Confidential

Department of Examinations – Sri Lanka

G.C.E. (O/L) Examination (2023)2024

31 - English Language

Marking Scheme

Credibility of Results Depends on the Reliability and Consistency of Marking

Be familiar with the marking scheme

***Overlook any answer**
***Overmark any answer**
***Undermark any answer**



***Orientation**
***Standardization**
***Review**

The Quality of Assessors is Critical to the Quality of Assessment Result.

- Pearl-Zhu

This document has been prepared for the use of Marking Examiners. Some changes would be made according to the views presented at the Chief Examiners' Meeting

Amendments are to be included

Paper 1

Question No.	Skill	Marks Distribution	Total
01	Reading	1x5	05
02	Vocabulary	1x5	05
03	Vocabulary	½x10	05
04	Grammar & Language Functions	1x5	05
05	Reading	1x5	05
06	Writing	C – 2, L - 3	05
07	Reading	1x5	05
08	Writing	C – 2, L - 3	05
Total			40

Paper II

Question No.	Skill	Marks Distribution	Total
09	Vocabulary	1×5	05
10	Grammar & Language Functions	1×5	05
11	Reading	½×14	07
12	Grammar & Language Functions	1×5	05
13	Reading	1×5	05
14	Writing	C- 3, L - 3, O - 2, M - 2	10
15	Reading	(1) ½x 4 = 2 (2) 1x1 = 1 (3) (a) 1×1 = 1 (b) 1x1 = 1 (4) 1×1 = 1 (5) 1×1 = 1 (6) 1×1 = 1	
			08
16	Writing	C- 5, L - 5, O - 2, M - 3	15
	Total		60

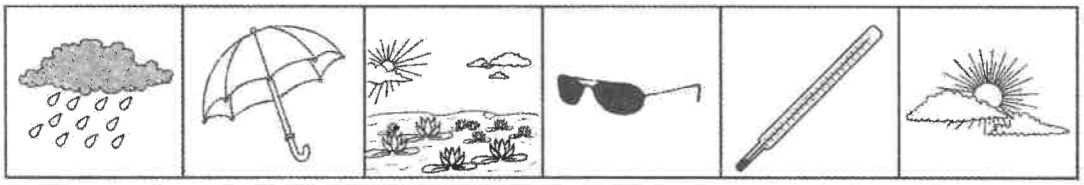
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Total			40

For examiners' use only

Test 1

Match the following pictures with the descriptions given below. Write the letter of the most suitable picture in the box given against each description. *The first one is done for you.*



(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f)

(1) A lake full of flowers [c]

(2) An instrument for measuring temperature [e]

(3) The star that warms the earth [f]

(4) Drops of fresh water that fall from the sky [a]

(5) Dark eyewear that protects you from the sun [d]

(6) Something that is held over one's head for protection [b]

Q. 1

1 ×

Total 5

Test 2

Fill in the blanks in the following dialogue. Use the words given in the box. Write the letter of the correct word in the space given. *The first one is done for you.*

(a) reach
(b) trip
(c) here
(d) sounds
(e) when
(f) that

Arun : I want to do something interesting this weekend.

Chamila : Lovely! We can do something together.

Arun : Yes, that (1) .....d..... good. What are you planning to do?

Chamila : Well, I have arranged to go on a (2) .....b..... to Kandy with some friends. Do you want to come with us?

Arun : Great! (3) .....e..... are you leaving?

Chamila : Well, we have decided to start early in the morning on Sunday, and we are hoping to (4) .....a..... Kandy by lunch time.

Arun : Oh, in (5) .....f..... case I have to come very early.

Chamila : Yes, you must meet me (6) .....c..... at six thirty in the morning.

Arun : OK, good. I won't be late.

