



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

STUDENT EDUCATION NUMBER									

Samoa Secondary Leaving Certificate

ENGLISH

2025

QUESTION and ANSWER BOOKLET

Time allowed: 3 Hours & 10 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

1. You have 10 minutes to read **before** you start the exam.
2. Write your **Student Education Number (SEN)** in the space provided on the top right-hand corner of this page.
3. **Answer ALL QUESTIONS.** Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet.
4. If you need more space, ask the Supervisor for extra paper. Write your SEN on all extra sheets used and clearly number the questions. Attach the extra sheets to the appropriate places in this booklet.

STRAND: READING AND WRITING		Pages	Time (min)	Weighting
SECTION 1	READING COMPREHENSION	2-8	50	30
SECTION 2	LIBRARY & RESEARCH	9-11	20	10
SECTION 3	LANGUAGE	12-15	35	18
SECTION 4	WRITING (Expressing Opinion OR Personal Letter)	16-23	35	18
SECTION 5	RESPONSE TO LITERATURE	24-31	40	24
	TOTAL		180	100

Check that this booklet contains pages 2-32 in the correct order and that none of these pages are blank.

HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- There are **TWO** (2) parts to this Section.
- You must answer **BOTH** parts.
- Spend about 50 minutes on this Section.

PART ONE: Read the story below and then answer Questions 1 to 6.**“The journey of my success as a student”.****By Francesca Garcia**

Throughout my experiences as a student, I have worked hard to achieve my goals. Along the way, I have also identified areas where I can improve.

I believe that I exhibit both a growth mindset and **grit**. However, I have applied grit in a more deliberate way, which has significantly contributed to my success as a student. Grit is the ability to get back on your feet after a failure and to keep going because you are working towards something meaningful. I have noticed that I possess grit because I have a strong sense of direction and commitment. Angela Lee Duckworth, an American academic and psychologist, states that grit involves having passion and **perseverance** for long-term goals. She emphasizes the importance of believing in your future, understanding that failure is not a permanent setback. Instead, with grit, you get back up, try again, and start over.

One instance where I noticed grit playing a role in my life was when I failed my first quiz in my math class. Before the class began, I already felt discouraged because I believed the course would be difficult, and my **mindset** was not positive. Failing the first quiz set a negative tone for the semester. However, I did not want that failure to define the rest of the course. This is where grit came into play. I knew that my long-term goal was to finish college. So, instead of giving in to hopelessness, I persevered and bounced back. I understood that failing this class would create significant **obstacles** to my success in college.

This semester, I am taking chemistry, and I believe grit will be crucial for my success. My **intuition** and mindset are focused on not giving up and pushing myself to achieve success. I plan to study more in areas where I struggle by reviewing my notes until I fully understand the concepts. Even if there are challenges and setbacks in the class, I am confident that my effort will lead to many accomplishments....

Source: Adapted from a narrative by: Garcia, F. (2019) *The Journey of my success as a student*. Medium.

MULTIPLE CHOICE: For Question 1, choose and write the LETTER of the correct answer in the box provided.

1. What does the author believe has significantly contributed to her success as a student?

- A. Her natural intelligence.
- B. Her deliberate application of grit.
- C. Her ability to avoid failure.
- D. Her reliance on others for support.

SL 1

SHORT ANSWERS: Read the following questions carefully and then write your answers in the spaces provided.

2. In what way does the author’s experience with failing a math quiz demonstrate her growth mindset.

SL 2

3. How does the author plan to apply grit to her chemistry class? Provide specific actions mentioned in the passage.

SL 2

PART TWO: Read the following article and then answer Questions 7 to 13.

Our plastic problem

The problem of plastic in nature, particularly in our oceans, is a global crisis. Every minute, about a dump-truck load of plastic goes into the oceans, sullyng beaches, hurting wildlife, and contaminating our food supply.

“It's reached this public-awareness tipping point,” says Sheila Bonini, senior vice president of private sector engagement at World Wildlife (WWF). “Sometimes an issue can go on for a long time and nothing happens; then, suddenly, boom! The world wakes up, and we have the opportunity to drive change.”

Yet *eliminating all plastic from our lives is neither feasible nor desirable*. Plastic has a lot of benefits, environmental and otherwise: It keeps our food fresh so we waste less; it's sterile; it's durable. And, once we're done with it, it can be turned into something new. So how can we keep these benefits while keeping plastic out of nature?

