

General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination, April 2003  
**GENERAL ENGLISH I**

Three hours

**A GRAMMER**

**I Underline** the word within the brackets that is most suitable for the blank in the sentence.

Late one afternoon my uncle met a stranger on the road leading to our village. 'How long will it take me (1) ..... (walked, will walk, to walk) to the next village?' asked the stranger. My uncle said (2) ..... (everything, nothing, anything).

Puzzled, the stranger thought to (3) ..... (him, himself, he) that my uncle must be either stupid (4) ..... (and, nor, or) deaf. So he asked again, louder, 'How (5) ..... (many, much, long) will it take me to walk to the next village?' My uncle heard him, thought about the matter, (6) ..... (but, although, so) still did not answer.

Now the stranger shook him. He asked (7) ..... (angry, angrier, angrily) this time, 'How Long will it take (8) ..... (me, myself, I) to get to the next village?' My uncle

an, the) angry traveller. He turned away and (11) ..... (began, begin, begins) to walk with quick great strides towards the village. My uncle watched him (12) ..... (to, for, in) a minute or two and then called out to the stranger.

'What (13) ..... (are, did, do) you want?' asked the man. 'It will take about fifteen minutes,' said my uncle. 'Why didn't you tell me that (14) ..... (before, now, after)?' asked the surprised stranger.

'How (15) ..... (will, do, could) I tell" said my uncle, 'before I saw how fast you walked?'

**II Fill in the blanks** in the following text with a suitable **preposition** or **pronoun**.

A woman was always quarrelling (1) ..... her husband about new clothes and jewellery. One day (2) ..... said, 'Bring two new saris and a diamond ring (3) ..... me or I shall go back to (4) ..... parents' house.' 'Fine,' said the husband, 'And when you come back bring (5) ..... a suit length and a wristwatch.'

**III Fill in the blanks** in the following text with the correct form of the verb given in brackets. You may need to use the passive voice sometimes.

Hanwella is a village on the route to the hill country. It (1) ..... (situated) by the Kelani Ganga about 45 kilometres from Colombo. It (2) ..... (be) once a Portuguese fortress. After the Portuguese (3) ..... (come) to Sri Lanka in the 15th century, Hanwella (4) ..... (become) an important place with camps (5) ..... (establish) in times of war. Remains of the fortress (6) ..... (exist) to this day in the grounds of Hanwella Rest House which (7) ..... (build) in British times.

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**IV** Join the following pairs of sentences using one of the **conjunctions** given in brackets.

(1) I got up late.  
I managed to catch the train. (because, although, when)  
.....

(2) They waited at the bus halt.  
The bus came. (until, but, since)  
.....

(3) You work hard.  
You cannot score high marks. (if, unless, although)  
.....

**B** **READING COMPREHENSION**

Read the passage below, and answer the questions that follow, in your own words. You may give short answers.

**The Secret Few People Guess**

Brenda Linson never goes anywhere without an empty spectacle case. It is as vital to her as her purse. Yet she doesn't wear glasses. The reason she can't do without it, is because she can't read and she can't write. If ever she gets into any situation where she might be expected to do either of these things, she fishes around in her bag for the spectacle case, finds it empty, and asks another person to do the task for her.

Brenda is now in her late thirties. She's capable and articulate and until a few months ago hardly anybody knew she was illiterate. Her children still don't.

She had any number of tactics to conceal her difficulty - for example, never staying near a phone at work in case she had to answer it and was required to write something down. But, in fact, it is easier for illiterates to conceal the truth than the rest of us might imagine. Literacy is so much taken for granted that people simply don't spot the giveaway signs.

It has never occurred to her children that their mother cannot read. She doesn't read them stories, but then their father doesn't either. Similarly they just accept that Dad is the one who writes the sick notes and reads the school reports. Now that the elder boy Tom is quite a proficient reader, Brenda can skillfully get him to read any notes brought home from school.

Brenda's husband never guessed the truth in ten years of marriage. For one thing he insists on handling all domestic correspondence and bills himself. An importer of Persian carpets, he travels a great deal and so was not around much to spot the truth. While he's away, Brenda copes with any situation by explaining that she can't do anything until she's discussed it with her husband.

Brenda has been very successful in her job. For the last five years she has worked as a waitress at an exclusive private club, and was promoted to head waitress. She kept the thing a secret there too, and got over the practical difficulties somehow.

