

Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka
General Certificate of Education (Adv. Level), 2025
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)**

with	on	without	at	of	for
-------------	-----------	----------------	-----------	-----------	------------

A notoriously mischievous student studying biology (1).....**for**..... his degree in a medical faculty was up to his usual tricks.

“How long can a man survive (2).....**without**..... a brain, sir?” he asked his professor.

This time, the professor, who was well aware (3).....**of**..... the guy, was ready for him. He looked (4).....**at**..... the student thoughtfully and said, “I don’t know really,” and after a brief pause, added (5).....**with**..... a calm smile, “by the way, how old are you?”

for	without	of	at	with
------------	----------------	-----------	-----------	-------------

Question 2

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

A book lover was walking past a small second-hand bookshop when she saw a dog (1) **sitting** (sit) on the steps outside the shop chewing on an old leather-bound book. Instantly, the book cover (2) **was recognized** (recognise) by the woman as a rare first edition. She walked into the shop and asked the owner if she could buy the dog from him. "I (3) **am** (be) sorry," the shopkeeper said, "the dog is not for sale." "Please, (4) **sell** (sell) me the dog," the woman begged, "I will give you five thousand rupees." "Okay, the dog (5) **is** (be) yours," said the shop owner, pocketing the money. "Just one more thing," the woman added, "would you mind (6) **giving** (give) that old book to me as well? I (7) **hate** (hate) to separate the dog from something he is attached to. The dog seems (8) **loving / to love** (love) it." "Sorry, I cannot give you that book because it (9) **has brought** (bring) me a lot of business since last month. In the past week alone, I sold 45 dogs," the owner (10) **replied** (reply) with a smile.

Question 3

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

A young boy was walking through a forest when he found a small injured bird lying under a tree. He gently picked it up and held it in (1) **his** (his / he / him) hands. The bird was shivering, (2) **so** (nor / or / so) the boy decided to take it home and look after it.

At home, he placed the bird in a box and gave it (3) **some** (many / some / any) water. His parents were surprised to see a bird in (4) **their** (their / they're / there) kitchen, but they admired his kindness.

The boy took care of the bird every day (5) **until** (because / until / as if) it was strong enough to fly again. On the day he released (6) **it** (it / it's / its), he watched it fly into the sky, feeling proud and a little sad.

His mother smiled and said, "You have done a wonderful thing. Sometimes, helping others brings us (7) **the** (some / a / the) greatest joy." The boy nodded, realising how good it felt to help something so small.

The next morning, the bird returned and sat on the fence, chirping (8) **as if** (although / when / as if) to say thank you. It was one of (9) **those** (those / this / that) moments the boy would never forget.

Helping others, no matter how small they are, makes the world (10) **a** (an / a / the) better place.

his	so	some	their	until
it	the	as if	those	a

Question 08

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)

Education changes our lives in many ways.

If 3 paragraphs -
take only first paragraph
don't mark 2nd

	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
Very Good/ Good	Has used specific length. Content appropriate & interesting. Has included several ways how education changes lives. Selects & organizes facts in a logical manner.	4
Moderate	Content fairly appropriate and mentions how education changes lives. Selects & organizes facts in a fairly logical manner.	3
Satisfactory	Content not sufficiently developed with support details to highlight how education changes lives. Frequent gaps in presenting facts.	2
Limited	Content extremely limited. Facts not arranged properly to support the key sentence.	0-1

Band Description for Language Use

Level	Description	Marks
Very Good	Excellent use of language. Free of grammatical errors. Excellent word choice.	6
Good	Only few grammatical errors. Choice of words effective.	5
Moderate	Occasional errors of grammar. Choice of words fairly appropriate.	3-4
Satisfactory	Frequent errors of grammar and word choice.	2
Limited	Only very few grammatically correct sentences. Mostly sentence fragments. Vocabulary very limited.	0 - 1

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

Question 07

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

①

Sri Lankan words listed in Oxford English Dictionary

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) has incorporated ten widely used Sri Lankan words in its latest update, signifying a major step in the global acknowledgment of the country's linguistic and cultural heritage. The update features a variety of Sri Lankan English words that represent local traditions, attire, celebrations and historical concepts. This milestone highlights the growing international reach of the Sri Lankan language and its integration into the global English vocabulary.

