

A/L GENERAL ENGLISH · PRACTICE PAPER SERIES

MODEL PAPER 02

The Cyber World and Artificial Intelligence

PAPER I · 60 MARKS · 1 HOUR

PAPER II · 140 MARKS · 3 HOURS

FINAL SCORE = (I + II) ÷ 2

FREE TO USE · NOT FOR SALE

Practice paper. Format copied from the 2020/2024/2025 papers. Content is original. Biographical passages stick to well-known facts but are simplified for exam use — answer from the passage as printed.

Progress Today. **Greatness** Tomorrow.

අද දැනුමෙන් හෙට දිනුමට.



PAPER I

General English I · One hour · Total 60 marks

Instructions

- Answer all questions on this paper itself.
- Marks will be deducted for incorrect punctuation (omission of full stops, capital letters, etc.) and for mistakes in basic grammar.

PART A GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

35 MARKS

1 QUESTION 01

05 MARKS

Fill in the blanks in the following text, using the prepositions given in the box. Use each preposition only once. There is one preposition extra.

about for from in to with

A grandmother who had just been given a smartphone asked her grandson (1) some help.

"How do I send a message (2) my sister?" she asked.

The boy showed her patiently and then went to sit (3) the next room. Ten minutes later she called him again, looking very pleased (4) herself.

"It worked," she said. "But now the telephone is asking me something (5) my location, and I don't know whether I should tell a machine where I live."

2 QUESTION 02

10 MARKS

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb given within brackets.

A software engineer (1) (work) late one evening when his young daughter came into the room and asked what he was doing. He explained that he (2) (write) instructions that would tell a computer exactly what to do.

"So the computer only does what you tell it?" she asked.

"Yes," he said. "It (3) (never / think) for itself. If I (4) (make) a mistake, the mistake is repeated a million times."

The child considered this for a moment and then asked, "Then why (5) (be) people so afraid of computers?"

Her father laughed. Since that evening he (6) (tell) the story at every conference he attends. He says the question (7) (ask) by his daughter was better than most of the questions he (8) (receive) from professionals. If more engineers (9) (listen) to children, he believes, technology (10) (be) far easier to understand.

3

QUESTION 03

10 MARKS

Underline the most appropriate word from those given within brackets to fill in the blanks in the following text.

Online learning has changed education more quickly than anyone expected. Ten years ago, (1) (few / a few / little) students had ever attended a class through a screen. Today almost every university offers (2) (some / any / much) form of digital instruction.

The advantages are obvious. A student in a distant village can follow (3) (a / an / the) same lecture as a student in Colombo, (4) (although / because / unless) the connection is unreliable. Recordings can be replayed, (5) (so / nor / but) a learner who misses a point can simply listen again.

(6) (However / Therefore / Moreover), the picture is not entirely positive. Many students find (7) (it / its / it's) difficult to concentrate at home, and (8) (their / they're / there) is far less opportunity to ask questions spontaneously.

(9) (This / These / Those) problems do not mean that online learning has failed. They simply remind us that (10) (every / all / much) technology is only as useful as the way in which it is used.

4

QUESTION 04

05 MARKS

Underline the most appropriate word from those given within brackets.

Social media can (spread / scatter / throw / pour) false information very quickly.

Students must learn to (calculate / evaluate / estimate / measure) the reliability of online sources.

Passwords should be changed regularly to (protect / defend / guard / shelter) personal data.

Excessive use of mobile phones can (interrupt / disturb / distract / disorder) students from their studies.

The government has (introduced / presented / offered / delivered) new regulations on cybercrime.

5

QUESTION 05

05 MARKS

Underline the correct word-ending, selecting from those given within brackets.

The internet has brought both conveni (1) (ent / ence / ently) and danger into our homes. Communica (2) (tion / tive / ting) across continents now costs almost nothing, and count (3) (able / less / ful) services can be obtained without leaving one's chair. At the same time, care (4) (ful / fully / fulness) users are increasingly aware of how easily personal information can be misused. Digital literacy has therefore become absolute (5) (ly / ness / tion) essential for every citizen.

PART A · 35 MARKS

PART B READING AND WRITING**25 MARKS****6 QUESTION 06****05 MARKS**

Underline the option that best expresses the meaning of each of the sentences given below in bold print.

