

(13) General English

Structure of the Question Paper

Paper I - Time : 01 hour

- This paper consists of **two** parts as **Part A** and **B**.

Part A : Grammar & Vocabulary (35 marks)

This part consists of **five** questions. **All** questions should be answered.

Question 1 : Selected grammatical points 05 marks

Question 2 : Selected grammatical points 10 marks

Question 3 : Cloze test 10 marks

Question 4 : Word collocations 05 marks

Question 5 : Word formation 05 marks

Part B : Reading & Writing Skills (25 marks)

This part consists of **three** questions. **All** questions should be answered.

Question 6 : Sentence comprehension 05 marks

Question 7 : Basic reading skills 10 marks

Question 8 : Paragraph development 10 marks

Part A = 35 marks

Part B = 25 marks

Total marks of Paper I = 60 marks

Paper II - Time : 03 hours. (In addition, 10 minutes for reading.)

- This paper consists of **three** parts as **Part A, B** and **C**.

Part A : Reading Skills (50 marks)

This part consists of **five** questions. **All** questions should be answered.

Question 1 : Infer the meanings of words in a text 10 marks

Question 2 : Reading based on a short text 10 marks

Question 3 : Reading based on a poem 05 marks

Question 4 : Summary Cloze 05 marks

Question 5 : Reading based on a complex text 20 marks

Part B : Dialogues (25 marks)

This part consists of **three** questions. **All** questions should be answered.

Question 6 : Language functions 05 marks

Question 7 : Dialogue completion 05 marks

Question 8 : Dialogue construction 15 marks

Part C : Writing Skills**(65 marks)**

This part consists of **three** questions. **All** questions should be answered.

Question 9 : Sentence Construction	05 marks
Question 10 : Interpretation of data based on a graph/ chart/table	10 marks
Question 11 : Informal Letter/ E-mail/ Notice	15 marks
Question 12 : Formal Letter	15 marks
Question 13 : Essay	20 marks

Part A = 50 marks

Part B = 25 marks

Part C = 65 marks

Total marks of Paper II = 140 marks

Calculation of the final mark	Paper I	=	60
	Paper II	=	140
	Final mark	=	$200 \div 2 = \underline{\underline{100}}$

**(13) General English
Paper I**

Important :

* Answer **all** questions *on this paper* itself.

Time : 1 hour

○ Part A - Grammar and Vocabulary

(35 marks)

Question 01

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.

under	with	out of	for	into	on
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A woman had a frog made of gold. She wanted to make some ornaments (i) it. Since she could not trust any goldsmith with the work, she made her son learn (ii) a goldsmith. When the young man had learnt the art, she gave him the gold frog (iii) instructions to make her the ornaments. What her son did was something no other goldsmith would have dared to do. He put a live frog (iv) the furnace where he worked and when he blew (v) the fire, the frog hopped away. At once the young man shouted “Mother, see how the gold frog is running away”.

Q. 1

5

Question 02

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

Akbar, the great Mogul Emperor of India, had a very intelligent courtier. His name was Raja Birbal. One day, Akbar (i) (boast) that he could please any person in his empire. (ii) (Hear) this, Raja Birbal started laughing.

Then Emperor Akbar said, “Birbal, why (iii) you(laugh) mockingly? Am I not able to give my subjects anything they wish (iv) (have)? Don’t you know that I am the Emperor of India?”

“It is true that you are a very powerful ruler. But that (v) (not mean) you can please everybody. Can you prove that you are able to give any person what he (vi) (wish) to have? I am sure you can’t please even a little child. I will prove it”, said Birbal.

The following day, Birbal’s men brought him to the palace in a cradle. Birbal was lying in the cradle, (vii) (suck) his thumb and crying. Akbar wanted to know why he (viii) (cry).

Birbal told him that he wanted to drink some fresh milk off a cow. So the Emperor got him some fresh milk. When Birbal (ix) (finish) drinking it, he began to cry again.

“What do you want now?” asked Akbar.

“(x) (Put) the milk back into the cow.” said Birbal and began to cry louder. The Emperor then realized that he could not please everyone.