- (1) Why does Brenda Linson always carry a spectacle case with her?  
.....
- (2) Does Brenda's husband know now that she cannot read or write? How do you know?  
.....
- (3) Why did Brenda avoid going near the telephone at her place of work?  
.....
- (4) Why did the writer say it is easy for illiterates to hide the fact that they cannot read or write?  
.....
- (5) What does Brenda's husband do as a job?  
.....
- (6) Who reads out the notes brought from school for Brenda?  
.....
- (7) Where does Brenda work?  
.....
- (8) Give words similar in meaning to the following - **vital** (line 1), **cope with** (last sentence of one before the last paragraph).  
.....
- (9) What do the following refer to? - **it** (line 2), **the thing** (last sentence)  
.....
- (10) The one before the last paragraph refers to '**one thing**'. What is the second thing?  
.....

**C SUMMARIZING**

**I** Write down the main idea of each of the following paragraphs in one sentence each, in your own words. Use the space beneath each paragraph.

- (1) In ancient times an elephant was as powerful a weapon as a missile is today. Generals depended on these animals because a group of elephants could trample an army or batter down the walls of a city. In the battlefield an elephant was the equivalent of a modern armed tank.  
.....  
.....  
.....
- (2) There are two things the manager of a sports team must do that are an essential part of his job. They are cooperating with the authorities and earning the respect of his players. If a manager does not do either one of these, he is a failure.

.....  
.....  
.....

(3) People associate red with a strong feeling like anger. When someone is very angry, people say that he or she sees red. Red is an active colour. A red letter day is a lucky day. Green is associated with jealousy. Blue is a sad thoughtful colour, When someone is very sad we say they feel blue.

.....  
.....  
.....

II Write a summary of the following text in between 30 and 40 words in the space given below.

**Changing Roles**

Right now many changes are taking place in the roles of husbands and wives. The wife is not satisfied with the prospect of staying at home the rest of her life. Even if she enjoys housework and child care, she sees herself as more than a housekeeper and mother. She is looking for a way to establish her own identity. If she gets a job, she does not have to apologize for working. Self-reliance is crucial to her, and she tries to become as free as her husband.

The husband's role is changing too. He is beginning to realize that his job cannot be the only important thing in his life. He understands that he must share family responsibilities with his wife if he wants to be an equal partner and parent. Washing dishes and changing nappies does not bother him, and he does not consider himself effeminate for doing so-called 'women's work'.

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**D WRITING**

**I For informal purposes.**

Write a letter to a friend whom you have not met for five years, telling him / her what has happened to you during this period. Use about 100 words.

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**II For formal purposes.**

You have been working for Colombo Commerce Company for some time and you feel that you deserve a salary increase. Write a letter to the manager of the company asking for this. Your letter should be about **150** words in length and should include the following.

- \* How long you have been working in the firm
- \* Why you deserve a salary increase (give at least 3 reasons)
- \* An assurance that you will work with commitment in the future as well

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\* \* \*

General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination, April 2003  
**GENERAL ENGLISH II**

*Two and a half hours*

**A VOCABULARY**

**I Underline** the word within the brackets that is most suitable for the blank in the sentence.

- (1) The telephone is now a ..... of modern life. (needy, want, necessity, necessary)
- (2) The ..... of the war is still felt in many parts of the country. (effect, affective, affect, affected)
- (3) He could not ..... his care because there was no petrol in it. (begin, commence, start, open)
- (4) Mala is a gentle girl who has always been ..... to criticism. (aware, sensitive, conscious, afraid)
- (5) They searched for the Minister's number in the telephone ..... (directory, register, catalogue, record book)
- (6) This shirt is very expensive. It ..... me eight hundred rupees. (sold, priced, cost, charged)
- (7) She emptied the ..... of her purse onto the table. (money, valuables, contents, items)

- (8) Money collected from this concert will be used to ..... farmers with modern tools. (possess, provide, provoke, prove)
- (9) The government's management of the ..... has been severely criticized by many. (economics, economical, economy, economize)
- (10) Rupa knows more than 1000 English words, since reading widely has helped to ..... her vocabulary. (enrich, equip, remember, fulfil)
- (11) That shop sells things at a ..... price. Many people buy their provisions there. (reduction; declining, attractive, reasonable)
- (12) All the students were scared of the chemistry teacher. No one dared to ..... what he said. (contrast, comment, contradict, contrary)
- (13) My friend is very ..... . He has never let me down. (reliable, honest, clever, smart)
- (14) Ananda was getting ..... because all his applications for jobs were rejected. (devoted, destitute, depressed, dependent)
- (15) All of us ..... verbally as well as non-verbally. (write, read, listen, communicate)