(1) Had the school installed a firewall, the students' data would not have been stolen.

- (a) The school installed a firewall and the data was safe.
- (b) The school did not install a firewall, so the data was stolen.
- (c) The school installed a firewall but the data was stolen anyway.
- (d) The students stole the data after the firewall was installed.

(2) Dinuka, whose laptop was repaired last week, submitted the assignment on time.

- (a) Dinuka repaired the laptop.
- (b) Dinuka submitted the assignment on time.
- (c) Dinuka's laptop submitted the assignment.
- (d) Dinuka failed to submit the assignment.

(3) No sooner had the video been uploaded than it went viral.

- (a) The video went viral before it was uploaded.
- (b) The video was uploaded but never became popular.
- (c) The video became popular very soon after it was uploaded.
- (d) The video took a long time to become popular.

(4) Rather than banning mobile phones, the principal decided to teach students to use them responsibly.

- (a) The principal banned mobile phones.
- (b) The principal did not ban mobile phones but taught responsible use instead.
- (c) The principal banned mobile phones and taught responsible use.
- (d) The principal allowed students to use phones without any guidance.

(5) Few of the parents were aware of the risks their children faced online.

- (a) Most of the parents knew about the risks.
- (b) All the parents knew about the risks.
- (c) Most of the parents did not know about the risks.
- (d) None of the children faced any risks.

7 QUESTION 07**10 MARKS**

Read the following four news items and answer the questions (I) and (II).

Cyber security unit set up for schools

The Ministry of Education announced on Tuesday, 3rd March that a special cyber security unit would be established to protect school networks. The unit, staffed by fifteen officers, will monitor threats and conduct awareness programmes for teachers and students. According to the Ministry, more than 1,200 schools now have their own computer laboratories, and complaints of unauthorised access have risen sharply over the past two years.

Sri Lankan app wins regional award

"Govi Setha", a mobile application developed by three undergraduates of the University of Moratuwa, won the top prize at a regional technology competition held in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, 5th March. The app allows farmers to identify crop diseases by photographing affected leaves. The team said the application

had already been downloaded by over 40,000 users, and that they intend to release a Tamil-language version this year.

Internet services restored in the north

Internet services in several areas of the Northern Province, which had been interrupted since Saturday, were fully restored on Sunday, 8th March. A telecommunications company said a damaged undersea cable had been repaired ahead of schedule. Customers affected by the interruption will receive a credit on their next bill.

Study warns of screen time among teenagers

A study released on Monday, 9th March by a Colombo university reports that Sri Lankan teenagers spend an average of five hours a day on screens outside school hours. The study surveyed 2,400 students in six districts. Researchers found that those who spent more than six hours a day online reported poorer sleep and lower concentration, although the report cautioned that it had not established a direct cause.

(I) Underline the most appropriate response in each of the questions from (1) to (5).

- (1) How many students were surveyed in the screen-time study?
(a) Fifteen (b) One thousand two hundred (c) Two thousand four hundred (d) Forty thousand
- (2) Which of the following happened on Sunday?
(a) The announcement of the cyber security unit
(b) The award ceremony in Kuala Lumpur
(c) The restoration of internet services in the north
(d) The release of the screen-time study
- (3) Who or what does the pronoun "they" refer to in the news item about the award?
(a) The farmers (b) The three undergraduates (c) The users (d) The competition organisers
- (4) Which of the following was not given in the news item about the cyber security unit?
(a) the number of officers in the unit
(b) the number of schools with computer laboratories
(c) the budget allocated to the unit
(d) the activities the unit will carry out
- (5) The underlined phrase "had not established a direct cause" in the fourth news item most nearly means
(a) had not proved that screen time was the reason.
(b) had not measured the amount of screen time correctly.
(c) had not surveyed enough students.
(d) had not published the findings.

(II) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above news items? In boxes (6) to (10), write True, False or Not Given.

	Statement	
(6)	Complaints of unauthorised access to school networks have increased in recent years.	
(7)	The "Govi Setha" application is already available in Tamil.	
(8)	The undersea cable was repaired earlier than had been expected.	
(9)	Customers in the north will receive a full refund of their monthly bill.	
(10)	The screen-time study covered students from six districts.	



