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முழுப் பதிப்புரிமையுடையது /  
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Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka

Open Competitive Examination for Recruitment to the Posts of  
Assistant Superintendent of Customs, Grade II  
Department of Sri Lanka Customs – 2017

(02) English Language

One Hour and Thirty Minutes

Question No.	Marks Awarded
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
<b>Total</b>	
Marking Examiner	
Checked By	

- Answer **all** the questions on **this paper** itself.
- If the given space is **insufficient** to write answers, get extra papers.

Index No : .....

1. Read the following dialogue between a Customs Officer and a passenger. Some utterances / parts of utterances have been left out. Complete the dialogue by writing the most appropriate utterance in each blank selecting from the utterances given in the box. **Write each utterance in the space provided.** Use one utterance **only once**. There is **one extra** utterance.

Utterances:

1. Now, I see you have books.
2. But you will have to pay duty on this extra one.
3. No, our interpreter will just skip through them.
4. When you bring the receipt,
5. Do you have anything to declare, sir?
6. They'll have to be looked through, sir.
7. Will you please open your suitcases, sir?
8. In a moment, sir. Meanwhile,
9. No, they are not.
10. No. I have never brought them before.
11. What are these things?

- Passenger : Are you going to examine my things?  
 Customs Officer : 1. .... can  
 I ask you to look through these lists, please.  
 Passenger : What lists?  
 Customs Officer : The Prohibited Articles list and, the Duty-Free Quota list. Here they are.  
 Passenger : Thank you.  
 Customs Officer : 2. ....  
 Passenger : Nothing from the first list.  
 Customs Officer : Do you have any items above the fixed quota?  
 Passenger : Well, I haven't go through the second list, you know. They are both rather long.  
 Customs Officer : 3. ....  
 Passenger : Yes, of course, here you are.  
 Customer Officer : 4. ....  
 Passenger : They are for my personal use.  
 Customs Officer : You have suits above the fixed quota, sir.  
 Passenger : But they are not new.  
 Customs Officer : 5. ....  
 Passenger : Well, all right.

[See page two.]



## 3. Read the following text and do the activities given below it.

With the recent changes in Central and Eastern Europe one can't but agree that there is a special need in a reform of Customs laws across those countries to make it easier for major investors to trade effectively with (and invest in) **the region**. Without a doubt, one country where reform is most urgently needed is Russia.

Russian import procedures have been given bottom marks by western financial analysts, when it comes to the volume of paper work needed, the speed of processing, and the prevalence of corruption, although competency of Russian officials was rated relatively high.

What are the roots of the Customs problem in Russia? Obviously, there is a real lack of understanding about business needs, and some reluctance to meet major foreign investors halfway when it comes to import rules and regulations. Once declarations are submitted, Customs Officers often reject them in order to dictate a different tariff that allows **them** to maximize revenue. Every declaration must be processed through a lengthy procedure of checks and physical inspections. The way rules are interpreted can vary between different border posts, and even between different Customs Inspectors.

What is the solution? The situation cannot be changed overnight. The Russian authorities have appeared willing to review the Customs Code. First of all, they should officially recognize the concept of "Air Express": by their very nature, Express shipments of such items as bank documents, computer disks with information, medical samples, or spare parts required for the urgent repair of machinery should be treated differently from, say, a freight shipment of several hundred cars. Consequently, four simplified Customs categories should be introduced for Express shipments: documents, low-value non-dutiable consignments, low-value dutiable consignments, high-value consignments. The first three categories should be given "fast track" clearance on the day of arrival. The high-value category would obviously need extra documentation, but also could be cleared quickly if all VAT and Customs duties have been guaranteed.

There is a need to upgrade the resources available to the Customs Authorities to extend the use of electronic clearance systems and exchange of information. A liberalization of the Customs regime will be an important step in the right direction.

- (i) Write **True** or **False** beside each of the following statements according to the information in the text.
- (a) Western financial analysts have an extremely negative view of the performance rate of Russian Customs Officials. ....
- (b) The writer believes that the current problems in Russian Customs can be overcome immediately. ....
- (c) One of the main reasons for inefficiency of Russians Customs is the lack of understanding about business needs. ....
- (d) The Russian Management does not want to change the current practices of their Customs regulations. ....
- (e) There is no uniformity in the way the rules and procedures interpreted among different Customs Officials in Russia. ....

(10 marks)

[See page four.]

(ii) **Underline** the correct response.

According to the writer's proposal, which of the following is excluded in "fast track" clearance?

- (a) low-value dutiable consignments
- (b) all the documents
- (c) low-value non-dutiable consignments
- (d) high-value consignments

(01 mark)

(iii) Write answers to the following questions in the space provided.

(a) Why were Russian import procedures given bottom marks by western financial analysts? Write **two** reasons.

.....

(b) What is meant by the concept, "Air Express"?

.....

(c) What do you understand by "fast track" clearance?

.....

(d) What is the **writer's opinion** of the electronic clearance systems currently practised in Russia?

.....

(e) What do the following phrases / words in the text refer to?

I. the region (paragraph 1) .....

II. them (paragraph 3) .....

(10 marks)

(iv) Write one word for each of the following, selecting from the text, which best fits the given definition.

(a) dishonest or illegal behaviour, especially by those of persons in authority

.....

(b) hesitating to do something because one does not want to do it

.....

(c) a tax that is paid on goods coming into or going out of a country

.....

(d) an idea or a principle that is connected with something abstract

.....

(04 marks)

(Total 25 marks)

4. Read the following part of a news item that appeared in a local newspaper.

Sri Lanka Customs has revealed information regarding the illegal smuggling of Kothala-himbutu to countries like Japan by concealing it in containers, under the guise of importing tea.

A container which was already dispatched had been brought back by the Customs and is currently being held at the yard of the Sri Lanka Customs.

[See page five.



.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(20 marks)

6. Fill in the blanks in the following text using the given words within brackets. Use one word **only once**.

**(polite, on , who, are, Customs, entering, Officers, possession, arrive, hand, other, professionals, green, exceed, be, the, of, bound, declaration, depending)**

The Sri Lanka Customs regulations are strict to be honest. As a visitor, 1. .... Sri Lanka at the airport, seaport or by road, you are by law required to make proper 2. .... of all the prohibited or dutiable goods that you may have in your 3. .... The personal belongings even those for personal use can 4. .... examined by the Sri Lankan Customs 5. .... and they may be subjected to the relevant Customs duty 6. .... on their content or quantity.

Once you 7. .... at the Colombo International Airport or at any 8. .... Sri Lankan entry point you have to fill in the Sri Lanka Customs Regulations Declaration Form with the required details. After completing 9. .... form, you are supposed to 10. .... it over to the uniformed Custom Officer before leaving the Arrivals Hall 11. .... the airport. The formalities of the Customs 12. .... not very much complicated.

The Customs Officers are highly trained 13. .... and they are very efficient and 14. .... Note, however that these Customs Officials are 15. .... by the Sri Lanka Customs regulations laws.

Under the Sri Lanka 16. .... regulations, the visitors to Sri Lanka 17. .... do not possess any prohibited or dutiable goods except those goods that are allowed under the duty free allowances may in some circumstances go via the 18. .... channel. However, the visitors who possess dutiable goods that 19. .... the duty free allowances that they are entitled to should go through the formal channel where they have to make Customs Declaration to Customs Officers who are 20. .... duty.

(20 marks)

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