

Section: Reading

Reading section in the SLC Exam follows the following format:

Total Marks : 40	Type of test : Written	
Total Questions : Four reading comprehension passages		
Seen passages: 2 (5 + 10 = 15 marks)	Unseen passages: 2 (10 + 15 = 25 marks)	
Types of questions:		
- Short answer questions	- Cloze	- Ordering
- Multiple Choice	- True/False	- Fill in the spaces
- Vocabulary (<i>matching, synonyms and antonyms</i>)	- Matching	
<i>(Except short answer questions, the types of questions should not be repeated in the two seen comprehension passages. This is applied to the two unseen comprehension passages as well.)</i>		
Types of reading texts:		
Seen passages:	poem and general text from Grade X text book.	
Unseen passages:	passages, advertisements, stories, notices, letters, charts, graphs and tables	

Some Seen Comprehension Passages for Practice

1. Read the text [given in Unit 7, Exercise 1 (*Breastfeeding*), on page no. 53 and 54, from line no. 38 to 53] and answer the questions given below:

A. Match the words in column 'A' with their meanings given in column 'B': (2)

Column 'A'

- a) protect
- b) exposed
- c) infant
- d) respiratory

Column 'B'

- i) open to the weather
- ii) connected with breathing
- iii) keep safe
- iv) little child

B. Write 'True' or 'False' next to the following sentences: (4)

- a) Human milk preserves both mother and her baby.
- b) If a baby is exposed to an ill environment, mother's milk is not able to protect it.
- c) Breast milk contains antigen elements.
- d) Bottle-fed babies have more chances of infection.

C. Answer the following questions: (4)

- a) How does the mother supply immunoglobulin to her baby ?
- b) What is the function of white cells in human milk ?
- c) Name the diseases that can be controlled through breastfeeding ?
- d) Why is mother's milk important to babies ? Give any two reasons.

Sample Answer:

A. Matching of vocabulary

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| a) protect - keep safe | b) exposed | - open to the weather |
| c) infant - little child | d) respiratory - | connected with breathing |

B. True/ False statements

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| a) False | b) False | c) True | d) False |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|

C. Short question-answers

- a) The answer word is: **through breastfeeding**

Now in complete sentences: **Mother's milk contains immunoglobulin. Thus, mother supplies immunoglobulin to her baby through breastfeeding.**

- b) The answer words is : **producing a special protein**

Now in a complete sentence: **The function of white cells in human milk is to produce a special protein for checking the passage of harmful germs.**

c) Name the diseases that can be controlled through breastfeeding ?

The names of the diseases that can be controlled through breastfeeding are: *infections, anaemia, diarrhoea, meningitis, diabetes, gastroenteritis, asthma, constipation, allergies, dental and speech problems, childhood cancer, pulmonary diseases, cataracts, high cholesterol and so on.*

d) The answer words are: *to supply antibodies, to save from different diseases*

Now in complete sentences: *Mother's milk is important to babies. Firstly, mother's milk produces antibodies and they save babies from many serious diseases.*

2. Read the text [given in Unit 9, Exercise 1 (The Rising Nepal), at page no. 67, and answer the questions given below:

A. From the text, find the words that are similar in meaning to the following words: (2)

a) improvement b) well known c) stopped d) praised

B. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate words from the text: (4)

a) Nepal Bank limited, Parsa market branch was already started in

b) The opening ceremony of rehabilitation of the bank was in the presence ofas the chief guest.

c) Dhuswan Sayami died of

d) Foreign currency exchange rate is given at in the newspaper.

C. Answer the following questions: (4)

a) Why was the market branch of the bank closed ?

b) Who are the two important bank officials they addressed to the opening programme ?

c) What is the policy of the government towards bank rehabilitation ?

d) Where do you see the weather report ?

3. Read the text [given in Unit 13, Exercise 1 (Florence Nightingale), on page no. 95 (from line no. 1 to 23), and answer the questions given below:

A. From the text, find the words that are similar in meaning to the following words: (2)

a) accepted b) able c) departure d) initially

B. Rearrange the following sentences in the correct order : (4)

a) Nightingale proposed her parents to send her nursing course.

b) Her parents wanted her to get married.

c) She became the superintendent of a hospital in London.

d) She involved herself to treat the wounded soldiers of the Crimean War.

