

**OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**  
**PROGRAMME IN BASIC ENGLISH – LSC 1202**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION – 2007/2008**  
**PAPER I - READING AND COMPREHENSION**  
**SECTION B**

Date : 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

Time : 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon

INDEX NO. :

CENTRE :

Instructions : Answer All Questions.

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Question No:	Marks Obtained	Maximum
Section – A 1	.....	20
Section – B 2	.....	30
3	.....	<u>25</u>
<b>Total</b>	.....	<b><u>75</u></b>

Percentage %

Signature of Examiner : .....

Name : .....

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

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1 Dambulla, the historic city is located 160 kms away from the capital city of  
2 Sri Lanka and is the intermediary point between the North Central Province  
3 and the Central Province. It is a city which is based in the Cultural Triangle  
4 in close proximity to the other archeological sites in the island and a city  
5 which is visited by the devout Buddhists. The sacred historic Dambulla  
6 Temple and the Sigiriya Fortress (which is a few miles away from the city  
7 limits) are two sites visited by many tourists.

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8 The picturesque Kandalama Lake and Kaludiya Pokuna are among the  
9 other attractions in Dambulla. The well known Kandalama Tank was  
10 believed to have been built during the reign of King Wasabha who ruled the  
11 country at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. Adding beauty and glamour  
12 to this traditional town, Kandalama possesses a bird sanctuary where  
13 colourful kingfishers, wood peckers, parrots and pigeons live and enliven  
14 the whole of Kandalama with their whispers and songs as the day dawns.

3

15 Dambulla belongs to the dry zone and has ideal conditions for traditional  
16 cultivation. The chief item of subsistence of the villagers who live there is  
17 rice, though the harvest still falls short of one's anticipation. Coconut,  
18 fruits and vegetables are found in abundance and a small proportion of  
19 these are exported too. Dambulla is the centre from which the  
20 transportation and distribution of the vegetation harvest to the entire  
21 southern sector of the island takes place. From evening until late in the  
22 night the city is in its height of activity. It is the hub for thousands of  
23 wholesale vendors who are busy selling the customary harvest and the roads  
24 are congested with vehicles transporting these items.

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The weather in Dambulla is quite warm and humid throughout the year. The summer monsoon blows from the southwest between May and October bringing rain to the north western and north central parts of the island. However the monsoon is often unreliable and severe droughts followed by floods are common to this area.

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Ebony and satinwood are the valuable trees one finds here, but unfortunately, they too are becoming **scarce**. As a result of this, many of the animals who lived within these forests have now been reduced to a few hundred. It has been observed that the typical wildlife mammals which include deadly leopards, bears, jackals, wild boar and monkeys die of starvation and are gradually disappearing.

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The people of Dambulla and its suburban areas are engaging in self employment projects and **they** are relieved of the pressure of unemployment. For instance fishing has become a livelihood of most of the villagers who live closer to the Kandalama Tank since they are being helped by the authorities.

*(Adapted from an article in the Daily News)*

**Questions**

1. How far away is Dambulla from Colombo?

(01 mark)

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2. Write down in your own words the importance of Dambulla in the past and in the present.

(03 marks)

3. What are the attractions found in Dambulla?

(01 ½ marks)

4. Why are the roads congested during the evening hours?

(02 marks)

5. What kind of a climate do you find in Dambulla throughout the year?

(01 ½ marks)

6. What kind of natural disasters do these villagers face?

(02 marks)

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7. What harm has come to this area due to the clearing of forests?

(i)

(ii)

(04 marks)

8. Is this statement 'True' or 'False'?

'The cultivation of rice and vegetables is not the only livelihood of the villagers of Dambulla and its suburbs.'

(01 mark)

Support your answer with a statement from the passage.

(01 mark)

9. What has reduced the unemployment of the area?

(02 marks)

10. What do these words refer to?

(i) this traditional town in paragraph 2 line 12.

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

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use only.

1 It was a hot afternoon, and the next stop was Templecombe, nearly an hour  
2 ahead. The occupants of the carriage were a small girl and a smaller girl and  
3 a small boy. The children's aunt occupied one corner seat and the further  
4 corner seat on the opposite side was occupied by a bachelor who was a  
5 stranger to their party. Most of the aunt's remarks seemed to begin with  
6 'Don't', and nearly all the children's remarks began with 'Why?'.

7 'Don't Cyril, don't' exclaimed the aunt, as the small boy began smacking  
8 the cushions of the seat, producing a cloud at each blow.

9 'Come and look out of the window' she added.

10 The child moved reluctantly to the window. 'Why are those sheep being  
11 driven out of that field?' he asked.

12 'I expect they are being driven to another field where there is more grass,'  
13 said the aunt weakly.

14 'But there is lots of grass in that field,' protested the boy; 'there's nothing  
15 else but grass there. Aunt there's lots of grass in that field.'

16 'Perhaps the grass in the other field is better' suggested the aunt.

17 'Why is it better?' came the swift, inevitable question.

18 'Oh, look at those cows!' exclaimed the aunt. Nearly every field along the  
19 line had cows or bullocks, but she spoke as though she were drawing  
20 attention to a rarity.

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43 The aunt bristled in instant defense at this unexpected attack.  
44 'It's a very difficult thing to tell stories' that children can both understand  
45 and appreciate,' she said stiffly.

**Questions**

1. Where was the train scheduled to stop next?

(01 mark)

2. Who were the occupants of the compartment?

(02 marks)

3. How did the children respond to the aunt when the aunt wished to stop them from some mischievous act?

(02 marks)

4. What do we learn about the nature of children from the questions Cyril asks from his aunt about the grass?

(02 marks)

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5. Pick out the sentence which shows that the stranger was annoyed by the conversation between the child and aunt.

(01 mark)

6. What did the aunt do to draw the child's attention away from the sheep?

(01 mark)

7. Is the aunt a good story-teller according to the author?

Answer 'Yes' or 'No'.

(01 mark)

Pick out a sentence in support of your answer.

(01 mark)

8. What method does the aunt use at the beginning to draw their attention to the story?

(02 marks)

9. Whose arguments do you think are much stronger? The child's or the aunt's? Explain.

(03 marks)

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10. What was the bachelor's comment at the end of the story?  
Write it down in your own words.  
  
  
  
  
**(02 marks)**

11. Do you think the children were glad to be with the aunt? 'Yes' or 'No'?  
  
  
  
  
**(01 mark)**  
Give a reason for your answer.  
  
  
  
  
  
**(01 mark)**

13. Find words from the passage which mean the same as follows.

- (i) compartment - .....
- (ii) unwillingly - .....
- (iii) quick - .....
- (iv) regular - .....
- (v) foolish - .....

**(05 marks)**

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