②

Navy rescues fisherman after fishing trawler capsizes off Galle

Upon receiving a distress alert from the coast guard police about a fishing trawler capsizing approximately nine nautical miles (16 km) off the coast of Galle, the Sri Lanka Navy, in collaboration with the Air Force, initiated an extensive search and rescue operation. The Navy successfully rescued one fisherman from the trawler, which overturned on Monday morning. The survivor was promptly transported to Karapitiya Hospital in Galle for medical treatment.

③

Upcountry railway services disrupted due to rockfall

Train services between Badulla and Colombo Fort have been disrupted today due to a large rockfall blocking the railway tracks between Udawara and Demodara on the upcountry line, as reported by the Nawalapitiya Railway Control Room. The incident occurred after heavy rains in Badulla and Hali Ela on Tuesday evening. Railway workers are actively clearing the debris, but people in the area have been warned not to visit the site affected by the rockfall.

④

Copenhagen tops EIU's 2025 most liveable cities

Copenhagen has claimed the title of the world's most liveable city in the 2025 rankings by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) of *The Economist* magazine, overtaking Vienna after its three-year reign at the top. Published on Tuesday, the rankings assessed 173 cities worldwide based on five criteria namely healthcare, education, stability, infrastructure and the environment. Copenhagen excelled across numerous metrics, highlighting its ability to blend a high quality of life with innovation and sustainability.

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

(1) How many Sri Lankan words are included in the latest update of the Oxford English Dictionary?

- (a) Three (b) Four (c) Seven (d) Ten

(2) Who assisted the Navy in its rescue operation?

- (a) The Army (b) The Police
(c) The Air Force (d) Karapitiya Hospital

Paper II

PART A

READING SKILLS [50 marks]

Question 01

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

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist who (1) **promoted** girls' education and became the youngest-ever Nobel Prize winner. From an early age, Malala showed a (2) **profound** love for learning. Growing up in the Swat Valley, she learned the (3) **value** of education through her father, who ran a school and supported girls' rights to learn. However, when extremist groups in the (4) **region** began to oppose girls' education, Malala's world changed. Girls were banned from going to school, and many institutions were closed down. Refusing to be silent, Malala fought to (5) **safeguard** the rights of girls to attend school.

At the age of 15, Malala was shot while riding a school bus. The incident shocked the world and (6) **sparked** global support. After months of recovery, Malala continued her fight with even greater strength. She (7) **founded** the Malala Fund, an organization dedicated to (8) **empowering** girls through education. Her courage and determination have made her an international (9) **icon** for children's rights. Despite the dangers she faced, Malala never gave up her mission. Today, she continues to campaign for equal education around the world and (10) **inspires** millions through her speeches and writings.

(1) promoted	honoured	accelerated	<u>encouraged</u>	evolved
(2) profound	shallow	<u>deep</u>	casual	mutual
(3) value	expansion	popularity	diversity	<u>importance</u>
(4) region	venue	<u>area</u>	section	location
(5) safeguard	expand	capture	<u>protect</u>	grant
(6) sparked	offered	declared	continued	<u>generated</u>
(7) founded	<u>established</u>	constructed	invented	discovered
(8) empowering	managing	appreciating	<u>strengthening</u>	coordinating
(9) icon	key	<u>symbol</u>	gateway	flag
(10) inspires	commands	unites	acquires	<u>motivates</u>

(1)	<u>encouraged</u>	(6)	<u>generated</u>
(2)	<u>deep</u>	(7)	<u>established</u>
(3)	<u>importance</u>	(8)	<u>strengthening</u>
(4)	<u>area</u>	(9)	<u>symbol</u>
(5)	<u>protect</u>	(10)	<u>motivates</u>

Question 02

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

(10 marks)