Q. 2

10

Question 03

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

Some say that ‘a little learning is dangerous’. However, in my experience (i) (as, since, because, until) a lawyer, I would say that (ii) (all, some, every, many) member of the public could benefit by (iii) (much, each, a, many) little knowledge, if not of the law itself, at least of what is to (iv) (being, be, should, has) done when he encounters ‘a legal problem’. The law touches most aspects of our lives; yet unlike science, history or literature, it is a subject about which most people receive no formal education. (v) (Much, Many, Every, This) people’s first encounter with the law comes only (vi) (until, since, when, although) they receive summons to appear in courts. However, it is important to appear in the court on the (vii) (that, due, these, prior) date; otherwise one may lose the case by default. Although a person (viii) (has, is, been, was) entitled to appear and argue (ix)(his/ he/him/ himself) case in person before any court in the country, it is (x)(agreeable, advisable, prohibited, compulsory) to retain a lawyer.

Q. 3

10

Question 04

Underline the correct word from those given within brackets.

- (1) In Singapore, chewing gum was officially in 1992. (excluded/ rejected/ banned/ restricted)
- (2) Sri Lankan universities provide hostel facilities for the most students. (deserving/ applicable/ urgent/ compatible).
- (3) Dr. Ray Wijewardene tried to soil fertility and to manage weeds. (control/ grow/ accelerate/ improve)
- (4) If we can understand and accept people who are different from us, we can a better society. (dictate, create, achieve, accomplish)
- (5) This disease is thought to have in the tropics. (originated/ started/ commenced/ begun)

Q. 4

5

Question 05

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

The hospital's consulting (i) diet.....(ery/ric/ician) was giving a lecture to several community nurses.

“ The rubbish we put into our stomachs and consume should have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. (ii) Consum..... (e/ption/able) of meat is terrible. It will attack your stomach lining. Chinese food is extremely bad. Vegetables can be (iii) disast.....(rous/er/rously) because of fertilizers and pesticides and none of us realizes the long-term damage being done by the rotten bacteria in our drinking water. However, there is one food that is (iv) incredi..... (ble/bility/ bly) dangerous and we all have, or will, eat it at some time in our lives.”

“Now, is anyone here able to tell me what food it is that (v) definit.....(e/ely/ive) causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?”

A 65-year-old nursing sister sitting in the front row stood up and said, 'Wedding cake'.

Q. 5

5

○ Part B - Reading & writing

(25 marks)

Question 06

Underline the option that best expresses the meaning of the sentences given below.

- (1) No sooner had Ravi arrived home than it started to rain.
- (i) It had rained before Ravi arrived home.
 - (ii) It started to rain as soon as Ravi arrived home.
 - (iii) After it started to rain, Ravi arrived home.
 - (iv) Ravi arrived home and after sometime, it started to rain.
- (2) Nirmala won't help the visitors until they reveal their identity.
- (i) Nirmala was not in favour of helping the visitors at all.
 - (ii) The visitors wanted Nirmala to help them and revealed their identity.
 - (iii) The visitors won't reveal their identity but Nirmala will help them.
 - (iv) Nirmala will help the visitors provided they disclose their identity.
- (3) Whenever Sugath goes to England, he makes it a point to watch a Shakespeare play.
- (i) Sugath is sure to watch a Shakespeare play when he goes to England.
 - (ii) Although Shakespeare plays are not very interesting, Sugath would watch them.
 - (iii) England is popular for Shakespeare plays, so Sugath goes there to watch them.
 - (iv) Sugath goes to England in order to watch a Shakespeare play.
- (4) Palm Tree hotel is not a cheap place for locals to stay.
- (i) Locals very often stay at Palm Tree hotel as it is cheap.
 - (ii) Palm Tree hotel is so expensive that locals can't afford to stay there.
 - (iii) Although Palm Tree hotel is expensive, locals prefer to stay there.
 - (iv) If locals want to stay in a cheap place, the best place is Plam Tree hotel.
- (5) Had Sureni helped Mohamed, he would have passed the examination.
- (i) Sureni helped Mohamed so that he could pass the examination.
 - (ii) Sureni helped Mohamed but he could not pass the examination.
 - (iii) Sureni did not help Mohamed so that he could not pass the examination.
 - (iv) Sureni did not help Mohamed but he could pass the examination.