QUESTION 08

10 MARKS

Write a paragraph beginning with the given sentence. Use about 75–100 words. Do not exceed the word limit. Do not write more than one paragraph.

The internet has changed the way we learn.

Write your answer below.

PART B • 25 MARKS



PAPER II

General English II · Three hours + 10 minutes reading time · Total 140 marks

PART A READING SKILLS

50 MARKS

1 QUESTION 01

10 MARKS

Read the following text in which some words are given in bold print. Then, underline the meaning that is most appropriate to the context for the words given in bold print from (1) to (10).

Stephen Hawking was a British physicist whose work (1) **transformed** the way scientists understand the universe. Born in Oxford in 1942, he showed an early talent for mathematics, although his teachers did not consider him a (2) **diligent** student. He went on to study at Oxford and then at Cambridge, where he began research into the origins of the universe.

At the age of twenty-one he was diagnosed with a rare and (3) **progressive** illness that gradually destroys the nerves controlling movement. Doctors told him he had only a few years to live. The diagnosis was (4) **devastating**, and for a time he almost abandoned his work. Yet the disease advanced more slowly than anyone had (5) **anticipated**, and he lived for more than half a century after it was identified.

As his body weakened, his (6) **intellect** remained undiminished. Unable to write equations by hand, he learned to hold entire calculations in his memory. His research on black holes (7) **overturned** several long-standing assumptions in physics.

He was equally determined that ordinary readers should share in these ideas. His book *A Brief History of Time* became an international (8) **phenomenon**, selling millions of copies. Speaking through a computerised voice, he became one of the most (9) **recognisable** scientists in the world.

He died in 2018, leaving behind a body of work, and a personal example, that continues to (10) **motivate** researchers and readers alike.

No.	Options
(1) transformed	confirmed · changed · questioned · recorded
(2) diligent	intelligent · hardworking · obedient · popular
(3) progressive	curable · worsening · infectious · painless
(4) devastating	surprising · shocking · encouraging · confusing
(5) anticipated	expected · demanded · reported · prevented
(6) intellect	ambition · reputation · mind · patience
(7) overturned	supported · reversed · explained · repeated
(8) phenomenon	failure · sensation · argument · tradition
(9) recognisable	wealthy · well-known · talkative · agreeable
(10) motivate	inspire · employ · confuse · replace

2

QUESTION 02

10 MARKS

Read the following text and answer questions (I) and (II).

① Professor Senaka Bibile was a Sri Lankan pharmacologist whose ideas about medicine reached far beyond his own country. Born in 1936, he studied medicine in Ceylon and later specialised in pharmacology, the science of how drugs act on the body. He joined the University of Peradeniya and became Professor of Pharmacology there while still a young man.

② His central concern was simple and practical. He observed that patients in poor countries were paying very high prices for medicines that were often unnecessary, because pharmaceutical companies marketed hundreds of similar products under different brand names. A single drug might be sold under twenty names at twenty prices, and doctors, influenced by advertising, frequently prescribed the most expensive.

③ His solution came to be known as the National Medicinal Drugs Policy, introduced in Sri Lanka in 1971. It rested on three principles: that medicines should be prescribed by their generic names rather than by brand names; that the state should import a limited list of essential drugs in bulk; and that prescribing decisions should be guided by evidence rather than by promotion. The result was a dramatic reduction in the cost of medicines.

④ The policy attracted international attention. It was studied by the World Health Organization and by other developing countries, and the concept of an "essential medicines list" that grew from this work is now used across the world. It also attracted opposition from powerful commercial interests.

⑤ In 1977 Professor Bibile travelled to Guyana on an assignment connected with this work. He died there, aged only forty-one. His policy was subsequently weakened in his own country, but the principle he defended — that access to affordable medicine is a right rather than a privilege — has outlasted him.

(I) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above text? Write True or False in the boxes (1) to (8).

	Statement	
(1)	Professor Bibile specialised in surgery.	
(2)	He became Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Peradeniya.	
(3)	He observed that the same drug was often sold under many different brand names.	
(4)	The National Medicinal Drugs Policy was introduced in 1977.	
(5)	The policy recommended prescribing medicines by their generic names.	
(6)	The policy increased the cost of medicines in Sri Lanka.	
(7)	His work was studied by the World Health Organization.	
(8)	He died in Sri Lanka at the age of forty-one.	

