

ELA Exam – Semester I

On a Scantron, bubble-in the correct answer for each of the following questions.

1. The definition of **theme** is:
A. a recurring motif that adds layers of intrigue and meaning to drama, literature and other artistic works
B. the author's message of a literary text
C. both A and B
D. neither A nor B
2. The meaning of the word **metaphor** is:
A. a comparison between two things that are both strange
B. the layer of rock beneath the magma layer
C. a comparison between two different things that draws attention to their basic similarities
D. "metaphor" is a synonym for "simile"
3. The significance of the word **oxymoron** is:
A. a term or phrase that is like an analogy but not really
B. a term or phrase that contains two very similar elements, for example: hard rock
C. a comparison between two different things that draws attention to their basic similarities
D. a term or phrase that contains opposing elements, for example: grounded flight
4. Which of the following sentences aptly exemplifies **irony**?
A. a sheep is shaved for his wool, and then he goes "Baaaaa"
B. a woman who is an active member of the organization *Guns are Great* gets shot in the foot during a Fourth of July celebration
C. a bus-boy who drops dishes five days in a row gets fired
D. both A and C
5. The author of a story who drops hints or clues early on as to what might happen later on in a **narrative** is said to be employing:
A. forehead
B. foresight
C. flashback
D. foreshadowing
6. The following passage is from a story that was written from which **point of view**?
It was hard for him to understand that he actually had to abandon it – it was ridiculous – and he began to curse. Of all the papers on his desk, why did it have to be this one in particular?!
A. first person
B. third person objective
C. third person limited
D. none of the above
7. The term **setting**:
A. refers to the time and place of an artistic work
B. is a synonym for "scene"
C. is the antonym for "antidisestablishmentarianism"
D. both A and B

8. When one **event** leads to certain and undeniable **ramifications**, this is said to demonstrate:
- A. indefatigable, which means tireless
 - B. putting the cart before the horse
 - C. cause and effect
 - D. problem and solution
9. An example of an **idiom** is:
- A. don't put the cart before the horse
 - B. it's raining pigs
 - C. I don't believe you.
 - D. none of the above
10. Which of the following is a **fact**?
- A. there are too many trees on the Glendale High School campus
 - B. there aren't enough trees on the Glendale High School campus
 - C. I like trees
 - D. there are trees on the Glendale High School campus
11. Which of the following is an **opinion**?
- A. my teacher just gave me a test, and I was asked to complete it
 - B. my teacher is sometimes mean but usually effective
 - C. my teacher is often nice
 - D. both B and C
12. Which of the following is a **stereotype**?
- A. all women are nurturing. They cook and take care of kids and love pets
 - B. all men are tough and strong and made of mettle
 - C. all children are sweet
 - D. all of the above
13. Which of the following exemplifies **hyperbole**?
- A. you weigh a ton
 - B. she never listens
 - C. I eat like a horse
 - D. all of the above
 - E. none of the above
14. What **genre** of writing most directly allows the author the opportunity to convince someone else of his or her opinion?
- A. persuasive
 - B. descriptive
 - C. expository
 - D. narrative
15. If you don't have lots of **questions** about what you are reading – questions about what will happen next; questions about how the main character, or protagonist, will get out of his or her pickle; or questions about how this story relates to your life, then you are:
- A. not reading deeply enough
 - B. not reading a text that is right for you
 - C. not taking advantage of a great opportunity
 - D. all of the above

16. Which of the following contains a **polysyllabic noun** in the **nominative case**?

- A. yes
- B. those are my shoes.
- C. these blueberries taste good.
- D. the tree stood tall.
- E. yellow

17. Polysyllabic means “multiple-syllable,” therefore the **prefix** “poly” means:

- A. few or none
- B. many or multiple
- C. lucky
- D. seven

18. The syllables that add on to a **base** or **root** word to form a larger word are called:

- A. citation
- B. theme
- C. bibliography
- D. affixes

19. Which of the following is the **past participle** form of the verb “eat”?

- A. eaten
- B. eat
- C. ate
- D. to eat

20. Knowing that **past participles** are used with **helping verbs**, such as *have*, *has* or *had*, to form certain verb phrases, such as *had eaten*, which of the following is the past participle of the verb “swim”?

- A. swim
- B. swam
- C. swum
- D. swimming

21. Which of the following is a **complex sentence**?

- A. The boat sank.
- B. His singing was beautiful.
- C. While we were eating dinner, the phone rang.
- D. I don’t like mustard.

22. Which of the following is a **compound sentence**?

- A. When she was younger, she played the tuba.
- B. Harold brought pizza, and we all watched a movie.
- C. Yes, I am.
- D. No, I’m not.

