

Qualifying Exam for SLSE April 2024 Marking Scheme

If candidates write 1-5 words more or less = deduct ½ mark

If candidates write 11-15 words more or less = deduct 1½ mark

If candidates write 6-10 words more or less = deduct 1 mark

If candidates write 16-20 words more or less = deduct 2 marks

Long Writing	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically
40 marks	5	4	3	2	1 - 0
Task achievement (content, relevance, text type features) (5 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task is achieved in full Content is completely relevant Text type features are entirely appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task is achieved quite well Content is mostly relevant Text type features are mostly appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task is achieved in part Content is not always relevant Text type features are not always appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task is hardly achieved Content is under-developed Text type features are minimally appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task is not achieved Content is irrelevant Text type features are not appropriate
	5	4	3	2	1 - 0
Organisation and Linking (Coherence and Cohesion) (5 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure and organise their writing in a cogent manner Cohesive devices are varied and link together well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure and organise their writing into a coherent prose Cohesive devices are quite varied and generally correct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph and sentence structure are fairly correct though unambitious Cohesive devices are rather limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph and sentence structure show lack of control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No attempt to structure and organise their writing
	10 - 9	8 - 7	6 - 5	4 - 3	2 - 0
Grammar and accuracy (10 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varied and accurate grammatical structures and syntax Excellent choice of expression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly accurate grammatical structures and syntax Quite varied grammatical structures Good choice of expression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammatical structures and syntax are rather basic and sometimes inaccurate Adequate choice of expression but with some inaccuracies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammatical structures and syntax are limited and mostly inaccurate Limited choice of expression and with some inaccuracies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammatical structures and syntax are inaccurate Very poor choice of expression and inaccurate
	10 - 9	8 - 7	6 - 5	4 - 3	2 - 0
Vocabulary and Register (10 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide-ranging and appropriate vocabulary Good use of register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good range and appropriate vocabulary Appropriate use of register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice of vocabulary is unambitious and sometimes inaccurate Adequate use of register but with some inaccuracies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited vocabulary, possibly seen in the repetition of words Not sensitive to the choice of register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very limited and inappropriate choice of vocabulary Register is ignored
	5	4	3	2	1 - 0
Punctuation (5 marks)	Accurate use of punctuation	Good use of punctuation	Adequate use of punctuation but some errors	Punctuation use is rather poor	Punctuation use is very poor
Spelling (5 marks)	Spelling is accurate. 0 mistakes = 5 marks	Spelling of low-frequency words mostly accurate. 1-2 mistakes = 4½ marks 3-4 mistakes = 4 marks	Spelling of low-frequency words fairly accurate. 5 mistakes = 3½ marks 6 mistakes = 3 marks	Spelling of low-frequency words fairly accurate. 7 mistakes = 2½ marks 8 mistakes = 2 marks	Spelling of low-frequency and high-frequency words mostly inaccurate. 9 mistakes = 1 mark • 10 mistakes = ½ mark • 10+ mistakes = 0 marks

Underline the correct answer.

(1 x 3 = 3 marks)

1. Which title best fits this text?

- a. The email that changed my life
- b. The party of a lifetime
- c. 70th birthday experiences

2. In which section of an online magazine would you find this article?

- a. Personal
- b. News
- c. Entertainment

3. The main purpose of this article is to

- a. give instructions on how one can spend their birthday.
- b. describe a different way of celebrating one's birthday.
- c. persuade readers to try different experiences.

4. Why did Megan think 'that birthday gifts were overrated' (line 1)? (1 mark)

Reward answers similar to: *Birthday gifts are considered to be more important than they really are (1/2 mark). What should be important and what Megan now considers important are experiences shared with loved ones (1/2 mark).*

5. What activities did she initially come up with to do on her birthday? (1 mark)

Swim 70 laps (1/2 mark) and Making 70 charity donations (1/2 mark).

