

**Grade 10-11 English Exam Semester I**

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

1. Which of the following sentences contains an **indirect object**?
  - A. I gave her my pencil.
  - B. She did well.
  - C. We all agreed.
  - D. all of the above
  - E. both B and C
  
2. Which of the following sentences contains a **direct object**?
  - A. They ate all the lasagna.
  - B. I gave them my cold.
  - C. I think of you always.
  - D. neither A nor B
  - E. A, B and C
  
3. Which of the following words is a **possessive pronoun**?
  - A. his
  - B. her
  - C. it
  - D. both A and B
  - E. A, B and C
  
4. Which of the following phrases uses the **active voice**?
  - A. She has called
  - B. I will call
  - C. He was called
  - D. They were called
  - E. both A and B
  
5. Which of the following phrases uses the **passive voice**?
  - A. She has called
  - B. I will call
  - C. He was called
  - D. They were called
  - E. both C and D
  
6. Which of the following contains a **gerund**?
  - A. The egg that was sitting outside our house hatched last week.
  - B. The cooking at this restaurant is unbelievably tasty.
  - C. I always look forward to Thanksgiving dinner at my Aunt Debbie's house.
  - D. He is crying.
  - E. He is not crying.
  
7. What is a **gerund**?
  - A. a verb form ending in -ed that is used as an adjective
  - B. a verb form ending in -ing that is used as a noun
  - C. a verb form ending in -s that demonstrates the third person singular
  - D. none of the above
  - E. both A and C

8. In the sentence *Carol ruined Martha's hair when she cut it* what is the **antecedent** for the pronoun *she*?

- A. Carol
- B. Martha
- C. hair
- D. ruined
- E. cut

9. Which of the following contains a **demonstrative pronoun**?

- A. Whose hat is this?
- B. This must be yours.
- C. Look at these drawings.
- D. both A and B
- E. both B and C

10. Which of the following contains a **demonstrative adjective**?

- A. Whose hat is this?
- B. This must be yours.
- C. Look at these drawings.
- D. I can't take it anymore.
- E. both A and C

11. Which of the following contains a **relative pronoun** that introduces a subordinate clause?

- A. that this is my shoe
- B. I told you that
- C. which is the brightest star in the northern sky
- D. A, B and C
- E. both A and C

12. Which of the following contains an **indefinite pronoun**?

- A. He has told that story a billion times.
- B. Someone is not telling the truth.
- C. I gave you my hat.
- D. none of the above
- E. both C and D

13. Which of the following is an **imperative** sentence?

- A. May I please use your computer?
- B. Believe me.
- C. Get out of my room.
- D. neither A nor B
- E. both B and C

14. Which of the following is an **interrogative** sentence?

- A. Do you love me?
- B. She always tries her best.
- C. Please, hand me that phone.
- D. Get out of town.
- E. both C and D

15. Which of the following is a **complex sentence**?
- A. The boat sank.
  - B. His singing was beautiful.
  - C. While we were eating dinner, the doorbell rang.
  - D. I don't like mustard.
  - E. Do you love me?
16. Which of the following is a **compound sentence**?
- A. When she was younger, she played the tuba.
  - B. Harold brought pizza, and we all ate it with relish.
  - C. I want to go to the bookstore.
  - D. That singer is about to make an historical comeback.
  - E. none of the above
17. Which of the following is a **simple sentence**?
- A. Harold brought pizza, and we ate it with immense relish.
  - B. When my mother was younger, she played the tuba.
  - C. I don't like mustard unless it is concealed in deviled eggs.
  - D. The baby cried softly.
  - E. all of the above
18. Which of the following is the **present participle** of the verb "think" and is therefore used in the **progressive** tenses?
- A. thinking
  - B. to think
  - C. thinked
  - D. thought
  - E. none of the above
19. The meaning of the word **metaphor** is:
- A. the layer of rock just above the magma layer
  - B. a comparison between two things, drawing attention to their similarities, e.g., "school is prison"
  - C. something that means nothing
  - D. a comparison between two things, often using words such as "like" or "as"
  - E. none of the above
20. The significance of the word **oxymoron** is:
- A. a term or phrase that is made of two opposing elements, for example, "cold hotplate"
  - B. a term or phrase that is like an analogy but is not really
  - C. a clause that begins with a subordinator, like "while" or "until"
  - D. a term or phrase that contains two similar elements, for example, "hard rock"
  - E. a person who has just suffered a concussion
21. Which of the following sentences aptly exemplifies **irony**?
- A. a runaway becomes a counselor at a runaway shelter
  - B. a sheep who complains about being shaved for his wool later opens his own sweater shop
  - C. a man steps on a rusty nail
  - D. both A and B
  - E. none of the above