Q. 2

1 ×

Total 5

For examiners' use only

Test 3

Study the picture and fill in the blanks in the paragraph using the words given in the box. Write the letter of the correct word in the blank. *The first one is done for you.*



(a) with
(b) seven
(c) ~~enjoy~~
(d) drawing
(e) seated
(f) distance
(g) plucking
(h) guitar
(i) holding
(j) branch
(k) book

This is a beautiful scene of a children's park. Children (1) .....c..... doing different things here. There are (2) .....b..... of them. Some are boys and some are girls. One child is sitting on a (3) .....j..... of a large tree (4) .....g..... fruit. Another child can be seen (5) .....e..... under the tree reading a (6) .....k..... . The child standing infront of a white board is (7) .....d..... a picture. At a (8) .....f....., a boy is playing a (9) .....h..... . A girl with curly hair is (10) .....i..... a kite. Another child is seen playing (11) ..... a ball. The children are enjoying themselves.

Q. 3
½ ×
Total 5

Test 4

Fill in the blanks in the following text with the words given in the box. *The first one is done for you.*

of, at, up, ~~by~~, to, for

A young man was driving to work. Suddenly he was surrounded (1) .....by..... flashing lights and four police cars. One officer told him to get out of the car. The young man followed his orders not knowing why that was happening. He ended (2) .....up..... in handcuffs in the back of the police car. A witness claimed she had seen him (3) .....at..... a murder scene.

But what if this man isn't guilty (4) .....of..... murder? What if he is completely innocent? Perhaps he was in the wrong place at the wrong time, and he has a similar body build or hair colour (5) .....to..... that of the actual murderer. Now imagine your brother, your best friend or even yourself in this man's position.

How difficult it would be (6) .....for..... you and your family to experience this! However, the police have no option other than arresting a suspect.

Q. 4
1 ×
Total 5

Test 5

Read the text on "The Blue Whale" given below. Complete the table with the information. *The first one is done for you.*

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The Blue Whale

The world's largest mammal is the blue whale.

Although they can breathe air, blue whales are most at ease in the ocean, where their ability to float supports their amazing size. These marine animals can be found in every ocean on Earth, and they frequently swim alone or in tiny groups.

A blue whale calf is born weighing two tons (approximately 1 814 kg) and during its first year of life, it gains an additional 200 pounds (approximately 91 kg) every day. These enormous animals consume krill, which are tiny organisms that resemble shrimp.

It is estimated that just a small number of blue whales inhabit the oceans worldwide. They were nearly driven to extinction because of years of hunting for their oil and blubber. Although they were shielded from extinction by the 1966 International Whaling Convention, they are currently listed as endangered.

(1) A swimming style of whales	(a) alone or in tiny groups
(2) A common prey of whales	(b) **krill/tiny organisms**
(3) What hunters seek in whales other than oil	(c) **blubber**
(4) The extra weight a calf gains every day in its first year	(d) **200 pounds approximately 91 kg**
(5) The weight of a calf at birth	(e) **2 tons approximately 1814 kg**
(6) The year that ensured the safety of whales	(f) **1966**

Q.5

1 ×

Total 5

Test 6

Imagine that you are the officer in charge of making railway announcements at the Colombo Fort Railway Station. Study the situation given and write the railway announcement you would make to inform the passengers about the delay of the Udarata Menike Express Train to Badulla. Use about **40-50** words.

Include the following:

- Name of the train : The Udarata Menike Express Train
- The time of departure : 9.30 a.m.
- Platform : No 3
- Scheduled arrival : Badulla Railway Station at 3.30 p.m.
- Duration of delay : One hour
- New departure time : 10.30 a.m.

Attention please, The Udarata Menike Express train scheduled to leave for Badulla from Colombo fort railway station, platform No.3, at 9.30 a.m will be delayed by one hour. It will now leave at 10.30.a.m. and will arrive at Badulla railway station one hour late

Q.6

C

L

Total 5

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Test 7

Read the text and answer the questions.

In a village far away from the city lived a young girl named Pinky. She was an adventurous girl, always seeking new experiences. One sunny day, Pinky found a mysterious map in her grandfather's bookshelf. She, then, decided to go on a treasure hunt.

Following the clues of the map, Pinky journeyed through a forest crossing a bubbling stream. Along the way, she met many animals who supported her. A wise owl guided her through a dark forest, and a playful squirrel pointed towards a hidden cave.

