

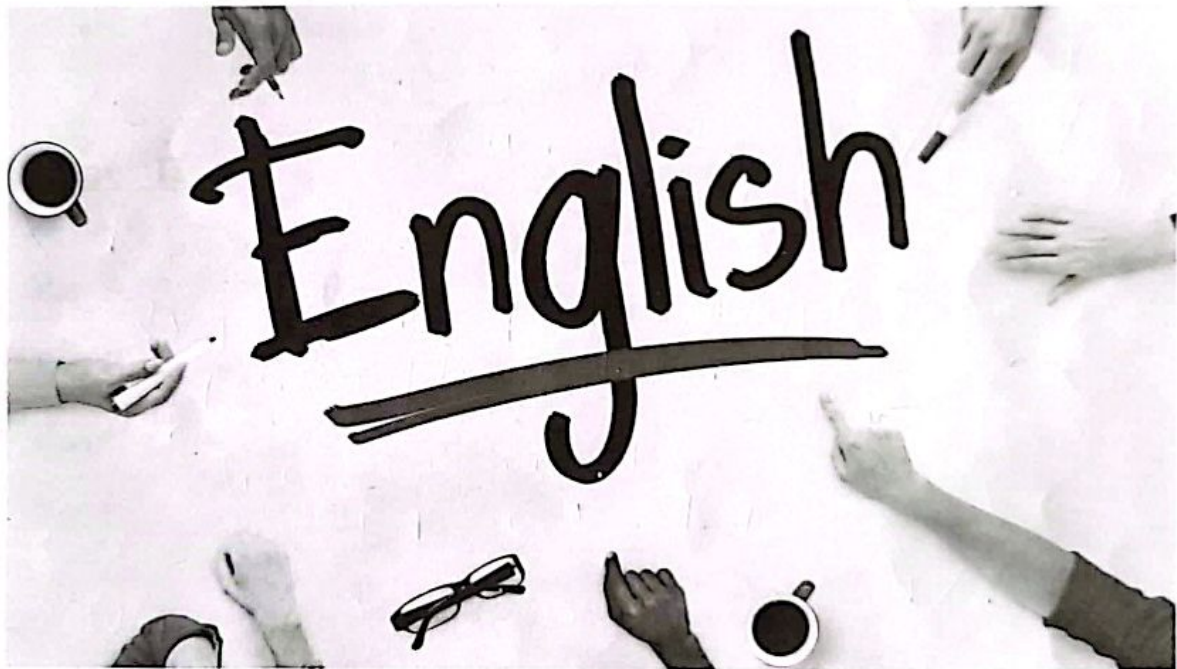


Department of Examinations – Sri Lanka

G.C.E. (A/L) Examination – 2023(2024)

# 13 - General English

## Marking Scheme



This 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 to be included

**G. C. E (Advanced Level) Examination - 2023 (2024)****13 - General English****Marking Scheme****Distribution of Marks****Paper I**

Part A	-	35
Part B	-	<u>25</u>
Total	-	<u>60</u>

**Paper II**

Part A	-	50
Part B	-	25
Part C	-	<u>65</u>
Total	-	<u>140</u>

Final Marks -	<u>Paper I</u>	+	<u>Paper II</u>	=	<u>60 + 140</u>
	2		2		
				=	<b>100</b>

## Common Techniques of Marking Answer Scripts.

It is compulsory to adhere to the following standard method in marking answer scripts and entering marks into the mark sheets.

1. Use a red color ball point pen for marking. (Only Chief/Additional Chief Examiner may use a mauve color pen.)
2. Note down Examiner's Code Number and Initials on the front page of each answer script.
3. Write off any numerals written wrong with a clear single line and authenticate the alterations with Examiner's initials.
4. Write down marks of each subsection in a  $\triangle$  and write the final marks of each question as a rational number in a  $\square$  with the question number. Use the column assigned for Examiners to write down marks.

**Example:**

**Question No. 03**

(i)

.....  
.....  
.....

✓

$\triangle$   
 $\frac{4}{5}$

(ii)

.....  
.....  
.....

✓

$\triangle$   
 $\frac{3}{5}$

(iii)

.....  
.....  
.....

✓

$\triangle$   
 $\frac{3}{5}$

03

(i)  $\frac{4}{5}$  (ii) +  $\frac{3}{5}$  + (iii)  $\frac{3}{5}$

=

$\square$   
 $\frac{10}{15}$

### MCQ answer scripts: (Template)

1. Marking templates for G.C.E.(A/L) and GIT examination will be provided by the Department of Examinations itself. Marking examiners bear the responsibility of using correctly prepared and certified templates.
2. Then, check the answer scripts carefully. If there are more than one or no answers Marked to a certain question write off the options with a line. Sometimes candidates may have erased an option marked previously and selected another option. In such occasions, if the erasure is not clear write off those options too.
3. Place the template on the answer script correctly. Mark the right answers with a 'v' and the wrong answers with a '0' against the options column. Write down the number of correct answers inside the cage given under each column. Then, add those numbers and write the number of correct answers in the relevant cage.



**Structured essay type and assay type answer scripts:**

1. Cross off any pages left blank by candidates. Underline wrong or unsuitable answers. Show areas where marks can be offered with check marks.
2. Use the right margin of the overland paper to write down the marks.
3. Write down the marks given for each question against the question number in the relevant cage on the front page in two digits. Selection of questions should be in accordance with the instructions given in the question paper. Mark all answers and transfer the marks to the front page, and write off answers with lower marks if extra questions have been answered against instructions.
4. Add the total carefully and write in the relevant cage on the front page. Turn pages of answer script and add all the marks given for all answers again. Check whether that total tallies with the total marks written on the front page.

**Preparation of Mark Sheets.**

Except for the subjects with a single question paper, final marks of two papers will not be calculated within the evaluation board this time. Therefore, add separate mark sheets for each of the question paper. Write paper 01 marks in the paper 01 column of the mark sheet and write them in words too. Write paper II Marks in the paper II Column and wright the relevant details. 02 and 03 should be entered numerically in the mark sheets.