“The problem is that as a population we have continued to innovate and create new ways to use plastic—to the point that we are dependent on plastic in our everyday lives,” shares Simon from WWF. Of all the plastic ever made, half was made in the past 15 years. But we do not know what to do with all this plastic once we're finished with it. “Today science tells us that the majority of plastic waste ending up in oceans is coming from land, specifically due to limited or nonexistent waste management,” says Simon. “You can make something 100% recyclable, but if you don't have a recycling facility, it just ends up as trash.”

Source: Hancock, L. (2019), IN-DEPTH - Plastic in the Ocean: *‘Plastic waste is flooding our oceans. It's now more important than ever to reduce our plastic footprint worldwide’*. World Wildlife Magazine Fall Issue.

MULTIPLE CHOICE: For Questions 7 and 8, choose and write the LETTER of the correct answer in the box provided.

7. What is **ONE** major problem caused by plastic waste in oceans, as mentioned in the passage?

- A. It contaminates food supplies.
- B. It improves recycling facilities.
- C. It reduces wildlife habitats.
- D. It decreases public awareness.

SL 1

8 According to comments in the passage, what prompts significant change in addressing the plastic crisis?

- A. Limited innovation.
- B. Increased recycling facilities.
- C. Public awareness tipping points.
- D. Scientific breakthroughs.

SL 1

SHORT ANSWERS: Read the following questions carefully and then write your answers in the spaces provided

9. How does the article explain the connection between consumer behavior and the increase in plastic pollution?

SL 2

10. What does Simon highlight as the primary cause of plastic waste ending up in oceans?

SL 2

11. Describe the significance of the fact that half of all plastic ever made was produced in the past 15 years.

SL 2

INSTRUCTIONS:

- There are **FOUR** (4) Questions in this section.
- You must answer **ALL FOUR** (4) Questions.
- Spend about 20 minutes on this section.

MULTIPLE CHOICE: For Question 14, choose and write the **LETTER** of the correct answer in the box provided.

14. Which of the following is an example of a primary source?

- A. A history textbook.
- B. A newspaper article summarizing past events.
- C. A personal diary from a historical figure.
- D. An encyclopedia entry about World War II.

SL 1

SHORT ANSWERS: Read the following Questions carefully and then write your answers in the spaces provided.

15. Use the information below from a published journal to write a correct reference using either the Harvard system or the APA style.

Savea Sano Malifa
Pacific Journalism Review 16 No.2
2010
Samoa: The Observer and threats to media freedom.
37-46.

SL 2

INSTRUCTION:

Use the following newspaper article to answer Questions 16 and 17.

SAMOA OBSERVER
Box 1572, Ph 21099/25497 Fax: 21195 - Samoa Observer Friday 24 December 1993 \$1.00 Page \$1.00

“A true man of peace”

His Highness, Malietoa Tanumafili II, has been described by the visiting International Ambassador for Peace, Sri Chinmoy, as “simple, kind-hearted and a true man of peace”.

In Apia on 21 December Malietoa Tanumafili II, Head of State of Western Samoa, offered his warm welcome to Samoa to International Ambassador of Peace Sri Chinmoy during a private interview at his official residence.

The spiritual leader, who is visiting Samoa from 20 December to 29 December, with more than 150 students from 25 nations, praised the Head of State, stating, “I have met with many leaders from many countries, but none as simple, as kind-hearted, as pure or as self giving as you. You are a true man of peace.”

To Sri Chinmoy, Malietoa responded: “I believe that you, Sri Chinmoy, are the one who is bringing peace to earth.” Sri Chinmoy is a leading proponent of global peace by fostering peace within individuals of all nationalities and faiths, and by initiating a wide variety of ongoing grassroots activities.

During their meeting, Sri Chinmoy presented the Head of State with the “Lighting Up the World with a Oneness-Heart” Award for the Samoan leader’s dedicated service to his people and to the world at large. This award has been presented to heads of state, Nobel laureates and other eminent world servers for their unique contributions to humanity.

After receiving the medallion, the Head of State lovingly placed it upon his head, as he described to Sri Chinmoy the Samoan Custom “when one receives very sacred gifts.”

During their meeting, the two men held aloft the Peace Torch of the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, a relay run for global harmony and peace which spans more than 80 nations and involves millions of citizens and world leaders every two years.

During his stay in Samoa, Sri Chinmoy will offer two Peace Concerts for the public on December 22 and 28 at 8.00pm at the John Williams Building free of charge.

