PART A – READING SKILLS (50 marks)

Question 1

Read the passage given below 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)

Thanks-giving Day was near. Sithum’s class teacher asked her students to draw a picture of something for which they were thankful.

Most of the class was considered economically disadvantaged, but still many would celebrate the holiday with traditional foods. And those were the subject of most of her students’ art.

Sithum was a different kind of boy. He had always remained loyal to his teacher. He was the teacher’s true child of misery. One could only guess at the pain Sithum felt behind those sad eyes.

Sithum’s picture was different and he drew a hand – just an empty hand. His abstract image captured the imagination of his friends. Whose hand could it be?

One child suggested it was the hand of a policeman, because the police protect and care for people.

The teacher paused at Sithum’s desk, bent down, and asked him whose hand it was. The little boy looked away and slowly muttered, “It’s yours, teacher.”

She recalled the times she had taken his hand and walked with him during her free time. How often had she said, “Take my hand, Sithum, we’ll go outside. Or, let’s do this together.” Sithum was most thankful for his teacher’s hand.

1. disadvantaged satisfied stable deprived thriving
2. subject selection theme colour course
3. loyal faithful studious wise helpful
4. pain satisfaction ache illness injury
5. captured created developed encouraged caught
6. suggested planned proposed exclaimed shouted
7. protect arrest detain guard search
8. paused stopped briefly slipped slightly fell suddenly sat closely
9. muttered cried shouted murmured
10. recalled observed asked told recollected
Question 2

Read the following letter and answer the questions 1 and 2. (10 marks)

Kullyapitiya
15th May 2019

My dear Rizvana,

It has been quite some time since I wrote to you last. The last month was indeed very hectic, as our first term test was in full swing. We all were delighted when our vacation commenced. Our family along with uncle Sisira’s family went to Riverstone in Matale during this holiday.

We all went in uncle Sisira’s van and had a wonderful time. We started our journey in the morning from Kullyapitiya and reached Matale town around 7.30 a.m. After taking breakfast at a restaurant in Rattota, we reached Illukkumbura forest bungalow around 10.00 a.m. This bungalow had been reserved by my father before our vacation started. After having a cup of tea there, we proceeded to Riverstone, which is about 10km from the bungalow, with our guide, Bandara, who joined us there. We drove up to Riverstone telecommunication Tower and parked our van near a small river and began trekking from there towards the mountains. As there weren’t many visitors on that day, we felt our journey relaxed.

We headed to Sera Ella and enjoyed the refreshing cold spray of misty water droplets there. Oh! – I forgot – before that, we visited ‘mini worlds end’ and enjoyed the picturesque view of Knuckles range and Thelgamuwa valley. From Sera Ella, we all walked to Thelgamu Oya and had a cooling dip bath after a long arduous trek. My mother had prepared sandwiches. After having sandwiches for our lunch, we reached our lodge at 5.00 p.m. and enjoyed our dinner prepared by Bandara. Next morning, we all set out to Kullyapitiya after breakfast.

You must also plan a visit to this place and I am sure you will enjoy it. Give my love to Anitha.

Loving friend
Seetha

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>True</td>
<td>If the statement is correct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False</td>
<td>If the statement is wrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) The two families went to Riverstone before the vacation.

(2) Seetha’s family started the journey before 7.30 a.m.

(3) Their vehicle was kept at the Illukkumbura forest bungalow when they visited Sera Ella.

(4) A lot of tourists had come to Riverstone on the day of their visit.

(5) Before they reached Sera Ella, they had visited ‘mini worlds end’.

(6) They had a bath at Sera Ella.

(7) Their lunch was prepared by Seetha’s mother.

(8) They spent the night at the Illukkumbura forest bungalow.
2. Underline the most appropriate response.
   (a) The word 'hectic' most nearly means
       (1) awful
       (2) thoughtful
       (3) complicated
       (4) busy
   (b) The word, 'there' in bold print refers to
       (1) Matale
       (2) Illukkumbura Forest Bungalow
       (3) Riverstone
       (4) Restaurant in Ratotta

Question 3

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

The Sweeper

I know I'm just a humble man
Who works from eight to four.
I rise and eat and work and sweep
And do my best, though poor.

The only colours in my life
Are dusty brown and grey.
Yet I know I must be content
To work for honest pay.

Some pray for money, some for fame,
Some for a great man's smile,
But all I ask for is the chance
To shine a little while.

