

Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka
 අධ්‍යයන පොදු කෙතීක පනු (උසස් පෙළ) විභාගය, 2023 (2024)
 கல்விப் பொதுத் தராதரப் பத்திர (உயர் தர)ப் பரீட்சை, 2023 (2024)
 General Certificate of Education (Adv. Level) Examination, 2023 (2024)

සාමාන්‍ය ඉංග්‍රීසි II
 பொது ஆங்கிலம் II
 General English II

13 E II

Three hours
 மூன்று மணித்தியாலம்

අමතර කියවීමේ කාලය - මිනිත්තු 10 යි
 மேலதிக வாசிப்பு நேரம் - 10 நிமிடங்கள்
 Additional Reading Time - 10 minutes

Paper II	
Part	Marks
A	
B	
C	
Total	140

Code Numbers

Use additional reading time to go through the question paper and decide on the questions that you give priority in answering.

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

Marking Examiner	
Marks Checked by	1
	2
Supervised by	

Index No. :

READING SKILLS [50 marks]

PART A

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

For examinee use only

Question 02

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

(10 marks)For
examiners'
use only

- ① The origin of Lakshman Kadirgamar's family was in Jaffna, but he was born in Colombo on 12th 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**.

True	If the statement is correct
False	If the statement is wrong

Statements

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

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

- (9) The word '**excelled**' in paragraph ① 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.

Q. 2

10

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

Q. 4

5

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.

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Q. 4

5

Question 05

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

- 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**.

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

	Statements	
(a)	Bhutan is located in between China and India.	
(b)	Kings of Bhutan in the past focused on environmental preservation only.	
(c)	According to the constitution, Bhutan is required to have 72% of forest cover.	
(d)	Bhutan's forest cover absorbs more carbon than they release.	
(e)	More than 100 countries participated in the UN Biodiversity Conference in Denmark.	
(f)	In 2009, all the countries in the UN Biodiversity Conference agreed to be carbon-neutral.	

(06 marks)

(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.	
(b)	Bhutan's lonely battle in promoting GNH in a GNP based consumerist world is challenging.	
(c)	Rich countries do not do enough to reduce their green house gas emission.	
(d)	Strong and visionary politicians also played an important role to promote good governance in Bhutan.	

(04 marks)

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

- (a) **They** (paragraph ②) -
(b) **he** (paragraph ③) -
(c) **it** (paragraph ④) - (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 -
(b) The action of protecting the environment -
(c) Novel and innovative -
(d) More than what is required -
(e) True and correct in every detail - (05 marks)

Q. 5

(1) -

(2) -

(3) -

(4) -

(5) -

20

PART - A

50

PART B

DIALOGUES [25 MARKS]

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"

- (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"

- (3) Your friend invites you to come and play badminton with him. You refuse the request with a reason.

"I'm sorry,"

- (4) Your teacher asks you to bring the class register from the office. Ask the clerk politely if you could take it.

"Excuse me,"

- (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"

Q. 6

5

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)

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

Student : (2)

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

Student : (3)

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)

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

Student : (5)

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.

Q. 7

5

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)

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use only

Q. 8

F -

C -

L -

15

PART - B

25

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.

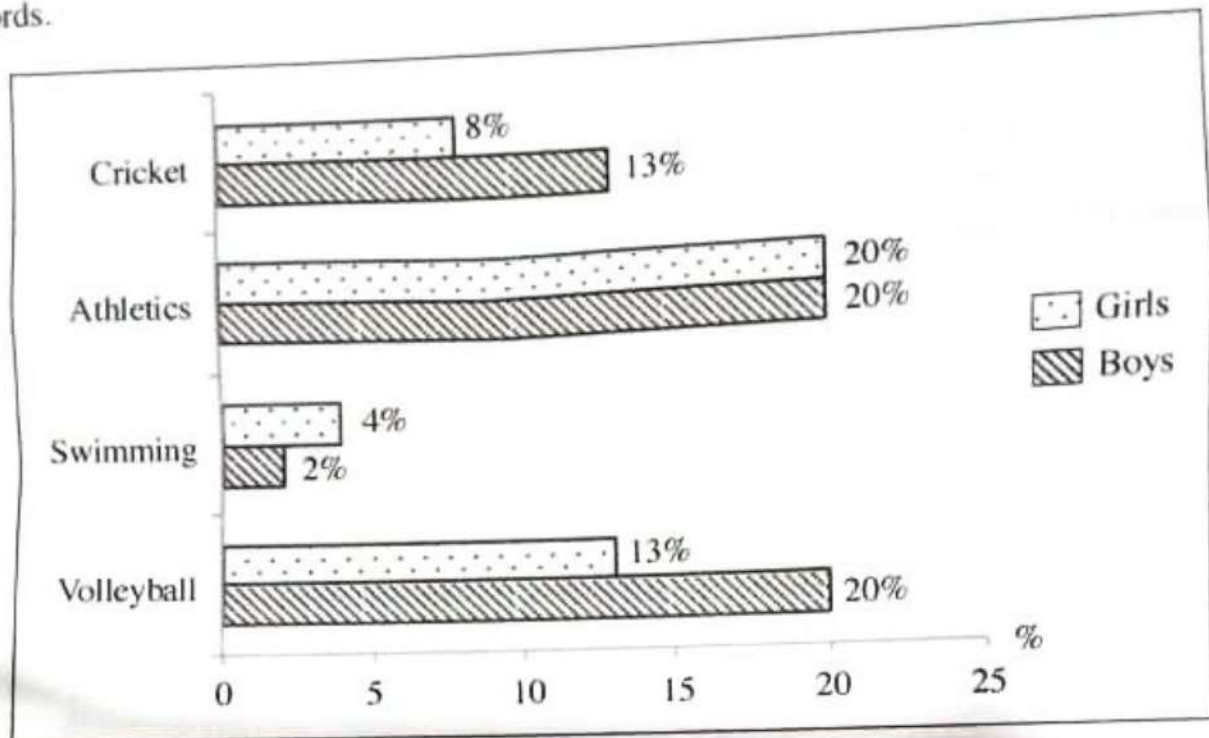
(05 marks)

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

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)



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)

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AL/2023(2024)/13/E-II

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

(15 marks)

Use about **100 - 125** words.

.....

.....

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)

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