6. In your own words, list three benefits of spending time with loved ones according to the text. (3 marks)

(1/2 mark) for identification of salient points

(1/2 mark) for paraphrasing

Salient points as taken from the text:

- i) People derive more happiness from experiences
- ii) Quality time with friends and family fosters satisfaction
- iii) Enduring memories becoming embedded in the brain

7. a. Underline the correct answer. The writer's attitude towards party planning is

(1 mark)

- i. positive
- ii. negative
- iii. neutral

b. Between lines 1 and 12, quote a phrase of three words which supports your answer.
(1 mark)

Accept only the following: *sidestep the fuss*

8. Are the following statements True or False? Underline the correct answer and give a reason from the text.
(1x9 = 9 marks)

a. Megan's birthday is close to Christmas.

True / False because *born the day after Christmas*.

b. Megan wrote an email addressed to many people.

True / False because *email was sent to all the people she loved*.

c. Megan wrote the email when she turned 70.

True / False because it states *having rolled past 69*.

d. Megan wrote an email suggesting experiences.

True / False because *she was expecting the recipients to suggest experiences*.

e. Megan enjoys close encounters with sharks.

True / False because *she doesn't like thrills and states nothing that involves a shark tank*.

f. The aim of the email was to invite people to her party.

True / False because *the aim of the email is to get people to celebrate with her through experiences*.

g. Megan promised she would agree to all offers.

True / False because *her goal is to say yes to whatever they propose*.

h. This email was the first time Megan tried doing something different.

True / False because *it was yet another big idea / or so called Meganism*.

i. People took Megan's request seriously.

True / False because *her inbox quickly swelled*. _

9. List the three issues which might have stopped Megan from accepting all the offers.
(3 marks)

1 mark: *enough pizzazz for six experiences every month*

1 mark: *if she can manage with all her writing deadlines /teaching schedule*

1 mark: *if she can manage since some live in another country*

10. In your own words, explain what Megan means by ' I could stretch my birthday into 2024, like chewy sweets" (line 32). (2 marks)

(1/2 mark) for identification of salient points

(1/2 mark) for paraphrasing

Salient point: Just like sweets that can stretch (1 mark), if she doesn't manage all of the experiences in 2023, then can always spill over into 2024 (1 mark)

11. Here are photos of activities Megan did. Tick (✓) the TWO she did not do. (1/2 x 2=1 mark)



12. Megan had some favourite experiences. What were the four things these experiences had in common? (2 marks)

(1/2 mark for each)

*within driving distance of my home,
did not break the bank,
learned something about myself
made a memory with a loved one*

13. Here are names of people Megan mentioned in the text. Match the name with the description. (1/2 x 6 = 3 marks)

NAME	Description
Jen	danced with Megan.
Lolo	has passed away.
Stephanie	has known Megan since childhood.
Karen	made friends with Megan.
Linda	helped revamp Megan's sense of fashion.
Quinn	swam with Megan.

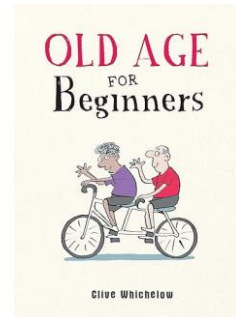
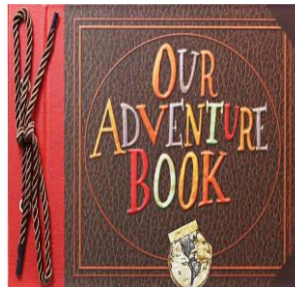
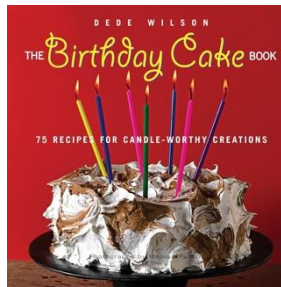
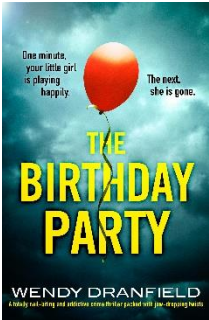
14. What do the following words in bold refer to in the passage? (1/2 x 6 = 3 marks)