Just once before I leave this life
I'd like to play a part,
And show that, though a little man,
I have a lion's heart.

1. Which of the following best expresses the meaning of the line 'And do my best, though poor'?
   (1) I do my best to overcome my poverty.
   (2) Although I do my best, I will never be rich.
   (3) I am a poor person but I do my best.
   (4) I can do my best because I am a poor person.

2. Which of the following is most appropriate to describe the phrase, "I have a lion's heart"?
   (1) I am a humble person.
   (2) I am a happy person.
   (3) I am a poor person.
   (4) I am a courageous person.
3. Which of the following is the intention of the sweeper?
   (1) To prove himself worthwhile
   (2) To earn a lot of money
   (3) To spend a luxurious life
   (4) To leave this world soon

4. Which word in the poem most nearly means ‘happy and satisfied’?
   (1) humble
   (2) dusty
   (3) content
   (4) honest

5. The pronoun ‘some’ is used in the poem several times. Who or what does it refer to?
   (1) Great men
   (2) People
   (3) Children
   (4) Chances

Question 4

Based on the following passage, fill in the blanks in the text given below. Use only one word in each blank.

Stamp collecting is a very popular hobby. People collect stamps not only for what they are worth in themselves but also for their designs, the stories they tell, and the events they commemorate. They reflect different aspects of a nation’s life.

Stamp collecting is now far from just a hobby; it is a field of serious study. The study of stamps leads people to the study of geography and history of various countries. “What to collect” and “How to collect” are the common problems which all beginners encounter. There is hardly any theme which has not been shown on stamps. Some of the popular themes include arts, birds, butterflies, communications, fish, famous men and women, flowers, medicine, paintings, postal history, railways, religion, space, sports, ships and so on. Collectors have, as a result, started specializing in themes. In fact, collections based on themes have become the rule in the last few years.

People collect stamps as a (1) ................ and they are mostly concerned with the designs, (2) .................., and sometimes commemorative events that the stamps depict. Stamp collecting is also a subject of study. Stamps show a wide range of (3) .................. on them. Birds, sports, and communications are some examples. The diversity of themes has led the stamp collectors to decide on the (4) .................. themes that they are keen on. Theme-based stamp collecting has become a fashion of stamp (5) ................ recently.

Question 5

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

Moving to a new country can be an exciting experience. In a new environment, you feel more alive: seeing new sights and eating new foods! After few days, however, new experiences seem stressful and delight turns into discomfort. This is known as culture shock. Culture shock is always more than homesickness and it affects nearly everyone who enters a new culture – tourists, business travellers, diplomats, and students alike. Many experts express diverse views on culture shock. However, they agree that it has roughly five stages.
In the first stage, you experience some simple difficulties such as trying to use the telephone or public transportation, but you can quickly overcome these small challenges. You have optimistic views about the new culture; so you are eager to make contact with people.

In the second stage, differences in behaviour become more noticeable to you. Because you do not know the customs of the new culture, you may find it difficult to make friends. It is hard to carry on a casual conversation. You overhear a conversation but you cannot understand it. Why is everyone laughing? Are they laughing at you or at some joke that you do not understand?

In the third stage, you feel that you have made a mistake in coming here. Making friends hasn’t been easy, so you begin to feel isolated. Now you want to be with familiar people and eat familiar food. You begin to spend most of your free time with people from your home country.

You know that you are in the fourth stage of culture shock when you have negative feelings about almost everything. In this stage, you actively reject the new culture. You become critical and irritable. You believe that people are unfriendly.

Finally, you reach the fifth stage. As your language skills improve, you begin to have some success in negotiating situations. As a result, you can successfully chat about the weather with a stranger in the bus. Then your self-confidence grows. After realizing that you cannot change the differences of your surroundings, you begin to accept and tolerate them. For instance, you may not like the way some people in your host country dress, but you do not regard their clothes as wrong—just different.

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

   In boxes (1) - (7) write True, False or Not Given. (07 marks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>True</th>
<th>If the statement is correct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>False</td>
<td>If the statement is wrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Given</td>
<td>If there is no sufficient information on this</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   **Statements**
   
   (1) Tourists never become the victims of culture shock.
   (2) Students need the assistance of a psychiatrist to overcome culture shock.
   (3) In the first stage of culture shock, you develop negative views on the new culture.
   (4) Homesickness is less severe than culture shock.
   (5) When you totally reject the new culture, you are in the final stage of culture shock.
   (6) Your language abilities play a role in becoming successful in the fifth stage.
   (7) Host countries provide support services for those affected by culture shock.