(II) Underline the most appropriate answer.

(9) Who or what does the pronoun "It" in bold print at the beginning of paragraph ④ refer to?

- (a) The World Health Organization
- (b) The National Medicinal Drugs Policy
- (c) The cost of medicines
- (d) The University of Peradeniya

- (10) The phrase "has outlasted him" in paragraph ⑤ most nearly means
- has been forgotten since his death.
 - has continued to exist after his death.
 - has been rejected by later scientists.
 - has been renamed after his death.

3

QUESTION 03

05 MARKS

Read the following poem and do the activities that follow.

The Glowing Window

A little screen inside my hand
Holds all the world I'll ever need —
The songs, the games, the endless news,
A hunger nothing seems to feed.

It shows me faces far away
And keeps me from the ones nearby;
My mother speaks across the room,
I answer her without reply.

Yet blame the glass and not the hand?
The choice was never in the light.
I put it down. The room came back.
The evening had been there all night.

(A) Underline the most appropriate response.

- In the first stanza, the poet describes the screen as
(a) fully satisfying. (b) never satisfying. (c) rarely used. (d) difficult to operate.
 - What does the poet mean by "I answer her without reply"?
(a) The speaker replies politely.
(b) The speaker makes a sound but does not really respond.
(c) The speaker cannot hear his mother.
(d) The speaker's mother does not expect an answer.
 - In the third stanza, the poet suggests that the responsibility lies with
(a) the screen. (b) the user. (c) the mother. (d) the evening.
 - The tone of the last two lines is one of
(a) anger. (b) quiet realisation. (c) amusement. (d) despair.
- (B) Write down a word, selecting from the poem, which means the same as "a strong desire or need."
.....

4

QUESTION 04

05 MARKS

Complete the blanks of the summary meaningfully and appropriately, using one word only from the passage titled "Digital Literacy."

Digital Literacy

Digital literacy is the ability to find, evaluate and use information from digital sources responsibly. It is often confused with the ability to operate a device, but the two are quite different. A student may be extremely skilled at using a smartphone and yet be entirely unable to judge whether the article she is reading is reliable.

The core of digital literacy is therefore judgement rather than technique. A digitally literate person asks who produced a piece of information, why it was produced and whether it can be confirmed elsewhere. She recognises that a photograph can be altered, that an anonymous account may not be a real person, and that the most widely shared story is not necessarily the most accurate one.

Digital literacy also involves protecting oneself. Strong passwords, caution about what is shared publicly, and an understanding of how personal data is collected are all part of it. Schools that teach only how to use software, and not how to think about it, leave their students only half prepared.

Summary

Digital literacy means using information from digital sources (1) and should not be confused with simply knowing how to operate a device. Its core is (2) rather than technique: a digitally literate person asks who produced information and whether it can be (3) elsewhere. Such a person also knows that a photograph can be (4) and that widely shared stories may not be accurate. Finally, digital literacy includes (5) oneself through strong passwords and caution about what is shared publicly.

5

QUESTION 05

20 MARKS

Read the following text and answer the questions from (1) to (5).

① For most of the last century, machines replaced muscle. Tractors did the work of bullocks, looms did the work of weavers, and each wave of mechanisation moved workers from one kind of job into another. Artificial intelligence is different in one important respect: it does not replace muscle but judgement. That is why the current debate about technology and employment feels unfamiliar even to those who have lived through earlier changes.

② The tasks most exposed are not the ones people expected. Routine cognitive work — drafting standard documents, summarising reports, checking data, answering predictable questions — can now be done in seconds by systems available to anyone with an internet connection. Meanwhile, work requiring physical dexterity in unpredictable settings, such as plumbing, nursing or electrical repair, remains difficult to automate. A machine can pass a law examination more easily than it can rewire a house.

③ In hospitals, AI systems now assist radiologists by flagging images that deserve closer attention, but the diagnosis remains a human decision. In classrooms, teachers use these tools to generate practice exercises and then spend the time saved on the students who are struggling. In each case the technology handles the repetitive component and the person handles the judgement.

