

UNIVERSITY OF NGAOUNDERE

Specialisation

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PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS QUESTION BOOKLET

BROUILLON/SCRAP PAPER

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Questions 1 – 10 are "Comma" Practice Questions: The following sentences either have existing or require additional commas somewhere in their structures. Choose the option that best reflects proper comma usage in each sentence.

1. For the Thanksgiving reunion, relatives were sitting in the dining room, on the porch, and in the carport.
A. Thanksgiving, reunion B. were, sitting C. porch and D. No error
2. Lydia seems to be a kind, considerate girl.
A. seems, to B. considerate, girl C. kind considerate D. No error
3. In this fishing pole Nathan, has seen better days.
A. pole, Nathan, B. has, seen C. Nathan D. No error
4. My cousin has moved to 56 Central Street Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882.
A. has moved, B. Central Street, C. 56, Central D. No error
5. The badger, a shy animal sometimes makes friends with a coyote.
A. sometimes, makes B. friends, with C. a shy animal, D. No error
6. After the death of Blackbeard, the famous pirate, piracy disappeared from the coast of the American colonies.
A. the famous pirate B. after the death, C. coast, of D. No error
7. "Silent Night" was written by two men from the village of Oberndorf Austria.
A. men, from B. "Silent Night," C. Oberndorf, Austria D. No error
8. On November 19, 1929 Admiral Richard E. Byrd flew the Floyd Bennett to the base of the Queen Maud Mountains.
A. base, of B. the, Queen C. 1929, D. No error
9. Oh I forgot to bring the cookies.
A. Oh, B. I, forgot C. to, bring D. No error
10. "The boy in the kayak," whispered Sue "is the new football captain."
A. boy, in the B. new, football C. whispered Sue, D. No error

Questions 11 – 21: Sentence Completions

Directions: Every sentence given below has one or may be two blanks; every blank point out that there is something that has been erased. Beneath the sentence are set of words or five options given. Select the particular word or set of words from every blank that perfectly fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

11. Hoping to -- -- the clash, negotiators suggest a negotiation that they felt would be -- -- to both policies and legislation.
A. Manage - Resolving B. Solve - Divisive C. Extend - Detrimental
D. Resolve - Acceptable E. End - Likely
12. In spite of her age, she has a childish and -- -- sense of humor.
A. Adolescent B. Trivial C. Mature D. Asinine E. Youthful
13. Knowing Julian was outshined by many other performers, she knew she was pampering in a bit of -- -- when she speculated whether Julian was the supreme living performer ever.
A. Hyperbole B. Injustice C. Understatement D. Irony E. Overemphasis
14. In spite of mixed effusion to the divergent, there is no required link between technical skill and humanism, and quite probably, there may be a little of a -- -- between them.
A. Dichotomy B. Congruity C. Reciprocity D. Union E. Generosity
15. Your credit cards however will be closed during the program so it will be -- -- you can get new loans.
A. Similarly B. Likely C. Probably D. Unlikely E. Doubtful
16. If you had joint accounts with -- -- who died, then you will be responsible for the bills
A. Someone B. Any one C. Every one D. Everybody E. Each one
17. With the exposure of human beings to aluminum increasing markedly in ----- years, they are more prone to absorbing ----- amount of this metal, the report warns.
A. Current - Too much B. Recent - Excessive C. Modern - Extreme
D. Present - Severe E. Fresh - Harsh
18. Beggars almost sell themselves as human beings to -- -- the pity of passersby.
A. Stimulate B. Arouse C. Kindle D. Promote E. Support
19. A tramp may ask you for money, but he will never ask you to feel -- -- for him.
A. Bad B. Worst C. Sorry D. Good E. Best
20. Continuity of purpose is one of the most -- -- ingredients of happiness and that come chiefly through their work.
A. Important B. Particular C. Significant D. Essential E. Useless
21. Another disadvantage is that television -- -- causes people to become dissatisfied with their own lives.
A. Frequently B. Often C. Regularly D. Normally E. Commonly

Instructions. Answer the following questions by selecting the most appropriate verb clause from the given set of options.