**II** Read the following headlines and news items and give the meaning of the highlighted words in the space beneath.

- (1) **Stench** cancels WPC meeting.  
An overpowering stench in the auditorium of Sausiripaya forced the cancellation of the Western Provincial Council meeting yesterday. The members had to leave with their handkerchiefs to their noses because of the stench.  
.....
- (2) Jayasuriya disappoints fans as Australia **crushes** Sri Lanka.  
Australia handed Sri Lanka a 9 - wicket thrashing in their final preliminary round encounter in Melbourne yesterday.  
.....
- (3) The government to discuss the reduction of gas prices.  
Talks on a possible reduction of gas prices **commence** tomorrow between the government and the gas companies. Consumers are anxiously waiting for a positive outcome.  
.....
- (4) Protecting depositors through Central Bank supervision.  
The **collapse** of Pramuka Bank was preceded by several signals usually seen before a bank failure.  
.....

- (5) Hoaxers may face severe **penalties**.  
 “Hello, there’s a bomb.” This was told to police 56 times last year, up from 36 in 2001, and now the government is thinking of stiffening the laws to stop such hoaxers.

.....

**III** Use **five** of the following words in sentences that bring out their meaning. You may use the verbs in any tense.

**Assistance,      saftey,      encounter,      decrease,      apologize,**  
**celebrate,      belong,      influence,      decide,      protest**

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 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
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**B DIALOGUES**

**I** You witnessed a robbery and are describing the robbery to a policeman. Given below is what he said. Complete your part of the dialogue appropriately.

*Policeman* - Can you remember what the robber looked like?  
*You* - (1) .....  
*Policeman* - I see. But whatever you saw will be helpful. For instance, What was his complexion?  
*You* - (2) .....  
*Policeman* - And can you remember anything about his build?  
*You* - (3) .....  
*Policeman* - Did he have any distinguishing features - a scar or anything like that?  
*You* - (4) .....  
*Policeman* - Well, that’s very useful. Now can you remember what he was wearing?  
*You* - (5) .....  
*Policeman* - You have beeb very helpful. Thank you very much.

**II** Fill in the missing parts of the following dialogues appropriately.

**At school**

*Nimal* - Hello, Rajan, can I borrow your chemistry book please?  
*Rajan* - (1) .....  
*Nimal* - Oh, dear. When is he returning it?  
*Rajan* - (2) .....  
*Nimal* - Can I borrow it then?

Rajan - (3) .....  
Nimal - Of course, I'll return it soon.

**At a shoe shop**

Salesman - Good morning. Can I help You?  
You - (4) .....  
Salesman - What colour do you prefer?  
You - Black, please.  
Salesman - (5) .....  
You - Size 9 I think.

**COMPREHENSION**

Read the following poem and answer the questions given below. You must use your own words.

**French Peasants**

These going home at dusk  
Along the lane  
After the day's warm work  
Do not complain. 4

Were you to say to them,  
'What does it mean?  
What is it all about,  
**This troubled dream?**' 8

**They** would not understand,  
They'd go their way,  
Or, if they spoke at all,  
They'd merely say, 12

'Dawn is the time to rise,  
Days are to earn  
Bread and the mid-day rest,  
Dusk to return; 16

'To be content, to pray;  
To hear songs sung  
Or to make wayside love,  
If one is young, 20

'All from the good God comes,  
**All then is good;**  
Sorrow is known to Him,  
And understood.' 24



One who has questioned all,  
 And was not wise,  
**Might be ashamed to meet**  
**Their quiet eyes.** 28

All is so clear to them,  
 All is so **plain**,  
 Those who go home at dusk,  
 Along the lane. 32 *by Monk Gibbon*