- ① Dr. Cyril Andrew Ponnampereuma was one of the Sri Lanka's most distinguished scientists, internationally recognized for his pioneering work in the field of chemical evolution and the origin of life on earth. He was born on October 16, 1923, in Galle, Sri Lanka. He completed his school education from St. Aloysius College, Galle and St. Joseph's College, Colombo, and obtained his BA in Philosophy from the University of Madras. After moving to the United Kingdom, he completed his BSc in Chemistry from the Birkbeck University of London in 1959.
- ② He went on to earn a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, where he concentrated on prebiotic chemistry—the study of how life might have begun on earth. His academic journey brought him into contact with some of the leading figures in modern science, and his research soon gained international recognition.
- ③ Dr. Ponnampereuma worked with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States. He was part of the research teams that examined lunar soil samples brought back from the Apollo missions, searching for chemical traces that might give clues about the origins of life. His experiments on organic compounds helped establish important foundations in the study of life's beginnings.
- ④ While he made a name for himself abroad, Dr. Ponnampereuma never forgot his roots. In the 1980s, he returned to Sri Lanka and took great interest in developing scientific research in his homeland. He became the Director of the Institute of Fundamental Studies in Kandy, which he envisioned as a hub for advanced research and education. Through his efforts, he encouraged young Sri Lankan students to develop a strong interest in science, motivating **them** to pursue careers in various scientific disciplines.
- ⑤ Dr. Ponnampereuma's contributions were not limited to the laboratory. He was a prolific lecturer and a writer, travelling widely to share his knowledge and vision of science as a unifying force among nations. His work emphasized that science could help humanity address its greatest mysteries and challenges.
- ⑥ He passed away on December 20, 1994, leaving behind a legacy as a brilliant scientist, educator, and institution builder. Today, Dr. Cyril Andrew Ponnampereuma is **remembered as a trailblazer** who put Sri Lanka on the global scientific map and motivated generations to seek knowledge with curiosity and determination.

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

Write **True** or **False** in the boxes from (1) to (8).

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

Statements		
(1)	Dr. Cyril Andrew Ponnampereuma was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka.	False
(2)	Dr. Ponnampereuma got his BA from the University of Madras.	True
(3)	He completed his doctorate immediately after his BA.	False
(4)	His research at the University of California focused on how life originated on earth.	True
(5)	The purpose of examining lunar soil samples was to find evidence related to the origins of life.	True
(6)	After completing his higher studies overseas, Dr. Ponnampereuma did not come back to Sri Lanka.	False
(7)	He gained international recognition after becoming the Director of the Institute of Fundamental Studies.	False
(8)	Dr. Ponnampereuma's scientific contributions extended beyond laboratory research.	True

(II) **Underline** the most appropriate answer.

(9) Who or what does the pronoun '**them**' in bold print in paragraph ④ refer to?

- (a) Efforts (b) Careers
(c) Scientific disciplines (d) Young Sri Lankan students

(10) The phrase '**remembered as a trailblazer**' in bold print in paragraph ⑥ in the above text most nearly means

- (a) identified as a follower. (b) known as a supporter.
(c) recognized as a pioneer. (d) respected as an observer.

Question 03

Read the following poem and do the activities that follow.

(05 marks)

A Friend

A person who will listen and not condemn
Someone on whom you can depend
They will not flee when bad times are here
Instead they will be there to **lend an ear**
They will think of ways to make you smile
So you can be happy for a while
When times are good and happy there after
They will be there to share the laughter
Do not forget your friends at all
For they pick you up when you fall
Do not expect to just take and hold
Give friendship back, it is pure gold

- Gillian Jones -

(A) **Underline** the most appropriate response.

(1) The phrase '**lend an ear**' in bold print in the first stanza most nearly means

- (a) praise you. (b) listen to you.
(c) speak for you. (d) give money to you.

(2) To value the friendship you receive, you should

- (a) lend money. (b) expect friendship.
(c) return friendship. (d) depend on the friendship.

(3) What does the poet compare friendship to?

- (a) happiness (b) bad times
(c) pure gold (d) laughter

(4) The attitude of the poet towards a friend is

- (a) caring. (b) critical.
(c) indifferent. (d) disrespectful.

(B) Write down a word, selecting from the poem, which means the same as 'run away.

flee

(2) (i) Underline the most appropriate option to complete the missing sentence in paragraph (3).

- (a) Several factors lead schoolchildren to use drugs.
- (b) There are several drug access points around schools.
- (c) Old boys and local adults are the primary motivators for initial drug use.
- (d) Social media plays a significant role in promoting drug use among schoolchildren.

(ii) Why is drug use among schoolchildren often unreported by families and schools?