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**Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka**  
**General Certificate of Education (Adv. Level), 2023(2024)**  
**General English (13)**  
**Solutions**

**Paper I**

**○ PART A – GRAMMAR and VOCABULARY [35 marks]**

**Question 1**

Fill in the blanks in the following text, using the **prepositions** given in the box. Use each preposition **only once**. There is one preposition extra. (05 marks)

of	for	after	with	in	on
----	-----	-------	------	----	----

One morning, while a teacher was getting ready to go to school, a wire short occurred (1) ..... **in** ..... his home. He immediately contacted an electrician who agreed to come (2) ..... **after** ..... two o'clock and repair the electrical short.

As promised, the electrician arrived around 2.30 p.m. along (3) ..... **with** ..... his assistant, unpacked his tools, idled around for a while after the repairs, and gave the teacher a bill for Rs.7,500/=. The teacher exclaimed, "This is ridiculous! I don't make that much (4) ..... **of** ..... money even as a teacher!"

The electrician waited (5) ..... **for** ..... him to finish and quietly said, "Neither did I when I was a full-time teacher. So, I started this part-time job as an electrician."

(1) in	(2) after	(3) with	(4) of	(5) for
--------	-----------	----------	--------	---------

## Question 2

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

There was a popular yoga centre located in a calm and quiet place in the countryside.

One day, four intimate friends (1).....studying..... (study) meditation in this centre agreed to observe seven days in silence.

"We (2).....should/ must/ have to/ start (accept: will/can/ ought to) (start) this at an auspicious time," one insisted.

All agreed, and the arrangements (3).....were made..... (make) in advance to continue the programme successfully. On the first day of the programme, all were silent. However, when the night (4).....came..... (come), and the oil lamps were growing dim, one of the friends (5).....could not help/ couldn't help (not help) shouting at a servant.

"(6).....Fix..... (Fix) those lamps immediately. They (7).....are going..... (go) to burn out."

The second friend was surprised to hear the first one (8).....talk/ talking..... (talk).

"We are not supposed (9).....to talk/ to be talking (talk)," he remarked.

"You two (10).....are/ must be/ should be (be) stupid. Why did you talk?" asked the third.

"I am the only one who has not talked," concluded the fourth friend.

## Question 3

Underline the most appropriate word from those given within brackets to fill in the blanks in the following text. (10 marks)

When a young woman went to see her family doctor, there were (1)..... (much, several, little) patients waiting to see the doctor. (2)..... (If, Although, When) her turn came, she went to the doctor complaining of pain. "You have to help (3)..... (I, my, me). It hurts all over."

"Where exactly is it hurting?" asked the doctor. "You will have to be a (4)..... (many, little, some) more specific."

(5)..... (A, An, The) woman touched her right knee with (6)..... (her, she, herself) index finger and yelled, "Ow, that hurts."

Then she touched her left cheek and yelled again, "Ouch! That hurts, too."

"I think it's serious. (7)..... (Every, All, Many) part of my body hurts."

The doctor being (8)..... (a, an, the) expert in the field, checked her for (9)..... (a, an, the) moment and said thoughtfully, "You have got

(10)..... (these, those, this) index finger broken."



- |             |           |        |            |           |
|-------------|-----------|--------|------------|-----------|
| (1) several | (2) when  | (3) me | (4) little | (5) The   |
| (6) her     | (7) Every | (8) an | (9) a      | (10) this |

**Question 4**

Underline the most appropriate word from those given within brackets. (05 marks)

- (1) We should learn to drive safely in order to ..... (block/  
halt/ prevent/ finish) road accidents.
- (2) The teacher ..... (arrested/ caught/ took/ banned) Sandaru  
when he was trying to use a phone in the class.
- (3) You all should ..... (state/ tell/ discuss/ comment) on  
each other's poems.
- (4) Accommodation is ..... (delivered/ provided/ presented/  
donated) to the most deserving students.
- (5) The doctor immediately ..... (discharged/ disappeared/  
liberated/ dismissed) the patient after examining the report.

- |             |            |             |              |                |
|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| (1) prevent | (2) caught | (3) comment | (4) provided | (5) discharged |
|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|

## Question 5

Underline the correct word-ending, selecting from those given within brackets.

(05 marks)

The desire to cheat at exams can be irresistible. Cheating and plagiarism are never tolerated at (1) educa..... (tionally/ tional/ ted) institutions; the offence is often punished with a failing grade or debarring candidates from sitting the (2) examin..... (ations/ er/ e) for a certain period of time. Cheating at exams can have (3) seri..... (ously/ ousness/ ous) consequences in Nigeria. Instead of facing traditional (4) discipli..... (ne/ nary/ ned) action, cheating can result in either imprisonment or a fine. On the bright side, this extreme punishment gives (5) offen..... (ces/ sive/ ders) a five year extra study period.

(1) tional	(2) ations	(3) ous	(4) nary	(5) ders
------------	------------	---------	----------	----------



**▷ PART B – READING and WRITING [25 marks]****Question 6**

Underline the option that best expresses the meaning of each of the sentences given below in bold print. (05 marks)

- (1) The weather forecast predicted rain, yet the sun was still shining brightly.
- (a) It rained despite the weather forecast.
  - (b) The weather forecast predicted a sunny day.
  - (c) The sun was shining despite the weather forecast.
  - (d) Both sun and rain were the predictions of the weather forecast.
- (2) In order to succeed in this competitive world, one must possess not only technical skills but also strong interpersonal skills.
- (a) One must possess only strong interpersonal skills to succeed in the world.
  - (b) Both technical skills and interpersonal skills are useful to succeed in the world.
  - (c) Technical skills are more important than interpersonal skills to succeed in the world.
  - (d) Technical skills and interpersonal skills are not important to succeed in the world.
- (3) If the students had had the data they wanted, they could have done a more effective presentation.
- (a) The students had the data, so they could do a good presentation.
  - (b) The students had the data, but they could not do a good presentation.
  - (c) The students did not have the data, but they could do a good presentation.
  - (d) The students did not have the data, so they could not do a good presentation.
- (4) The weather wasn't nice enough for us to go swimming, so we opted to stay in the room and watch television.
- (a) We had to cancel swimming and watch television.
  - (b) First, we went swimming and then watched television.
  - (c) Watching television was more interesting than swimming.
  - (d) We decided to go swimming instead of watching television.
- (5) Neither the manager attended the meeting, nor did he send his excuse for absence.
- (a) The manager informed that he could attend the meeting.
  - (b) The manager informed his inability to attend the meeting.
  - (c) The manager attended the meeting without sending any excuse.
  - (d) The manager did not attend the meeting and did not send excuse.