- (1) To what do the following pronouns refer? **They** (Line 9), **Him** (Line 23)  
 .....
- (2) Describe the daily routine of the peasants.  
 .....
- (3) Give the opposites of the following words, as they are used in the poem - **dusk** (Line i),  
**plain** (Line 30)  
 .....
- (4) In what country is this poem set?  
 .....
- (5) Why is the work of the peasants described as '**warm**' (Line 3)?  
 .....
- (6) Give the meaning of the following words, as they are used in the poem - **peasants**  
 (title), **content** (Line 17)  
 .....
- (7) Why do the peasants say, '**All then is good**' (Line 22)?  
 .....
- (8) What line in this poem is used to describe **life**?  
 .....
- (9) What sort of person '**might be ashamed to meet their quiet eyes**' (Line 27 - 28)?  
 .....
- (10) What ideas does the writer convey to the reader through this poem?  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

**D WRITING**

**I Note**

You went to visit a friend, but he / she has gone out. You need to speak to him / her urgently. Write the note you would have left, using about 30 words.

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.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**II Composition**

Write a description of someone you admire and respect, either someone you know or a famous person. Write about 200 words. Include the following in your essay -

- (a) A brief biography of this person
- (b) His / her qualities
- (c) Why you admire and respect him / her.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

\* \* \*

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**GENERAL ENGLISH I**

**Answers**

**A**

- I**
- |            |            |            |         |
|------------|------------|------------|---------|
| 1. to walk | 2. nothing | 3. himself | 4. or   |
| 5. long    | 6. but     | 7. angrily | 8. me   |
| 9. still   | 10. the    | 11. began  | 12. for |
| 13. do     | 14. before | 15. could  |         |

- II**
- |         |        |        |       |       |
|---------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| 1. with | 2. she | 3. for | 4. my | 5. me |
|---------|--------|--------|-------|-------|

- III**
- |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. is situated                   | 2. was/ had been |
| 3. had come/came                 | 4. became        |
| 5. established/being established | 6. exist         |
| 7. was built                     |                  |

- IV**
1. Although I got up late, I managed to catch the train./ I managed to catch the train although I got up late.
  2. They waited at the bus halt until the bus came.

3. Unless you work hard, you cannot score high marks./ You cannot score high marks unless you work hard.

**B**

1. She always carried a spectacle case to hide the fact that she cannot read or write./ To conceal the fact that she is illiterate.
2. No. From the sentence 'Brenda's husband never guessed the truth in ten years of marriage./ Yes. ... until a few months ago hardly anybody knew she was illiterate. Her children stil don't know.
3. To avoid taking down messages./ Because she can't write down any message.
4. Because literacy is taken for granted by all.
5. He is an importer of Persian carpets./ He sells Persian carpets./ He is a businessman/ trader.
6. Tom / Her elder son Tom reads out the notes.
7. She works in a private club./ In an exclusive private club.
8. vital -(very) important / essential  
copes with - manages / handles / deals with
9. it - spectacle case  
the thing - that he cannot read or write / that she is illiterate.
10. He travelled a lot and was not around to find out the truth.

**C**

- I**
1. In ancient times the elephant was used as a powerful weapon in the battle field.
  2. The manager of the sports team should cooperate with the authorities concerned in order to be successful in his job.
  3. Colours are associtaed with human feelings.

**II**

**Changing Roles**

Time	has	changed	nowadays.	Housewives
are	good	housekeepers	but	are
anxious	to	hold	good	jobs
along	with	their	housework.	This
has	been	realized	by	husbands
and	have	started	to	share
the	family	responsibilities	with	their
wives	without	any	indifferences	

D

I

23/4, Trincomalee Road,  
Kandy.  
25.07.03

Dear Mehesh

How are you? You would be surprised to see my letter. I was wondering how to contact you without your address after you left Jaffna in 1998.

Now I am living with my uncle in Kandy. You would be shocked to hear that I've lost my father in 1999, after the insurgent trouble. He was the only soul left to take care of me. So my uncle brought me here and admitted me in K/Kingswood College. Its a nice college but, I couldn't cope with them for 3 months due to change of place. Now I'm in A/L. All the students are nice and good.

Last week I met your Rajan Anna at the Bank. I inquired about you and got your address. Please write to me.

Awaiting your early reply,

Your everloving friend,  
*Ananthan*

II

25, Neila Avenue,  
Nawala.  
23.02.03

The Manager,  
Colombo Commerce Company,  
Colombo - 02.

Sir,

**Requesting a Salary Increase.**

I would like to bring to your kind notice that I have been working as a store keeper since 1990. Now I am married and father of three children. My salary was increased as shown below.