- (a) Schoolchildren rarely use drugs, so reporting is unnecessary.
- (b) Families and schools hide drug use for social and cultural reasons.
- (c) Families and schools do not regard reporting children's drug use as a priority.
- (d) Authorities encourage families and schools to report only severe cases of drug use.

(iii) Which strategy would best help reduce adolescent drug use?

- (a) Ignoring the issue to protect social reputation
- (b) Promoting open discussion and early intervention
- (c) Restricting adolescents from attending tuition classes
- (d) Increasing punishment for students caught using drugs

(03 marks)

(3) If you wish to extend each paragraph further, in which paragraphs do you include the following information?

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

	Information	Number of the paragraph
(a)	Government needs to implement programmes to educate adolescents at school level.	5
(b)	Weak relationship between family and children can also lead to drug abuse.	3
(c)	Teachers, parents, and peers should be trained to recognize early indicators of drug use and respond promptly.	4

(03 marks)

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

- (a) **he** (paragraph 2) : (A) senior police officer
- (b) **they** (paragraph 2) : boys in urban and coastal areas
- (c) **it** (paragraph 5) : (Adolescent) drug use

(03 marks)

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

- (a) Something that is not allowed by law or official rules : illegal
- (b) Ability to buy due to low price : affordability
- (c) Insecure or unsafe : unprotected
- (d) Sensitive or easily influenced : vulnerable
- (e) To control or limit something harmful : curb

(05 marks)

Question 05

Read the following text and answer questions from (1) to (5).

(20 marks)

- (1) The World Health Organization defines adolescence as the transitional period from ages 10 to 19, marked by rapid physical and emotional development. In Sri Lanka, adolescents make up 16.1% of the population, with 70% enrolled in school. During this stage, increased independence, peer influence, and curiosity can lead to high-risk behaviours, including substance abuse. Globally, adolescent drug use has risen, often linked to social, psychological, and environmental factors, resulting in issues like school dropout, violence, and even death.
- (2) According to a senior police officer, 2.7% of school-going adolescents use illegal substances, with higher prevalence among boys (4.1%) than girls (1.1%). "This gender gap can be attributed to stronger protective environments for girls and societal norms," he further added. Boys in urban and coastal areas, especially in boys' schools, face a greater risk because they have easier access to drugs. Commonly used substances include cannabis, psychotropic drugs and cough syrup largely due to their affordability and availability.
- (3) These include poor parenting, lack of family bonding, and exposure to unprotected environments. Drug access points include food stalls, tuition classes, social media, and even school surroundings, sometimes facilitated by old boys or local adults. Peer pressure, curiosity and thrill-seeking are primary motivators for initial use. They can make them more vulnerable to trying drugs, especially when combined with easy access and a lack of protective support from family and community.
- (4) Despite being a growing concern, drug use among schoolchildren is often hidden by their families and schools due to stigma and sociocultural taboos. Experts emphasize the importance of early identification and intervention through life skills education and supportive family environments. Warning signs in children may include mood swings, isolation, academic decline, and personality changes.
- (5) To curb this adolescent drug use, punishments would not be the only solution. Coordinated efforts from parents, schools, religious leaders, policymakers, and communities are essential. Immediate attention from stakeholders is crucial to prevent it from escalating into a national crisis.

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

Write **True**, **False** or **Not Given** in the boxes from (a) to (f).

True	If the statement is correct
False	If the statement is wrong
Not Given	If there is insufficient information

Statements		
(a)	According to the text, 70% of adolescents attend school in Sri Lanka.	True
(b)	Currently, drug use is greater among girls compared to boys.	False
(c)	Past students too contribute to spreading drugs among schoolchildren.	True
(d)	Curiosity is not given as a reason for drug addiction.	False
(e)	So far, early identification of drug abuse has brought about positive results.	Not Given
(f)	Children addicted to drugs prefer to be alone.	True

(06 marks)

Question 04

Complete the blanks of the summary meaningfully and appropriately, using one word only from the passage titled 'Online Learning.' (05 marks)

Online Learning

Online learning is a modern and increasingly popular educational method that utilizes the internet and digital platforms to deliver courses to learners worldwide. It offers a high degree of flexibility, enabling learners to access educational materials at their own pace, at any time, and from virtually any location. This is particularly beneficial for those who have work, family, or other commitments as it helps them tailor their learning to fit their needs.

