

Qualifying Exam for SLSE Nov 2025 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 in questions 1-4.

(1 x 4 = 4 marks)

1. In which section of an online newspaper would you find this article?

- a. Games & Entertainment
- b. **House and Home**
- c. Humour & Holidays

2. The main purpose of this article is to

- a. **inform readers about mail theft and give advice on how to prevent it.**
- b. entertain readers with stories about mail theft incidents and show the funny side to it.
- c. persuade readers to stop using the postal service and criticise the USPS for not preventing mail theft.

3. Which title would best fit this article?

- a. "The History of the Postal Service: From Past to Present"
- b. "Stories About Lost Mail: Tales from the Post Office"
- c. **"The Rise of Porch Pirates: How to Protect Your Mail"**

4. People interested in this text are most likely

- a. **consumers worried about mail theft.**
- b. postal service employees interested in procedures.
- c. historians researching on the history of mail theft.

5. What example does the writer start the article with to show how everyone can be affected by mail theft? (1 x 1 = 1 mark)

How grandma always sends cards which might now be stolen.

6. Why is the term 'porch pirates' appropriate?

(1 mark)

The term "porch pirates" is used to describe thieves who steal packages from people's porches or doorsteps. The name combines the idea of a "porch," (½ mark) where packages are often left, with "pirates," (½ mark) who are known for stealing valuable goods. This term captures the opportunistic and sneaky nature of these thieves.

7. What does the writer mean when she describes porch pirates as 'becoming more **prolific** and **bolder** in their crimes' (line 6)? (1 mark)

Prolific means that porch pirates are committing thefts more frequently and in greater numbers. There are more incidents of package theft happening than before. (½ mark)

Bolder means that these thieves are becoming more daring and audacious in their actions. They might be stealing packages in broad daylight, even when there are security cameras or people around, showing less fear of getting caught. (½ mark)

8. In between 50 to 60 of your own words, summarise the reasons why mail theft has increased found between lines 10-21. (10 marks)

SUMMARY: 10 MARKS			
Identification of three (or more) salient points*			
1 mark for each point mentioned (3 marks)			
1 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 **any three** (or more) of the following **FIVE** salient points for this one-part summary.

Topic sentence: e.g., The text presents a number of reasons why mail theft has increased.

1. online shopping overload leading to an increase in package deliveries, making mailboxes more attractive targets for thieves
2. unattended packages on doorsteps, providing easy opportunities for theft.
3. check-fraud scams, criminals use chemicals to alter and cash stolen checks.
4. economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to make quick money.
5. mail theft not being prosecuted aggressively

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 2 of the salient points are included.

9. Between lines 20-25 find a word used to emphasise that the USPS is doing more than usual to prevent mail theft from happening. (1 mark)

extra

10. What does USPS stand for? **United States Postal Service** (1 mark)

11. According to the text, give two reasons why "It's tough to pin down exact numbers" (line 34)? (½ x 2 = 1 mark)

1) partly because mail theft can happen in so many ways

2) often goes unreported

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

a. Bogenberger investigates mail theft with USPS.

True / **False** because he is a spokesperson for USPS.

b. Under US law, mail theft is a minor offence.

True / **False** because mail theft is a federal crime.

c. People accused of mail theft might end up in jail.

True / False because can result in imprisonment for up to five years.

d. Mail theft statistics show an approximate number.

True / False because it's tough to pin down exact numbers.

e. Mail theft has increased greatly in recent years.

True / False more mail theft in 2023 / massive jump from fewer than 60,000 in 2018.

f. More than 250,000 people were charged with mail theft in 2023.

True / **False** because 250,000 complaints of mail theft.

g. The Capital One study was conducted in America.

True / False because 1 in 7 Americans.

h. The majority of victims of mail theft experienced this crime at least twice.

True / **False** because 33% had it happen more than once.

13. Give two examples of mail theft according to the text. (½ x 2 = 1 mark)

- (i) **Stolen cheques and packages /**
- (ii) **fraud / identity theft**

14. What is Bogenberger's main suggestion to protect incoming mail? (1 mark)

Sign up for Informed Delivery

15. Give four reasons why Informed Delivery is useful? (½ mark x 4 = 2 marks)

- **It's a complimentary service**
- **sends you a daily email previewing your mail and packages scheduled to arrive soon.**
- **You can see images of your incoming letter-sized mail (grayscale, address side only)**
- **and track and manage / plan your package deliveries through the USPS site.**

16. Apart from Informed Delivery, write four other suggestions mentioned in the text to help protect mail you'll be receiving. (½ mark x 4 = 2 marks)

- **Pick up your mail promptly. Don't let mail sit in your box overnight.**
- **Install a locking mailbox.**
- **Ask that valuable packages be held at the post office, and pick them up personally.**
- **Ask a trusted neighbour to collect your mail if you're going out of town.**

17. What is Bogenberger's main suggestion for outgoing mail? (1 x 1 = 1 mark)

mailing important items at a post office / Skip the home mailbox altogether.

18. According to the text, when should people put their mail in the blue collection boxes? (1 mark)

before the day's final pickup—don't leave outgoing mail overnight

19. Underline the correct word. i. The writer's attitude towards USPS is a (positive / negative / neutral) one. (1 mark)

ii. Quote a sentence from lines 49 - 51 to support your answer. (1 mark)

USPS -approved

20. What do the following words in **bold** refer to in the passage? (½ x 8 = 4 marks)

- a. **it** (line 1) **mailbox**
- b. **it** (line 4) **cash/card**
- c. **they** (line 5) **porch pirates**
- d. **both** (line 22) **individuals and postal services**
- e. **we** (line 24) **USPS (employers / employees)**
- f. **which** (line 26) **US Postal Inspective Service**
- g. **you** (line 31) **reader**
- h. **My** (line 45) **of Bogenberger / Bogenberger's / belonging to Bogenberger**

21. Between lines 40 and 54, find ONE word which means: (½ x 8 = 4 marks)

- a. widespread **rampant**
- b. free **complimentary**
- c. informs **alerts**
- d. showing **previewing**
- e. planned **scheduled**
- f. follow **track**
- g. quickly **promptly**
- h. important **valuable**

22. Match the missing subheadings in the text by writing the correct letter (A-D). (½ x 4 = 2 marks)

Subheadings	Letter
How common is mail theft?	B
How can we prevent outgoing mail theft?	D
Why has mail theft increased?	A
How can we prevent incoming mail theft?	C

23. Tick (✓) the picture which best fits this text.

(1 mark)



24. Underline the correct answer. At the end of this text, there is a section entitled **Sources**. Which one of these would be included there? (1 mark)

- a. Report missing mail to the USPS right away.
- b. We verify all facts and data with credible sourcing
- c. **Security.org: "2024 Package Theft Statistics"**
- d. Charlotte is an award-winning journalist,

Section C: Short Writing Task (10 marks)

You are Sam Blake and as a member of the Local Council you wish to organise a Book Sale to raise money for the local library. In between 50 and 60 words, write an email to the council informing them about your idea, and describing the event.

Short writing task				
Opens / Closes	the email appropriately	1	1/2	0
Informs	the council about the Book Sale	1	1/2	0
Describes	the event in detail	1	1/2	0
Uses	appropriate semi-formal 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.