



Royal College – Colombo 07

General English II

13- E- II

Final Term Test – November 2023

Grade 13

03 hours

28.11.2023 - 10.45 a.m - 1.45 p.m

Instructions:

- This paper consists of Three parts A, B and C. Answer all questions on this paper itself
- Marks will be deducted for inappropriate punctuation and for exceeding number of words in writing questions.

For Examiner's
Use Only

Total

140

Name:

Index No:

Class:

PART A – READING SKILLS (50 marks)

Question 01

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

The debate on the establishment of private universities in Sri Lanka has gained traction in recent times, mainly as a result of the **exodus** of students for foreign universities and colleges. It is no secret that the recent economic crisis has acted as a catalyst in this regard, with some parents fearing for their children's future if they remain here. Parents are known to go to **extreme** lengths to fund their children going abroad for studies, from **pawning** their jewellery to selling the very house they live in. A university course in a Western country could cost as much as Rs.10 million a year, **excluding** lodging. The costs may be somewhat less in a country such as Belarus, but not by much. Unless a student gets a full scholarship, parents have to spend this much on lecture fees alone. Either way, lodging, food and travel expenses pile up and have to be **borne** by the student. Of course, these funds have to be **remitted** in US Dollars or **equivalent** convertible currency to the students, which further strains our **dwindling** foreign exchange reserves.

- | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1) traction | a) attraction | b) popularity | c) position | d) drawing |
| 2) exodus | a) migration | b) escaping | c) flight | d) admission |
| 3) catalyst | a) result | b) blockage | c) motivation | d) reaction |
| 4) extreme | a) utmost | b) further | c) several | d) great |
| 5) pawning | a) possessing | b) borrowing | c) lending | d) depositing |
| 6) excluding | a) adding | b) removing | c) out of | d) except |
| 7) borne | a) tolerated | b) accepted | c) managed | d) given |
| 8) remitted | a) aided | b) transmitted | c) forwarded | d) posted |
| 9) equivalent | a) expensive | b) like | c) amounting | d) equal |
| 10) dwindling | a) fluctuating | b) changing | c) declining | d) fading |

Question 02

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

(10 Marks)

24, Park Road,
London S10
May 10.

Dear Pat,

Some time ago I asked you about the best way to travel to Edinburgh overnight and you advised me to go by coach. "It's cheap and convenient," you said. "And very comfortable." Well, I took your advice. Now let me tell you what happened!

We left on time (and with plenty of loud music!) and stopped for supper at a cafe at about 9.30. It wasn't the sort of place I like eating in and it was also very crowded, so I decided to buy some chocolate. I had some fruit with me too, so at least I didn't go hungry.

We set off again at 10.15. The lights went off (and the awful music too, thank goodness) and I settled down to get some sleep. However, the people just behind me kept on talking and every now and then they burst out laughing at some joke. I asked them to be quiet, but they didn't take any notice at all. However, eventually I fell asleep - but then the people behind me woke me up! "You're snoring" they said, "and keeping us awake!" After that I hardly slept at all.

The rest of the journey was like a long bad dream. Then, at about 5.30, about 40 miles south of Edinburgh, the coach broke down. The driver went off to telephone for help, but when a rescue van finally arrived, they couldn't get the coach to start. In the end, they had to send for another one and we all had to change coaches - in the rain! By that time I was very hungry and I was longing for a nice hot drink. I got one - when we finally reached Edinburgh at nine o'clock! By then I was so exhausted I went straight to bed and stayed there for the rest of the day - the first day of my holiday! As you can imagine, I don't intend to travel by coach again overnight. Of course I'm not blaming you for all this but thanks for the advice!

Yours, Ron

- (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	
1	Ron could enjoy a very comfortable journey	
2	Ron didn't like the cafe where the bus stopped for supper	
3	The passengers who were sitting behind Ron behaved well	
4	After having chocolates and fruits Ron didn't feel hungry	
5	People behind Ron complained about his sleep	
6	The coach broke down at Edinburgh	
7	The rescue van was unable to make the coach start	
8	Ron could have a hot drink when the bus broke down	

(II) Underline the most appropriate response.

- 1) The word 'eventually' in paragraph 3 most nearly means,
a) finally b) timely
c) gradually d) straightaway
- 2) The word 'intend' in paragraph 4 most nearly means,
a) think b) allow
c) suggest d) plan

Question 03

Read the following poem and answer the questions from (1) – (5)

(5 Marks)

'We Love You Forever' (by S.T. Wijesundara)

You gave us birth
To see how bright this world
Is, with glim and mirth
And good guidance worth.