(1) c   (2) b   (3) d   (4) a   (5) d
---------------------------------------

**Question 7**

Read the following four news items and answer the questions (I) and (II). (10 marks)

①

**Seethawaka Odyssey train**

The Seethawaka Odyssey tourist train travel extension was officially announced on Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of August. The Seethawaka Odyssey from Colombo Fort to Waga every Saturday will also operate on Sundays with the new extension. Due to the heavy demand, the Tourist Board made arrangements to add Sunday to the schedule. With the introduction of the Sunday train, the Tourist Board will offer overnight stay packages as tourists can travel to Waga on Saturday and return on the Sunday train. Tickets for Seethawaka Odyssey can be booked at the Colombo Fort, Maradana, Gampaha, and Kandy railway stations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or through the Sri Lanka Railway Department website 14 days before the scheduled travel date.

②

**Japan provides grant for HRD project**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka and the Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka, signed an agreement for a Human Resource Development (HRD) project to give scholarships to government officers in the presence of the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Sri Lankan Prime Minister at Temple Trees in Colombo on Monday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. The government of Japan has provided a grant aid worth Rs. 611 million and it aims to train young executive officers in the public sector at various universities in Japan. Under this project, seventeen public sector officials will be sent to Japan in 2024. Areas of their degrees cover public services-related study fields.

③

**Collect-back plastic waste management project**

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Environment together initiated the "collect-back plastic waste management project", a groundbreaking initiative aimed at addressing Sri Lanka's increasing plastic waste challenge after a study conducted for three months. The project holds all stakeholders responsible for recycling and minimizing plastic packaging. The project launched on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023, funded by USAID, received widespread support from the private sector, with over 90 percent of respondents willing to commit voluntarily to collect-back plastic they released. This collaborative effort among the private sector, public sector, and development partners proves to be a significant step forward in sustainable plastic waste management.

④

**Job scam on Jordan-Israel border**

Last Saturday, 2000 Sri Lankans were believed to have landed in Israel from Jordan on tourist and other easy access visas arranged by deceitful foreign job recruiting agents with a promise to enter Israel to work as caregivers. As pointed out by an official, there are persons using online platforms to appeal to unsuspecting victims for a safe journey to Israel in return for a large fee that could run up to Rs. 200,000.00. The Sri Lankan ambassador in Jordan highlighted that a group of 62 Sri Lankans were deported from Kuwait this week for violation of visa and work regulations. The group included 60 women, almost all of them had dumped their original sponsors and decided to work illegally, according to officials.

(I) **Underline** the most appropriate response in each of the questions from (1) – (5).

(1). How many persons signed the agreement for Human Resource Development scholarship project between Japan and Sri Lanka?

- (a)
- Two
- (b) Three (c) Four (d) Seventeen

(2). Which of the following incidents happened on Wednesday?

- (a) Job scam on Jordan-Israel border
- 
- (b) Japan provides grant for HRD project
- 
- (c) Announcement of train travel extension
- 
- (d)
- Collect-back plastic waste management project



- (3). What does the pronoun 'It' refer to in the news item ②?
- (a) Temple Trees (b) the public sector  
(c) the grant aid (d) the government of Japan
- (4). Which of the following is **not** given in the news item about the Seethawaka Odyssey train?
- (a) Details of the travel route  
(b) Ticket reservation procedure  
(c) Newly added day to the schedule  
(d) Facilities available in the Seethawaka Odyssey train
- (5). The underlined phrase 'unsuspecting victims' in the news item ④ most nearly means
- (a) Persons who are guilty of a crime  
(b) Persons who are not guilty of a crime  
(c) Persons who are not aware of the presence of danger  
(d) Persons who are well aware of the presence of danger

(II) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above text?  
In boxes (6) – (10), write **True**, **False** or **Not Given**.

<b>True</b>	If the statement is correct
<b>False</b>	If the statement is wrong
<b>Not Given</b>	If there is no sufficient information

Statements	
(6) Tickets for Seethawaka Odyssey can be booked through the Sri Lanka Railway Department website only.	False/ F/x
(7) The value of the grant given by the Japanese government to Sri Lanka is Rs. 611 million.	True/T/✓
(8) The "collect-back plastic waste management project" gets support only from the private sector.	False/ F/x
(9) The "collect-back plastic waste management project" will continue for three months.	Not Given/ NG
(10) Most of the Sri Lankans who were deported from Kuwait were women.	True/T/✓



**Question 8**

Write a paragraph beginning with the given sentence. Use about 75 – 100 words.  
 Do not exceed the word limit. Do not write more than one paragraph. (10 marks)

A person should have several qualities to become a successful leader. ....

	Description	Marks
<b>Content</b>	See the band description given below.	<b>4</b>
<b>Language Use</b>	See the band description given below.	<b>6</b>

**Band Description for Content**

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good/ Good</b>	Content appropriate and interesting. Has included several qualities to become a successful leader. Selects & organizes facts in a logical manner. Has used specific length.	<b>4</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Content fairly appropriate and mentions some qualities to become a successful leader. Selects & organizes facts in a fairly logical manner.	<b>3</b>
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Content not sufficiently developed with support details to highlight qualities to become a successful leader. Frequent gaps in presenting facts.	<b>2</b>
<b>Limited</b>	Content extremely limited. Facts not arranged properly to support the key sentence.	<b>1</b>

**Band Description for Language Use**

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good</b>	Excellent use of language. Free of grammatical errors. Excellent word choice.	<b>6</b>
<b>Good</b>	Only few grammatical errors. Choice of words effective.	<b>5</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Occasional errors of grammar. Choice of words fairly appropriate.	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Frequent errors of grammar and word choice.	<b>2</b>
<b>Limited</b>	Only very few grammatically correct sentences. Mostly sentence fragments. Vocabulary very limited.	<b>1</b>

If the candidates have written more than one paragraph, consider only the first paragraph.

## Paper II

## PART A

## READING SKILLS [50 marks]

## Question 01

Read the following text in which some words are given in bold type. Then, underline the meaning that is most appropriate to the context for the words given in bold type from (1) - (10). (10 marks)

Computer literacy refers to the ability to use computers and digital technology (1) **efficiently**, with skill levels ranging from (2) **elementary** use to computer programming and advanced problem solving. Computer literacy is (3) **essential** in today's digital age, as technology is deeply (4) **integrated** into various aspects of our lives, including education, work, communication, entertainment, and more. As technology continues to (5) **evolve** day by day, computer literacy helps people to (6) **adapt** to new tools and trends, making them more efficient and confident users of digital resources.