④ For Sri Lanka the implications are mixed. The country's business process outsourcing sector, which employs tens of thousands of young people in data entry, transcription and customer support, is precisely the kind of work that automation performs well. At the same time, cheap and capable tools lower the barrier for small firms: a two-person company in Kurunegala can now produce marketing material, translate documents and analyse its own sales data without hiring specialists.

⑤ What follows is a question about education rather than technology. If the value of routine knowledge is falling, the value of the things machines do badly is rising: framing a problem clearly, judging whether an answer is plausible, working with people, and taking responsibility for a decision. These are not new skills. They are simply skills that examinations have never been very good at measuring.

⑥ Predictions in this field have a poor record, and confident forecasts of mass unemployment have been made — and disproved — several times before. The reasonable position is neither panic nor complacency. It is to assume that the tasks within many jobs will change faster than the jobs themselves disappear, and to prepare young people accordingly.

(1) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above text? Write True, False or Not Given in the boxes from (a) to (f). (06 marks)

	Statement	
(a)	According to the writer, earlier waves of mechanisation mainly replaced physical labour.	
(b)	Plumbing and nursing are among the easiest occupations to automate.	
(c)	AI systems now make the final diagnosis instead of radiologists.	
(d)	Sri Lanka's outsourcing sector employs tens of thousands of young people.	
(e)	The government has announced a national policy on artificial intelligence.	
(f)	The writer advises neither panic nor complacency about the effects of AI.	

(2) Answer the following. (03 marks)

(i) Underline the most appropriate option to complete the missing sentence in paragraph ③.

- (a) Artificial intelligence will soon replace doctors and teachers entirely.
- (b) In practice, the most common outcome so far has been assistance rather than replacement.
- (c) Hospitals and schools have refused to adopt artificial intelligence.
- (d) Radiologists and teachers are the two professions most at risk.

(ii) Why does the writer say the current debate "feels unfamiliar"?

- (a) Because the technology is more expensive than earlier machinery.
- (b) Because this time the technology replaces judgement rather than physical effort.
- (c) Because fewer people are employed than in the last century.
- (d) Because artificial intelligence is not available in most countries.

(iii) Which of the following best summarises the writer's advice?

- (a) Young people should avoid careers connected with technology.
- (b) Jobs will disappear rapidly and students should prepare for unemployment.
- (c) Tasks within jobs will change faster than jobs disappear, so education must adapt.
- (d) Examinations already measure the skills that will matter most.

(3) If you wish to extend each paragraph further, in which paragraphs do you include the following information? Match the information with the paragraphs of the text and write the number of the paragraph in the relevant box. (03 marks)

	Information	Paragraph
(a)	In the 1980s, economists wrongly predicted that computers would create permanent mass unemployment.	
(b)	A small tea exporter in Matala uses an AI tool to write product descriptions in three languages.	
(c)	An electrician must diagnose a fault in a building whose wiring plan no longer exists.	

(4) Who or what do the following pronouns in bold print refer to? (03 marks)

- (a) it (paragraph ①, "it does not replace muscle") :
- (b) these tools (paragraph ③) :
- (c) They (paragraph ⑤, last sentence) :



(5) Write one word in each blank, selecting from the passage, which means the same as the following. (05 marks)

- (a) Skill in using the hands :
(b) Done regularly and without variation :
(c) Seeming reasonable or likely to be true :
(d) Self-satisfaction that ignores possible danger : (e) Shown to be untrue :

PART A · 50 MARKS

PART B DIALOGUES**25 MARKS****6 QUESTION 06****05 MARKS**

How do you respond in each of the following situations? Write only one appropriate sentence or question for each, beginning with the word/s given.

- (1) Your friend shares a news item on social media that you know to be false. Warn her politely.
"I think"
- (2) You need the school ICT laboratory after school hours to finish a project. Ask the teacher in charge for permission.
"Sir, may ?"
- (3) A classmate has just won a national coding competition. Congratulate him.
"Well done"
- (4) Your younger brother spends the whole night playing online games. Advise him.
"You'd"
- (5) Someone asks for your password to log in to your account. Refuse politely, giving a reason.
"I'm sorry"

7 QUESTION 07**05 MARKS**

Imagine that your home internet connection has stopped working. Complete the following telephone conversation between you and the customer service officer. Do not use more than two sentences/questions in each blank.

