

**Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration**

**Second Language Test for Officers in Sri Lanka Administrative Service,  
Sri Lanka Engineering Service, Sri Lanka Scientific Service,  
Sri Lanka Architects' Service – October/November 2010**

**(15) ENGLISH**

**Two hours**

There are nine (9) questions in this paper.  
Answer all the questions on this paper itself.

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**Question 01 . Complete the blanks in the text with the correct form of the verb given in brackets. 10 items 10 marks**

E.g. The Minister of Finance ..... (to present) the National Budget to Parliament. The Minister of Finance presents the National Budget to Parliament.

High budget deficits (1) ..... (to lead) to higher borrowings. Every country must be careful that the debt does not (2) .....(to run) out of control. In 1950, Sri Lanka's debt (3) .....(to stand) at Rs 0.8 billion but it has (4) ..... (to grow) to Rs 4,161.4 billion in 2010. According to the Central Bank, the increase in the debt (5) ..... (to be) a result of continuous high budget deficits. When there are high budget deficits, a government has (6) ..... (to borrow) more and more. At the present time, under the present circumstances, it (7) ..... (to become) more expensive to pay back foreign debts. In 2010, Sri Lanka (8)..... (to have) to spend more for this than in 2009. The Central Bank says that bringing down the budget deficit would (9) .....(to ensure) control over inflation and interest rates which (10) .....(to require) to expand growth.

(Adapted from a news report)

**Question 02 Complete the blanks in the following text with prepositions . Each preposition should be used only once. 10 items 10 marks**

E.g. Government offices usually open at 09:00 o'clock.

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority expects to contribute 40%(1) ..... National Development (2) ..... ten years. The current contribution, however, is (3) .....10%. According to well informed sources, the expansion (4) ..... the Port will increase the demand (5) ..... services in the international shipping industry and it is expected that (6) ..... 12.5 million containers can be handled in the upgraded port. The expanded port will be built (7) ..... land reclaimed (8) .....the sea. (9) ..... the first phase, a new

breakwater will be constructed. (10) .....the next phase, terminals and other facilities will be built.

(Adapted from a news report)

**Question 03. Use the jumbled parts to produce meaningful sentences. 5 items 10 marks**

E.g. only/to avoid/are fully opened/reservoir sluices/usually/risks/a warning/after.

*Usually, reservoir sluices are fully opened only after a warning to avoid risks.*

3.1 responsible/an accounting officer/expenditure/for/received/is held/of money

.....  
.....

3.2 of/their/are unable/ the public/work/in/to complete/some members/one day.

.....  
.....

3.3 are/is extended/if/a tender/of /the closing date/reasons/there/valid.

.....  
.....

3.4 the public sector/qualifications/as an employee / necessary/certain/are/join/to

.....  
.....

3.5 about/the government/decisions/carries/gazette/information/government

.....  
.....

**Question 04 . Join the following sentences with the words in the box. One word should be used only once. 5 items 10 marks**

E.g. Competitors submit tenders.

They are opened by the Board .

*Competitors submit tenders which are opened by the Board.*

when, who, which, where, that
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4.1 Inquiries are held.

There are complaints about discipline.

.....  
.....

4.2 A new project has been launched.

The project hopes to raise the standard of English in Sri Lanka.

.....  
.....

4.3 Officers of the Ministry of the Environment visit sites.

There are serious problems of pollution.

4.4 Some government employees make special contributions to the service.

These employees are given recognition.

4.5 Some Project Proposals have been rejected.

They do not meet the requirements.

Question 05.

Add meaning to the verbs underlined in the following sentences by using the adverbs in the box. One word should be used only once. 5 items 5 marks

The inspection tour was .....difficult because of the bad weather.

The inspection tour was extremely difficult because of the bad weather.

completely, vehemently, satisfactorily, totally, unexpectedly.

5.1 Taxes on some motor vehicles were ..... lowered.

5.2 The tsunami of 2004, ..... destroyed many buildings.

5.3 Most employees ..... object to the lowering of the retirement age.

5.4 During floods some buildings are ..... submerged.

5.5 According to some reports, repairs to some of the roads have not been ..... completed.

**Question 06 .**

Complete each of the following sentences with two suitable adjectives. Each adjective should be used only once. 10 items 10 marks

E.g. The new steel gate of the Kolonnawa factory was replaced without a reason recently.

- 6.1 The ..... building was pulled down to erect a new one.
- 6.2 Many of the ..... graduates expect the Government to provide them employment.
- 6.3 Foreign aid from ..... countries causes problems to developing countries.
- 6.4 Flooding in the city of Colombo has been caused by ..... filling of lowlands.
- 6.5 The ..... reduction in the import duty on cars was welcome.

**Question 07.**

Read the text and answer the following questions. Total marks 15

7.1 5 items 5 marks

7.1.1 What was supposed to be the role of the eucalyptus tree?

.....  
.....

7.1.2 How were eucalyptus plantations exploited?

.....  
.....

7.1.3 Why was the planting of eucalyptus trees not popularly accepted by some?

.....  
.....

7.1.4 What is the position in the eucalyptus plantations now?

.....  
.....

7.1.5 Why does the eucalyptus tree form galls?

.....  
.....

7.2 5 items 5 marks

Explain the meanings of the following words in a short sentence or a phrase.

7.2.1 reputation in line 5,

.....

7.2.2 severely in line 7,

7.2.3 invasive in line 10,

7.2.4 infected in line 13,

7.2.5 abnormal in line 14,

7.3 5 items 5 marks

What do the following words refer to?

7.3.1 **they** in line 6 refers to.....

7.3.2 **their** in line 7 refers to .....

7.3.3. **Those** in line 15 refers to.....

7.3.4 **itself** in line 17 refers to .....

7.3.5 **it** in line 24 refers to .....

Eucalyptus, the stately giants of the hill country slopes, introduced to Sri Lanka as a forest plantation species, along with teak and mahogany, has had a controversial reputation. Though found to be useful for railway sleepers, and industrial timber, they were severely opposed because of their adverse effects on soil fertility, hydrology and biodiversity. Now comes a new cause for concern with a fast spreading invasive pest attack affecting areas of eucalyptus in the hill country. When attacked, the leaves of the infected eucalyptus trees start developing abnormal bulbous swellings on the leaves or stems. Those are called galls

and are, in fact, the plant's attempt to protect **itself** from an unusual occurrence. In this case, the larvae of the insect, after hatching out of the eggs, remain in a cavity formed within the plant tissues which results in the formation of galls. The insect has been identified as a Eucalyptus Gall Wasp. According to one entomologist, this is the first time that **it** has been reported in Sri Lanka. It is understood that research on **this** is still at an early stage and more time is required to carry out a comprehensive study to understand the nature of the new pest. (203 words)

(From a report by Malaka Rodrigo, 28 June 2010)

**Question 08** You have been invited to speak to a group of young graduates who have just joined the public sector as Planning Officers. Write a speech of not less than 250 words to explain the following, (a) Government expectations (b) expectations of the average citizen. Do NOT write more than the required number of words plus 5%. 15 marks

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39. ....

**Question 09** Write a letter to a tenderer (Neo Design Builders, 55, Anniversary Avenue, Panadura) who has defaulted in completing the work in time. Refer to the following (a) The problems caused because of the delay (b) Your wish to handover the issue to your Attorneys at Law if an acceptable valid reason is not submitted within 14 days. 15 marks

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- 40.....

*This is the end of your question paper.*

*✓*