C. Answer the following questions: (4)

a) Why did Florence refuse to marry?

b) What was the Crimean War?

c) What were the causes of illness of the wounded soldiers?

d) Name the newspaper that helped her to involve in treating the wounded soldiers.

4. Read the passage [given in Unit 3 Exercise 1, on page no. 23(from no.1 to 18), and answer the questions given below:

A. Give similar meaning to the given words: (2)

a) spraying (b) crying (c) heavy shower d) mishap

B. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words: (4)

a) The vehicles had been driving slowly because of the

b) It caused many

c) By the time the writer started off, the rain

d) Things at a distance couldn't be clearly seen because of

- D. Answer the following questions:** (4)
- a) When did the writer start for home?
 - b) Why had the vehicles been driving slowly?
 - c) What made the driver frequently stop on the road?
 - d) How did the accident occur?

5. Read the passage [given in Unit 14, Exercise 1, on page no. 104(from line no. 1 to 18,)] and answer the questions given below:

A. From the above passage, write the words which are similar in meaning to the following words: (2)

- a) trust
- b) own
- c) complain
- d) horrified

B. Rewrite the following sentences in the correct order: (4)

- a) He decided not to go for the photograph.
- b) The class teacher told all the students to come to school in trousers for a group photograph.
- c) His parents compelled him to go to school.
- d) The writer tried on friend's trousers.

C. Answer the following questions: (4)

- a) Did the boy go to school in shorts? Why/ Why not?
- b) Why was the boy in a dilemma?
- c) What made the despair?
- d) Where did the class teacher get the boy to sit?

6. Read the passage [given in Revision Unit Exercise 6, on page no. 122(from line no. 1 to 2,)] and answer the questions given below:

A. From the above passage, write the words which are opposite in meaning to the following words: (2)

- a) poor
- b) unclear
- c) cared for
- d) made friends

B. Write 'True' or 'False' next to the following sentences: (4)

- a) Suresh's parents lived together with him.
- b) Suresh lived with his mother and younger brother.
- c) He made his mother angry.
- d) His teacher and his mother could give him more attention as Suresh wanted.

C. Answer the following questions: (4)

- a) What did Suresh do at school once?
- b) Why did he quarrel with his younger brother?
- c) What were the reasons for his bad behaviour?
- d) When was Suresh badly hurt at school?

7. Read the passage [given in Unit 17 Exercise 1, on page no. 128,] and answer the questions given below:

A. Give meaning to the following definitions: (4)

- a) the general direction in which somebody's ideas or actions are moving
- b) a particular movement made usually with your hand or your head, especially to communicate
- c) a good reason that you give for doing something
- d) something that you enjoy doing when you are not working

B. Complete the following sentences by filling the gaps with the words from the text: (2)

- a) The writer did not know to select the books when he was
- b) The event, once happened in his life, still makes his mind
- c) was the main trouble of Mr Chhetry.

d) Whenever Mr Chhetry met the writer, he always had a

C. Answer the following questions: (4)

- a) What is the writer's present job ?
- b) What is the alternative way for a down payment ?
- c) What happened to Mr Chhetry when he started reading the red book ?
- d) Why couldn't Mr Chhetry forget the experience of reading the red book ?

8. Read the passage [given in Unit 18 Exercise 1 , on page no. 137(from line no. 24 to36),] and answer the questions given below:

A. Match the words in column 'A' with their meaning in column 'B'. (2)

Column 'A'

Column 'B'

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| a) fluently | i) excitedly |
| b) utterly | ii) without stopping |
| c) frantically | iii) by explaining well |
| d) expressively | iv) completely |

B. Choose the best answer and rewrite the sentences: (4)

- a) The boy tried to on the board.
 - i) lift his hand
 - ii) collect his senses
 - iii) write
- b) The laughing of the students made the
 - i) motionless
 - ii) active
 - iii) courageous
- c) The boy that he could do everything better than the other students.
 - i) showed
 - ii) thought
 - iii) proved
- d) When the boy was standing in front of the board
 - i) he could talk without any stop.
 - ii) he could hear the students' whispering.
 - iii) he could talk clearly.