You touched our dirt,
But did never splurt
And when got helpless,
You sobbingly blirt
We love you mom, dad forever
Love you forever
Owe you forever.

You made us erudites
As humans qualified
If beaten, that was only
For guidance to be wise.

We're so grateful, delightful
For the things you've taught us to be forever.
We're so grateful, delightful
For the moral you've instilled in, forever,
To be forever
That'll be forever.

Painful we are to see
How you're abandoned to solitary
As creatures, homeless creatures, with no love
That's not meant to be.

- 1) In this piece of poetry, the speaker and the addressee are respectively,
- a) Parents and children
 - b) Children and parents
 - c) Friends and relatives
 - d) Relatives and friends
- 2) The adjective used to describe the 'world' is,
- a) mirth
 - b) glim
 - c) good
 - d) bright
- 3) In the 3rd stanza, the word "erudites" means,
- a) scholarly persons
 - b) uneducated people
 - c) scholarly
 - d) educated
- 4) The poem says,
- a) that parents used to beat you
 - b) that they never beat you
 - c) that they must have beaten you for good
 - d) they beat you for good
- 5) what's not meant to be is,
- a) The abandonment of parents with no homely affection.
 - b) The loss of the valuable property built by parents.
 - c) The abandonment of children with no homely affection.
 - d) The way children lose their property due to their parents' isolation.

Question 04

Complete the summary of the following text using only one word for each blank. (5 Marks)

Sri Lankan health authorities have already taken steps to make sure that the latest virus, 'Nipah' does not enter into Sri Lanka through Airports and harbours. But there are many other ways that Sri Lankan people directly connect with foreigners. One such method is involving in fishing in deep sea. In the sea, people from Sri Lanka and India exchange food, water etc. and keep very close contacts inside boats. This is why we talk about this new virus today even it has NOT arrived Sri Lanka and there is NO danger at the moment. We are raising awareness among people instead of making them panic. But sometimes there is no way of raising awareness among ignorant people without making them panic because they are not scared of anything or anyone except sudden death. They are not scared of slow death cause after a decade or two.

Sri Lankan health authorities are working to (1)..... the entry of the 'Nipah' virus into the (2)..... through airports and harbors. However, people still (3)..... with foreigners through deep sea (4)....., allowing for close contact and food exchange. Although raising awareness is being done, some people are not scared of slow death. They are (5)..... scared of sudden death.

Question 05

Read the following text and answer the questions from 1-4.

(20 Marks)

Preparing for a Virtual Job Interview

Today, businesses are always looking for new ways to increase efficiency and profits. For example, organizations often reduce costs by conducting virtual job interviews. The video or Skype interview benefits both interviewer and interviewee, especially when an applicant would otherwise need to travel far. Despite the convenience though, it poses unique challenge.

The typical interview process usually entails multiple steps. First, there is screening, lasting about thirty minutes. Its purpose is to ensure candidates have the basic requirements. In the second interview, they're assessed for their technical skills and on whether they would fit the organization.

Virtual interviews follow the same steps so you will need to focus on the same core topics. Identify what the critical topics are based on the job description and prepare to talk about them. If you can, gather inside information so you can impress interviewers with your knowledge.

Normally, you travel somewhere for an interview. One advantage of that is that you aren't responsible for the place, whereas in a virtual interview you must ensure you have an appropriate location and appropriate equipment.

Modern technology is great when it works, but a pain when it doesn't. So it's wise to check you can operate your webcam, especially if you don't use it often. Test the headset too and find out how intelligible your voice sounds. It is also wise to establish what software the interviewer is going to work with and give it a trial run.

Probably the biggest problem in a virtual interview is what the camera can see. You want the interviewer to see you as a professional. Having a messy or cluttered room behind you won't help you achieve this image – a clear white background is usually a safe bet.

The most important part of your preparation is to run through everything first as best you can. Have a friend conduct a rehearsal with you before the big day. This will help you know how to behave in front of the camera.

All things considered, though, virtual interviews should be treated like any other type of interview. Being at home requires as much preparation as a traditional interview. If you follow the steps mentioned above, you have every chance of getting the job you want. Good luck!

