



GC INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE - LEVEL THREE SAMPLE PAPER

Question 1

The woman laughed continuously at the policeman.

Which word is the adverb?

- A. laughed
- B. continuously
- C. policeman
- D. the

Key: B

Question 2

Complete the sentence with the correct possessive noun.

The _____ stomping was heard across the prairie.

- A. oxens
- B. oxens'
- C. oxens's
- D. oxen's

Key: D

Question 3

Which one of the following items has no mistakes in capitalization?

- A. do you know where Sarah is? She promised to help me.
- B. Show me your new game. is it your favorite?
- C. Ramon needs a new backpack. Tell him where you got yours.
- D. Why did Samantha leave early? did she have a doctor's appointment?

Key: C

Question 4

Snakes are apodal. They slither rather than walk.

What does apodal mean?

- A. having four feet
- B. having two feet
- C. having no feet
- D. having two hands

Key: C

Question 5

Which sentence is correct?

- A. The soccer ball.
- B. The soccer ball rolled quickly across the field.
- C. Running toward the goalie.
- D. Sitting quietly concentrating on her assignment.

Key: B

Question 6

What pair of words completes the following sentence correctly?

The_____ of the _____ were working quietly.

- A. wives, man
- B. wives, man
- C. wives, men
- D. none of the above

Key: C

Question 7

Which of the following sentences does NOT contain an idiom?

- A. A dog ran after a rabbit.
- B. Those cards are a dime a dozen.
- C. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
- D. It's raining cats and dogs out there.

Key: A

Question 8

Which choice correctly changes the following simple sentence into a complex sentence?

We visited the zoo.

- A. We visited the zoo, but we didn't see any monkeys.
- B. We visited the zoo because we wanted to see the lions.
- C. We visited the zoo and the aquarium.
- D. We visited the zoo during the summer.

Key: B

Question 9

Read the sentences below.

That stupid laugh of hers can absolutely drive everyone up the wall. We can't stand it!

What does the idiom DRIVE UP THE WALL mean?

- A. Make crazy
- B. Make happy
- C. Make sad
- D. Make a car drive vertically up a wall

Key: A

Question 10

Find the Synonym.

To see or form a mental image of

- A. dream
- B. visualize
- C. focus
- D. concept

Key: B

Question 11

Tanner felt remorse after he stole the cookie from the jar.

Which definition best fits the word "remorse"?

- A. happy
- B. unphased
- C. regret
- D. anxious

Key: C

Question 12

Which of the following words is spelled incorrectly?

- A. campain
- B. voltage
- C. tolerance
- D. acknowledgement

Key: A

Question 13

Find the equivalent word from the choices

self-confidence, especially in a difficult situation; poise; assurance

- A. aplomb
- B. aptitude
- C. brandish
- D. attentive

Key: A

Question 14

Find the equivalent word from the choices

obvious

- A. agile
- B. antic
- C. console
- D. conspicuous

Key: D

Question 15

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 16

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 17

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 18

Which of the following is the opposite of cramped?

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

Key: C

Question 19

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 20

Water is to "flood" as illness is to

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

Key: B

Question 21

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 22

Find the antonym of the below word:

RESOLUTE

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

Key: D

Question 23

Find the antonym of the below word:

PRIMITIVE

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

Key: B

Question 24

Find the antonym of the below word:

HIDE

- A. compliment
- B. reward
- C. punish
- D. criticize

Key: A

Question 25

Which of the following sentences is written correctly?

- A. The poem, written by a senior, is called a "heartbreak."
- B. Linda dreams of flying on the "Concorde" someday.
- C. "The Hlstory of English" was a fascinating television series.
- D. Her first book was called sleep Late, and it was recently published.

Key: A

Question 26

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

- A. Milege
- B. Expectant
- C. Oversight
- D. Aknowledge

Key: B

Question 27

Which of the following does not use the emphatic form of a verb?

- A. Terry did return the shirts that did not fit after trying them on.
- B. The principal does not require that each student have a signed permission slip before leaving school.
- C. My parents do the yard work early each Saturday morning.
- D. The shrub do need trimming after the long winter.

Key: C

Question 28

How many students in your class _____ from Korea?

- A. Comes
- B. Come
- C. Came
- D. Are coming

Key: B

Question 29

Which idiom means "to be the best"?

- A. A hornet's nest
- B. The bee's knees
- C. The bee's sting
- D. The wasp's nest

Key: B

Question 30

Which idiom means "an unsuccessful search"?

