



GC INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE - LEVEL FOUR SAMPLE PAPER

Question 1

Listen to the word and spell it!

Clue: **The company was forced into** _____.

Key: BANKRUPTCY

Question 2

Select the word or phrase that is redundant and can be removed without changing the meaning of the text.

Before taking the stand, the two eyewitnesses pledged that they would provide an honest and truthful account of the accident.

- A. pledged B. honest C. and truthful D. account

Key: C

Question 3

Read the claim below and select the option that best supports this claim.

Schools should focus on teaching practical maths skills instead of abstract concepts.

- A. Research suggests that many adults lack real world math skills, such as the ability to read an milometer.
B. The branch of maths known as algebra uses letters to stand for unknown values.
C. Can't say
D. None of these

Key: A

Question 4

Complete the text with the correct word.

Jazz fest is a popular celebration of music and culture in New Orleans. Every year thousands of people attend the festival to experience _____ spectacular performances.

- A. it's B. its C. Both A and B D. None of these

Key: B

Question 5

A network is used to connect

A statue is to _____

- A. memorialize B. control C. reaction D. none of these

Key: A

Question 6

Directions: Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters.

POMPOUS

- A. uppity B. humble
C. grandiose D. intricate

Key: B

Question 7

Directions: Complete the sentence using the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

Coleen's knee injury _____ her from furthering her career as a long distance runner.

- A. forbids B. facilitates
C. precludes D. nurtures

Key: C

Question 8

Directions: Choose the correct form of the helping verb "to be". Then write the correct form of the verb in irregular participle form.

My bicycle (was/were) _____ (to steal) yesterday

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| A. were, stole | B. was, steal |
| C. were, stollen | D. was, stolen |

Key: D

Question 9

Directions: Replace the underlined words with an affirmative or negative contraction

There's no milk in the refrigerator

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| A. They is | B. They is |
| C. There is | D. There has |

Key: C

Question 10

Directions: Choose the correct word

The teacher walked down the _____ between the rows of desks.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| A. isle | B. aisle |
| C. Both A and B | D. None of these |

Key: B

Question 11

Directions: Choose the answer choice that best defines the word in capital letters.

EMBARK

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| A. to begin | B. to applaud |
| C. to research | D. to enclose |

Key: A

Question 12

Fix the one word that is used incorrectly.

When working out you should rise and lower weights with slow controlled motions to maximise the benefits of lifting.

- A. rise B. slow C. maximise D. None of these

Key: A

Question 13

What does the simile in this text suggest?

Elena rubbed coconut oil on her hands, which were like the parched earth during a drought.

- A. Elena's hands were hot. B. Elena's hands were dry and cracked.
C. Elena's hands were cold. D. None of these.

Key: B

Question 14

Answer the question below based on the story given below.

It was on the first of June 2018 when I woke up to a cheerful family who were excited about visiting the Hwange National Park. In no time at all, everyone was ready for the trip. We left home just after sunrise and by eight o'clock sharp we were already at the entrance of the park where we paid our entrance fee. We were given a tour guide and advised never to leave the car as there were dangerous animals around the game park.

We saw giraffes as tall as they are. As we moved around, we saw a pack of wolves and a pride of lions with their cubs. On a hilltop were leaps of leopards enjoying the sunshine. There was also homemade shelter for different animals. Housed in these were a bevy of quails, a gaggle of geese, nest of rabbits and different kind of snakes. We were all excited by troops of monkeys that swayed from one tree to another.

A word used in the passage that means the same as zoo is _____.

- A. game park B. gaggle
C. park D. bevy

Key: A

Question 15

Fill in the blank. Choose the correct word to fill the space below.

At the zoo we saw a male lion with a beautiful _____ .

- A. main B. mane C. mine D. None of these

Key: B

Question 16

Which statement shows a person shouting?

- A. John! B. John?
C. 'John' D. (John)

Key: A

Question 17

Read the following passage carefully and choose an appropriate answer.

While it is true that there is no law that compels us to say please, there is a social practice much older and much more sacred than any law which enjoins us to be civil. And the first requirement of civility is that we should acknowledge a service. "Please and Thank you" are the small exchanges with which we pay our way as social beings. They are the little courtesies by which we keep the machine of life oiled and running smoothly.

- A. we should not say "please" as it is against the law.
B. we may or may not say "please" according to our mood.
C. we must say "please" as it is a civilised custom
D. to say "please" is an outdated custom.

