

**Direction: Read the passage and answer the following questions.**

***DON'T LET STEREOTYPES WARP YOUR JUDGMENT***

**[5 questions, 1 mark each]**

*by Robert L. Heilbroner  
from Think Magazine*

Is a girl called Gloria apt to be better looking than one called Bertha? Are criminals more likely to be dark than blond? Can you tell a good deal about someone's personality from hearing his voice briefly over the phone? Can a person's nationality be pretty accurately guessed from his photograph? Does the fact that someone wears glasses imply that he is intelligent?

The answer to all these questions is obviously, "No."

Yet, from all the evidence at hand, most of us believe these things. Ask any college boy if he'd rather take his chances with a Gloria or a Bertha, or ask a college girl if she'd rather blind date a Richard or a Cuthbert. In fact, you don't have to ask: college students in questionnaires have revealed that names conjure up the same images in their minds as they do in yours—and for as little reason.

Look into the favorite suspects of persons who report "suspicious characters" and you will find a large percentage of them to be "swarthy" or "dark and foreign-looking"—despite the testimony of criminologists that criminals do *not* tend to be dark, foreign or "wild-eyed." Delve into the main asset of a telephone stock swindler and you will find it to be a marvelously confidence-inspiring telephone "personality." And whereas we all think we know what an Italian or a Swede looks like, it is the sad fact that when a group of Nebraska students sought to match faces and nationalities of 15 European countries, they were scored wrong in 93 percent of their identifications. Finally, for all the fact that horn-rimmed glasses have now become the standard television sign of an "intellectual," optometrists know that the main thing that distinguishes people with glasses is just bad eyes.

Stereotypes are a kind of gossip about the world, a gossip that makes us prejudge people before we ever lay eyes on them. Hence it is not surprising that stereotypes have something to do with the dark world of prejudice. Explore most prejudices (note that the word means prejudgment) and you will find a cruel stereotype at the core of each one.

Why is it that we stereotype the world in such irrational and harmful fashion? In part, we begin to type-cast people in our childhood years. Early in life, as every parent whose child has watched a TV Western knows, we learn to spot the Good Guys from the Bad Guys. Some years ago, a social psychologist showed very clearly how powerful these stereotypes of childhood vision are. He secretly asked the most popular youngsters in an elementary school to make errors in their morning gym exercises. Afterwards, he asked the class if anyone had noticed any mistakes during gym period. Oh, yes, said the children. But it was the *unpopular* members of the class--the "bad guys"--they remembered as being out of step.

We not only grow up with standardized pictures forming inside of us, but as grown-ups we are constantly having them thrust upon us. Some of them, like the half-joking, half-serious stereotypes of mothers-in-law, or country yokels, or psychiatrists, are dinned into us by the stock jokes we hear and repeat. In fact, without such stereotypes, there would be a lot fewer jokes. Still other stereotypes are perpetuated by the advertisements we read, the movies we see, the books we read.

And finally, we tend to stereotype because it helps us make sense out of a highly confusing world, a world which William James once described as “one great, blooming, buzzing confusion.” It is a curious fact that if we don’t *know* what we’re looking at, we are often quite literally unable to *see* what we’re looking at. People who recover their sight after a lifetime of blindness actually cannot at first tell a triangle from a square. A visitor to a factory sees only noisy chaos where the superintendent sees a perfectly synchronized flow of work. As Walter Lippmann has said, “For the most part we do not first see, and then define; we define first, and then we see.”

Stereotypes are one way in which we “define” the world in order to see it. They classify the infinite variety of human beings into a convenient handful of “types” towards whom we learn to act in stereotyped fashion. Life would be a wearing process if we had to start from scratch with each and every human contact. Stereotypes economize on our mental effort by covering up the blooming, buzzing confusion with big recognizable cut-outs. They save us the “trouble” of finding out what the world is like--they give it its accustomed look.

Thus the trouble is that stereotypes make us mentally lazy. *As S. I. Hayakawa, the authority on semantics, has written: “The danger of stereotypes lies not in their existence, but in the fact that they become for all people some of the time, and for some people all the time, substitutes for observation.”*

Hence, quite aside from the injustice which stereotypes do to others, they impoverish ourselves. A person who lumps the world into simple categories, who type-casts all labor leaders as “racketeers, all businessmen as “reactionaries,” all Harvard men as “snobs,” and all Frenchmen as “charming,” is in danger of becoming a stereotype himself. He loses his capacity to be himself, which is to say, to see the world in his own absolutely unique, inimitable, and independent fashion.