During the programmes he will perform his own peace filled compositions on 15-20 (See Page 2)



Mr Sri Chinmoy and Malietoa Tanumafili II

16. For citation purposes, describe three elements of a front-page of a newspaper that will help with referencing when using newspapers for research.

SL 3

INSTRUCTIONS:

- There are **EIGHT** (8) Questions in this section.
- You must answer **ALL EIGHT** Questions.
- Spend about 35 minutes on this section.

MULTIPLE CHOICE: For Questions 18 to 20, choose and write the **LETTER** of the correct answer in the box provided by referring to the passage below.

‘Better to leave’

Speaking to RNZ Pacific after **stepping** down, he said "this is the best way forward for Tonga".

"It's better for me just to leave," he said.

He thanked his supporters and is hoping " _____ " will rise up to lead the Kingdom for the next 10 months before the next general election.

He said there were a few highlights during his term as prime minister, including the setting up of Tonga National University, securing funding to get a second internet cable, and building a new hospital in Va'vau.

Source: Hawkins, K., & Lewis, L. (2024, December 9). *Respect his decision: Tonga PM Hu'akavameiliku resigns*. RNZ.

18. **PARTS OF SPEECH** – What part of speech is **stepping** in the passage above?

- A. Adjective
- B. Verb
- C. Noun
- D. Adverb

SL 1

19. **PRONOUNS** – Choose the correct pronoun to fill in the blank space in the passage.

- A. I
- B. they
- C. we
- D. someone

SL 1

20. **TENSES** – What tense is the last paragraph of the passage in?

- A. Present Tense.
- B. Past Tense.
- C. Past Continuous.
- D. Past Perfect.

SL 1

21. **ANTONYMNS** – Complete the passage by filling in the blanks with the antonyms of the words in brackets.

The weather in the morning was _____ (cold) and humid. We quickly prepared and had breakfast _____ (before) everyone got up. Mama made tuna sandwiches. She also cut the ham into _____ (thick) slices to alternate the bread fillings. The children wanted to go swim at the river but were too _____ (brave) to go by themselves. Mama offered to take them.

SL 2

22. **HOMONYMS** – Define the two homonyms below to indicate their differences.

(i) Brake

(ii) Break

SL 2

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose **ONE** (1) **OPTION** only for this section.

Either EXPRESSING OPINION ESSAY **OR** PERSONAL LETTER

You should spend about 35 minutes on this section.

OPTION 1: EXPRESSING OPINION ESSAY

Choose ONE (1) of the following topics in the box below to write an expressing opinion essay.

- Write about 200-300 words.
- You may **AGREE** or **DISAGREE** with the topic.
- Write the **topic number** of your selected topic in the space provided.
- Write your **chosen topic** in the box provided.
- Present your ideas in a clear, well-developed and convincing manner.
- The blank page is for planning and drafting, and will not be assessed.

TOPICS:

1. Does technology make us more connected or more isolated?
2. Can money really buy one's happiness?
3. Should education focus on more practical skills rather than theory?
4. Is Samoa's energy crisis a wake-up call for sustainable development?
5. Are private schools better than public schools?

BLANK PAGE

(Work on this page will not be assessed)

OPTION 2: PERSONAL LETTER

Choose **ONE** (1) of the following topics in the box below to write a personal letter to a close friend or a close relative who lives in another country.

- Write about 200-300 words.
- Write the **topic number** of your selected topic in the space provided.
- Write your **chosen topic** in the box provided.
- Present your ideas clearly using appropriate language for personal writing.
- Use the appropriate format for a personal letter.
- The blank page is for planning and drafting, and will not be assessed.

TOPICS:

1. A defining moment for me ...
2. Our Mother's Day weekend.
3. A journey of self-discovery.
4. The power of friendship.
5. Overcoming my fear of ...

BLANK PAGE

(Work on this page will not be assessed)

INSTRUCTIONS: This section contains **SIX (6) GENRES**, each of which offers **TWO (2) options**.

- GENRE 1: NOVEL**
- GENRE 2: DRAMA**
- GENRE 3: SHORT STORIES**
- GENRE 4: POETRY**
- GENRE 5: FILM**
- GENRE 6: NON-FICTION**

- You must **choose TWO (2) different genres** from this section.
- For each genre you choose, you must **answer either OPTION A or OPTION B**.
- Write your responses on pages 28-31.
- Spend about 50 minutes on this Section (25 minutes on each option).