C. Answer the following questions: (4)

- a) Why did the boy curse himself ?
- b) Why did the room burst into a loud and long laugh ?
- c) Why did the boy hate the other students ?
- d) What happened to him when he turned to the blackboard and lifted his hand to write?

9. Read the passage [given in Unit 18 Exercise 12, on page no. 144,] and answer the questions given below:

A. Choose the best answers: (4)

- a) The word 'species' means:
 - i) sort
 - ii) caste
 - iii) generation
- b) The word 'indiscriminately' means:
 - i) without permission
 - ii) without care
 - iii) being alternative
- c) The word 'diminish' means:
 - i) become unsafe
 - ii) become distinctive
 - iii) become smaller
- d) The word 'tapestry' means:
 - i) a piece of cloth woven with a design
 - ii) the string of a tape recorder
 - iii) story of the animal

B. Write 'True' or 'False' against the following statements: (2)

- a) The conservationist is a person who talks about conservative ideas.
- b) Killing elephants, alligators and poisonous snakes takes place all over the world.
- c) Trees and the forests are cut to make homes for people.
- d) Human beings and animals both are part of ecosystem.

C. Answer the following questions: (4)

- a) How do the animals may become extinct ?
- b) Why are forests being cut down ?
- c) What should we do to save the wildlife ?
- d) What is the urgent request of wildlife conservationists ?

10. Read the passage [given in Unit 19 Exercise 1, on page no. 147(from no.34 to 48)], and answer the questions given below:

- A. From the text, find the words that are similar in meaning to the following:** (2)
- a) strengthen b) crying c) hug d) admiration
- B. Rewrite the following sentences in the correct order:** (4)
- a) The baby fell down from the window.
 - b) Vikram caught hold of the baby.
 - c) The baby was rushed to a clinic.
 - d) Neha expressed her great gratitude to Vikram.
- C. Answer the following questions:** (4)
- a) What happened to Neha when she heard a hopeless noise from outside ?
 - b) How did the baby fall to the ground ?
 - c) Was Vikram a hero in this story ? Why/ Why not ?
 - d) What lesson do you learn from this story ?

Poems

11. Read the poem [given in Unit 1, Exercise 1 (Weather), on page no. 11], and answer the questions given below:

- A. From the poem, find the words that are similar in meaning to the following words:** (2)
- a) light rain (b) thin, fine cotton cloth (c) shake gently (d) trees
- B. Answer the following questions:** (3)
- a) What kind of weather does the cuckoo like ?
 - b) What do citizens dream ?
 - c) Where do the birds go during the cold season ?

Sample Answer:

A. Words with Similar meanings:

- a) shower b) muslin dress c) betumble d) beeches

B. Short question-answers:

- a) The answer word: *spring*

Now in a complete sentence: The cuckoo likes the weather described in the first verse that is the spring season.

- b) The answer word: *dream of south and west*

Now in simple words: Citizens dreams/ plans to travel to different places.

- c) The answer word: *homewards go*

Now in a complete sentence: *During the cold season, the birds go to other places where there is no cold weather.*

12. Read the poem [given in Unit 13, Exercise 10 (Patriotism), on page no. 102], and answer the questions given below:

- A. From the poem, find the words that are similar in meaning to the following definitions:** (2)
- a) love of one's own country c) miserable person
 - b) travelling singer d) extreme joy and happiness
- B. Answer the following questions:** (3)

- a) Whose heart is never buried with his dead body ?
- b) What should the people, who go to other countries, do ?
- c) Do titles, power and wealth help us to live forever ? Why/ Why not ?

13. Read the poem [given in Unit 5, Exercise 12 (Where the Mind is Without Fear) , on page no. 42] and answer the questions given below:

A. Find the words in the poem that are closest in meaning to the following words: (3)

- a) jointly (b) song (c) carol

B. Answer the following questions: (2)

- a) Where does the rainbow end ?
- b) What does the poet wish ?

14. Read the poem [given in Unit 14, Exercise 12 (Where the Rainbow Ends!), on page no. 11] and answer the questions given below:

A. From the poem, find the words that are similar in meaning to the following words: (2)

- a) mind (b) fright (c) improvement (d) paradise

B. Answer the following questions: (3)

- a) When is the knowledge free?
- b) Why is the world broken up into fragments?
- c) What is the theme of the poem?