Impoverishing as they are, stereotypes are not easy to get rid of. The world we type-cast may be no better than a Grade B movie, but at least we know what to expect of our stock characters. When we let them act for themselves in the strangely unpredictable way that people do act, who knows but that many of our fondest convictions will be proved wrong?

Nor do we suddenly drop our standardized pictures for a blinding vision of the Truth. Sharp swings of ideas about people often just substitute one stereotype for another. The true process of change is a slow one that adds bits and pieces of reality to the pictures in our heads, until gradually they take on some of the blurriness of life itself.

Can we speed the process along? Of course we can.

First, we can become aware of the standardized pictures in our heads, in other people’s heads, in the world around us.

Second, we can become suspicious of all judgments that we allow exceptions to “prove.” There is no more chastening thought than that in the vast intellectual adventure of science, *it takes but one tiny exception to topple a whole edifice of ideas.*

Third, we can learn to be wary of generalizations about people. *As F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote: “Begin with an individual, and before you know it you have created a type; begin with a type, and you find you have created nothing.”*

Most of the time, when we type-cast the world, we are not in fact generalizing about people at all. We are only revealing the embarrassing facts about the pictures that hang in the gallery of stereotypes in our own heads.

#### **A. Short-response questions**

**Instruction:** Read the following questions and answer them using no more than 6 (six) words.

1. *Why is stereotyping so embarrassing?*

- A. Oversimplifies and distorts understanding of individuals.
- B. Complicates and distorts understanding of individuals.
- C. Oversimplifies and asserts understanding of individuals.

2. *What do you infer from F. Scott Fitzgerald's statement (the bold-faced statement)?*

- A. Stereotyping makes depth and nuance.
- B. Stereotyping lacks depth and nuance.
- C. Stereotyping makes depth and criticism

3. *What does the following statement denote?*

***"It takes but one tiny exception to topple a whole edifice of ideas."***

- A. Many exceptions are needed to disprove ideas.
- B. A single exception can approve ideas.
- C. A single exception can disprove ideas.

4. *Why do we stereotype at all?*

- A. Complicates simple world for mental efficiency.
- B. Simplify simple world for mental efficiency.
- C. Simplify complex world for mental efficiency.

5. *According to the author, many people believe that wearing glasses is a sign of:*

- A. Intelligence, but the author disagrees.
- B. Intelligence, and the author agrees.
- C. Ignorance, and the author disagrees.

**B. Direction: Read the following comprehension and answer the questions that follow.**

**“THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL”**

Hans Christian Andersen

It was terribly cold; the snow was falling, and the dark evening was setting in; it was the last evening of the year—New Year's Eve. In this cold and uncomfortable darkness a poor little girl, bareheaded and barefooted, was walking through the streets. She had certainly had some sort of slippers on when she left her home, but they were not of much use to her, as they were very large slippers. Her mother had used them last, so you can guess they were large ones. As the little girl ran across the street just as two carriages were passing at a terrible rate, she lost the slippers. One of the slippers could not be found, and the other a boy ran away with. He said he would use it for a cradle when he got children of his own.

There was the little girl walking about on her naked little feet; they were red and blue with cold. In an old pinafore she had some bundles of matches, and in her hand she carried one of them. No one had bought anything of her the whole day, and no one had given her a penny. Hungry and shivering, she passed on, poor little girl, looking the very picture of misery. The snowflakes fell on her long yellow hair, which curled itself so beautifully about her neck; but of course she had no thoughts for such vanities. Lights were shining in all the windows, and there was such a delicious smell of roast goose in the street. "Ah! It is New Year's Eve," she thought.

Over in a corner between two houses—the one projected a little beyond the other—she crouched down, with her little feet drawn up under her; but she felt colder and colder, and she dared not go home, for she had not sold any matches or got a single penny; her father would beat her, and, besides, it was just as cold at home. They certainly had a roof over their heads, but through this the wind whistled, although they had stopped the largest cracks with rags and straw. Her little hands were quite benumbed with cold. Ah! A match might do some good.