- A. A wild bird chase
- B. A wild duck chase
- C. A wild goose chase
- D. A wild swan chase

Key: C

Question 31

Find the synonyms of the below word:

Taut

- A. Slack
- B. Stretched
- C. Tense
- D. Tight

Key: B

Question 32

TV, video and computer games leave _____ space for dreaming and imagination.

- A. many
- B. much
- C. little
- D. few

Key: C

Question 33

What does the following word mean?

Confluence

- A. Beginning of a river
- B. End of a river
- C. Meeting of rivers
- D. Stream flowing into a main river

Key: C

Question 34

Choose the correct definition for the following term.

A fact and an opinion

- A. A belief and a true statement
- B. A belief and an untruth
- C. A true statement and a belief
- D. An untruth and a belief

Key: C

Question 35

Find a suitable word to replace the underlined word.

Do you know what kind of an escapade the senior class went on?

- A. waterfall
- B. collaboration
- C. circuit breaker
- D. adventure

Key: D

Question 36

Find the correct homophone that should be used in the below sentence.

The pillows on the sofa _____ the two side chairs.

- A. complete
- B. complement
- C. compliment
- D. complicate

Key: B

Question 37

Find the correct homophone that should be used. To complete the sentence.

Her dress was very _____ compared to what her friend wore.

- A. discreet
- B. discrete
- C. discreat
- D. diskrete

Key: A

Question 38

Find the appropriate word used to connect the two sentences.

Nayla liked the red dress. She bought it.

- A. or
- B. but
- C. because
- D. so

Key: D

Question 39

Never look directly _____ the sun. It is bad for your eyes.

- A. to
- B. for
- C. through
- D. at

Key: D

Question 40

Choose the correct response.

What are you giving Max for his birthday?

- A. I give him a gold watch.
- B. I'm giving a gold watch him.
- C. I'm giving him a few money.
- D. I'm giving him this antique watch.

Key: D

Question 41

In the given situation, which one of the instructions is correct?

You have got to go either to the baker's or to the butcher's first. You might decide to go the butcher's first, in that case you'll have to go to the barber's afterwards. If you decide to go to the baker's first, then you'll have to go the builder's afterwards.

- A. First go either to the baker's or to the butcher's. If you go to the butcher's first, then go to the barber's. If you go to the baker's first, then go to the builder's
- B. First go either to the baker's or to the butcher's. If you go to the baker's first, then go to the barber's. If you go to the butcher's first, then go to the builder's
- C. First go either to the builder's or to the barber's. If you go to the builder's first, then go to the butcher's. If you go to the barber's first, then go to the baker's
- D. Go to the baker's or the butcher's, then go to the barber's or the builder's

Key: A

Question 42

Read the below passage and select the appropriate option from the answer choices.

The legal system is made up of civil courts, criminal courts and specialty courts such as family law courts and bankruptcy courts. Each court has its own jurisdiction, which refers to the cases that the court is allowed to hear. In some instances, a case can only be heard in one type of court. For example, a bankruptcy case must be heard in a bankruptcy court. In other instances, there may be several potential courts with jurisdiction. For example, a federal criminal court and a state criminal court would each have jurisdiction over a crime that is a federal drug offense but that is also an offense on the state level.

- A. Plagiarism
- B. Quoting
- C. Paraphrasing
- D. Summarizing

Key: A

Question 43

The Epic of Gilgamesh is a 3,200-year-old account of the mythological hero-king Gilgamesh's exploits. It is one of the oldest works of literature in the world. The first modern translation of Gilgamesh's impressive adventures was made in the 1880s by George Smith.

In the context of this passage, what is the meaning of the word exploits?

- A. extraordinary deeds
- B. to take advantage of
- C. abusive undertakings
- D. English translations

Key: A

Question 44

Sharon had just graduated high school, literally. Only thirty minutes earlier, she was walking across the stage and accepting her diploma. After she accepted it, she continued walking off the stage, through the crowd, and out of the school. She was ready to start her adult life, and she felt that she could not do that if she spent the rest of the day and the month reliving her high school memories. She told herself that moving on with her life required the abandonment of childish friends, desires, and memories. She was ready to be a new person, or at least she thought she was ready.

In the context of this passage, what is the meaning of the word abandonment?

- A. to embrace something
- B. to leave empty and bereft
- C. to give up or relinquish
- D. to be irresponsible

Key: C

Question 45

"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 46

Silvio first arranged the anthology in _____ order based on when the writers published each piece, but he later switched to _____ ordering system based on the spelling of the authors' names.