- (1) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above text? In boxes (a) – (f) write True, False or Not Given. (6 marks)

True	If the statement is correct
False	If the statement is wrong
Not Given	If information is not provided

	Statements	
a)	Virtual job interviews are conducted by many business organizations today	
b)	In the first step of a typical interview the basic requirements of the candidate to do the job is established	
c)	One advantage of a virtual interview is that the candidate is not responsible for the premises in which he poses for the interview	
d)	Inside information regarding the organization would help the candidate to impress the interviewers	
e)	Reference to the previous experiences of the candidate could be an added advantage at the interview	
f)	Modern technology is always great, it never gives us any pain	

- (2) Underline the correct response from (i) – (vi) (6 marks)

- (i) Modern businesses are always in search of new ways to increase

- a) technology
- b) their customer base
- c) efficiency and profits
- d) their productions

- (ii) Virtual job interviews benefit

- a) the interviewer
- b) the business establishment
- c) the interviewee
- d) both the interviewer and the interviewee

- (iii) The biggest problem in a Skype or video interview is

- a) what the camera can see
- b) where the interview is taking place
- c) what the candidate's background depicts
- d) how the candidate appears himself

- (iv) When engaging yourself in a virtual interview you must make sure that you have
- modern apparatus
 - state-of-the art system
 - appropriate location
 - improvised equipment
- (v) By testing the headset before the interview you can get to know
- how far your voice travels
 - how easily you can be understood
 - how clear is the vision on the webcam
 - how the interviewer responds to your remarks
- (vi) Appearing yourself for a virtual interview by being at home requires
- as much time as a traditional interview
 - a sound communication system
 - as much preparation as a traditional interview
 - a well prepared self-introduction.

(3) Who/what is referred to in the following?

(3 marks)

- it in paragraph 1 -
- their in paragraph 2 -
- this in paragraph 7 -

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

- To make something certain -
- Having the usual qualities or features -
- One who is appealing for a job -
- Full of a lot of things -
- A test of how well something works -

(5 marks)

PART B – DIALOGUES (25 Marks)

Question 6

How do you respond in each of the following situations? Write only one question or sentence for each, beginning with the words given. (5 Marks)

- (1) One of your friends suggests you to join him to watch a stage drama this weekend. You refuse this request politely.

"I'm sorry"

(2) You want to know the direction to the public library. You speak to a person on the road.

"Could you please.....?"

(3) You are a senior manager and you warn your employees not to take extra leave.

"You should....."

(4) A doctor advises a patient not to take alcohol.

"You"

(5) You seek permission to enter the principal's office.

"May.....?"

Question 7

Complete the missing parts of the dialogue between a customer and a shop keeper. Do not use more than two sentences or questions in each blank. (5 Marks)

Shop keeper : Can I help you?

Customer : Yes, please. I want a pair of black shoes.

Shop keeper : (1)

Customer : It is ten. Can I try out this pair?

Shop keeper : Of course! Here you are.

Customer : Well, they feel a bit tight here. Can I try a different pair of shoes?

Shop keeper : I see. Shall we try these?

Customer : They are a better fit, but I don't like the colour.

(2).....

Shop keeper : Yes. We have white, brown, grey and red.

Customer : (3).....

Shop keeper : Here you are. I too think this white pair suits you well.

Customer : (4).....

Shop keeper : You are welcome sir! Is there anything else?

Customer : No, that's all. How much is that?

Shop keeper : It's Rs.5990 sir. (5).....

Customer : I'll pay by card.

Shop keeper : That's fine. Here's your receipt. Thank you and please come again.

Question 8

Your A/L results have just been released. You are very happy because you have got "A" passes for all the subjects including General English. You also have got the first rank in your district. A local T.V. Channel comes to interview you. Write the conversation that takes place between you and the reporter. Each one should speak at least five times. (15 Marks)

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PART C – WRITING SKILLS (65 Marks)

Question 9

Select any five words from the list of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs given below and use each 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. (5 Marks)