22. An example of an **idiom** is:
- A. Don't put the cart before the horse.
  - B. It's raining cats and dogs.
  - C. a person who has just suffered a concussion
  - D. none of the above
  - E. both A and B
23. Which of the following exemplifies **hyperbole**?
- A. You weigh a ton!
  - B. She often listens.
  - C. He eats a bit more than usual when he's depressed.
  - D. I told you before; I'm pretty certain.
  - E. B, C and D
24. What is the typical **plot** structure of a narrative?
- A. exposition; rising action; climax; falling action; denouement
  - B. set-up; rising action; climax; resolution
  - C. beginning, middle, end
  - D. all of the above
  - E. none of the above
25. If a particular story includes the recurring mention of a bird in a cage, that bird might function as a **symbol** representing a feeling of confinement on behalf of the:
- A. setting
  - B. figurative language
  - C. publisher
  - D. protagonist
  - E. reader
26. Which of the following represents an **internal struggle**?
- A. getting laid off from a job due to a poor economy
  - B. getting fired from a job due to your own inability to staple
  - C. having your house blown away by a tornado
  - D. both A and B
  - E. none of the above
27. Which of the following represents an **external struggle**?
- A. getting fired for having a stapling problem
  - B. getting evicted from an apartment due to the landlord's not having paid the mortgage
  - C. getting evicted from a house due to your own not having paid the mortgage
  - D. having an addiction to Kleenex
  - E. none of the above
28. Which of the following is a reasonable definition for "sinewy"?
- A. fatty
  - B. having conspicuous tendons; stringy
  - C. faulty
  - D. recess
  - E. lace

29. Which of the following is a reasonable definition for “paradox”?
- A. a premise that seems contradictory but upon further inspection is not
  - B. a thing and its opposite – both at once
  - C. a set of two very similar elements
  - D. a set of congruent shapes
  - E. both A and B

30. Which of the following is the title of a short story?
- A. “Lamb to the Slaughter”
  - B. *Of Mice and Men*
  - C. *Green Eggs and Ham*
  - D. Black Like Me
  - E. none of the above

31. The following excerpt is 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. third person limited, whereby the thoughts and feelings of the protagonist are exposed and focused on
- B. first person, whereby the narrator talks about his or her own life directly
- C. second person, whereby the audience is addressed directly and is therefore part of the text
- D. fourth person
- E. both A and B

32. The following excerpt is written from which **point of view**?

*I'm being quite useful. This thing is a Thneed.  
A Thneed's a Fine-Something-That-All-People-Need!*

- A. third person limited, whereby the thoughts and feelings of the protagonist are exposed and focused on
- B. first person, whereby the narrator talks about his or her own life directly
- C. third person omniscient, whereby the thoughts and feelings of all the characters are exposed
- D. none of the above
- E. both A and B

33. Which of the following is the **infinitive** form of the verb “see”?

- A. seeing
- B. to see
- C. have seen
- D. will have seen
- E. all of the above

34. Which of the following is the **past participle** of the verb “eat” and is hence used with an auxiliary verb, such as “have”?

- A. ated
- B. eating
- C. eated
- D. eats
- E. eaten

35. Which of the following is the **imperfect subjunctive** with the **conditional**?

- A. She doesn't want to go because she is broke.
- B. I don't want to go at all.
- C. If I were you, I would definitely want to go with him to the prom.
- D. When you get home, please prepare dinner.
- E. Stop calling me!

36. Which of the following would be classified as **situational irony**?

- A. An ex-convict becomes a highly decorated cop.
- B. The audience knows what the characters don't know.
- C. A decorated cop lands in prison.
- D. both B and C
- E. both A and C

37. Which of the following would be classified as **dramatic irony**?

- A. An ex-convict becomes a highly decorated cop.
- B. The audience knows what the characters don't know.
- C. A decorated cop lands in prison.
- D. both B and C
- E. both A and C

38. Which of the following would be classified as **verbal irony**?

- A. "OMG! You look SO good in that dress!" She said while rolling her eyes.
- B. "Are you kidding me?! I LOVE brussel sprouts." He ate all of them and then licked his lips.
- C. "My mother was my best friend," Tom said before sobbing into his napkin.
- D. I loathe goats.
- E. none of the above

39. Which of the following uses the **semi-colon** correctly?

- A. I would be happy to attend the event, however; you must escort me.
- B. Soldiers endure all kinds of difficulties; they are certainly not cowards.
- C. Did you buy any bread? I am famished;
- D. The following are my requests; come to class on time and do all your work
- E. Here is a list of my favorite colors; red, yellow, black and maroon

40. The central **theme** of a text is usually

- A. the main lesson learned by the protagonist by the end of the story
- B. the author's message
- C. both A and B
- D. the author's purpose
- E. none of the above

41. The **tone** of a text is

- A. the reader's attitude toward the author
- B. the author's attitude toward the subject matter, the characters, and/or the readers
- C. the mood of the publisher when the book comes out
- D. the emotional state of the characters
- E. none of the above

Read an excerpt of a poem by Luis Rodriguez and answer the four questions that follow.