Key: C

Question 18

Choose the correct possessive to fill in the blank.

The dog played with the _____ shoe.

- A. babies B. baby's
C. babys' D. babys

Key: B

Question 19

Choose the correct spelling of the word to fill in the blank.

You will _____ an email confirmation within the next hour.

- A. recieve B. receive C. receivee D. None of these

Key: B

Question 20

"Doctors recommend that everyone exercise every day, particularly those who spend many hours doing SEDENTARY activities like reading, watching television, or playing video games."

Which of the following correctly defines the meaning of the word SEDENTARY?

- A. To engage in physical activity.
B. To spend time using minimal brain function.
C. To engage in criminal activity.
D. To spend much time seated.

Key: D

Question 21

Which word is the synonym of SQUANDER?

- A. borrow B. steal
C. waste D. collect

Key: C

Question 22

Find the equivalent word from the choices

a physical ability that involves flexing the body into different shapes

- A. concoction
B. meticulous
C. contortion
D. repugnant

Key: C

Question 23

Choose the answer that best replaces the word(s) in parentheses.

Lester scooped up the ball with a (skillful) motion, making it look easy.

- A. benevolent
- B. compulsory
- C. deft
- D. clear

Key: C

Question 24

The results of the recent animal migration are showing _____ prospects for the future of some species.

- A. dismally
- B. dismals
- C. dismal
- D. abdisimally

Key: C

Question 25

Which of the following is the opposite of cramped?

- A. pivotal
- B. caustic
- C. capacious
- D. ungainly

Key: C

Question 26

My uncle is a proponent of stricter laws for protecting the environment. What is an antonym for proponent?

- A. supporter
- B. opponent
- C. advocate
- D. advisor

Key: B

Question 27

Water is to "flood" as illness is to

- A. academic
- B. epidemic
- C. autocratic
- D. politics

Key: B

Question 28

Sometimes your conscience COMPELS you to do something even when everyone else is telling you do something different.

What does the word COMPELS most likely mean?

- A. Discourages
- B. Forces
- C. Ignores
- D. Wants

Key: B

Question 29

Find the antonym of the below word:

RESOLUTE

- A. cruel
- B. steadfast
- C. careless
- D. fickle

Key: D

Question 30

Find the antonym of the below word:

PRIMITIVE

- A. elementary
- B. modern
- C. juvenile
- D. withering

Key: B

Question 31

particular : fussy :: _____ : subservient

- A. meek
- B. above
- C. cranky
- D. uptight

Key: A

Question 32

miserly : cheap :: homogeneous : _____

- A. extravagant
- B. unkind
- C. alike
- D. friendly

Key: C

Question 33

myopic : farsighted :: _____ : obscure

- A. benevolent
- B. famous
- C. turgid
- D. wasted

Key: B

Question 34

If the present tense is walk, the past tense walked and the future tense will walk, what is the present participle and the past participle?

- A. is walking, was walking
- B. has been walking, was walking
- C. is walking, has walked
- D. None of these

Key: C

Question 35

Jessy had her education from an international university, and she wanted to flaunt her intellect with _____ speeches.

- A. Eloquent
- B. Revolutionary
- C. Rousing
- D. Grandiloquent

Key: D

Question 36

In the following question four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase *italicised and underlined* in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of idiom/phrase.

You have to be a *cool customer* and be patient if you want to get the best buys.

- A. Be calm and not be excitable
- B. Have a cool head
- C. Be uncommunicative
- D. Be choosy

Key: A

Question 37

In the following question four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase *italicised and underlined* in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of idiom/phrase.

I am afraid he is burning *the candle at both ends* and ruining his life.

- A. wasting his money
- B. becoming overgenerous
- C. overtaxing his energies
- D. losing his objectives

Key: C

Question 38

Read the following sentence and try to choose the best definition for the underlined and italicized word by searching for context clues in the sentence.

The spies conducted a *covert* operation.

- A. dangerous
- B. foreign
- C. hidden
- D. illegal

Key: C

Question 39

Read the following sentence and try to choose the best definition for the underlined and italicized word by searching for context clues in the sentence.

She showed a blatant disregard for the rules.

- A. obvious
- B. hidden
- C. last-minute
- D. rebellious

Key: A

Question 40

Read the following sentence and try to choose the best definition for the underlined and italicized word by searching for context clues in the sentence.