As Pinky reached the cave, she found a **glittering** chest filled with gold. She was not interested in it. Excitement filled her heart as she realized the true wealth was the journey itself. She returned to the village with newfound friends and stories to share. Everyone in the village celebrated her adventurous spirit, and Pinky learned that sometimes the greatest treasures are the memories we create and the friends we make along the way.

Underline the correct answer.

(1) What made Pinky go on a treasure hunt was
(a) the mysterious map.
(b) the surroundings of the village she lived.
(c) her grandfather's bookshelf.

(2) The animals that she met in the forest were
(a) rude. (b) friendly. (c) indifferent.

(3) The word that best explains the meaning of "glittering" can be
(a) valuable. (b) shiny. (c) old.

(4) The animals who supported Pinky at the forest
(a) refused to come to the village with her.
(b) visited the village with her.
(c) stayed where they were.

(5) The people in the village
(a) liked her treasure hunt.
(b) disliked her treasure hunt.
(c) were not bothered about her treasure hunt.

Q. 7

1 ×
Total 5

Test 8

Write a paragraph on any **one** of the following topics. Use about **50** to **60** words.

(a) How to use a library
(b) The best gift I have received

The best gift I have received

I have received many gifts on my birthdays such as books, clothes, shoes, toys etc. But the gift that I received on my last birthday was very special. It's an expensive smart laptop. My cousin who studies in Australia sent it to me. It was a big surprise for me and it is very useful for my higher studies.

Q. 8

C
L
Total 5

Paper II

Question No.	Skill	Marks Distribution	Total
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			08
16	Writing	C- 5, L - 5, O - 2, M - 3	15
	Total		60

○ **Test 9**

Read the text and **underline** the most suitable word given within each bracket.

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New technology often creates serious problems. Vehicles, for example, provide (1) ..... ((a) a little, (b) numerous, (c) much) benefits, but they also (2) ..... ((a) pollute, (b) destroy, (c) ruin) the air and pose severe health risks to people and damage (3) ..... ((a) energy, (b) waste, (c) property). It is difficult to imagine life (4) ..... ((a) with, (b) without, (c) within) electricity and heat. Jet planes, while helping us in many ways, cause air pollution (5) ..... ((a) refreshing, (b) releasing, (c) exchanging) hydrocarbons. The challenge, however, is to minimize the harmful effects of new technology on the environment.

Q. 9

1 ×

Total 5

For examiners' use only

❍ Test 10

Read Ganesh Ramalingam's letter to Sarala and fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given within brackets.

Dear Sarala,

Hope you are doing well. I would like to know how you are getting on. I am thinking about you and your well-being, especially during these difficult times. Write to me or call me whenever you need any help.

Also, it (1) .....**is**..... (be) a pleasure for me to hear how you are (2) .....**progressing**..... (progress) in your studies. Are there any subjects or topics that you find particularly challenging? (3) ..**Remember**..... (remember) it's perfectly normal to encounter difficulties along the way, and I'm here to help you overcome any problems you are likely to (4) .....**face**..... (face).

I would also like to discuss what you plan for your future. Have you thought about what you'd like to pursue after (5) ....**completing**.. (complete) the G.C.E. O/L examination?

In case you need any advice, feel free to contact me.

Wishing you all the best,
Ganesh Ramalingam.

Q. 10

1 ×
Total 5

❍ Test 11

Fill in the blanks with the words given in the box. There is **one** extra word.

puddles	know	form	ever	comes	that	to	it
disappear	rainwater	somewhere	the	sometimes	cannot	what	

Rain is a very unpredictable natural process. Sometimes it rains. It rains and drains. The rain (1) .....**comes**..... down in heavy sheets. (2) ....**sometimes**..... it rains so hard (3) .....**that**..... it makes it difficult (4) .....**to**..... see. We all know (5) .....**what**..... it is like when (6) .....**it**..... rains. But have you (7) .....**ever**..... wondered where all the (8) .....**rainwater**..... goes? Does it just (9) .....**disappear**.... ? We all know that it (10) .....**cannot**..... just disappear. As we (11) .....**know**....., it has to go (12) .....**somewhere**..... . Raindrops fall to (13) .....**the**..... ground, join together to (14) .....**form**..... rain puddles. The rain puddles get bigger and bigger. Finally, they overflow. Like the rain drops, the rain puddles join. They form a stream. The stream carries the water down the hill. After a while the stream joins a river.