15. Read the poem [given in Unit After You Finish, Exercise 16 (Exile) on page no. 16] and answer the questions given below:

A. Match the following : (2)

Column 'A'

Column 'B'

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a) The speaker's coat | i) clean and clear |
| b) The nails | ii) the speaker's natural prey |
| c) Zebra and gazelle | iii) with lines of different colours |
| d) The weather in the pool | iv) not sharp and pointed |

B. Complete the following sentences choosing the best alternatives: (3)

- a) The speaker in the poem is in the
 (i) cage (ii) forest (iii) pool
- b) The speaker doesn't feel of hunger because of
 (i) the zebra and gazelle (ii) the severed meal (iii) his illness
- c) The speaker makes plans secretly in order to
 (i) hunt animals (ii) bend the bars (iii) go back home

16. Read the poem [given in Unit 19, Exercise 11 (Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening) on page no. 153] and answer the questions given below:

A. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements: (2)

- a) The poet stops in the middle of the jungle.
- b) He enjoys watching the beauty of the nature.
- c) He only hears the sound of the bell being rung by the horse.
- d) He is alert to his promises he has kept.

B. Answer the following questions: (3)

- a) What is the beauty described in the poem ?
- b) How is the weather ?
- c) Does the poet spend the night in the forest ? Why/ Why not ?

Unseen Comprehension Passages

1. Read the passage and answer the questions given below: (10)

It had been a tiring day and I was looking forward to a quiet evening. My husband would not back until late and I had decided to settle down in a comfortable armchair in the living-room and read a book. I put the children to bed early and prepared a cold supper and some coffee. Soon I was sitting comfortably with a tray full of food before me and a book at my side.

I was just beginning to eat when the telephone rang. I dropped my knife and fork and hurried to answer it. By the time I got back to the living-room, my coffee had got cold. After I finished my supper, I began drinking cold coffee with my book open at page one. Suddenly there was a loud knock at the door. It gave me such a surprise that I spilt the coffee and made an ugly stain on my skirt. Some stranger had lost his way and wanted me to direct him. It took me ages to get rid of him. At length I managed to sit down again and actually read a whole page without further interruption - until the baby woke up. He began crying loudly and I rushed upstairs. The baby was still awake at 11 o' clock when my husband came home. I could have screamed when he asked me if I had spent a pleasant evening!

A. Write 'True' or 'False' next to the following sentences : (2)

- The writer wanted to get a rest in the evening.
- When the telephone rang she was reading a book.
- A stranger asked her to tell him the way to his destination.
- The husband came home at eleven in the night.

B. Rewrite the following sentences in the correct order: (2)

- She heard a loud knock at the door.
- She prepared a supper.
- Her baby woke up and cried loudly.
- She started to take her meal.

C. Answer the following questions: (6)

- Who was the writer waiting for ?
- How did she intend to spend the evening ?
- What happened when she was reading the book ?

Sample Answer:

A. a) True b) False c) True d) True

B. Re-ordering the sentences:

- She prepared a supper.
- She started to take her meal.
- She heard a loud knock at the door.
- Her baby woke up and cried loudly.

C. Short question-answers:

- The answer words : **her husband**
The answer in a complete sentence: **The writer was waiting for her husband.**
- The answer words : **sitting comfortably and reading**
The answer in a complete sentence: **She intended to spend the evening taking a rest. So she decided to sit comfortably in an armchair and read a book.**
- The answer words: **baby woke up and cried**
The answer in a complete sentence: Her baby woke up and cried loudly when she was reading the book.

2. Read the passage and answer the questions given below :

The silence of the Reference Library was broken only by an occasional cough and now and then the scarcely audible sound of pages being turned over. There were about twenty people in the room, most of them with their heads bent over their books. The assistant librarian who was in charge of the room sat at a desk in one corner. She glanced at Philip as he came in, and then went on with her work.