Q. 6

5

Question 07

Read the following text and answer the questions (a) and (b).

Kandy to Jaffna Peace Bike Ride

The start

The bike ride starts at Pallekele International Stadium, Kandy.

Your *Start Time* is printed on the address label of the envelope. Please arrive no earlier than 30 minutes before that time. We allocate an equal number of cyclists for each *Start Time* to ensure a steady flow. Please keep to the time you've been given so we can keep to our schedule and avoid delaying other riders.

Ride carefully

We put together as many facilities as possible to ensure you have a trouble-free day. But we also rely on you to ride safely. Although many roads are closed to oncoming traffic, this is not always the case and you should be aware that there could be vehicles coming in the opposite direction. Please do not attempt reckless overtaking – remember it is NOT a race.

Wear a helmet

Every year we are delighted to see more riders wearing protective helmets, but we would like to see every cyclist on the ride wearing one. More than half of reported injuries are to the head, and a helmet gives the best protection.

Requesting assistance

If you have an accident, ask official organizers for help; they are in contact with the support services. To call for help from our official organizers, give a 'thumbs down' signal.

Refreshment stops

Look out for these along the route. Most are organized by voluntary clubs and their prices give you real value for money. They are also raising money for their local communities, so please give them your support.

(a) Underline the most appropriate response in each of the questions from (i) - (iv).

- (i) This text is most likely to be
 - (a) an advertisement published in a newspaper about the bike ride.
 - (b) an information guide sent to participants of the bike ride.
 - (c) a note on the rules and regulations of the bike ride.
 - (d) a news item giving the details of the bike ride.
- (ii) Which of the following is **not** indicated in this text?
 - (a) Why it is important to wear helmets during the ride.
 - (b) Why it is important for each participant to report in time.
 - (c) What should be done in case of an accident.
 - (d) What should be done if a 'thumbs down' signal is not responded to.

(13) General English Paper II

Important :

* Answer **all** questions *on this paper* itself.

Time : 3 hours

○ Part A - Reading skills

(50 marks)

Question 01

Read the passage given below in which some words are given in bold type. Then, underline the meaning that is most appropriate to the context for the words given in bold type from 1-10.

(10 marks)

Nita was recently married and had started living with her husband and in-laws. After a few months, she started to realize that she is not able to get along with her **conservative** mother-in-law. Soon they both started quarreling.

Nita became very **aggressive** over the time. As time passes, she started to think that she was obsessed with evil spirits as she had been cursed by her mother-in-law. One day, she found the following advertisement;

“Are you always hated by someone? Do you think that you have evil spirits following you? I have supernatural powers with the use of a special magical powder. This powder has **superb** magical powers. Contact me –Mama Sherine.”

After she had read this, she **rushed** to her father, told him everything that had been happening and asked him to meet Mama Sherine in person. Nita’s father felt pity at her situation but told her that seeking help from such persons would be of no use. But, Nita was in no mood to listen and understand. Finally, her father **gave in** and agreed to meet Mama Sherine. Nita was very pleased.

After a few days, her father gave her some powder and told her, “Everyday, just mix a little pinch of this powder in your mother-in-law’s meal. Remember the **quantity** should be very little. Also, no one in the house should have **doubt** on you so from today onwards, you should not fight at all with your mother-in-law. Instead, you should be very kind to her, even if she is **rude** to you.” Nita agreed and did as advised by her father.

As time passed, Nita’s mother-in-law’s nature also started to change. Because Nita was very caring towards her, she too started to be **affectionate** towards her. Five months passed and there were no quarrels. They got **attached** to each other like a mother and daughter.

Nita met her father and told him, “Dad! We must meet Mama Sherine and thank her. Now, my mother-in-law is just like my mom and I love her very much. That powder really has magical powers.” Her father smiled and said, “Which powder? I simply gave you a sweetener! I never met that lady!”

1.	conservative	nature loving	traditional	democratic	cunning
2.	aggressive	upset	dominant	violent	sad
3.	superb	hidden	unbelievable	mysterious	excellent
4.	rushed	called	ran	met	rang
5.	gave in	rejected	provided	revealed	agreed
6.	quantity	quality	sample	amount	collection
7.	doubt	debt	suspicion	trust	anger
8.	rude	unkind	genuine	loyal	sympathetic
9.	affectionate	arrogant	fond	unfriendly	cruel
10.	attached	friendly	angry	impassive	remote

Q. 01

10

Question 02

Read the following letter and answer the questions given below from 1-3.