23. Which of the following is a **simple sentence**?

- A. When she was younger, she played the tuba.
- B. Harold brought pizza, and we all watched a movie.
- C. The boat sank.
- D. I don’t like mustard unless it is in concealed in deviled eggs.

24. Which of the following is a **metaphor**?

- A. school is prison
- B. your love is as a siren that awakens my heart
- C. your love is a siren that awakens my heart
- D. both A and C
- E. none of the above

25. What is the basic **plot** structure of a narrative?

- A. set-up; intro; body; conclusion; thesis; dessert
- B. set-up; rising action; climax; denouement
- C. set-up; rising action; climax; resolution
- D. beginning; middle; deeper middle; end
- E. B, C and D

26. When an author jumps back in time so as to offer the reader a glimpse into the past, the author is employing:

- A. flashback
- B. foresight
- C. forehead
- D. foreshadowing
- E. lemming

27. If a particular story includes the recurring mention of a big fish in a small tank, that fish might be a **symbol** of the feeling of confinement felt by the:

- A. other fish
- B. author
- C. main character
- D. reader

28. When there is a **story within a story** or a **parallel story**, that additional story functions as an:

- A. allegory
- B. theme
- C. metaphor
- D. moose

29. The following passage is written from which **point of view**?

When I woke, the sun was low. Looking down from where I lay, I saw a dog sitting on his haunches.

- A. first person
- B. third person objective
- C. third person limited
- D. none of the above

30. Which of the following is an **objective** statement?

- A. I like peas.
- B. I don't like peas.
- C. There are eight peas on her plate.
- D. There are too many peas on her plate.

31. Which of the following is a **subjective** statement?

- A. I think I'll give her an "A" but maybe I'll give her a "C"; I can't decide.
- B. According to my records, she earned a 65%, which means she will get a "D".
- C. Dogs are cute.
- D. Both A and C

32. Complete the following **analogy**:

Branches are to tree as _____ are to hand.

- A. gloves
- B. leaves
- C. knuckles
- D. koala
- E. fingers

33. A **noun that is next to and explains another noun** is an:

- A. antonym
- B. appositive
- C. apple
- D. apocalypse

34. A sentence must include what **two basic parts**?

- A. a subject and a predicate
- B. a noun and a peanut
- C. a subject and a verb
- D. both A and C

35. Complete the following **syllogism**:

All of her cars are blue. That is her car, therefore, that car is:

- A. not blue
- B. too soon to guess
- C. blue
- D. all of the above

36. The **eight parts of speech** are as follows:

- A. nouns, verbs, pickles, tomatoes, lettuce, meat and adverbs
- B. adjectives, nouns, verbs, adverbs, interjections, conjunctions and articles
- C. adjectives, nouns, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns and interjections
- D. adjectives, nouns, verbs, adverbs, interrogatives, conjunctions, knuckles and articles

37. Which of the following is an **adverb**?

- A. lovely
- B. ugly
- C. lucky
- D. happily

38. An adverb tells you *how, when, where, why* and *to what extent* an action occurs. An adverb modifies either a **verb** or an **adjective**. Which of the following sentences contains at least one **adverb**?

- A. The girl smiled sweetly at the boy.
- B. The boy smiled also.
- C. The teacher yelled loudly at them both.
- D. all of the above

39. Which of the following is a recommended outline for a **literary response and analysis** essay?
- A. intro with thesis; summary or description; analysis of menu item #1; analysis of menu item #2; analysis of menu item #3; relate to either your life to another text or to the world; conclusion
 - B. intro; body; conclusion
 - C. thesis; relentless summary with virtually no analysis; conclusion
 - D. both A and B
 - E. none of the above
40. What grade do you deserve in this class?
- A. the grade I want
 - B. the grade you give me based on whim and subjectivity
 - C. the grade my mom wants me to get
 - D. the grade I earn
41. Which of the following is a **possessive pronoun**?
- A. her
 - B. they're
 - C. it's
 - D. none of the above
42. Which of the following is a **subject pronoun**?
- A. he
 - B. him
 - C. us
 - D. them
43. Which of the following is not a pronoun at all?
- A. I
 - B. you
 - C. we
 - D. salad
44. What is a reason to read?
- A. to learn life lessons
 - B. to acquire information
 - C. to be entertained
 - D. all of the above
45. What is a reason to write?
- A. to teach life lessons
 - B. to provide information
 - C. to entertain
 - D. A, B, C and E
 - E. to live a life I might not otherwise be able to live