- Officer :** Good morning. Customer service. How may I help you?
- You :** Good morning. (1)
- Officer :** I'm sorry to hear that. May I have your account number, please?
- You :** (2)
- Officer :** Thank you. I can see that there is a fault in your area.
- You :** (3) ?
- Officer :** Our technicians expect to restore the connection by this evening.
- You :** (4) ?
- Officer :** Yes, you will receive a text message as soon as the service is restored.

15 MARKS



PART B · 25 MARKS

PART C WRITING SKILLS

65 MARKS

9

QUESTION 09

05 MARKS

Select any five words from the list given below. Write five meaningful sentences using the selected words. You may use the verbs in any tense and nouns in singular or plural form. Do not change the form of the other words.

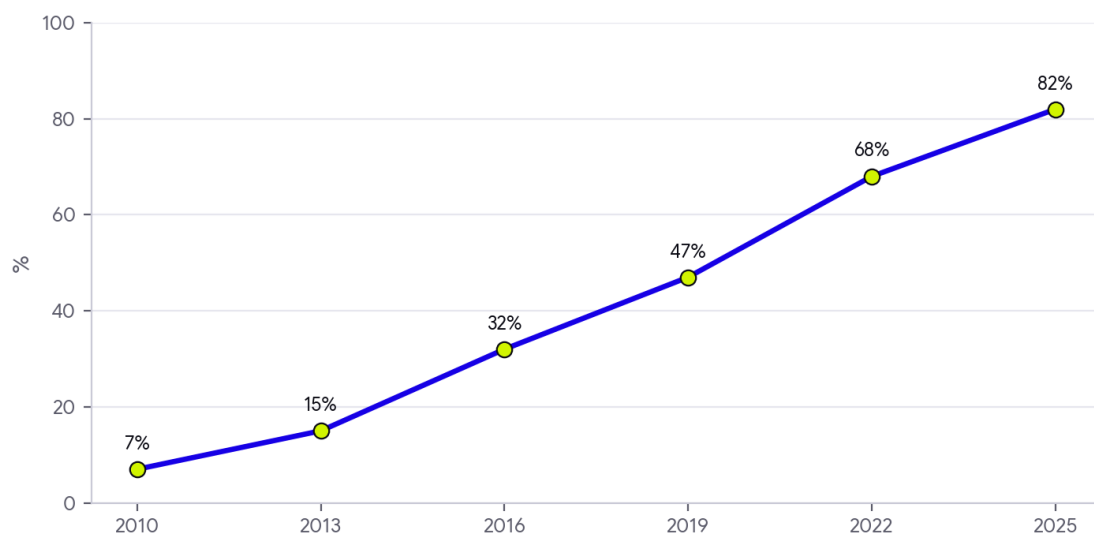
reliable permission download frequently accuracy innovative
restrict privacy carelessly device

10

QUESTION 10

10 MARKS

The line graph below shows the percentage of the Sri Lankan population using the internet from 2010 to 2025. Describe the information given in the graph by reporting the main features and making comparisons where relevant. Use about 100 words.



Write your answer below.



11**QUESTION 11****15 MARKS**

Imagine that you are the Secretary of the ICT Society of your school. Your society wishes to invite an old pupil, who now works as a software engineer, to conduct a workshop for Advanced Level students. Write an e-mail to him. In your e-mail, include the following:

- who you are and why you are writing
- a short description of the workshop you have in mind
- the proposed date, time and number of participants
- a polite request for his reply

Use about 100–125 words.

Write your answer below.

12

QUESTION 12

15 MARKS

Imagine that you are the Secretary of the Media Unit of your school. Your unit wants to start a school website. Write a letter to the Principal requesting permission. Include the following in your letter:

- what the website will contain
- who will maintain it and how
- what resources you will need
- a request for permission and for a meeting to discuss it

Use about 100–125 words.

Write your answer below.

13

QUESTION 13

20 MARKS

It is proposed that "Artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT should be allowed in schools." Do you agree or disagree? Write an essay giving reasons for your choice. Use about 150–200 words. Do not exceed the word limit.

Write your answer below.

PART C • 65 MARKS