(10 marks)

2/155
Talawa Road
Anuradhapura
10th January 2019

My Dear Brother Suren,

Thank you very much for the wonderful gift you sent me. I received it **in the nick of time** on my birthday itself. It was indeed very thoughtful of you to have remembered my birthday. I thought that you would forget the day as you are busy with the work in your company. Anyway, we all missed you that day.

In the evening, I had a small party at home, where some of my school friends had come over and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Though Supun promised to be there, we missed him as he had fallen off his bike and was taking treatment at home. Our father gave me a beautiful watch. However, the dictionary that you sent me was really useful. I had long wished to buy a new dictionary as the one that I have at present is quite old. The dictionary has a CD and it helps me in **numerous** ways; particularly to check pronunciation of words and use it in my computer. As you know, since I am preparing for my GCE A/L Examination this year, with your present I shall be able to do better in my English Language paper.

Thanks again for your **thoughtful** present, which shall always remind me of you. Please give my love to Subashini and aunty Sisiliya.

Your affectionate brother
Mihindu

(1) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above text ?

In boxes (a) - (f) write **True** or **False**.

True	If the statement is correct
False	If the statement is wrong

Statements	
(a) Mihindu received the present from his brother a few days after his birthday party.	
(b) Suren is at present employed in a firm.	
(c) Mihindu is happy that Supun joined the party despite his accident.	
(d) At present, Suren has no contacts with Subashini and aunty Sisiliya.	
(e) Mihindu has a computer and he uses it for studies.	
(f) Mihindu bought a new dictionary as the one he has is very old.	

(2) Which of the following is **not** given in the text? **Underline** the most appropriate response.

- (i) What Mihindu's father gave him on his birthday.
- (ii) What Mihindu's mother gave him on his birthday.
- (iii) The place where the birthday party was held.
- (iv) Usefulness of the dictionary for his examination.

(3) **Underline** the option which best expresses the meanings of the words/phrases given in bold print in the text?

(a) **in the nick of time**

- (i) critical time
- (ii) all the time
- (iii) just in time
- (iv) possible time

(b) **numerous**

- (i) all
- (ii) limited
- (iii) numbers
- (iv) countless

(c) **thoughtful**

- (i) considerate
- (ii) possible
- (iii) useful
- (iv) grateful

Q. 02

5

Question 03

Read the following poem and answer the questions from 1-5.

(05 marks)

The burning of the books

(by Bertolt Brecht- translated by Michael R. Burch)

When the Regime
commanded the unlawful books to be burnt,
teams of dull oxen hauled huge cartloads to the bonfires.

Then a banished writer, one of the best,
scanning the list of excommunicated texts,
became enraged: he'd been excluded!

He rushed to his desk, full of contemptuous wrath,
to write fierce letters to the morons in power —
Burn me! he wrote with his blazing pen —
Haven't I always reported the truth?
Now here you are, treating me like a liar!
Burn me!

- (1) Why does the writer in the poem become furious?
 - (a) Because he/she hauled cartloads.
 - (b) Because his/her books were not burnt.
 - (c) Because he/she scanned the texts.
 - (d) Because he/she has written the truth.
- (2) According to the poem, what are “unlawful books”?
 - (a) Books reporting the truth
 - (b) Books reporting illegal facts
 - (c) Books written by banished writers
 - (d) Books about the Regime
- (3) Which of the following is an alternative phrase used by the poet to refer to “the Regime”?
 - (a) oxen
 - (b) cartloads
 - (c) morons
 - (d) bonfires
- (4) Which of the following is **not** true?
 - (a) The poet checks the list of banned books.
 - (b) The poet was shocked that his books weren't on the list.
 - (c) The poet admits himself a liar.
 - (d) The poem describes the conflict between the ruling class and the artist community.
- (5) The word ‘wrath’ means,
 - (a) utter confusion
 - (b) extreme curiosity
 - (c) extreme anger
 - (d) ambition

Q. 03

5

Question 04

Based on the following passage fill in the blanks in the text given below it. Use only **one** word in each blank. **(05 marks)**

Everyone wants a job that pays well. The best place to have your first job is an organization that gives you an opportunity to gain real work experience and develop your skills instead of using you as a cheap worker. Sometimes, bigger and more established organizations are better as they have a clear hierarchy and therefore, it gives you a clear idea of your position and the job description. For an example, a leading financial company will be an excellent place for a new employee to gain skills in accounting procedures. If you aim for a dream job, do not overlook an entry-level position just because it offers low salary. Entry-level employees are more likely to be given room to grow and learn from their mistakes.