2. Match the following main ideas with the five stages of culture shock by writing the number of the stage in the space provided. (05 marks)

   **Main idea**
   
   (1) Acceptance and adjustment
   (2) Positive feelings towards the new culture
   (3) Negative feelings towards the new culture
   (4) Awareness of small differences
   (5) Need for contact with home culture

   **Number of the stage**
   
   (Blank)
3. Who or what do the following pronouns in bold print refer to? (03 marks)
   (1) it (first paragraph) ........................................
   (2) they (first paragraph) ....................................
   (3) them (last paragraph) .....................................

4. Write one word for each of the given blanks, selecting from the passage, which means the same as the following: (05 marks)
   (1) feeling of worry or embarrassment ..........................
   (2) very interested or keen ......................................
   (3) easy to see and observable ..................................
   (4) separated from others or without much contact .............
   (5) getting annoyed .............................................

PART B – DIALOGUES (25 marks)

Question 6

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. Your group wants to complete an assignment soon. Suggest to your friends to go to library.
   “Shall .................................................................?”

2. You have to fill in an application form at the bank. Request a pen from a person there.
   “Could ...............................................................?”

3. You have just watched a very good film. What would you say to your friend as you come out of the cinema?
   “What ...............................................................”

4. One of your friends invites you to join his/her family trip. Refuse the invitation with a reason.
   “I’m .................................................................”

5. You want to enter your principal’s room. What would you say?
   “Excuse me, sir/madam. ...........................................?”

Question 7

Anushki has come to the A-Z IT Academy to inquire about a weekend Graphic Design Course. Complete the missing parts of the dialogue between Anushki and the receptionist of the academy. Do not use more than two sentences/questions in each blank. (05 marks)

Anushki : Excuse me, I am interested in the Graphic Design course you have advertised.

Receptionist : Well, it’s mainly for those who have completed their A/Ls.

Anushki : (1) ...............................................................

Receptionist : Right, this is for you then.

Anushki : (2) ...............................................................

Receptionist : Well, there’s an application form. You have to fill in it and pay the course fee to register.

Anushki : (3) ...............................................................

Receptionist : Next Friday. You should pay the course fee and register on or before Friday.
Anushki : (4) ........................................

Receptionist : It's Rs. 20000=.

Anushki : (5) ........................................

Receptionist : Lectures are usually held on Saturdays.

Anushki : Ok, thank you for the information.

Receptionist : You are welcome.

Question 8
Imagine that you are sick. You have come to see a doctor. He/She asks you the details of your illness. Write out the dialogue between the doctor and you. Each one should speak at least five times.

(15 marks)
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 one of them in a meaningful sentence. You may use the verbs in any tense. Do not change the form of the other words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nouns</th>
<th>passengers, responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verbs</td>
<td>expect, continue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjectives</td>
<td>massive, efficient, terrible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverbs</td>
<td>completely, widely, approximately</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ...........................................................................................................

2. ...........................................................................................................

3. ...........................................................................................................

4. ...........................................................................................................

5. ...........................................................................................................

Question 10

The following bar chart shows the percentage of the distribution of employed population in three provinces in Sri Lanka by major sectors; agriculture, industry and services. Describe the information by reporting the main features and making comparisons where relevant. Use about 75 words.

Percentage of the distribution of employed population

![Bar chart showing percentage distribution of employed population in three provinces: Uva, Sabaragamuwa, and Western. The chart shows the distribution across sectors: Services, Industry, and Agriculture.]
Question 11

Imagine that a drama presented by your group has won the first place in a drama competition. Write a letter to a friend who does not know about this. Include the following:
- how you practised the drama and who helped you
- your role in the drama
- when and where the final event was held
- how you feel now

Use about 100-125 words. Do not exceed this word limit. (15 marks)
Question 12

Your school, Vijaya Maha Vidyalaya, Kalutara, is organizing the Annual English Day programme. The organizing committee has decided to invite Prof. H. Rajendran, a Senior Lecturer of the Jaffna University as the Chief Guest. As the Secretary of the Organizing Committee, write an appropriate letter, inviting him.

(15 marks)
Question 13

Some people believe that school children are required to attend private tuition classes. Others believe that going to extra classes is not necessary. What do you think? Write an essay giving your views. Use about 150-175 words. Do not exceed this word limit. (20 marks)