GENRE 1:	NOVEL
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Choose **ONE** option below and apply it to a novel you have studied in class this year.

- Write an essay of about 200-300 words.
- Support your ideas with details, examples and/or quotes from the novel.
- Write the genre and your chosen option number in the spaces provided.
- Write the full name of the author and the title of the novel in the box.

NOVEL - OPTION A

Describe **TWO** incidents that you find interesting in a novel you have studied. Explain how each of these incidents portray the main message in the novel.

OR

NOVEL - OPTION B

Explain a major incident in a novel you have studied and a viewpoint that emerges from that incident. Discuss how the viewpoint in the novel is relevant to your everyday life.

GENRE 2:**DRAMA**

Choose **ONE** option below and apply it to a drama you have studied in class this year.

- Write an essay of about 200-300 words.
- Support your ideas with details, examples and/or quotes from the drama.
- Write the genre and your chosen option number in the spaces provided.
- Write the full name of the playwright and the title of the drama in the box.

DRAMA - OPTION A

With reference to a drama you have studied, compare the qualities of **TWO** characters. Explain what lessons you have learnt from these characters.

OR

DRAMA - OPTION B

With reference to a drama you have studied, discuss how the playwright uses dramatic techniques to convey important messages or lessons to the audience.

GENRE 3:**SHORT STORIES**

Choose **ONE** option below and apply it to **TWO** short stories you have studied in class.

- Write an essay of about 200-300 words.
- Support your ideas with details, examples and/or quotes from the short stories.
- Write the genre and your chosen option number in the spaces provided.
- Write the full name of the author(s) and the title of the short stories in the box.

SHORT STORY - OPTION A

With reference to two short stories, you have studied this year, describe **TWO** aspects of language features or styles of writing used by the authors, and discuss how those language features or styles of writing convey powerful lessons to the readers.

OR

SHORT STORY- OPTION B

Choose **TWO** characters (one each) from **TWO** short stories you have studied, and discuss how important their influences are in imparting the main themes of the stories.

GENRE 4:**POETRY**

Choose **ONE** option below and apply it to **TWO** poems you have studied in class.

- Write an essay of about 200-300 words.
- Support your ideas with details, examples and/or quotes from the poems.
- Write the genre and your chosen option number in the spaces provided.
- Write the full name of the author(s) and the title of the poems in the box.

POETRY - OPTION A

With reference to **TWO** poems you have studied this year, describe **TWO** language features from each poem and explain how those language features contribute to the messages conveyed by the poets.

OR

POETRY - OPTION B

With reference to **TWO** poems, you have studied this year explain how the sound devices appeal to your feelings as a reader. Discuss how the feelings expressed in the poem contribute to the purpose of the poem.

GENRE 5:**FILM**

Choose **ONE** option below and apply it to a film you have studied in class.

- Write an essay of about 200-300 words.
- Support your ideas with details and examples from the film.
- Write the genre and your chosen option number in the spaces provided.
- Write the full names of the Director, the Producer and the title of the film in the box.

FILM - OPTION A

Describe a scene in a film you have studied this year that captured your attention, and discuss a critical message conveyed in that scene that made you appreciate it.

OR

FILM - OPTION B

Describe the mood and setting of a film you have studied this year, and discuss how interrelated they are in the making of a good film and in arousing viewers' feelings.

Choose **ONE** option below and apply it to a non-fiction you have studied in class.

- Write an essay of about 200-300 words.
- Support your ideas with details and examples from the non-fiction work you have studied.
- Write the genre and your chosen option number in the spaces provided.
- Write the full name of the author(s) and the title of the non-fiction work in the box,

NON- FICTION - OPTION A

Explain with reasons why you liked or disliked the ending of a non-fiction text you have studied.
Discuss the implication the ending has on the overall message of the non-fiction text.

OR

NON- FICTION - OPTION B

With reference to a non-fiction prose text you have studied this year, describe the climax of the story and explain how effective the climax is in revealing the main lesson of the story.

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SSLC ENGLISH

2025

(For Scorer only)

STRAND: READING AND WRITING		Weighting	Scores	Check Scorer	Check (AED)
SECTION 1	READING COMPREHENSION	30			
SECTION 2	LIBRARY AND RESEARCH	10			
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SECTION 5	RESPONSE TO LITERATURE	24			
TOTAL		100			