Q. 11

½ ×
Total 7

❍ Test 12

Read the text given below and **underline** the correct form given within each bracket.

As Rajini walked into the classroom, she noticed her friend Jaleel sitting alone, looking upset. "Hi, Jaleel, what's wrong?" Rajini asked.

Jaleel sighed and replied, "Well, yesterday my brother told me that (1) ..... ((a) he lost his job (b) he had lost his job (c) he will lose his job)."

"Oh no, I'm sorry to hear that." Rajini said sympathetically and asked. (2) .....
((a) "How would he react?" (b) how he reacted. (c) how he could react.)

"He seemed really upset," Jaleel reported. My brother also told me that he (3) .....
((a) had worked (b) worked (c) having to work) there for five years and didn't know what to do next.

"That must have been tough for him," Rajini remarked. "Did he say anything else?"

"Yeah, he mentioned that (4) ..... ((a) he is going to (b) he was going to (c) he were to) start looking for a new job right away," Jaleel continued. "But he also said he's worried about finding something as good as (5) ..... ((a) what he was (b) what he had been (c) what he had). Rajini nodded understandingly. "It's understandable that he's feeling anxious about the future. Did he talk to anyone else about it?"

"No, not yet," replied Jaleel. He also thanked Rajini for her concern.

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Q. 12

1 ×

Total 5

○ **Test 13**

Read the following extracts taken from books and magazines. Select the most suitable caption for each extract and write the letter of the caption in the box given against the text. There is **one** extra caption.

Captions

A Garbage disposal	**B** Time you should meet a doctor	**C** Feel free to talk
D Be a wise parent	**E** Use it well, it is not an enemy	**F** Tips to minimize environmental pollution

	Extracts	
1	When settlements were very small, leftovers were simply thrown outdoors, where they finally decayed. But as communities grew, pigs and other animals helped clear away the stuff eating them. The animals, in turn, recycled the waste and thus created an even less appealing waste problem.	A
2	Many people are strangely passive when they visit a doctor. First of all, they often fail to provide the doctor with complete information about their medical problem. Secondly, many people fail to ask their doctor for a full and clear explanation of their condition.	C
3	Swollen glands in the body can be uncomfortable, but they are a welcome sign that your body is working to defend itself. They are often associated with an illness such as mumps, German measles, a cold, or flu, but an insect bite or an infected cut can also result in swelling. Still if swollen glands last more than a few days, it can be a sign of a serious illness, such as Hodgkin's disease.	B
4	Here are some tips to discourage TV watching and encourage reading. For one thing, have only one television set, and place it in the family room. Then if your child wants privacy, he or she will have to go elsewhere away from the TV. Secondly, connect eating with reading. Put a bookcase rather than a TV in the kitchen.	D
5	Children in Finland are the highest-scoring young readers in the world, but they spend more time watching TV than reading. Finnish national research has pointed out a key relationship between reading and Finnish TV. Many programmes have captions and watching these programmes seems to motivate and enhance reading among young readers.	E