Online learning comprises a variety of formats, including live virtual classes, pre-recorded video lectures, interactive discussion forums and self-paced learning modules, catering to different learning styles. Numerous institutions also incorporate multimedia tools and collaborative platforms to enhance engagement of students and simulate classroom-like experiences.

Despite its numerous advantages, online learning is not without challenges. Limited opportunities to interact face-to-face, inability to motivate the learners, lack of opportunities for immediate feedback, and unequal access to technological resources are key challenges that can obstruct online learning. Nevertheless, with careful planning and adequate support, online learning can be effectively implemented to meet the needs of diverse group of students.

Summary

Online education that uses internet-based platforms to deliver programmes (1) **offers** great flexibility allowing students to use course (2) **materials** that are useful for their education anytime from anywhere. Online learning which is (3) **beneficial** for busy learners includes different types of formats to boost learner (4) **engagement** and create classroom-like experiences. Despite its benefits, online learning presents several (5) **challenges** that hinder learning.

PART B

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

DIALOGUES [25 Marks]

Question 06

(05 marks)

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

- (1) Give a reason and inform the teacher of your inability to join the annual trip of your class.
"I'm sorry, I'm unable to / I will not / join the trip as I am sick / I have to attend a wedding."
- (2) Your friend wears a beautiful dress. Appreciate the beauty of it. A reason should be given
"Oh! ... **It's so beautiful / What a lovely dress / What a nice dress**"
- (3) Somebody criticises your best friend. Show your disagreement.
"I **don't agree with you / don't think you are correct / hate what you say**"
- (4) You see one of your friends giving food to some dogs on the street. Praise your friend.
"Wow, **what a good gesture / what a good deed / very nice of you**"
- (5) You want to express your opinion at a class meeting.
"Let me **share / express / give my idea / opinion / what I feel**"

Question 07

Imagine that you want to book four tickets to see a film. Complete the following telephone conversation between you and the ticketing officer. Do **not** use more than **two** sentences/ questions in each blank. (05 marks)

- Ticketing Officer : Hello! Good morning! How can I help you?
- You : Good morning sir! Can I book four tickets to see the movie, '*Rhythm of the Guitar*' tomorrow?
- Ticketing Officer : Of course, what is the show time you prefer?
- You : (1) **3.30 / 5.30. Are there seats available in the ODC / Can I get ODC tickets**
- Ticketing Officer : Yes, seats in the ODC are available.
- You : (2) **How much is a ticket / Ticket price, please? / How much is it priced?**
- Ticketing Officer : Rs. 600.00 each. Shall I book four seats for you?
- You : (3) **Yes please / Thank you / Ok. (What are my seat numbers?)**
- Ticketing Officer : Your seat numbers are E4, E5, E6 and E7. You can pay at the counter.
- You : (4) **Do you accept credit cards / How about card payments?**
- Ticketing Officer : Yes, we accept credit and debit cards.
- You : (5) **At what time / When does the hall open?**
- Ticketing Officer : Well, the hall opens thirty minutes before the show time.
- You : Great, thanks for the help.
- Ticketing Officer : You are welcome. Come and enjoy the movie!

Question 08

Imagine that you and your brother are planning to buy a gift for your father's birthday. Write out the dialogue you have with your brother to select the gift. Each one should speak at least **five times**. Your dialogue should include the following information.

- Discussion about what to buy
- How much to spend
- Final agreement on the gift

(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
Format	Has used dialogue form with minimum of five exchanges.	1
Content	See the band description given below.	5
Language Use	See the band description given below.	9

Band Description for Content

Level	Description	Marks
Very Good	Content very appropriate to the given context i.e. in selecting the gift. Facts very interestingly arranged. Conversation natural and coherent	5
Good	Content interesting & appropriate. Conversation natural and coherent.	4
Moderate	Content fairly interesting. Occasional breakdowns in the flow.	3
Satisfactory	Frequent breakdowns in the flow of the conversation.	2
Limited	Content extremely limited. Does not reflect features of a natural conversation. Very poor coherence.	1

Band Description for Language Use

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

Question 12

Dr. Shyamalie Ranasinghe of the Vocational Training Authority delivered a speech on "Learning opportunities after G.C.E.(A/L)" on the invitation of the literary association of your school. As the secretary of the literary association, write a **letter of appreciation** to Dr. Ranasinghe. Include the following in your letter.