Computers, however, are used today by criminals to (7) **commit** crimes. Computer crimes, also called cybercrimes, refer to criminal activities that are carried out using computers, networks, and digital technologies. Cybercrimes have become a significant concern as society depends more on technology and the internet. Cybercrime is an ever-evolving field, with criminals finding new ways to (8) **exploit** technology for their criminal activities. As a result, it is important to continuously (9) **improve** cybersecurity measures in order to stay ahead of these (10) **threats**.

(1) <b>efficiently</b>	freely	responsibly	extensively	<u>cleverly</u>
(2) <b>elementary</b>	advanced	<u>basic</u>	maximum	correct
(3) <b>essential</b>	harmful	different	<u>important</u>	excellent
(4) <b>integrated</b>	<u>connected</u>	translated	turned	devoted
(5) <b>evolve</b>	cause	<u>grow</u>	replace	control
(6) <b>adapt</b>	contribute	accept	know	<u>adjust</u>
(7) <b>commit</b>	<u>do</u>	prevent	understand	report
(8) <b>exploit</b>	learn	avoid	<u>misuse</u>	remove
(9) <b>improve</b>	include	<u>develop</u>	protect	understand
(10) <b>threats</b>	opportunities	advantages	alternatives	<u>dangers</u>

1	<b>cleverly</b>	6	<b>adjust</b>
2	<b>basic</b>	7	<b>do</b>
3	<b>important</b>	8	<b>misuse</b>
4	<b>connected</b>	9	<b>develop</b>
5	<b>grow</b>	10	<b>dangers</b>



**Question 02.**

Read the following text and answer questions (I) and (II).

**(10 marks)**

- ① The origin of Lakshman Kadirgamar's family was in Jaffna, but he was born in Colombo on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1932 as the sixth child in the family. He hailed from a prestigious Tamil family; his father was a proctor and his mother was a housewife. He completed his secondary education at Trinity College, Kandy where he excelled in academic activities and in a wide range of sports including cricket, rugby, and athletics.
- ② In 1950, he studied law at the University of Ceylon and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree in 1953. Kadirgamar passed the examinations of the Ceylon Law College with flying colours and was admitted to the Ceylon Bar in 1955. He later pursued his postgraduate studies at the University of Oxford where he became the President of the Oxford Union in 1959 and obtained a Bachelor of Letters (BLitt) in 1960.
- ③ Lakshman Kadirgamar contributed a lot as a lawyer. He was an expert on commercial, industrial, labour, property, and international law and pursued legal practice both in Sri Lanka and the UK. Therefore, he was appointed into a range of high-calibre positions as a consultant, president, and director here in Sri Lanka and in several international organizations.
- ④ Being a lawyer, scholar, and statesman, Kadirgamar began his political career at the age of 62 when he was appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1994. He served in this capacity until his assassination in 2005. The late foreign minister Kadirgamar maintained strong relations with international governments that were important to Sri Lanka, especially with India, China, the USA, and the UK. Prior to his untimely death, he released an academic journal called International Relations in a Globalizing World, which was a key part of his long-term plan to make a significant contribution to Sri Lanka's international diplomacy.
- ⑤ In 1999, Minister Kadirgamar brought a proposal to make Vesak an international celebration day, which gave him a lot of respect from the Buddhist devotees worldwide. After Lakshman Kadirgamar's demise at the age of 73, he was awarded Sri Lanka's highest honorary title, Sri Lankabhimanya, by the state for his invaluable contributions to his motherland.

- (I) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above text?  
In boxes (1) - (8), write **True** or **False**.

<b>True</b>	If the statement is correct
<b>False</b>	If the statement is wrong

Statements	
(1) Kadirgamar's parents were professionals.	False
(2) Kadirgamar was the only child in his family.	False
(3) Kadirgamar was good at studies as well as some sports.	True
(4) He obtained his LLB from the University of Oxford in 1960.	False
(5) Kadirgamar served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs for more than ten years.	True
(6) Kadirgamar released an academic journal before his death.	True
(7) Kadirgamar brought a proposal to make Vesak an international holiday in 1999.	False
(8) The highest honorary title "Sri Lankabhimanya" was awarded to Kadirgamar after his death.	True



(II) **Underline** the most appropriate response to complete the following sentences.

(9) The word 'excelled' in paragraph ④ most nearly means

- (a) lost interest. (b) fell behind.  
(c) performed well. (d) became unsuccessful.

(10) The phrase 'this capacity' in paragraph ④ refers to Kadirgamar's role as

- (a) a lawyer. (b) a scholar.  
(c) an academic. (d) a minister.

### Question 03

Read the following poem and **underline** the most appropriate response to each of the questions from (1) - (5). (05 marks)

Things look much Clearer  
When looking Back,  
The mistakes we Made  
Define life's Map.

**The future's an Illusion**  
In a second it's Gone,  
There's only this Moment  
Tomorrow never Comes.

We're all on a Journey  
Not knowing how Far,  
The past is our Teacher  
It defines who we Are.

On the road Ahead  
We'll meet happiness and Sorrows,  
For all the things we Love  
In life are only Borrowed.

(John Read)

(1) How does the poet view mistakes?

- (a) They shape our life. (b) They bring happiness and joy.  
(c) They should be forgotten quickly. (d) They always make us sad.

(2) What does 'Illusion' most nearly mean in the line 'The future's an Illusion'?

- (a) Something real and long-lasting  
(b) Something unreal and short-lived  
(c) Something definite and unchangeable  
(d) Something wonderful and illuminating

(3) The poet compares the past to .....

- (a) a second. (b) a lover.  
(c) a teacher. (d) an illusion.

(4) According to the last two lines of the poem, what is borrowed in life?

- (a) Money (b) Life lessons  
(c) Happiness and sorrows (d) The things we like

(5) Which of the following best expresses the opinion of the speaker?

- (a) Life is forever (b) Life is temporary  
(c) Life is always easy (d) Life is always hard

## Question 04

Complete the summary meaningfully and appropriately, using **one word only** from the passage for each blank.