If she only dared to take one out of the bundle and rub it against the wall, and warm her fingers over the flame! She took one out—*R-r-ratch!*—how it spurted, how it burned!

It was a warm, clear flame, just like a little candle, when she held her hand round it. It was a wonderful light; the little girl thought she was sitting right before a great iron stove with bright brass feet and brass mountings. How beautiful the fire burned! How it warmed her! But what was that? The little girl stretched her feet out to warm them also, and the flame went out—the stove vanished—she had only the small stump of the burned match in her hand. A new match was rubbed against the wall; it burned, it gave a beautiful light, and where the light fell on the wall it became transparent like a veil. She could see right into the room, where the table was covered with a bright white cloth, and on it a fine china dinner service; the roast goose, stuffed with prunes and apples, was steaming beautifully.

But, what was still more delightful, the goose jumped from the dish and waddled along the floor, with knife and fork in its back, straight toward the poor girl, when the match went out, and there was only the thick, cold wall to be seen. She lighted a new match. Then she was sitting under a beautiful Christmas-tree; it was

still larger and more decorated than that she had seen through the glass door at the rich merchant's last Christmas. Thousands of candles burned upon the green branches, and colored pictures, like those that you see in the shop windows, were looking down upon her. The little girl stretched both her hands toward them—and the match went out. The light seemed to go farther and farther away from her. She saw now that they were the bright stars. One of them fell down, leaving a long train of fire after it. "Now someone is dying," said the little one. Her old grandmother, who was the only one who had been good to her, but was now dead, had told her when a star falls a soul goes to God. She rubbed a match again on the wall.

It gave such a light, and in its luster stood the old grandmother—so clear, so bright, so mild, and so blessed! "Grandmother," cried the little one, "oh, take me with you! I know you will be gone when the match goes out—gone, just like the warm stove, the beautiful roast goose, and the great, beautiful Christmas tree." And she rubbed quickly all the remaining matches in the bundle,—she would not lose her grandmother,—and the matches burned with such a splendor that it was brighter than in the middle of the day. Grandmother had never before been so beautiful, so grand.

She took the little girl in her arms, and they flew away in brightness and joy, so high—high, where there was no cold, no hunger, no fear—they were with God! But, next morning, in the corner by the house sat the little girl with red cheeks and a smile about her mouth, dead—frozen to death on the last evening of the old year. The sun of New Year's morning rose up on the little corpse, with the matches in the pinafore, and one bundle nearly burned.

"She wanted to warm herself," said the people. No one knew what beautiful visions she had had, and in what splendor she had gone into the New Year's joy and happiness with her old grandmother.

**Direction: For each item below, choose the correct answer. Refer to the text to check your answers when necessary.**

**6. Why did the young girl sell matches?**

- a) To save up money to buy new slippers.
- b) To earn money to help support her poor family.
- c) To earn enough money to buy a Christmas tree.
- d) To buy a roast goose.

**7. What is the theme of "The Little Match Girl"?**

- a) Learn to take care of yourself.
- b) Greed is necessary to survive.
- c) Never lose hope because it can guide you and help solve your problems.
- d) Conflict makes you stronger.

**8. What does the falling star symbolize?**

- a) The upcoming snow storms.
- b) Her soul going to heaven.
- c) The lights on the tall Christmas tree she envisioned.
- d) It is close to sunrise.

**9. What does it mean "with her grandmother she had entered on the joys of a new year"?**

- a) It was morning and the little girl was no longer cold.
- b) The little girl died and entered heaven with her grandmother.
- c) Her grandmother found her and took her home.
- d) The little girl fell asleep and someone gave her a blanket to stay warm.

**10. How do you describe the people of the city (including the little girl's father) in the story?**

- a) Passionate
- b) Apathetic
- c) Sympathetic
- d) Empathetic

**C. Literary devices and genres**

Directions: Read the following examples of irony. Determine which of the three types of irony is being used.

Note that : Types of irony are:

- **Situational Irony:** When there is a discrepancy between what is expected to happen and what actually occurs. This type of irony often involves a twist in the story that surprises both the characters and the audience.
- **Verbal Irony:** When someone says something but means the opposite, often resembling sarcasm. For example, saying "What a beautiful day!" during a storm.
- **Dramatic Irony:** When the audience or reader knows something that the characters do not. This creates tension because the audience anticipates the character's reaction when the truth is revealed.