22. Litchis are a ----- fruit, and hence thought to be unfit for diabetics and weight-watchers.
A. very sweet and sugary B. the very sweet and sugary
C. so sweet and sugary D. full of sugar and sweets
23. It may help in ----- between their model of how the world works at the subatomic level and Einstein's theory of gravity.
A. resoling contradicts B. resolving contradictions
C. resolve contradictions D. resolved contradictions
24. MSG has long been a controversial item and numerous studies ----- to see what affect it has on humans.
A. are been conducted B. are being conducted
C. have been conducted D. had been conducted
25. Some foods ----- and bestowed all sorts of complimentary titles.
A. are considered super healthy B. are consider to be super healthy
C. have been considered to be super healthy D. are to be considered super healthy
26. Besides being a good source of fibre, ----- source of Vitamin C and a good source of B-complex vitamins like niacin, thiamin and folate.
A. they are an excellent B. they were an excellent
C. they will be an excellent D. they is an excellent
27. Chocolate ----- for the most disciplined eater out there.
A. could be a weakness B. Can be a weakness
C. have been an weakness D. had been an weakness
28. Excessive caffeine consumption in chocolate ----- high blood pressure, insomnia, stress, anxiety and lack of concentration.
A. could cause B. can be caused
C. can cause D. are to be caused
29. A small piece of dark chocolate is heart healthy as ----- the blood pressure and LDL cholesterol by 10%
A. it reduces to help B. it causes reduction to help
C. are reduced to help D. it helps to reduce
30. Many people eat chocolates -----, believing that it helps to uplift the mood.
A. when they are depressed B. when they are to be displaced
C. as they are replaced D. since they are displaced
31. Rice ----- by people who are conscious of their body weight, as well as by diabetics.
A. are mostly avoided B. is mostly avoided
C. and mostly avoided D. are avoided mostly

Questions 32 – 42: Simple errors in English

Directions: Each underlined section corresponds to an answer choice. The first underlined section corresponds to choice A, the second to choice B, and so on. Please select the answer choice that either contains an error or select choice E, which is "No error."

32. Whom did you talk to at the information desk at the airport? No error.
A. A B. B C. C D. D E. E
33. Ellen always got into more trouble than me. No error.
A. A B. B C. C D. D E. E
34. The title of salutatorian goes to whomever has the second highest academic average. No error.
A. A B. B C. C D. D E. E
35. Do you feel good enough to go to the store? No error.
A. A B. B C. C D. D E. E
36. Bolivar, an idol between his contemporaries, has been the inspiration for many modern revolutions. No error.
A. A B. B C. C D. D E. E
37. Birds fly south in the winter threw an instinct not completely understood by scientists. No error.
A. A B. B C. C D. D E. E
38. No animal has yet been discovered that can "see" infrared light with its eyes. No error.
A. A B. B C. C D. D E. E
39. Whom did you say sent this package? No error.
A. A B. B C. C D. D E. E
40. There isn't scarcely room on the front steps to pose the entire class for a picture. No error.
A. A B. B C. C D. D E. E
41. Haven't none of you seen my dog? No error.
A. A B. B C. C D. D E. E
42. I found the expensive vase broken when I first came in the room. No error.
A. A B. B C. C D. D E. E

Questions 43 – 52: Preposition

Instructions: Answer the following questions by selecting the most appropriate prepositional phrase from the given set of options.

