidates must apply the reading techniques like scanning, skimming and inferring when attempting to answer questions related to reading.
* The candidates must not copy chunks from the passages as answers when one specific answer (a sentence, a phrase or a word) is expected. Marks will not be awarded for such answers.
* The candidates should be able to guess the meaning of a new word according to the context.
* In writing tasks the candidates must pay their attention to the grammatical accuracy, appropriateness (relevance), mechanics of writing and organization.
* When the options are available for the writing tests, the candidates are advised to follow the instructions thoroughly.

3.2 Comments and suggestions regarding the teaching - learning process

* The teachers should be familiar with the syllabus, the textbooks and the Teachers' Instructional Manual (TIM).

* The teachers should plan their lessons well to make teaching more interesting and productive.

* The teachers should use resources available to them to facilitate the teaching learning process.

* The candidates should be given more opportunities to read and write and listen and speak English in the classroom.

* The teachers should encourage maximum pupil interaction in English in the classroom through group work and pair work.

* The teacher's questioning techniques in classroom teaching helps the performance of the candidates in the examination.

* The teachers who prepare students for the G.C.E.(O/L) examination should read the 'Examination and Assessment Guidelines' issued by the Department of Examinations and follow the instructions.

* If there are candidates with weak performance, the teachers should help them to reach at least the basic level performance standards mentioned in the 'Examination and Assessment Guidelines'.

* In teaching vocabulary, the teachers should go beyond the level of memorizing the spelling and practising pronunciation making students aware of word classes and their use.

* The teachers should use new strategies to make teaching more interesting.

* In teaching reading, the teachers should expose pupils to a variety of authentic text types to develop their reading skills.

* In answering reading tests, pupils should be informed that short and grammatically correct answers can earn full marks.

* In answering 'Wh' questions (especially in test 15), the students should be advised not to copy the full sentences unnecessarily from the reading passage. Copying chunks from passages will be a waste of time.

* Teachers should encourage students to attempt all the writing activities of the question paper. Most of the students do not even attempt the basic writing tests in paper I.

* The teachers should use the same criteria used in the marking scheme, in their classroom tests and term tests too.

* The teachers should pay individual attention to the students, especially in teaching writing and they should make sure that all writing activities of every child are marked and comments given. It is always better to ask students to rewrite the tasks after the teachers' comments.

* Grammar should be taught and tested not in isolation but in context.

* Attention should be paid to 'Language Focus' and 'Language Expressions' given at the beginning of each unit.

* The candidates should be made aware that marks are awarded for spelling, grammatical accuracy, mechanics of writing, format and organization, and that a simple mistake would result in losing marks.

* Every teacher who prepares the students for G.C.E.(O/L) examination should be thorough with the question paper and the marking criteria every year so that he/she would be able to improve the performance level of the students.

* The teachers must get their knowledge updated to be competent in teaching the subject using correct methodology to facilitate and motivate the learners.