11. When Mr. Goodenwell saw his baby boy Vince for the first time, he swore that he'd do anything to protect the little guy. This was easy at first, when all Vince did was lie in a pillow and drink milk. But as little Vince grew bigger, he started walking. And once he started walking, he got into everything. He was becoming a serious threat to himself when Mr. Goodenwell, making good on his vow to protect his son, went to the store and bought \$150 worth of equipment to childproof his home. He put covers on the outlets, bumpers on the table corners, and a sliding lock on the toilet lid. But right as Mr. Goodenwell was adjusting the covers on the door knobs, Vince pulled the cap off an outlet and choked on it. Mr. Goodenwell found him just in time.

**A. Situational Irony.      B. Verbal Irony.      C. Dramatic Irony.**

12. One bright and warm Easter morning, Timmy Holloway woke up to the smell of eggs, but not breakfast eggs, Easter eggs. That's right Timmy had a craving for Easter eggs, and today was the day to get them boy howdy. There was only one thing standing in his way, well two really: the Solomon brothers. The Solomon brothers got more eggs than Timmy every year because there were two of them and they counted their eggs as one. Timmy suspected that this was cheating but he couldn't articulate the notion. When Timmy got to the fair grounds, he clutched his Easter egg sack behind his back and approached the Solomon brothers. The taller one distracted Timmy while the shorter one snuck behind him, clipping the corner of Timmy's egg sack and making quite a big hole. Unfortunately, Timmy failed to notice this. When the whistle blew, Timmy was off. He was surprised to see the Solomon brothers behind him, since he was much faster than they, but he didn't mind. Timmy beat them to every egg, and raced on to the next, never noticing that his sack wasn't getting heavier. As he approached the end of the course, Timmy was elated that he was the first to finish. The Solomon brothers were right behind him. "Maybe next year, loser twins," Timmy chuckled, right before he noticed that his sack was empty.

**A. Situational Irony.**

**B. Verbal Irony.**

**C. Dramatic Irony.**

13. Wow, a sweater! Thanks Bobby," said Janet after opening the present. Janet thought the sweater was hideous, but she appreciated her boyfriend's effort. But since Janet had seen the sweater before at a store in the mall, she exchanged it for some boots at the first chance she got. A week later, however, Bobby made reservations for two at the fanciest restaurant in town "Janet, I want to take you somewhere special. I have good news to tell you. Wear that sweater that I got you," Bobby told her. Janet didn't know how to react, "Um... that sweater doesn't quite match these boots I want to wear. Is it cool if I just wear it another time?" Bobby huffed, "You know, Janet, this meal is going to be expensive. The least you could do is act like you appreciate my gift." Janet paused to think.

**A. Situational Irony.**

**B. Verbal Irony.**

**C. Dramatic Irony.**

### From a cup of Tea

14. In "A Cup of Tea," Rosemary Fell is insecure about her \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. love for her fellow man
- b. bank account
- c. beauty
- d. love for her husband

15. As portrayed in "A Cup of Tea," \_\_\_\_\_ was a very real concept that dictated proper behavior in England in the early part of the 20th century.

- a. fear of poverty
- b. female education
- c. social class

### QUESTION 3 Grammar

(10 marks)

16. A well-trained team must practice regular and diligently, so that the members trust one another.

- A. [NO CHANGE]
- B. regular and diligent
- C. regularly and diligent
- D. regularly and diligently

17. After training for many years in the company of other well-disciplined soldiers, a sniper shoots more accurately than other marksmen.

- A. [NO CHANGE]
- B. shoots more accurate
- C. can shoot more accurate
- D. shoots accurately more

18. Though you may have training as a radiological technician, you can still make a career change easy to an executive role.