Philip had not been this part of the library before. He walked around the room almost on tiptoe, afraid of disturbing the industrious readers with his heavy shoes. The shelves were filled with thick volumes: dictionaries in many languages, encyclopaedias, atlases, biographies and other works of reference. He found nothing that was likely to interest him, until he came to a small section on photography, which was one of his hobbies. The books in this section were on a high shelf out of his reach, so he had to fetch a small ladder in order to get one down. Unfortunately, when he was climbing down the ladder, the book he had chosen slipped from his grasp and fell to the floor with a loud crash. Twenty pairs of eyes looked up at him simultaneously annoyed by this unaccustomed disturbance. Philip felt himself go red as he picked up his book, which did not seem to have been damaged by its fall.

- A. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:** (2)
- a) Philip's entry disturbed the in charge of the library room.
 - b) He occasionally visited this library.
 - c) He used a ladder to reach the book he wanted.
 - d) He found every book in the library interesting.
- B. Rearrange the following sentences in the correct order:** (2)
- a) He searched books of his interest.
 - b) His simple mistake disturbed the other twenty readers.
 - c) Later, he chose a book of photography.
 - d) Philip went into the library.
- C. Answer the following questions:** (6)
- a) What things used to break the silence of the library ?
 - b) How did Philip walk in the room and why ?
 - c) What sorts of books are found in the first section of the library ?

3. Read the passage and answer the questions given below :

Now that smoking is considered to be very dangerous to the health, it is especially difficult for children to buy cigarettes or tobacco. Our tobacconist, Mr Soames, has always been very careful about this. If his customers are very young, he always asks them whom the cigarettes are for. One day, a little girl whom he had never seen before walked boldly into his shop and demanded twenty cigarettes. She had the exact amount of money in her hand and seemed very sure of herself. Mr Soames was so surprised by her confident manner that he forgot to ask his usual question. Instead, he asked her what kind of cigarettes she wanted. The girl replied promptly and handed him the money. While he was giving her the cigarettes, Mr Soames said laughingly that as she was so young she should hide the packet in her pocket in case a policeman saw it. However, the little girl did not seem to find this very funny. Without even smiling she took the packet and walked towards the door. Suddenly she stopped, turned round, and looked steadily at Mr Soames. There was a moment's deathly silence and the tobacconist wondered what she was going to say. All at once, in a clear, solemn voice, the girl declared, 'My dad is a policeman,' and with that she walked quickly out of the shop.

- A. Write 'True' or 'False' next to the following sentences:** (2)
- a) Children are not allowed to buy cigarettes.
 - b) A little girl bought a packet of cigarette.
 - c) Mr Soames did not ask the girl whom the cigarettes were for.
 - d) The girl left the shop with a smile.

- B. Fill up the blanks with appropriate words from the text:** (2)
- Mr Soames was a
 - The little girl had the exact amount of money for
 - Mr Soames never forget to ask whom the cigarettes were for.
 - the girl's father was a
- C. Answer the following questions:** (6)
- Why did the little girl go to the shop ?
 - What did Mr Soames advise the girl after giving her the cigarettes ?
 - What was the reason that the girl was not afraid of the police ?

4. Read the passage and answer the questions given below:

There was a king with a large jaw and a queen with a plain face on the throne of England. There was a king with a large jaw and a queen with a fair face on the throne of France. In both countries it was clearer than crystal that the lords and the nobles were enjoying themselves. It was the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy five. Both the countries were facing severe problems. During this period, the British colonies in America were planning to revolt. This had upset the English king very much.

France was rolling downhill at an even faster speed. The Christian church and the nobles treated the poor people with great cruelty. They amused themselves with cruel entertainments such as sentencing a youth to have his hands cut off, his tongue torn out with pincers and his body burned alive. And what was his crime? The fact that he had not kneeled down in the rain to honour a dirty procession of monks which passed at a distance of some fifty or sixty yards from him. It is a truism that when there is so much cruelty and injustice around, a bloody revolution will occur in history.

- A. From the passage, find the similar words in meaning to the following :** (2)
- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| a) royal seat | b) serious |
| c) show resistance | d) entertained |
- B. Complete the following piece of text filling the blanks with appropriate words from the passage given above :** (2)
- Both England and France were clean and but they were encountering serious The English king was worried as there might be in the British colonies in America and France had been full of cruelty and
- C. Answer the following questions:** (6)
- How were the king and the queen of France ?
 - What was the same matter in both countries ?
 - How were the people of France treated ?

Note: Remaining portion of the reading section will be published in the next issue.