Since the townspeople were so dissatisfied, various methods to alleviate the situation were debated.

- A. ease
- B. tolerate
- C. clarify
- D. intensify

Key: A

Question 41

Read the following sentence and try to choose the best definition for the underlined and italicized word by searching for context clues in the sentence.

The editor of the newspaper needed to be sure the article presented the right information, so his review was meticulous.

- A. delicate
- B. painstaking
- C. superficial
- D. objective

Key: B

Question 42

Read the following passage and answer the question that follow:

(1) Abraham Lincoln served as the 16th President of the United States, yet he never went to college. In fact, Lincoln had nearly no formal education whatsoever, attending schools for less than a year throughout his childhood. Yet this should not be construed to mean that Lincoln was ignorant or unlearned; on the contrary, he was one of the most well-read leaders of the time. The fact is that Abraham Lincoln educated himself by studying books of religion, philosophy, and literature, and he continued his voracious reading throughout his life.

(2) A lack of public school education did not prevent Lincoln from becoming a great leader. He led the United States through four years of civil war, which threatened to divide the nation into two separate countries. He was a powerful opponent of slavery, and it was largely through his leadership that slavery was abolished in this country.

(3) Lincoln's determination to educate himself through diligent reading also led to his reputation as a great orator—and even today his speeches are quoted and studied worldwide. He serves as an example of a great leader—and a great reader. His love of books and good literature enabled Abe Lincoln to rise to world renown.

What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Abe Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States.
- B. Abe Lincoln demonstrated the value of reading.
- C. Abe Lincoln was a Republican.
- D. Abe Lincoln freed the slaves.

Key: B

Question 43

Read the following passage and answer the question that follow:

(1) Abraham Lincoln served as the 16th President of the United States, yet he never went to college. In fact, Lincoln had nearly no formal education whatsoever, attending schools for less than a year throughout his childhood. Yet this should not be construed to mean that Lincoln was ignorant or unlearned; on the contrary, he was one of the most well-read leaders of the time. The fact is that Abraham Lincoln educated himself by studying books of religion, philosophy, and literature, and he continued his voracious reading throughout his life.

(2) A lack of public school education did not prevent Lincoln from becoming a great leader. He led the United States through four years of civil war, which threatened to divide the nation into two separate countries. He was a powerful opponent of slavery, and it was largely through his leadership that slavery was abolished in this country.

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Lincoln accomplished all of the following EXCEPT

- A. preventing the United States from being divided.
- B. ending slavery.
- C. becoming a great leader.
- D. establishing the Lincoln Memorial.

Key: D

Question 44

Read the following passage and answer the question that follow:

(1) Abraham Lincoln served as the 16th President of the United States, yet he never went to college. In fact, Lincoln had nearly no formal education whatsoever, attending schools for less than a year throughout his childhood. Yet this should not be construed to mean that Lincoln was ignorant or unlearned; on the contrary, he was one of the most well-read leaders of the time. The fact is that Abraham Lincoln educated himself by studying books of religion, philosophy, and literature, and he continued his voracious reading throughout his life.

(2) A lack of public school education did not prevent Lincoln from becoming a great leader. He led the United States through four years of civil war, which threatened to divide the nation into two separate countries. He was a powerful opponent of slavery, and it was largely through his leadership that slavery was abolished in this country.

(3) Lincoln's determination to educate himself through diligent reading also led to his reputation as a great orator—and even today his speeches are quoted and studied worldwide. He serves as an example of a great leader—and a great reader. His love of books and good literature enabled Abe Lincoln to rise to world renown.

A voracious reader is

- A. likely to become President.
- B. a person who makes reading a regular habit.
- C. someone who never went to school.
- D. probably poor.

Key: B

Question 45

Read the following passage and answer the question that follow:

(1) Abraham Lincoln served as the 16th President of the United States, yet he never went to college. In fact, Lincoln had nearly no formal education whatsoever, attending schools for less than a year throughout his childhood. Yet this should not be construed to mean that Lincoln was ignorant or unlearned; on the contrary, he was one of the most well-read leaders of the time. The fact is that Abraham Lincoln educated himself by studying books of religion, philosophy, and literature, and he continued his voracious reading throughout his life.

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The underlined word construed, as used in paragraph 1, most nearly means

- A. tormented.
- B. taken apart.
- C. unscrewed.
- D. interpreted.