(05 marks)

Relationships consist of a wide range of topics, including romantic relationships, friendships, and family bonds. Relationships are important to our lives. However, they are complex. There are several factors we need to consider when developing relationships. For instance, effective communication is key to healthy romantic relationships. It helps the partners to understand each other well. Being a good listener and expressing oneself honestly can lead to better understanding. Similarly, trust and honesty play vital roles in romantic relationships. Trust is the foundation of healthy romantic relationships. Transparency in our behaviour helps us maintain this trust. Also, respecting each other's individuality is essential. Hence, respecting the individuality can foster stronger connections. Further, spending meaningful time together helps us strengthen our relationships. Engaging in activities that both enjoy can contribute to deeper emotional connections. In spite of all these, conflicts are natural in relationships. Learning how to resolve them respectfully is important for long-lasting relationships.

There are different types of relationships. These relationships are  
(1) **complex** ..... but important to us. We should think of many  
(2) **factors** ..... when building relationships. A relationship becomes successful when our (3) **communication** ..... is effective. Further, trust lays the (4) **foundation** ..... for a successful relationship. Also, honesty, respect, and spending time meaningfully enhance partnerships. However, (5) **conflicts** ..... are common in relationships. We should settle them amicably.



True

**Question 05**

Read the following speech by the prime minister of Bhutan and answer the questions from (1) - (5). (20 marks)

- ① Bhutan is a small country in the Himalayas, and there are barely 700,000 of us sandwiched between two of the most populated countries on earth: China and India. However, we are a carbon-neutral country, and our promise to remain carbon-neutral is unique.
- ② ..... Of course, we are small, but doing fine. We are surviving. In fact, we are thriving and the reason we are thriving is because we have been blessed with extraordinary kings who have been ruling our country for decades. They have been working tirelessly to develop our country, balancing economic growth carefully with social development, and environmental preservation, all within the framework of good governance.
- ③ Good governance is a holistic approach to development, and we call this 'Gross National Happiness' (GNH). In the 1970s, our fourth king famously pronounced that for Bhutan, GNH is more important than Gross National Product (GNP). Ever since he made this announcement, all development in Bhutan is driven by GNH, a pioneering vision that aims to improve the happiness and well-being of our people. But, that is easier said than done, especially when you are one of the smallest economies in the world.
- ④ Our culture is flourishing, so is our environment. Currently, seventy-two percent of my country is under forest cover. We are legally bound to maintain it at a certain level. For instance, our constitution demands that a minimum of 60% of Bhutan's total land shall remain under forest cover for all time. That is why we are one of the few remaining global biodiversity hotspots in the world. In a world that is threatened with climate change, we are a carbon-neutral country. To be accurate, Bhutan is carbon negative. We do not have excessive carbon in the atmosphere as we have a forest cover which absorbs carbon more than we emit to the environment. So, inside our country, we are carbon negative. Yet, the so called developed countries produce excessive carbon to the world. Therefore, outside, we are carbon positive.
- ⑤ We first made this promise to remain carbon neutral in 2009, during the United Nations (UN) Biodiversity Conference in Denmark, but nobody noticed. Governments are so busy arguing with one another and blaming each other for causing climate change that when a small country raised its hands and announced, "We promise to remain carbon-neutral for all time," nobody heard us. Nobody cared. It is crucial that all of us keep our commitments. As far as Bhutan is concerned, we will keep our promise to remain carbon-neutral.

(1). Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above text?

In boxes (a) - (f), write **True**, **False** or **Not Given**.

<b>True</b>	If the statement is correct
<b>False</b>	If the statement is wrong
<b>Not Given</b>	If there is no sufficient information on this

Statements		
(a)	Bhutan is located in between China and India.	True
(b)	Kings of Bhutan in the past focused on environmental preservation only.	False
(c)	According to the constitution, Bhutan is required to have 72% of forest cover.	False
(d)	Bhutan's forest cover absorbs more carbon than they release.	True
(e)	More than 100 countries participated in the UN Biodiversity Conference in Denmark.	Not Given
(f)	In 2009, all the countries in the UN Biodiversity Conference agreed to be carbon-neutral.	False



(2). (a) Underline the most appropriate option to complete the missing sentence in paragraph ②.

(a) We are a big, developed country.

(b) We are a small, developed country.

(c) We are a big, underdeveloped country.

(d) We are a small, underdeveloped country.

(01 mark)

(b) The underlined phrase 'that is easier said than done' most nearly means,

(a) easy to say but hard to do.

(b) hard to say but easy to do.

(c) easy to say and easy to do.

(d) hard to say and hard to do.

(01 mark)

(3). In which paragraph do you include the following information if you wish to extend each paragraph further?

Match the information with the paragraphs of the text and write the number of the paragraph in the relevant box.

Information		Number of the paragraph
(a)	Forests absorb twice as much carbon as they release.	4
(b)	Bhutan's lonely battle in promoting GNH in a GNP based consumerist world is challenging.	3
(c)	Rich countries do not do enough to reduce their green house gas emission.	5
(d)	Strong and visionary politicians also played an important role to promote good governance in Bhutan.	2

(04 marks)

(4). Who or what do the following pronouns in bold print refer to?

(a) **They** (paragraph ②) - ... (extraordinary) kings ...

(b) **he** (paragraph ③) - ... fourth king ...

(c) **it** (paragraph ④) - ... forest cover ... (03 marks)

(5). Write one word in each blank, selecting from the passage, which means the same as the following.

(a) Being the only one of its kind / very special - ... unique ...

(b) The action of protecting the environment - ... preservation ...

(c) Novel and innovative - ... pioneering ...

(d) More than what is required - ... excessive ...

(e) True and correct in every detail - ... accurate ...

(05 marks)

Candidates may write different sentences / questions. Accept if each one forms grammatically correct and appropriate utterance in the given context. Do NOT deduct marks for spelling or punctuation errors.