- a. **when** (line 1) *a decade ago / when she turned 60*
- b. **Their** (line 12) *of her loved ones / of the people she loved*
- c. **you** (line 18) *one of the people she loved*
- d. **it** (line 25) *the idea / best plan*
- e. **them** (line 33) *offers*
- f. **my** (line 41) *of the writer / Megan's*

15. Between lines 39 and 45 find ONE word which means: (½ x 6 = 3 marks)

- a. welcomed *embraced (line 39)*
- b. varied *diverse (line 40)*
- c. tasteless *garish (line 41)*
- d. threw away *weeded (line 42)*
- e. too much of *overabundance (line 42)*
- f. swapped *bartered (line 43)*

16. Tick (✓) the correct answer. Which one would Megan be interested in? (1 mark)



17. What do you think the treasured life motto (line 59) is? (1 mark)

- a. I am what I think about
- b. Find a reason to say yes
- c. Tomorrow is another day
- d. Show others that they matter

18. Look at this photo. Underline the caption that fits best?


(1 mark)

- a. Grooving with my sisters at the Monterey Jazz Festival
- b. Photo booth silliness with Stephanie back in the day
- c. This is me on the ferry with my writer pal, Jen
- d. Kayaking on the sparkling water with my bestie




19. Here are comments made by readers of this text. Which comment is the odd one out? Tick

(✓) the correct answer. (1 mark)

 **Michael Snyder** ...
2d ago
Congratulations on coming up with a thoughtful and creative idea. Looks like you have great friends and family. Oh, and welcome to the club from one septuagenarian to another.

 **Bonnie Harris**
2d ago
This must be a suggestion for rich people.

 **Fantastic Voyager** ...
2d ago
It really is a number. I may look a bit more weathered at 49 but I still feel like my late 20s mentally.

 **Henry Solis**
2d ago
Disconnected and boring.

20. In 50-60 of your own words, summarise what Megan learnt from these experiences as well as the instructions she gives readers. (10 marks)

SUMMARY: 10 MARKS			
Identification of SIX salient points*			
½ mark for each point mentioned (3 marks)			
½ mark for using own words (3 marks)			
	2	1	0
Accuracy 2 marks	Grammatical structures and syntax are accurate.	Grammatical structures and syntax are mostly accurate.	Grammatical structures are limited and mostly inaccurate.
	2	1	0
Organisation & Structure 2 marks	Writing is well organised and structured in a paragraph. A topic sentence is included. Good use of linking words.	Writing is adequately organised and structured in a paragraph. A topic sentence is included. Adequate use of linking words.	Writing is poorly organised and unstructured. No topic sentence is included. Few or no linking words.

Accept the following SIX salient points for this two-part summary. The following are lifted from the text and so, these need to be paraphrased as much as possible:

Part 1: What she has learnt

- I feel full, not in a cake-and-ice-cream way, but filled with memories of a year well spent.
- though I may slow down as I age, neither my dazzle
- nor my friendships have dimmed.

Part 2: Instructions

- 1) count the number of years you've been on the planet;
- 2) compose an email, setting an intention that expands your comfort zone, even if only a wee bit;
- 3) send it to your people. I trust they will respond.

1 mark is to be deducted from the total if the summary is shorter than 50 or longer than 60 words. No marks are to be awarded for organisation and structure unless at least 3 of the salient points are included.

Section C: Short Writing Task (10 marks)

You are Nicky Wells and you have just moved into a new flat. In between 50 and 60 words, write an email to your friend Sam Green in which you inform them of the move and briefly describe your new flat.

Short writing task				
Informs	the friend of the move	1	1/2	0
Describes	the flat	2	1	0
Uses	appropriate informal email text type features and register	1	1/2	0
Uses	a range of appropriate vocabulary	1	1/2	0
Uses	accurate grammatical structures	2	1	0
Uses	devices to make writing coherent and cohesive	1	1/2	0
Punctuation		1	1/2	0
Spelling		1	1/2	0
10 MARKS				

1 mark is to be deducted from the total if the writing task is 5 words shorter than 50 or longer than 60 words. 2 marks is to be deducted from the total if the writing task is 6 words (or more) shorter than 50 or longer than 60 words.