Q. 13

1 ×

Total 5

○ **Test 14**

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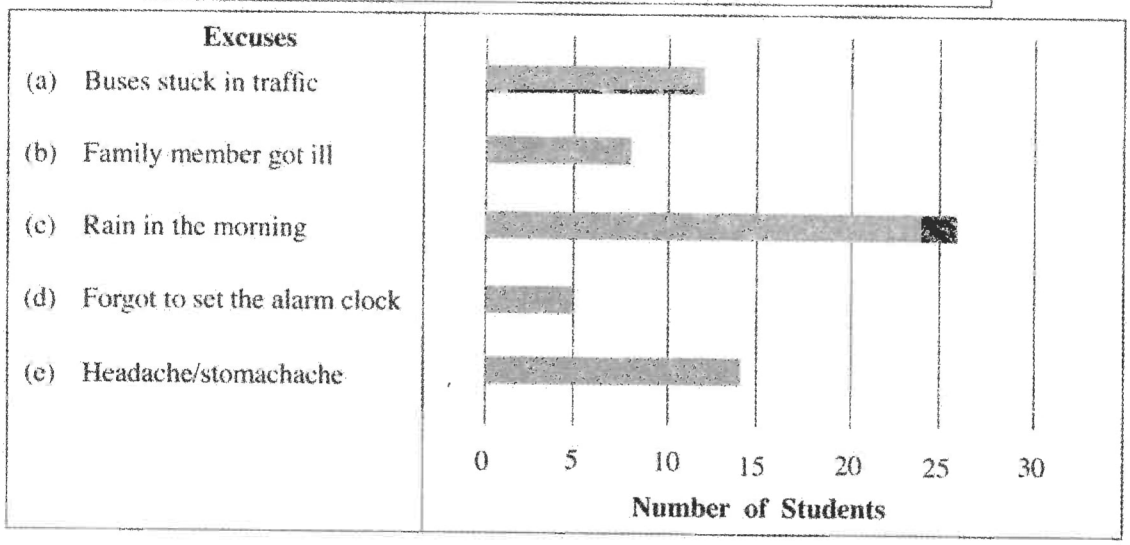
(a) You have invited your best friend to have lunch at home. Due to unavoidable circumstances you had to cancel the lunch. Write a letter to your friend informing him/her of the cancellation. Use about **100** words.
Include the following:

- express your regret for cancellation
- give reasons for it
- give any future arrangements

OR

(b) The following bar chart displays the results of a survey done by the Vice Principal of Vidukirana Maha Vidyalaya on the reasons for grade 11 students to be late to school. The bar chart shows the excuses given by the students for being late to school. Write a description about it. Use about **100** words. The following words and phrases will help you.

many, some, a few, most, more than, less than



14- a).....

No. 22/A
Kandy Road
Katugastota.
10th May 2024.

Dear Malika,

I hope you are fine and enjoying your holidays. I am sorry to tell you that I have to cancel the lunch which I had already arranged earlier to be held on 15th of May 2024 at my place.

I have some difficulties in arranging the party during the next few weeks as my mother

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Q. 14

C
L
O
M
Total
10

has to undergo an eye operation unexpectedly.
I hope you would understand this situation.
So, we decided to cancel the lunch and look forward to inviting my friends on a convenient day for both parties in future.
Sorry for the inconvenience caused. Hope to see you soon.
With love,
Heshani.

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Q. 14

C
L
O
M
Total
10

○ Test 15

Read the following text and answer the questions given below.

Choosing one's fate

① Many years ago, there lived a man who was capable of loving and forgiving everyone he came across. Because of this, God sent an angel to talk to him.

'God asked me to come and visit you and tell you that he wishes to reward you for your goodness,' said the angel. 'You may have any gift you wish for. Would you like the gift ⑤ of healing sick people?

'Certainly not,' said the man. 'I would prefer God to choose those who should be healed.'

'And what about leading wrong-doers back to the path of goodness?' asked the angel.

'That's a job for angels like you. I don't want to be worshipped by anyone or to serve as an example for prefect living,' replied the man.

⑩ 'Look, I can't go back to Heaven without having given you a gift. If you don't choose, I'll have to choose **one** for you.' said the angel.

'The man thought for a moment and then said: 'All right. I would like good to be done through me, but no one should notice it. Even I do not want to know it. Otherwise I might **commit** the offence of becoming a proud person.'

⑮ So the angel arranged for the man's shadow to have the power of healing, but only when the sun was shining on the man's face. In this way, wherever he went, the sick were healed, the earth grew fertile again, and sad people rediscovered happiness.