Year	Salary
1995	Rs. 8,500.00
2001	Rs. 8,750.00

I had been requesting several times, but it was ignored by the authorities concerned. Until now I had managed with this poor salary. But now the cost of living had risen up and my salary is hardly enough to manage with. All my children are at their schooling stage and I find it difficult to make both ends meet, with this amount.

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Sir, there are so many commitments like clothing, schooling, travelling, tuition, feeding, medication and rent, which are unavoidable

Sir Please show mercy and increase my salary

Awaiting your favourable reply,

Yours faithfully

*7. Pathmeseelan*

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## GENERAL ENGLISH II

### Answers

#### A

- |          |              |             |                 |
|----------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>I</b> | 1. necessity | 6. cost     | 11. reasonable  |
|          | 2. effect    | 7. contents | 12. contradict  |
|          | 3. start     | 8. provide  | 13. reliable    |
|          | 4. sensitive | 9. economy  | 14. depressed   |
|          | 5. directory | 10. enrich  | 15. communicate |

- II**
1. smell, bad smell / odour, fould smell / odour, offensive smell / odour
  2. defeats
  3. begin / start
  4. failure / fall / bankruptcy / ruin
  5. punishments / fines

#### III

##### Assistance

A principal could not manage the school without the **assistance** of the staff.

##### Safety

The office staff ran to **safety** places as they heard the sound of bomb blast.

##### Encounter

The soildiers were reluctant to **encounter** the enemy's attack.

##### Appologize

The wife after a long argument hesitated to **appolgize** her mistake.

##### Celebrate

Christians **celebrate** only Christmas and New Year grandly.

##### Belongs

We all must think the govenments' property **belongs** to us and use it carefully.

##### Influence

The van driver drove under the **influence** of liquor during election.

**Decide**

Think twice before you **decide** to do a work.

**Protest**

We must not hesitate to **protest** if a person does an incorrect thing.

**B**

- I**
1. I didn't / couldn't see him properly/ well. (**Any answer that implies that he did not see robber well should be accepted.**)
  2. He was fair / dark / brown / black.
  3. He was well-built / small made / short / tall / fat etc. (**any answer referring to size should be acceptable.**)
  4. He had a moustache / beard / a scar on his chin etc.
  5. Yes, he was wearing a checked shirt and a black trousers.
- II**
1. I'm sorry. I've lent it to ... / ..... has borrowed it / It's with .....
  2. He promised to return it next week. / Most probably in a day or two. (**Any answer that indicates future time**)
  3. Of course / Sure, but you will have to return it soon / within ..... days.
- III**
4. Good morning. I am looking for / I need / I want a pair of shoes / slippers / boots.
  5. What's your size, please? / May I know your size, please?

**C**

1. They - the peasants / the French peasants.  
Him - God
2. They get up at dawn, work till midday, rest in the afternoon and return home in the evening / dusk. (**If they have mentioned three of these things full marks, two things 1 mark**)
3. dusk - dawn, plain - unclear / confused / complex / complicated.
4. In France.
5. Because they work in the hot sun.
6. Peasants - farmers / villagers / countrymen / workers. content - satisfied / happy
7. Because God has given them everything. / Because everything comes from God.
8. This troubled dream
9. Intellectuals who questioned about life / God.
10. Any answer that implies contentment with life.

**D**

**I**

Thinesh,

I have to travel to Jaffna to see my father who is serious. I need a loan of Rs. 15,000/=.  
Please be ready with money at 5.00 p.m.

*Bala*

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### **Mother Theresa**

Mother Theresa was an embodiment of love and charity. She was the founder of the sisters of the missionaries of Charity, in India. Her mission spread rapidly to many parts of the world. She was an outstanding example of such a mission who served the lowliest in streets and slums.

Mother Theresa was born to Albanian parents in 1910 on August 26th. At the age of eighteen she submitted to the call of God and entered the Loretto Convent, in Dublin. She became a nun in 1931. She was offered teaching appointment in Calcutta.

She was anxious to serve among the suffering in the slums in Calcutta, so began by teaching five children under a tree, in the streets. Some years later she was provided a building and twelve nuns too joined the congregation, which was approved by the Holy Vatican. She also introduced white cotton saree with a blue border for the congregation. She provided a happy death for those suffered from deadly diseases and looked after unwanted children. Her death occurred on September 5th in 1997, at the age of eighty-seven.

I admire such a leading mother for her service to the poor and disabled. She had loving trust in God.