When you have got your first job, while you perform your duties properly, you may seek possibilities for better careers. Social media is very useful in this regard to keep in touch with as many people as you can and form your network. As your first few jobs might be very demanding yet less rewarding, remember to have fun and enjoy your life. Working overtime may not always be a good idea to accelerate your career, especially if you have to be more stressful than your seniors who earn bigger salaries. Setting the time for social life will make your life more balanced and stress free.

It is very important to have a person's first job in a place that gives him/her an opportunity to receive genuine work experience and improve necessary job-related skills. Highly reputed companies are better because they define one's (1) clearly. At the beginning, a person should not hesitate to accept an (2) position because in such positions he/she can acquire necessary skills, perhaps through one's own (3) After being employed in such a position, one can investigate further opportunities for jobs with better prospects. This can be easily done through social media, where one can build his/her (4) to find information about such opportunities. Even if one's first job is not as rewarding as one imagines, he/she should learn to enjoy his/her life, because it will reduce unnecessary (5) and makes his/her life more balanced.

Q. 04

5

Question 05

Read the following text and answer the questions from 1-3. The second sentence in the final paragraph has been left out. (20 marks)

The advancement in technology has led to great changes in communication between people. Through the internet, making friends is no longer limited to face-to-face contact. We can liaise across great distances with people around the world and build up friendships.

When making friends, we should be aware that good interpersonal relationships are founded on mutual trust, and that trust is developed through understanding. The identities of cyber-friends are unknown, and without deep understanding, placing blind trust in **them** may bring great risk. Therefore, we must be always vigilant when making new friends on the internet. As we cannot be sure of the identity of these individuals and their purpose of associating with us, we should remain cautious and rational when talking to them. We should not disclose personal information. We should not readily accept invitations to attend parties during festivals, or else we might fall into cyber traps.

A male student studying at Chinese University of Hong Kong was lured into a gambling fraud in Macau by a lady he met on the internet. Afterwards, he was said to have accrued 100,000 in gambling debts. **He** was taken back to Hong Kong and was illegally detained. Among the four accused males involved, three were sentenced to imprisonment at District Court, and another to Detention Centre. The judge pointed out that the criminals had planned well ahead to lure the victim to Macau and target his money.

Further, many internet studies have shown that there is more harm than good for youths to indulge themselves in the cyber world. Without real interaction and communication, it is difficult to develop long-lasting and reliable friendships on the internet. Youths should broaden their social network in daily life such as through joining voluntary work, uniformed units, sports teams, and so on. Through **these ways** one makes new and real friends who share common interests.

Youths should not try to make friends on the internet just because they want to act as others do.
..... It would not be a big loss to have no cyber-friends. However, if youths do choose to make friends on the internet, they need to know how to protect themselves from harm.

(a) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above text ?

In boxes (i) - (vi) write **True**, **False** or **Not Given**.

True	If the statement is correct
False	If the statement is wrong
Not Given	If there is no sufficient information on this

(vi) Which of the following is recommended with regard to cyber friends?

- (1) Never associate with cyber friends.
- (2) Youths should never use the internet.
- (3) Be vigilant to protect yourself from danger.
- (4) Be ready to develop long-lasting friendships.

(c) Who or what do the words in bold print in the text refer to?

- (1) **them** (paragraph 2)
- (2) **He** (paragraph 3)
- (3) **these ways** (paragraph 4)

(d) Write **one** word for each of the given blanks, selecting from the passage, which means the same as the following.