The man travelled the Earth for many years, **oblivious** of the healing he was doing because when he was facing the sun, his shadow was always behind him. In this way, he was able ⑳ to live and die unaware of his own power of healing.

(1) State whether the following statements are **True** or **False**. Put a tick (√) in the relevant cage.

	True	False
(1) God sent an angel to earth to give the man the ability of loving and forgiving.		✓
(2) The man believed that it is God's responsibility to select those deserve healing.	✓	
(3) The power of healing was active when the shadow was behind the man.	✓	
(4) The man was unaware of the healings he was doing as God did not allow him to see them.	✓	

(½ × 4 = 02 *marks*)

(2) What do the following words in the text refer to? Write your answers in the space given.

'**one**' in line 11 ..... **gift** ..... (01 *marks*)

(3) **Underline** the phrase that is closest in meaning to the following.

(a) '**commit**' in line 14 .....

(i) to give up completely (ii) to do something wrong

(iii) to hand over (iv) to change for the better (01 *mark*)

(b) '**oblivious**' in line 18 .....

(i) not aware of something (ii) having no education

(iii) showing neglect (iv) not to accept as accurate (01 *mark*)

Underline the correct answer for questions 4, 5 and 6 from the options given for each of them.

(4) One good quality of the man that attracted the attention of God was

(a) his ability to heal those who were suffering from sickness.

(b) his ability to lead bad people to the path of goodness.

(c) his readiness to love and forgive everyone around him.

(d) his refusal to accept the power of healing. (01 *mark*)

(5) The man

(a) willingly accepted the gift from the angel.

(b) happily accepted the gift from the angel.

(c) enthusiastically accepted the gift from the angel.

(d) hesitantly accepted the gift from the angel. (01 *mark*)

(6) Underline the sentence that tells why the man did not want to know about his own good deeds.

(a) The man thought that it was God's duty to heal the sick people on earth.

(b) The man believes that making bad people good is the responsibility of angels.

(c) The man was of the view that his miracles would make him a better person.

(d) The man did not want to be worshipped by people or become a proud person.

(01 *mark*)

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Q. 15
1-
2-
3-
4-
5-
6-
Total 8

○ **Test 16**

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

(a) Write an article to a local newspaper giving your opinion on **The Role of Advertising in Media**.
Include the following:
- What advertising is
- Why it is necessary
- How it influences the public
- Its adverse effects on the society

(b) Write an essay on **The Importance of Regular Exercise for Our Health**.
Include the following:
- The types of regular exercise
- The advantages of regular exercise
- Steps that could be taken to make it popular among people

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(c) Imagine that you have been selected to take part in the Zonal English Speech Competition. Your topic is **The Need of an Efficient Public Transport System for a Developing Country**. Write the speech you would make at the competition.
Include the following:
- The modes of public transport
- The benefits of a public transport system
- Disadvantages of an inefficient public transport system

(d) Given below is a situation you faced unexpectedly. Complete the story stating what you did to the parcel.

I noticed a parcel on the road as I continued to stroll along the road. When I went there and glanced around, nobody was in sight .....

16.(a):

The role of advertising in media.

Advertising has become a booming industry at present. Specially, it has a great impact on public when advertised on media. Have you ever thought of what advertising is? It is a way of promoting a product or an idea in an attractive way using eye-catching colours, phrases, pictures, videos and different effects.

For the purpose of advertising, advertising companies use media such as television, radio social media and public displays. They usually select the most convenient mode of advertising Currently, it has become a necessity for many companies to promote their products due to competitiveness available in the market. So they invest a considerable amount of money on advertising.

Do public enjoy advertising and advertisments or do they reject them? Noone can deny that it is not necessary. As there is a range of products for them to choose, it is better to know about different products.

On the otherhand, as a result of advertising, there is a tendency of promoting low-quality products. Public get deceived by

Wrong information in the advertisements. Finally they become the victims of buying low quality products for higher prices. On the other hand the cost of any product is increased when advertised.

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Q. 16

C
L
O
M
Total 15