- A. [NO CHANGE]
- B. make a career change easier
- C. make easy a career change
- D. easily make a career change

19. You must run quickly to get first or second place in the highly competitive Olympic sprints.

- A. [NO CHANGE]
- B. must run quick
- C. must run pretty quick
- D. might run quickly



20. Kei Tari was a Japanese comedian and musician who melded seamless jazz and humor.

- A. [NO CHANGE]
- B. who seamlessly melded jazz and humor
- C. who was known for his melding of seamless jazz and humor
- D. who, with jazz and humor, seamlessly melded the two

21. Annual "Clean Your Computer Day" is a keenly-awaited holiday for programmers around the world.

- A. [NO CHANGE]
- B. is keenly awaited by
- C. is keenly awaiting for
- D. is awaited with keenness by

22. Surprisingly, my anthropology professor says she can speak easier to a large crowd of people than to a small group of experts in her field.

- A. [NO CHANGE]
- B. can easily speak
- C. can speak more easy
- D. can speak more easily

23. The "Feaster Five" road race is known for ending dramatically.

- A. [NO CHANGE]
- B. ending dramatic.
- C. being dramatic and for ending.
- D. its having a dramatic ending.

24. Sir Erec is an Arthurian Knight of the Round Table, and as such, he is required to fight valiantly.

- A. [NO CHANGE]
- B. he is valiantly required to fight.
- C. he is required to fight valiantly.
- D. requirements are that he must valiantly fight.

25. The champion lost all of our respect when she snatched the microphone and gave a haughty victory speech.

- A. [NO CHANGE]
- B. gave a haughtily
- C. gives a haughty
- D. sounding haughtily, gave

#### **Question 4 vocabulary**

26. They were a remarkably fine family, the sons very well-looking, the daughters decidedly handsome, and all of them well-grown and forward of their age, which produced as striking a difference between the cousins in person, as education had given to their **address**; and no one would have supposed the girls so nearly of an age as they really were. What is the meaning of address

- A. House.
- B. Inscription
- C. Lecture.
- D. Speech.

27. Earlier studies have shown that the ventral visual cortex supports recognition of an array of visual stimuli, including objects, faces, and places. Within this area, a subregion in the left hemisphere known as the “visual word form area” (VWFA) shows a particular selectivity for written words. However, this region is characteristically **plastic**. It’s been proposed that stimuli compete for representation in this malleable area, such that “winner takes all” depending on the strongest input.

- A. artificial.
- B. springy.
- C. resistant.
- D. adaptable.

28. It may seem strange that others consider it less likely that questionable research practices, for example, were used when a scientist admits that they were wrong. However, it does make sense from the standpoint that wrongness admission seems to indicate honesty. **Therefore, if one is honest in one domain**, they are likely honest in other domains. Moreover, the refusal to admit might indicate to others that the original scientist is trying to cover something up. The lack of significance of most of the interactions in our study suggests that it even seems as if scientists might already realize this. Therefore, we can generally suggest that scientists admit they are wrong, but only when the evidence suggests they should.

- A. field.
- B. value.
- C. kingdom.
- D. context.

29. The researchers used Chicago HiRise assembly technology to up the quality of Willy’s genome sequence. “This new assembly allowed us to identify **fine** chromosomal rearrangements between the horse and the donkey that likely played an active role in their divergence and, ultimately, speciation,” they write.

- A. ostentatious.
- B. ornamental.
- C. small-scale.
- D. of good quality.

30. In his landmark treatise, An Essay on the Principle of Population, Reverend Thomas Robert Malthus argued that population growth will necessarily exceed the growth rate of the means of subsistence, making poverty inevitable. The system of feedbacks that Malthus posited creates a situation similar to what social scientists now term a “poverty trap”: i.e., a self-reinforcing mechanism that causes poverty to persist. Malthus’s erroneous assumptions, which did not account for rapid technological progress, rendered his core prediction wrong: the world has **enjoyed** unprecedented economic development in the ensuing two centuries due to technology-driven productivity growth.

- A. avoided
- B. experienced
- C. delighted
- D. wanted

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**SIS-English Exam- Grade 12 Model A Paper 1**  
**Answer Sheet**

**Student Full Name:** .....

**Student's Code:** .....

	A	B	C	D
Q1				
Q2				
Q3				
Q4				
Q5				
Q6				
Q7				
Q8				
Q9				
Q10				

	A	B	C	D
Q11				
Q12				
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	A	B	C	D
Q21				
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Q23				
Q24				
Q25				
Q26				
Q27				
Q28				
Q19				
Q30				

For official use only:

Right Answers out of 30:

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Marks out of 40:

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**Good luck**

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