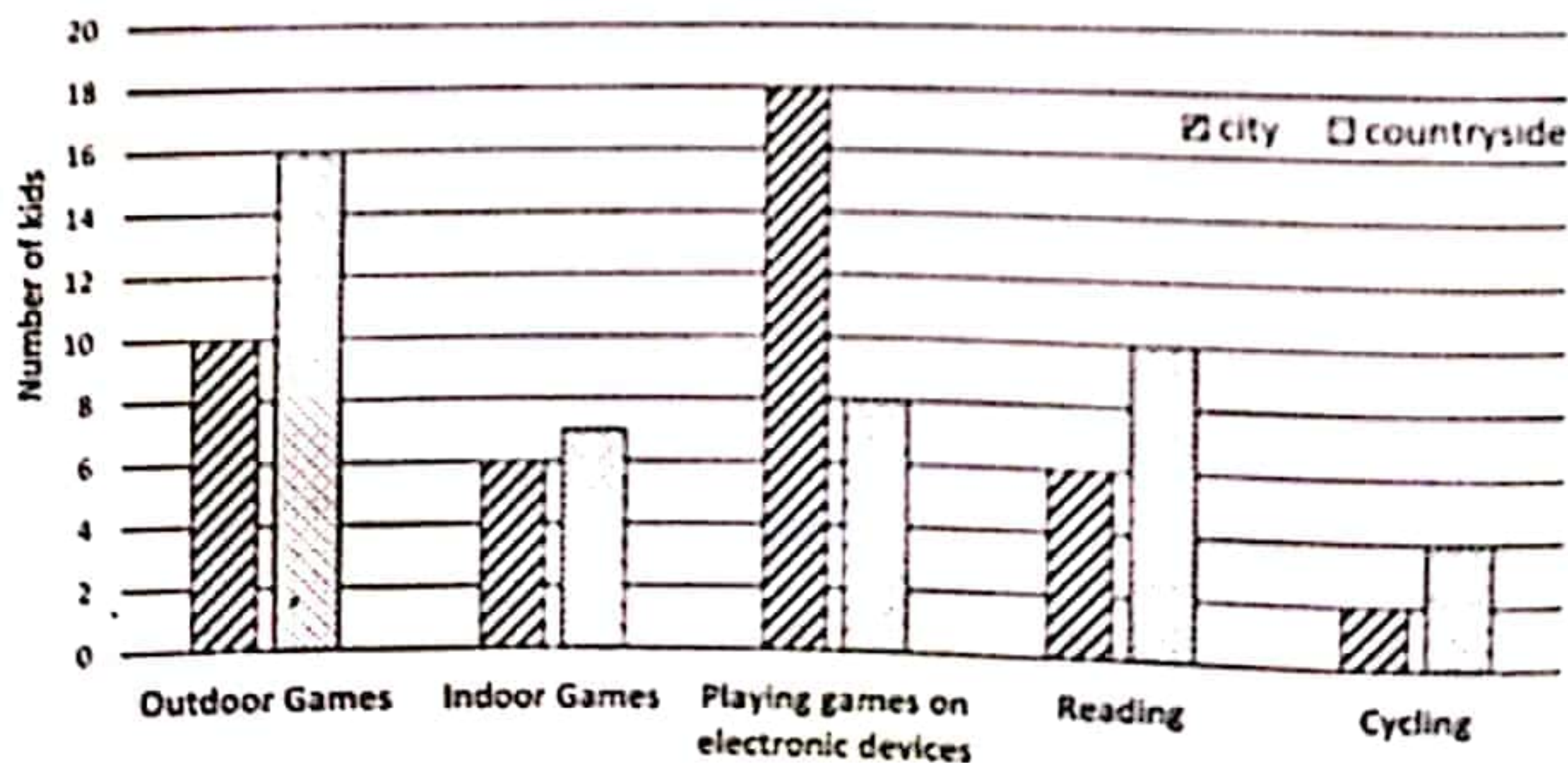
Nouns	pride, agreement
Verbs	define, obtain
Adjectives	attentive, cheerful, sensitive
Adverbs	rarely, patiently, fortunately

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

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Question 10

The following bar chart shows the different kinds of leisure time activities of kids living in city and countryside. Describe the information in the chart by reporting the main features and making comparisons where relevant. Use about 75 words. (10 Marks)



Question 11

You wish to do a foreign job after your G.C.E (A/L) examination. One of your friends has already gone there. Write a letter, asking him to help you to get an opportunity. Tell him about your qualifications and talents. Use about 100 – 125 words. **(15 Marks)**

Question 12

You have borrowed the English fiction 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl from the school library for a period of two weeks. But now you are in Kandy with your parents and you are unable to return it in due time. Write a letter to the librarian informing about this. Use about 100 words. You may include:

- The date you borrowed it
- Due date of returning it
- Reasons for inability to return it on time
- Apologize for the inconvenience caused

(15 Marks)

Question 13

“To discourage international migration and stimulate ‘brain gain’ instead of ‘brain drain’, Sri Lanka needs to take appropriate measures. Do you agree with this statement? Write an essay, giving your opinions. Use about 200 words. Do not exceed the word limit. (20 Marks)

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