Key: D

Question 46

Read the following passage and answer the question that follow:

(1) Abraham Lincoln served as the 16th President of the United States, yet he never went to college. In fact, Lincoln had nearly no formal education whatsoever, attending schools for less than a year throughout his childhood. Yet this should not be construed to mean that Lincoln was ignorant or unlearned; on the contrary, he was one of the most well-read leaders of the time. The fact is that Abraham Lincoln educated himself by studying books of religion, philosophy, and literature, and he continued his voracious reading throughout his life.

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According to the passage, what lesson can be learned from the life of Abraham Lincoln?

- A. Education is not important.
- B. All books are worth reading.
- C. Good reading habits can help a person do great things.
- D. Politicians are always good role models.

Key: C

Question 47

Read the following passage and answer the question that follow:

(1) Abraham Lincoln served as the 16th President of the United States, yet he never went to college. In fact, Lincoln had nearly no formal education whatsoever, attending schools for less than a year throughout his childhood. Yet this should not be construed to mean that Lincoln was ignorant or unlearned; on the contrary, he was one of the most well-read leaders of the time. The fact is that Abraham Lincoln educated himself by studying books of religion, philosophy, and literature, and he continued his voracious reading throughout his life.

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How does Lincoln still affect students today?

- A. His face is on money.
- B. His speeches are still quoted and studied today.
- C. People grow beards to look like him.
- D. Students quit school in hopes of becoming president.

Key: B

Question 48

A life-long vegetarian, Xiomara _____ when she learned that the sauce she'd just eaten was made with chicken broth.

- A. wavered
- B. blanched
- C. coalesced
- D. stagnated

Key: B

Question 49

Select an option that will improve the given sentence by replacing the underlined and italicised phrase.

The workers are hell bent at getting what is due to them.

- A. hell bent on getting
- B. hell bent for getting
- C. hell bent upon getting
- D. No improvement

Key: C

Question 50

Though Peter did not appear to be particularly _____, he was easily the _____ player on the team.

- A. brawny ... strongest
- B. athletic ... frailest
- C. husky ... bravest
- D. delicate ... densest

Key: A

Question 51

In order to _____ discussion about the novel, the teacher asked his students a series of questions about its themes.

- A. advocate
- B. hasten
- C. aggravate
- D. facilitate

Key: D

Question 52

The bombing of Pearl Harbor was _____ act of hostility, and the United States reacted to the blatant act with a declaration of war on Japan.

- A. a clandestine
- B. an overt
- C. an inconspicuous
- D. an ambiguous

Key: B

Question 53

The helicopter _____ over the scene of the accident and lingered at a low altitude.

- A. soared
- B. hovered
- C. excelled
- D. collided

Key: B

Question 54

Far from being harmful as was thought to be the case, running on bare feet is _____ at worst and beneficial at best.

- A. innocuous
- B. detrimental
- C. profitable
- D. ambivalent

Key: A

Question 55

Which of phrases given below each sentence should replace the phrase printed in bold type to make the grammatically correct? If the sentence is correct as it is, mark 'D' as the answer.

The research study is an eye-opener and **attempts to acquaint** us with the problems of poor nations.

- A. attempted to acquaint
- B. attempts at acquainting
- C. attempt to acquaint
- D . No correction required

Key: B

Question 56

In the question below, there is a sentence of which some parts have been jumbled up. Rearrange these parts which are labelled P, Q, R and S to produce the correct sentence. Choose the proper sequence.

A French woman

P : committed suicide

Q : where she had put up

R : who had come to Calcutta

S : by jumping from the first floor balcony of the hotel

The Proper sequence should be:

A. PRQS

B. QSRP

C. RPSQ

D. SRQP

Key: C

Question 57

Listen to the audio carefully and answer the following questions.

This paragraph best supports the statement that

A. the study of mathematics is dangerous.

B. words are more truthful than figures.

C. the study of mathematics is more important than other disciplines.

D. figures are sometimes used to deceive people.

Key: D

Question 58

Listen to the audio and spell the word

Clue: secretly

Key: SURREPTITIOUSLY

Question 59

Listen to the audio and spell the word

Clue: nickname

Key: SOBRIQUET

Question 60

Listen to the audio and spell the word

Clue: igneous rock showing a very coarse texture

Key: PEGMATITE