“Mother by the Lake” by Luis Rodriguez

Soot-stained lyrics fill the crevices between brick.  
*El tren* brakes on metal rails make a sonata for junk dogs:  
A blues that never stops.  
Stray cats and black-eyed rats roam the unfenced yards.  
I’ve fallen into cobblestone love affairs.  
I’ve stared at bridges and viaducts and potholes  
And wondered what planet I was in.  
Murder here is the source spring of new life.  
A gun is a character in the drama between screams.  
Bullets make for great lullabies.  
Market cart alley shoppers take all the best deals.  
If heartache were a city it would be Chicago.  
If suicide had eyes, it would be the lonely gaze.  
Of skyline at the edge of lake.

42. The **diction**, or word choice, of the poem helps to create **imagery**. Which of the following words *least* supports images of squalor?

- A. new life
- B. junk
- C. potholes
- D. screams
- E. gun

43. The diction also helps to provide meaning. Which of the following words upholds one of the poem’s themes, which is that life in the Windy City is like a melancholic song?

- A. sonata
- B. blues
- C. lullabies
- D. all of the above
- E. cobblestone

44. The **syntax**, or order of words in a sentence, is:

- A. carefully constructed in some of William Shakespeare’s works, but not all
- B. mindfully orchestrated so as to provide a lively rhythm (among other treats)
- C. purposefully flawed so as to pander to an over-educated reader
- D. non-existent
- E. cabbage

45. The author’s **tone** is markedly?

- A. elated
- B. sarcastic
- C. melancholic but hopeful
- D. realistic
- E. both C and D

46. The meaning of the word “annul” is:

- A. lessen
- B. heighten
- C. widen
- D. invalidate
- E. begin

47. The meaning of the word “capricious” is:

- A. erratic, led by whim
- B. horrific
- C. dishonest
- D. hard-working
- E. beautiful

48. The meaning of the word “derision” is:

- A. happiness
- B. trust
- C. scorn
- D. balance
- E. flight

49. The meaning of the word “expostulation” is:

- A. beauty
- B. sadness
- C. fanciful dress
- D. irrational argument
- E. intelligent, reasoned discussion

50. The meaning of the word “heinous” is:

- A. melancholy
- B. unbelievably sad
- C. funny
- D. unbelievably wicked
- E. persuasive

51. The meaning of the word “cryptic” is:

- A. hard to decipher
- B. adorable
- C. flat
- D. screechy
- E. bountiful

52. The meaning of the word “fathom” is:

- A. ghost
- B. to understand
- C. to beg
- D. to admonish
- E. to forgive

53. The meaning of the word “indignant” is:

- A. witty
- B. intelligent
- C. pungent, smelly
- D. offensive, distasteful
- E. mindful

54. The meaning of the word “malevolence” is:

- A. charm
- B. thoughtfulness
- C. ill will
- D. good taste
- E. picturesque

55. The meaning of the word “obsequious” is:

- A. mean
- B. servile, dutiful
- C. lazy, lethargic
- D. outrageous
- E. full of energy

56. The meaning of the word “prodigy” is:

- A. young, brilliant student
- B. teacher
- C. experienced professional
- D. child without much talent but lots of heart
- E. form of transportation

57. The meaning of the word “tenacity” is:

- A. persistence, stubbornness
- B. worry, fear
- C. carefulness
- D. all of the above
- E. none of the above

58. The meaning of the word “veracity” is:

- A. laziness, lethargy
- B. willful ignorance
- C. shame
- D. adherence to the truth
- E. dishonesty

59. The meaning of the word “malign” is:

- A. three-dimensional geometric shape
- B. monarch
- C. to speak badly of
- D. to help
- E. to bring about positive change

60. The meaning of the word “sibilant” is:
- A. a woman of the clergy
  - B. a man of the clergy
  - C. a loud wail
  - D. a silent scream
  - E. hissing
61. The meaning of the word “benevolence” is:
- A. goodness
  - B. wickedness
  - C. darkness
  - D. fear
  - E. physical beauty
62. The meaning of the word “inexorable” is:
- A. unyielding, not persuadable
  - B. malleable, easily persuadable
  - C. physically very fit
  - D. obese
  - E. obtuse
63. The meaning of the word “indefatigable” is:
- A. tireless
  - B. over-tired
  - C. weak
  - D. persistent
  - E. chronically ill
64. The meaning of the word “homage” is:
- A. hard biscuit
  - B. soft bread
  - C. tardiness
  - D. respect, reverence
  - E. disrespect
65. The meaning of the word “augment” is:
- A. to worry
  - B. to be absent
  - C. to persuade forcefully, to bully
  - D. to detract from
  - E. to add on to

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After you finish your test, please double-check your answers and then place your test and your answer document in the corner of your desk (with answers covered) and do the following: On another page, draw eight **pedagogues** standing in a line (lunch line, DMV line, American Idol line...). Don't ask me what a pedagogue is; it was one of your vocabulary words.