- A. reverse ... a straightforward
- B. random ... an orderly
- C. mathematical ... a geometric
- D. chronological ... an alphabetical

Key: D

Question 47

The dancer tried to _____ the movements of his teacher, exactly copying every graceful step.

- A. plagiarize
- B. interpret
- C. mimic
- D. possess

Key: C

Question 48

Paul Laurence Dunbar was an African American poet who wrote in the late 1800s and early 1900s. His poem “Sympathy” speaks of the feelings of a bird in a cage. Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

SYMPATHY

I know what the caged bird feels, alas!

When the sun is bright on the upland slopes;

When the wind stirs soft through the springing grass,

And the river flows like a stream of glass;

5 When the first bird sings and the first bud opes,¹

And the faint perfume from its chalice² steals—

I know what the caged bird feels!

I know why the caged bird beats his wing

Till its blood is red on the cruel bars;

10 For he must fly back to his perch and cling

When he fain³ would be on the bough⁴ a-swing;

And a pain still throbs in the old, old scars

And they pulse again with a keener sting—

I know why he beats his wing!

15 I know why the caged bird sings, ah me,

When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore,—

When he beats his bars and he would be free;

It is not a carol of joy or glee,

But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,

20 But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings—

I know why the caged bird sings!

—Paul Laurence Dunbar

Which of the following words best describes the feeling created by the description in line 3?

A. peaceful B. surprised C. impatient D. suspenseful

Key: A

Question 49

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But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,

20 But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings—

I know why the caged bird sings!

—Paul Laurence Dunbar

In line 4, the phrase “like a stream of glass” suggests the water is

A. cold. B. deep. C. dirty. D. smooth.

Key: D

Question 50

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It is not a carol of joy or glee,

But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,

20 But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings—

I know why the caged bird sings!

—Paul Laurence Dunbar

In line 5, what do the “first bird” and the “first bud” most likely represent?

A. the cage B. the springtime C. the bud's beauty D. the bird's ancestor

Key: B

Question 51

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It is not a carol of joy or glee,

But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,

20 But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings—

I know why the caged bird sings!

—Paul Laurence Dunbar

How is the first stanza most different from the rest of the poem?

- A. The stanza suggests the bird is bored with his life.
- B. The stanza describes how the bird looks, rather than how he acts.
- C. The stanza suggests the bird is unwise for wanting his life to change.
- D. The stanza describes what the bird likely desires, rather than what he experiences.

Key: D

Question 52

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It is not a carol of joy or glee,

But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,

20 But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings—

I know why the caged bird sings!

—Paul Laurence Dunbar

Which of the following words best describes the tone of the poem?

A. fearful

B. apologetic

C. passionate

D. wondering

Key: C

Question 53

Paul Laurence Dunbar was an African American poet who wrote in the late 1800s and early 1900s. His poem “Sympathy” speaks of the feelings of a bird in a cage. Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

SYMPATHY

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But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,

20 But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings—

I know why the caged bird sings!

—Paul Laurence Dunbar

Which meaning of the word faint is used in line 6?

- A. exhausted
- B. whispered
- C. lacking courage
- D. barely noticeable

Key: D

Question 54

Listen to the audio and Spell the word!

Clue: delay or postpone action

Key: PROCRASTINATE

Question 55

Listen to the audio and Spell the word!

Clue: be indecisive

Key: VACILLATE

Question 56

Listen to the audio and Spell the word!

Clue: the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human

Key: PERSONIFICATION

Question 57

Though the attorney did not directly state that the witness was a liar, the jury was able to _____ that the witness was not _____.

- A. understand ... valuable
- B. imagine ... scandalous
- C. infer ... trustworthy
- D. deduce ... likeable

Key: C

Question 58

Allen Ginsberg's poetry offers _____ insight into the counterculture of the 1950s; his writings give readers a deep understanding of the Beat movement.

- A. profound
- B. scholarly
- C. cryptic
- D. superficial

Key: A

Question 59

The queen's _____ fell ill during his journey and was unable to negotiate on her behalf when he arrived at the economic summit.

- A. penury
- B. miscreant
- C. emissary
- D. denizen

Key: C

Question 60

"Absolute power corrupts absolutely," said Haines. "There is no such thing as a(n) _____ who is not a corrupt and cruel ruler."

- A. imbroglio
- B. pedant
- C. despot
- D. agnostic

Key: C