

00932

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH FOR BUSINESS &  
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION – STAGE 1 – (LSC 2211)

FINAL EXAMINATION – 2014/2015

READING AND COMPREHENSION



Date : 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

Time : 2.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

INDEX NO. : .....

CENTRE : .....

I.D. NO. : .....

INSTRUCTIONS : ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

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Question No:	Marks Obtained	Maximum
1 (A)	.....	10
(B)	.....	10
2	.....	30
3	.....	25
<b>Total</b>	=====	75

Percentage %

Signature of Examiner : .....

Name : .....

1. (A) Read the following passage and answer the questions set on them.

Kumar Sangakkara, is one of the most graceful and talented batsmen and wicket keepers in Sri Lanka. He is a great asset to cricket in Sri Lanka and regarded as a living legend of the game. Kumar was born in Matale in 1977. He received his primary and secondary education at Trinity College, Kandy. When he was in the secondary school, he played badminton, tennis and cricket. He was able to win national colours for badminton and tennis at a younger age. He represented his school's under 13 cricket team. He was awarded The Trinity Lion, the most prestigious prize awarded to a Trinity sportsman, for his exceptional batting and wicket keeping skills in the 1996 season, at the age of 19. Sangakkara was selected to represent Sri Lanka cricket team A at a tour to South Africa in 1998-99. He scored 156 against Zimbabwe A team at a one-day match which helped him to secure a place at the Sri Lankan national cricket team later that year.

Sangakkara is married to his longtime partner, Yeheli. They have twins, a girl and a boy: Swyree and Kavith.

In February 2009, the then captain of the Sri Lankan team, Mahela Jayawardena announced that he would step down from captaincy "in the best interests of the Sri Lankan team". Therefore at the age of 31 and with the experience of 80 test matches and 246 fifty over (ODI) matches, Sangakkara succeeded Jayawardena as Sri Lanka's captain. The same year, he was named the ODI Cricketer of the Year at the ICC awards ceremony. He retired from Cricket after the Second Test against India in August 2015.

- (i) Answer the questions given below by using information from the passage.

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- a) Birth place - .....
- b) Year of birth - .....
- c) School attended - .....
- d) Games he played in school - .....
- e) Won colours in - .....

(05 marks)

- (ii) What is the name of the award given to Kumar by his school?

(01 mark)

- (iii) How did he get selected to the Sri Lankan national cricket team?

(02 marks)

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**(01 mark)**

(v) Give meanings for the following:

a) exceptional in line 9 - .....

b) secure in line 12 - .....

(01 mark)

1. (B) Read the following passage and answer the questions set on them.

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Ratnapura is a major city in Sri Lanka. It is the capital city of Sabaragamuwa Province and the Ratnapura district. The name Ratnapura means the "city of gems". The city is above 21m from sea level to the South-East of Colombo. The town has a population of about 52,170 and this consists of Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and Muslims.

Ratnapura is located in the wet zone. The town receives rainfall mainly from the South – Western monsoons from May to September. During the remaining months of the year also there is considerable rainfall. The town experiences regular floods mainly in the month of May. Several proposals have been made to reduce the risk of floods in the city but none has been completely successful.

Ratnapura is the centre of a long established industry of precious stone mining including rubies, sapphires and other gems. The people of the town depend on the gem trade. Gem pits are a common sight in the surrounding area. Most of the large scale gem businessmen of Sri Lanka operate from Ratnapura. There is a considerable number of foreign gem traders too in the city who have recognized the value of gems found here.

There is also a well-established tourism industry in Ratnapura. Sinharaja Forest Reserve, Udawalawe National Park, Kitulgala and Adam's Peak are especially popular among tourists. Bopath Ella situated in Kuruvita, a few miles away from the Colombo – Ratnapura High Level Road, is a popular tourist attraction. The fall is like a Bo-leaf that gives its name. Kirindi Ella, the 7<sup>th</sup> highest waterfall in Sri Lanka is also situated 4km away from Ratnapura. – Pelmadulla main road from Pelmadulla town.

The city's agricultural industry is also well developed. Large plantations of tea and rubber surround the town. In addition to these, city is known for rice and fruit cultivation.

**Questions**For Examiner  
use only.

- (i) What is Ratnapura famous for?

**(01 mark)**

- (ii) (a) State whether the following statement is 'True' or 'False'.

"Ratnapura is a multiethnic city"

- (b) Give a sentence from the passage to support your answer.

**(02 marks)**

- (iii) What is the natural disaster that affects people in Ratnapura regularly?

**(01 mark)**

- (iv) What kind of gems are found in Ratnapura?

**(01 mark)**

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use only.

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2.

Answers should be written in complete sentences in your own words as far as possible. Marks will be deducted for answers copied from the passage.

For Examiner  
use only.

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below it.

1 If you regularly watch the news on television or read the daily newspapers,  
2 there is one thing other than politics that you cannot ignore: deadly road  
3 accidents. Every day, at least six people die on our roads and many more  
4 are injured and permanently disabled. The statistics are indeed frightening –  
5 last year alone, there were more than 35,000 accidents in which 2,439  
6 persons were killed. From January to April this year alone 790 persons have  
7 been killed in traffic accidents. This is an alarmingly high number that  
8 shows no sign of **diminishing**.

9 There are many suggestions on how the accident rate could be reduced, but  
10 one of the biggest factors is the role of the police force. It has been observed  
11 that accidents are minimal in Colombo city where there is a heavy police  
12 presence. It can act as an obstacle to would be offenders – a driver will  
13 think twice about crossing a red light if he or she knows there is a  
14 policeman waiting at the other end.