- Mention the purpose of the letter.
- Include important details such as date, venue, topic, etc. of the event.
- Explain how the speech was valuable to the students.
- Thank the speaker for her time and contribution.

(15 marks)

Use about 100-125 words.

	Description	Marks
Format	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
Content	See the band description given below.	0-4
Language Use	See the band description given below.	0-8
Organization	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
Very Good/ Good	Has used specific length. Content appropriate & relevant to the given situation. Has elaborated sufficiently. Selects & organizes facts in a logical manner.	4
Moderate	Content fairly appropriate and relevant. Selects & organizes facts in a fairly logical manner.	3
Satisfactory	Content not sufficiently elaborated. Frequent gaps in presenting facts.	2
Limited	Content extremely limited. Presentation of facts very weak.	0-1

Band Description for Language Use

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

- 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.
- If the candidates have invited for a future talk, give zero (0) for content and do not give more than two (2) marks for language. No marks for organization.

Question 11

Your school has a project titled 'University Visit' for G.C.E.(A/L) students. This year, your class visited the University of Peradeniya. Write a letter to your best friend, describing your visit. In your letter, include the following.

- When and how you all travelled to the university.
- The faculties and sections you visited.
- What you learnt from the visit.
- Any other relevant details of the visit.

Use about 100 - 125 words.

(15 marks)

	Description	Marks
Content	See the band description given below.	5
Language Use	See the band description given below.	10

Band Description for Content

Level	Description	Marks
Very Good	Has used specific length. Content very appropriate & includes all necessary details.	5
Good	Has used specific length. Content appropriate & includes necessary details.	4
Moderate	Content fairly appropriate and includes some important details.	3
Satisfactory	Content not sufficient.	2
Limited	Content extremely limited.	0-1

Band Description for Language Use

Level	Description	Marks
Very Good	Excellent use of language. Free of grammatical errors. Excellent word choice.	10
Good	Only few grammatical errors. Choice of words effective for an informal letter.	8-9
Moderate	Occasional errors of grammar. Choice of words fairly appropriate for an informal letter.	5-7
Satisfactory	Frequent errors of grammar and word choice.	3-4
Limited	Mostly sentence fragments.	0-2

	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
Very Good/ Good	Content appropriate. Has elaborated data sufficiently and made comparisons effectively. Has used specific length. Selects and organizes facts in a logical manner.	4
Moderate	Content fairly appropriate. Selects and organizes facts in a fairly logical manner.	3
Satisfactory	Content not sufficiently elaborated. Frequent gaps in presenting facts.	2
Limited	Content extremely limited. Presentation of facts very weak.	0-1

Band Description for Language Use

Level	Description	Marks
Very Good	Excellent use of language. Free of grammatical errors. Excellent word choice and effective comparisons.	6
Good	Only few grammatical errors. Choice of words effective for description of data.	5
Moderate	Occasional errors of grammar. Choice of words fairly appropriate for description of data.	3-4
Satisfactory	Frequent errors of grammar and word choice.	2
Limited	Only very few grammatically correct sentences. Vocabulary very limited.	0-1

Pointe to be included:

- Include an introductory line – Transportation methods use by people in Sri Lanka in 2010 and 2020.
- Bicycle usage remained unchanged/ constant.
- Usage of bus reduced.
- The car usage drastically increased.
- The train usage significantly reduced.
- Concluding sentence – A shift from public to private transport.

N.B. In this question, candidates may use either simple present, present perfect or simple past tense.

PART C

WRITING SKILLS [65 marks]