**DIALOGUES [25 MARKS]****PART B****Question 06**

How do you respond in each of the following situations? Write only **one** sentence or question for each, beginning with the word/s given. **(05 marks)**

- (1) You are at a shop to buy a mobile phone. Inquire the price of a mobile phone from the salesman.  
 "What ..... is the price of this mobile phone .....?"
- (2) You plan to go on a trip with your friends after the G.C.E. (A/L) examination. Suggest a place to visit.  
 "Shall we ..... go to Kandy / visit Sigiriya .....?"
- (3) Your friend invites you to come and play badminton with him. You refuse the request with a reason.  
 "I'm sorry, ..... I'm not well today / I have a class ....."
- (4) Your teacher asks you to bring the class register from the office. Ask the clerk politely if you could take it.  
 "Excuse me, ..... could I take the class register, please .....?"
- (5) You are at the meeting of English literary association of your school. As the president, invite the class teacher to deliver a short speech.  
 "I ..... would like to invite Ms. Perera, our class teacher to deliver a short speech / ..... would like to call upon Ms. Perera, our class teacher to deliver a short speech ....."

**Question 07**

Complete the following dialogue between a teacher and a student. Do not use more than two sentences/questions in each blank. (05 marks)

Student : Good morning, sir.

Teacher : Good morning, Seth; Happy to see you after the A/L exam. How was the exam?

Student : (1) Good but the economics paper was difficult / Good/ Fine/ Not bad, but the economics paper was difficult

Teacher : Really, Fathima also said that the economics paper was a bit challenging.

Student : (2) I was running out of time / I didn't have time to complete the last question

Teacher : Time is mainly a problem for many students. Don't worry. What are your plans now?

Student : (3) I thought of following an English language course

Teacher : That's a good idea. English is important. Some universities conduct certificate and diploma courses in English. You can follow one of them.

Student : (4) Shall I start with a certificate course or diploma course

Teacher : You'd better start with a certificate course. There are online and on-site courses.

Student : (5) There are so many online and on-site courses

Teacher : My advice is to join an on-site course.

Student : Thank you for your advice, sir. I'll see you later.

Teacher : See you later.



**Question 08**

Imagine that you run a small online business. A client, who wants more details of your product, contacts you. Write out the telephone conversation that took place between the client and you. Each one should speak at least five times. (15 marks)

- Do NOT deduct marks for spelling or punctuation errors unless they distort the intended meaning.
- Candidates may use sentence fragments, but they should be grammatical.
- Marks should not be given if the answer is not in the form of a conversation. (i.e., writing a report, letter)

	Description	Marks
<b>Format</b>	Has used dialogue form with minimum of five exchanges.	<b>1</b>
<b>Content</b>	See the band description given below.	<b>5</b>
<b>Language Use</b>	See the band description given below.	<b>9</b>

**Band Description for Content**

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good</b>	Content very appropriate to get details of the product. Facts very interestingly arranged. Conversation natural and coherent	<b>5</b>
<b>Good</b>	Content interesting & appropriate. Conversation natural and coherent.	<b>4</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Content fairly interesting. Occasional breakdowns in the flow.	<b>3</b>
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Frequent breakdowns in the flow of the conversation.	<b>2</b>
<b>Limited</b>	Content extremely limited. Does not reflect features of a natural conversation. Very poor coherence.	<b>1</b>

**Band Description for Language Use**

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good</b>	Excellent use of language. Free of grammatical errors. Excellent word choice.	<b>9</b>
<b>Good</b>	Only few grammatical errors. Choice of words effective for a conversation.	<b>7-8</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Occasional errors of grammar. Choice of words fairly appropriate for a conversation.	<b>5-6</b>
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Frequent errors of grammar and word choice.	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Limited</b>	Only very few grammatically correct sentences. Vocabulary very limited.	<b>1-2</b>

## PART C

## WRITING SKILLS [65 marks]

## Question 09

Select any five words from the list of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs given below and use each one of them in a meaningful sentence. You may use the verbs in any tense and nouns in singular or plural form. Do not change the form of the other words.

Nouns	attention, difference, incident
Verbs	forget, manage, undergo
Adjectives	additional, official
Adverbs	courageously, drastically

(05 marks)

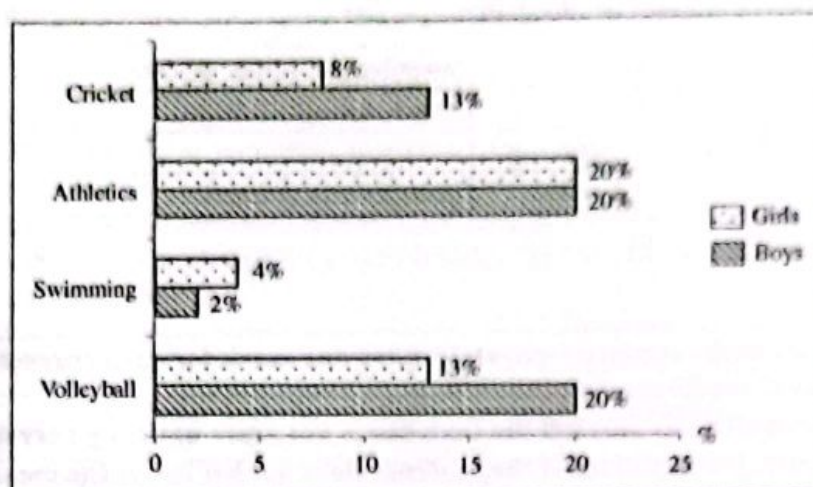
- Assess each sentence separately. Give one mark for each correct sentence (maximum 05 marks).
- Do not give any mark if the sentence is not grammatically correct.
- Do not give any mark if the sentence does not bring out the meaning of the given word effectively. (i.e., It is an incident (unacceptable). It is an unforgettable incident (acceptable).
- Deduct one mark from the overall mark if there are more than five spelling errors altogether.
- If the same word is misspelt several times, consider them as ONE spelling error.



## Question 10

The chart below shows information about the percentages of students engaged in sports in Hindu College, Vavuniya in 2022. Describe the information given in the chart by reporting the main features and making comparisons where relevant. Use about 75-100 words.

(10 marks)



	Description	Marks
Content	See the band description given below.	4
Language Use	See the band description given below.	6

## Band Description for Content

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good/ Good</b>	Content appropriate. Has elaborated data sufficiently and made comparisons effectively. Has used specific length. Selects and organizes facts in a logical manner.	4
<b>Moderate</b>	Content fairly appropriate. Selects and organizes facts in a fairly logical manner.	3
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Content not sufficiently elaborated. Frequent gaps in presenting facts.	2
<b>Limited</b>	Content extremely limited. Presentation of facts very weak.	1

## Band Description for Language Use

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good</b>	Excellent use of language. Free of grammatical errors. Excellent word choice and effective comparisons.	6
<b>Good</b>	Only few grammatical errors. Choice of words effective for description of data.	5
<b>Moderate</b>	Occasional errors of grammar. Choice of words fairly appropriate for description of data.	3-4
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Frequent errors of grammar and word choice.	2
<b>Limited</b>	Only very few grammatically correct sentences. Vocabulary very limited.	1

**Sample answer**

The bar chart illustrates the engagement of the students in four different sports in Hindu College, Vavuniya in 2022.