15 With thousands of newly registered vehicles using the roads every week,  
16 the Traffic Police are strained to the limit, especially in urban areas. Now  
17 there is a proposal to empower any policeman or woman, not just Traffic  
18 Police personnel, to fine and punish traffic offenders in order to address this  
19 manpower problem. There is nothing basically wrong with **this proposal**,  
20 but these police personnel must be given a comprehensive training on traffic  
21 rules and regulations before being assigned to road duties.



Vehicle numbers have increased highly in recent times, but most of our roads cannot be widened any more due to **various** factors. Even with more policemen coming in, it will be impossible to cover every road in the country. One answer is creating good drivers through stricter licensing tests and driver education.

**Questions**For Examinee  
use only.

- (i) What are the two major news items that we get from the mass media?

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**(03 marks)**

- (ii) What do the statistics on road accidents in 2014 and 2015 reveal?

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**(02 marks)**

- (iii) (a) What is the reason for the low rate of road accidents in Colombo?

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**(02 marks)**

- (b) What is the example given by the writer to support this reason?

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**(02 marks)**

- (iv) What has caused the increase in road accidents?

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**(02 marks)**

- (v) What more is needed to minimize road accidents in addition to issuing fine sheets?

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**(02 marks)**

- (vi) Why is it unnecessary for traffic policemen to turn off the traffic lights at junctions and control traffic by hand gestures?

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**(02 marks)**

- (vii) Who are the biggest traffic offenders?

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**(01 ½ marks)**

- (viii) Mention 03 ways in which they break road rules?

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**(01 ½ marks)**

- (ix) Give 02 suggestions made by the writer to minimize road accidents.

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**(02 marks)**

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a) **this proposal** in line 19.

b) that in line 22.

c) them in line 26.

d) they in line 29.

e) they in line 32.

**(05 marks)**

(xi) Underline the meanings of the following words from the alternatives given.

a) **diminishing** in line 8 means  
(destroying / dangerous / decreasing)

b) vital in line 25 means  
(various / important / compulsory)

c) **chaos** in line 36 means  
(confusion / traffic jam /fighting)

d) categories in line 40 means  
(levels / combinations / groups)

e) various in line 44 means  
(distance / different / difficult)

**(05 marks)**

Answers should be written in complete sentences in your own words as far as possible. Marks will be deducted for answers copied from the passage.

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3. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below it.

1 The two thieves went out with Oliver between them. It was very dark and  
2 cold.

3 They went **quickly** through the town. After walking for about a quarter of a  
4 mile they stopped in front of a house with a wall around it. Toby Crackit  
5 quickly climbed to the top of the wall.

6 "The boy next," he said. "Lift him up. I'll hold him."

7 Before Oliver had time to look round Sikes had caught him under the arms.  
8 In three or four seconds he and Toby were lying on the grass on the other  
9 side. Sikes followed at once. They walked towards the house.

10 Now, for the first time, Oliver, nearly mad with fear and terror, saw that  
11 they were planning to enter the house – to steal and perhaps to murder. He  
12 cried out and fell to his knees.

13 "Get up!" said Sikes in anger, drawing the pistol from his pocket. "Get up  
14 or I'll shoot you through the head."

15 "Oh, please let me go," cried Oliver. "Let me run away and die in the fields.  
16 Oh, have mercy on me and do not make me steal!"

17 Sikes put the pistol to Oliver's head. But Toby took it from him and put his  
18 hand over the boy's mouth.

19 "Quiet!" He whispered. Don't shoot here. If the boy says another word I'll  
20 hit him on the head. That makes no noise and is just as good."

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21 He and Sikes took Oliver to the back of the house. There was a small  
22 window there which Sikes was able to open. It was very small but just large  
23 enough to **allow** a boy of Oliver's size to enter.

24 "Now listen," whispered Sikes to Oliver, taking a lamp from his pocket and  
25 lighting it. "I'm going to put you through there. Take this light, go up the  
26 steps and along the little hall to the door. Open it and let us in."

27 Toby stood under the window with his hands on his knees to make a step of  
28 his back. Sikes stood on his back and put Oliver through the window with  
29 his feet first.

30 "Take this lamp," he said. Can you see the stairs?"

31 "Yes," whispered Oliver, more dead than alive.

32 Sikes pointed to the door.

33 "If you don't open it, I shall shoot at once." He said.

34 "Now go."

35 Oliver had decided that, even if he dies, he would make one **attempt** to go  
36 upstairs from the hall and wake the family. With this idea in his mind he  
37 took one step forward.

38 "Come back!" cried Sikes aloud. "Back! Back!"

39 Frightened by this loud cry, Oliver let his lamp fall.

40 A light appeared. He saw two men at the top of the stairs. There was  
41 another cry, a loud noise, a sudden light and smoke – and Oliver fell back.  
42 He was shot.

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[illegible]

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use only.

6. Describe in your own words, the instructions Sikes gave Oliver before he sent Oliver into the house.

(02 marks)

7. Is this statement '**True**' or '**False**'?

"Oliver had made up his mind to warn the people in the house about the thieves"

(01 mark)

Pick out a sentence from the passage to support your answer.

(01 mark)

8. Pick out 02 phrases or sentences which show that Oliver was frightened.

(i)

(ii)

(02 marks)

9. Are these statements '**True**' or '**False**'?

- (i) The thieves had not told Oliver what they were going to do that night. ....
- (ii) The thieves told Oliver to go into the house first because they were frightened. ....
- (iii) Sikes called Oliver back because Oliver started running away. ....
- (iv) Oliver shot the man. ....

(04 marks)