- (1) the activity of playing games of chance for money
- (2) persons who commit a crime
- (3) a person who has been affected by crimes
- (4) clever plans designed to trick somebody
- (5) done willingly, not because one is forced to

Q. 05

20

○ Part B - Dialogues (25 marks)

Question 06

How do you respond in each of the following situations? Write only **one** sentence or question for each, beginning with the word/s given. **(05 marks)**

- (a) You do not understand the explanation given by your teacher. Ask for clarification.
Would
- (b) Express your surprise and excitement after a cricket match that had a thrilling end.
Oh!.....
- (c) You seek permission to enter your principal's office for an urgent matter, while your principal is conducting a meeting.
Excuse me, sir,
- (d) You would like to see a stage-drama this weekend. You suggest this idea to a friend of yours.
Shall
- (e) You did not come to school last week. Request your friend to lend you his science book?
Could

Q. 06

5

○ Part C - Writing skills

(65 marks)

Question 09

Select any **five** words from the list of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs given below and use each one of them in a meaningful sentence. You may use the verbs in any tense. You may use the plural form of the nouns. But **do not** change the form of the other words. (05 marks)

Nouns	harmony, employment
Verbs	meditate, enforce
Adjectives	innovative, confident, inquisitive
Adverbs	obviously, effortlessly, occasionally

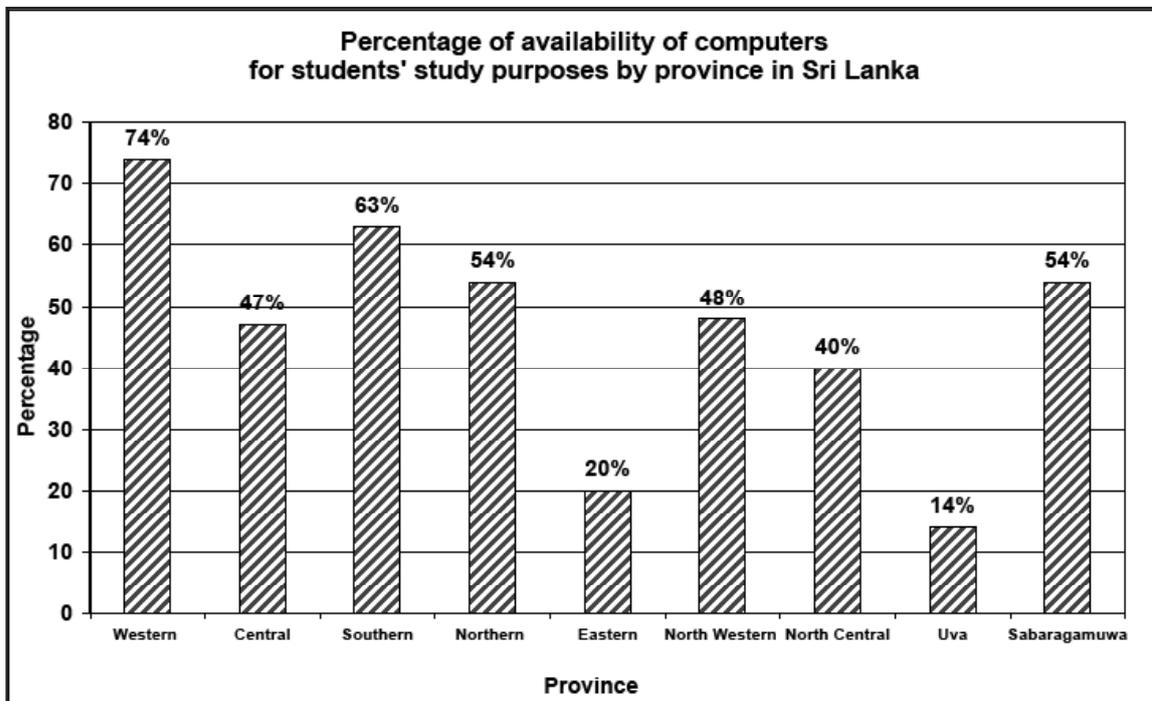
- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)
- (iv)
- (v)

Q. 09

5

Question 10

The following bar chart illustrates the information about the availability of computers for students' study purposes by province in Sri Lanka in the year 2017. Describe the information by reporting the main features and making comparisons where relevant. Use about **100** words. (10 marks)



Courtesy – Ministry of Education - School Census Report 2017

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