According to the bar chart, athletics which was equally popular among the girls and boys was the most preferred sport whereas swimming was the least preferred sport.

Volleyball and athletics were equally popular among the boys. The only sport which the girls preferred more than boys was swimming although the difference was two percent.

It is obvious that the more boys than girls in Hindu College were engaged in sports in 2022.

- The answer can be written in simple present tense as well.

**Question 11**

The social welfare society of your village conducted a charity programme to help a needy school in a remote area. The members of the society collected funds from donors and parents in the village for the project. Write a letter to your best friend describing what you did. In your letter, include the following:

- where and how you conducted the charity programme
- what was your role in the project
- the difficulties you faced
- any other details relevant to the project

Use about **100 - 125** words.

(15 marks)

	Description	Marks
<b>Content</b>	See the band description given below.	<b>5</b>
<b>Language Use</b>	See the band description given below.	<b>10</b>

**Band Description for Content**

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good</b>	Has used specific length. Content very appropriate & includes all necessary details.	<b>5</b>
<b>Good</b>	Has used specific length. Content appropriate & includes necessary details.	<b>4</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Content fairly appropriate and includes some important details.	<b>3</b>
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Content not sufficient.	<b>2</b>
<b>Limited</b>	Content extremely limited.	<b>1</b>



## Band Description for Language Use

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good</b>	Excellent use of language. Free of grammatical errors. Excellent word choice.	10
<b>Good</b>	Only few grammatical errors. Choice of words effective for an informal letter.	8-9
<b>Moderate</b>	Occasional errors of grammar. Choice of words fairly appropriate for an informal letter.	5-7
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Frequent errors of grammar and word choice.	3-4
<b>Limited</b>	Mostly sentence fragments.	1-2

## Question 12

The traffic control unit of your school has organised a function to recognise the services of the two police officers who assist in traffic control duties in front of your school. Write a letter of invitation to the officer-in-charge of the police station to attend the function with the two officers. Include the following in your letter of invitation:

- the purpose of the function
- the services given by the two police officers
- the date, venue, and the time
- other special invitees to the function

Use about 100 - 125 words.

(15 marks)

	Description	Marks
<b>Format</b>	Has used a format of a formal letter, including sender's address (if the sender's name is included, do not deduct marks), date, receiver's address, appropriate salutation, and close. (Do not give marks for this part if even one of the above is missing)	0-1
<b>Content</b>	See the band description given below.	0-4
<b>Language Use</b>	See the band description given below.	0-8
<b>Organization</b>	Has used appropriate beginning and ending. Has arranged facts in a logical sequence. Has used appropriate linking devices, if/when required. Has paid attention to meaningful paragraphing.	0-2

## Band Description for Content

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good/ Good</b>	Has used specific length. Content appropriate & relevant to the given situation. Has elaborated sufficiently. Selects & organizes facts in a logical manner.	4
<b>Moderate</b>	Content fairly appropriate and relevant. Selects & organizes facts in a fairly logical manner.	3
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Content not sufficiently elaborated. Frequent gaps in presenting facts.	2
<b>Limited</b>	Content extremely limited. Presentation of facts very weak.	1



**Band Description for Language Use**

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good</b>	Excellent use of language. Free of grammatical errors. Excellent word choice.	<b>8</b>
<b>Good</b>	Only few grammatical errors. Choice of words effective for a formal letter.	<b>7</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Occasional errors of grammar. Choice of words fairly appropriate for a formal letter.	<b>5-6</b>
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Frequent errors of grammar and word choice.	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Limited</b>	Only very few grammatically correct sentences. Mostly sentence fragments. Vocabulary very limited.	<b>1-2</b>

- Deduct two marks from the overall mark if the candidate has used SMS language in the formal letter.
- If the body of the formal letter is missing, do not give any mark for the format alone.
- "Thanking" is not a part of the format but it comes under the content.

**Question 13**

A decision has been taken to make it compulsory to pass the G.C.E. (A/L) General English for university admission. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Write an essay giving your opinion. Use about 150 – 200 words. Do not exceed the word limit.

(20 marks)

Component	Description	Marks
<b>Content</b>	See the band description given below.	<b>6</b>
<b>Language Use</b>	See the band description given below.	<b>10</b>
<b>Organization</b>	See the band description given below.	<b>4</b>

**Band Description for Content**

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good/</b>	Has used specific length. Content very appropriate & very interesting.	<b>6</b>
<b>Good</b>	Has used specific length. Content appropriate & interesting.	<b>5</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Content fairly appropriate and interesting.	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Content not sufficiently elaborated. Information given inadequate in presenting facts.	<b>2</b>
<b>Limited</b>	Content extremely limited.	<b>1</b>

**Band Description for Language Use**

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good</b>	Excellent use of language. Free of grammatical errors. Excellent word choice.	<b>10</b>
<b>Good</b>	Only few grammatical errors. Choice of words effective for an essay.	<b>8-9</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Occasional errors of grammar. Choice of words fairly appropriate for an essay.	<b>5-7</b>
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Frequent errors of grammar and word choice.	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Limited</b>	Only very few grammatically correct sentences. Mostly sentence fragments. Vocabulary very limited.	<b>1-2</b>



**Band Description for Organization**

Level	Description	Marks
<b>Very Good</b>	Excellent organization. Has selected, organized and presented relevant information in a very logical manner. Ideas are connected very effectively. Paragraphs are meaningfully divided.	<b>4</b>
<b>Good</b>	Organization good. Has selected, organized and presented relevant information in a logical manner. Ideas are connected effectively. Paragraphs are meaningfully divided.	<b>3</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Moderate degree of organization. Has selected, organized and presented relevant information in a fairly logical manner. Ideas are fairly connected. Has paid attention to paragraph division.	<b>2</b>
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Lacks logical flow of ideas. Paragraph division not very meaningful.	<b>1</b>
<b>Extremely Limited</b>	Extremely poor organization. Sentences fragmentary and disjointed. Not intelligible.	<b>0</b>