Question 09

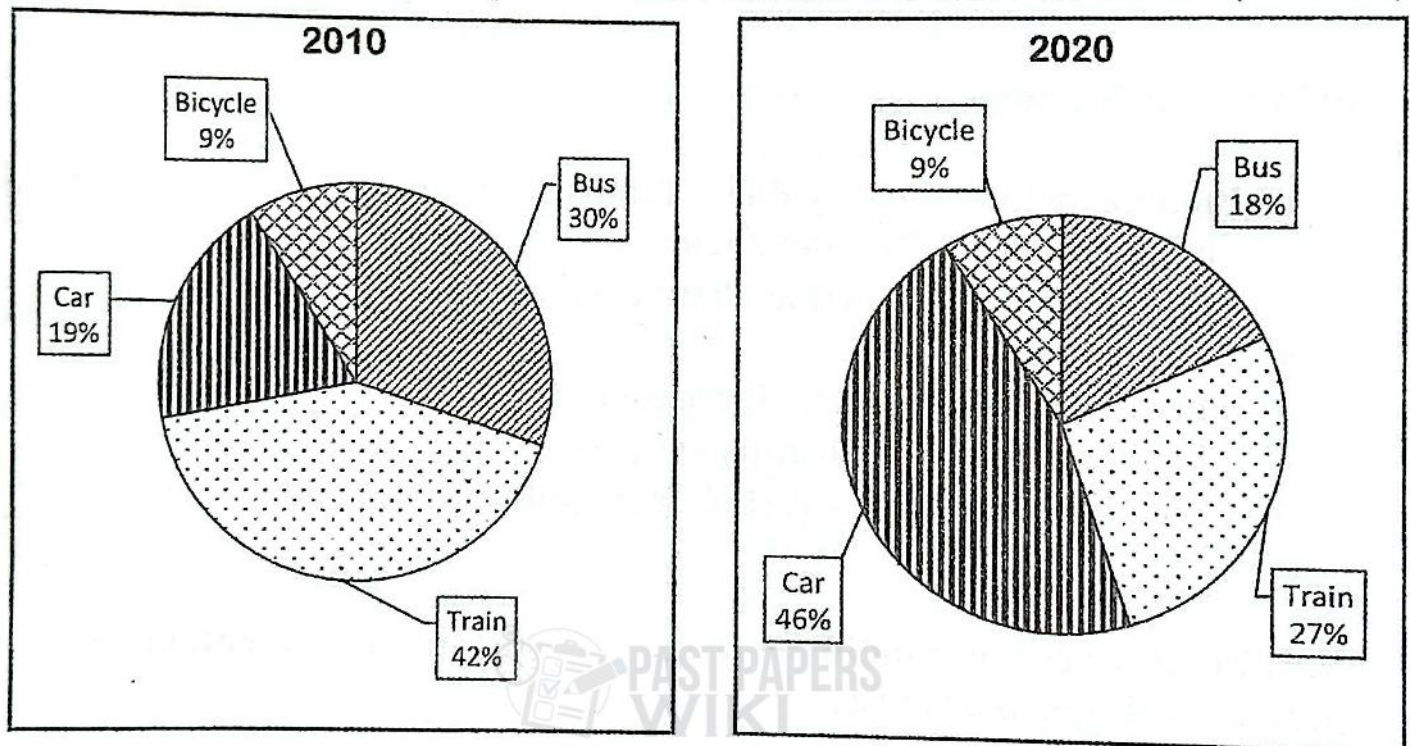
Select any **five** words from the list given below. Write five **meaningful sentences** using the selected words. You may use the verbs in any tense and nouns in singular or plural form. Do **not** change the form of other words. (05 marks)

confidently	suitable	temporary	expectation	payment
modify	connect	tolerate	individually	trophy

- Asses each sentence separately. Give one mark for each correct sentence (maximum five (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 selected word effectively. i.e. It is **suitable** (unacceptable). It is a **suitable** decision (acceptable).
- Deduct one mark from the overall mark if there are more than five (05) spelling errors altogether.
- If the same word is misspelt several times, consider them as ONE spelling error.
- If the candidate has constructed more than five (05) sentences, mark only the first five.

Question 10

The pie charts below illustrate the main transportation methods used by people in Sri Lanka in 2010 and 2020. Describe the information given in the charts by reporting the main features and making comparisons where relevant. Use about **100 words**. (10 marks)



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.

End

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
Very Good	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.
Good	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.
Moderate	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.
Satisfactory	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.
Limited	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
Very Good	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.
Good	Able to address the topic/task well, though some points may not be fully elaborated. Uses sufficient explanations/exemplifications where relevant.
Moderate	Able to address the topic/task using somewhat developed explanations/ exemplifications.
Satisfactory	Limited development in response to the topic/task. Inappropriate or insufficient exemplifications/explanations to support or illustrate generalizations in response to the task.
Limited	Serious disorganization/underdevelopment. Little or no detail, or irrelevant specifics, or questionable responsiveness to the task.