**Appendix I - Detailed Information about Band Description****Language Use**

This component is assessed in five competency levels: "Very Good", "Good", "Moderate", "Satisfactory" & "Limited". The relevant competency levels are described below in common:

Level	Description
<b>Very Good</b>	Able to construct both simple & complex sentences free of grammatical errors. Able to select most appropriate grammatical structures for the intended purpose. Able to use spelling & mechanics of writing without errors. Able to select and use exact words most appropriate for the intended purpose.
<b>Good</b>	Able to construct both simple and complex sentences appropriately. Able to use spelling & mechanics of writing appropriately. Nevertheless, few errors in these areas can be found. Able to select appropriate words to suit the intended purpose.
<b>Moderate</b>	Able to construct grammatically correct sentences most of the time. However, occasional errors can be found in grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization etc. Able to use fair amount of vocabulary to convey the intended meaning.
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Able to construct simple sentences. However, frequent errors can be found in grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization etc. Able to use only a limited range of 'general' vocabulary.
<b>Limited</b>	Able to construct only a very few grammatically correct sentences. The piece of writing mostly contains fragmentary sentences. Serious errors of spelling, punctuation, capitalization etc. Able to use only very limited 'day-today' vocabulary items.



**Content**

This component is also assessed in five competency levels: "Very Good", "Good", "Moderate", "Satisfactory" & "Limited". The relevant competency levels are described below in common:

Level	Description
<b>Very Good</b>	Able to select very important facts and present them in a very logical manner. Effectively addresses the topic/task. Uses appropriate explanations/exemplifications where relevant.
<b>Good</b>	Able to address the topic/task well, though some points may not be fully elaborated. Uses sufficient explanations/exemplifications where relevant.
<b>Moderate</b>	Able to address the topic/task using somewhat developed explanations/ exemplifications.
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Limited development in response to the topic/task. Inappropriate or insufficient exemplifications/explanations to support or illustrate generalizations in response to the task.
<b>Limited</b>	Serious disorganization/underdevelopment. Little or no detail, or irrelevant specifics, or questionable responsiveness to the task.

**General Instructions for Writing Questions (Subjective-type Test Items)**

- The examiner should use his or her discretion when allocating marks for each category.
- Make sure that the candidate deserves the overall mark you give him/her.
- If the content is totally irrelevant/question copied, give zero (0) for the whole answer.
- If all sentences are fragmentary/grammatically incorrect but the content is sufficient, relevant and good, give zero (0) for language use and not more than two marks for content.
- If only one/two sentences are grammatically correct but the content is sufficient, relevant and good, give one (01) or two (02) marks for language use and not more than two (02) marks for content.

**General Instructions for Objective-type Test Items (MCQs & Binary Choice)**

- One mark will be given for each correct response.
- For All MCQs: If the candidate has circled, underlined, marked or written the correct response, accept it.



- For All Binary Choice Items: If the candidate has appropriately written T/F, True or False or Yes/ No, or Right/Wrong or put a tick or a cross, accept it.
- Unless otherwise specified, spelling/punctuation/grammatical errors should not be penalized in objective-type questions.

## Appendix 2

Paper II - Question 10: Sample sentences which may be produced by the candidates.

(Special Note: Subject-verb agreement is only one aspect of grammar. Last year, many examiners questioned about this usage. The following comments about some selected sentences used by students are given in response to their requests.)

(In this question, candidates may use either present tense (interpreting the data as a 'reading habit' of this population) or past tense (interpreting the data as 'reading experience in the year 2019').)

1. A majority of boys in this school like to read adventure books. (Explanation: "majority" has been disband as a single unit and the situation of boys within that unit is being spoken about. Hence, the subject (a majority of boys) takes a plural verb (like). Sentence is correct.)
2. Among the boys, the majority reads adventure stories. (Explanation: 'the majority' is being treated as a single unit and the subject (the majority) takes a singular verb (reads). Sentence is correct.)
3. According to the graph, the majority likes the adventure stories. (Explanation: When "majority/minority" means an unspecified number, a singular verb is used. Sentence is correct.)
4. A 50% majority likes the adventure stories. (Explanation: When "majority/minority" means a specific percentage, either a singular or a plural verb may be used. Sentence is correct.)
5. Only 10% of boys' population in this school reads newspapers. (Explanation: "Population" is the subject and it is a collective noun and takes a singular verb (reads). Sentence is correct.)
6. A majority of students like to read adventure stories. (Sentence is correct.)
7. The number of students reading newspapers is less than that of reading adventure stories. (Explanation: A singular verb is used when referring to a single quantity. Sentence is correct.)
8. A number of girls have mentioned that they are not interested in reading magazines. (Explanation: "A number" is used as an indefinite quantifier and thus a plural verb is used. Sentence is correct.)
9. .... whereas only twenty percent of girls like to read newspapers. (Explanation: The plural verb 'like' agrees with the plural subject, "girls". Sentence is correct.)
10. One fourth of the boys like to read science fiction. (Sentence is correct.)
11. Half of the boys like to read adventure stories. (Sentence is correct.)
12. Fifty percent of the boys like to read adventure stories. (Sentence is correct.)
13. Half of the boys' population like to read adventure stories. (Explanation: With the collective noun, - population- either a singular or a plural verb can be used, depending on whether one wants to emphasize the single group or its individual members.)

14. **Half of the boys' population likes** to read adventure stories. (Explanation: See the explanation given in the previous sentence.)
15. **Nearly 25% of the boys' population likes** to read adventure stories. (Explanation: The word "population" is a collective noun that can take either a singular or plural verb, depending on the intention of the candidate. The intention here is to indicate that this percentage represents a single group. Therefore, the singular form of the verb is used. Sentence is correct.)
16. **A total of 25 boys like** to read science fiction. (Explanation: When the word "total" is preceded by the indefinite article, (a) and refers to a number greater than one, it is generally treated as plural. Sentence is correct.)
17. **The total number of students** reading adventure stories **was** seventy-five. (Explanation: When the word "total" is preceded by the definite article (the), it is generally treated as singular. Sentence is correct.)

..... END .....



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