43. In _____, it is observed that the rate of corruption has increased at a very fast rate.
A. The past few years B. A few years ago
C. Few years D. A few years since
44. Some of the prime duties _____ are he or she must be simple and approachable as well as he or she must be down to earth in nature.
A. Of an HR personnel B. To an HR personnel
C. Of the HR personnel D. To the HR personnel
45. The diversity and the large sizes of some groups as well as the seemingly monstrous and fantastic nature of the dinosaur family _____ interest and imagination of the general public for over a century.
A. Has captured the B. Have captured the
C. Will capture the D. Has capture the
46. The dinosaurs are _____ consisting of the Triceratops, the modern birds i.e. Neornithes as well as the most recent and common ancestors and descendants under the phylogenetic taxonomy.
A. Found as group B. Considered as a group
C. Thought of as a group D. None of the above
47. Heightened sense of smells is _____ common symptoms of pregnancy and happens to almost all the pregnant women.
A. The most B. One of the most
C. In the most D. Through the most
48. Breast milk is the best possible food for your baby as it provides all the required nutrition as well as all the immunity to fight against illness and gives them _____ for their life.
A. The best start B. The good start
C. The most best start D. The better start
49. _____, babies are too busy with themselves, spending most of their time knowing about themselves and exploring the world around them.
A. At all times B. Many a time
C. Many of the times D. Most of the times
50. The living micro-organisms which when administered in adequate quantities provide great health benefits for a healthy body and mind are referred to as probiotics _____ World Health Organization (WHO).
A. As far as B. In reference to the
C. As per the D. None of the above
51. _____ changes in work scenario of the Post Offices brought about due to the induction of technology and primacy of business products, the duties and responsibilities of the postman have undergone a vast change.
A. Because of the B. On account of the
C. With respect to D. In accordance with

52. _____ hardly have any problem with gaining weight, but there are severe problems about weight loss.
- A. Many of us B. Most of us
C. All of us D. Very few of us

Questions 53 - 62: Connectors

Instructions: Solve the following questions by selecting the most appropriate "connector" from the given set of options.

53. The great artist was nominated for the Academic Awards of the year as both a poet _____ singer in the year 1975.
- A. Also B. As well as C. And D. In addition to
54. Lemons are a staple of many detox diets _____ they are packed with anti-oxidant vitamin-C, which is considered to be very good for the skin and fighting disease forming free radicals.
- A. Because B. So C. As D. None of the above
55. Ginger is not only good for reducing the feeling of nausea, _____ it can help improve digestion, beat bloating and reduce the problem of gases in your stomach.
- A. But B. Also C. Additionally D. In addition to
56. In order to improve your digestive system, try to have ginger tea _____ consume pieces of ginger with some of your fruits or vegetable juice.
- A. And B. Or C. Also D. But also
57. Garlic is very beneficial for our health because it contains a chemical known as allicin _____ is responsible for the production of white blood cells and fighting against toxins.
- A. Which B. That C. This D. None of the above
58. Beetroot is very rich in magnesium, iron and vitamin-C and _____ it is very good for skin, health and maintaining cholesterol levels.
- A. Thus B. Therefore C. And D. But
59. Fluids are not only essential for maintaining the health of our organs, _____ they are also helpful in flushing out the toxins from the body.
- A. Also B. But also C. Hence D. As well as
60. Those people who are dealing with the problem of excess body weight can start consuming cabbage _____ cabbage is found to be very helpful in weight loss.
- A. Because B. Since C. As D. None of the above
61. Glutathione an antioxidant found in cabbage is responsible for improving the detoxification function of the liver _____ hence, you must include cabbage in your daily diet.
- A. So B. And C. Therefore D. Because
62. For those who want to improve their eyesight and make their skin and hair look shinier and brighter should try to include large quantities _____ varieties of fruits and fruit juices in their daily diet.
- A. As well as B. Thus C. Also D. None of the above

Directions: In each of the following questions, four groups of letters have been given, out of which three are alike in some way and one is different. Choose the odd one out.

Question 63

- A. Rule B. Common C. Law D. Custom

Question 64

- A. Attachment B. Love C. Hatred D. Affection

Question 65

- A. Inhabit B. Vacate C. Reside D. Dwell

Question 66

- A. Cotton B. Nylon C. Silk D. Terylene

Question 67

- A. Joy B. Love C. Hate D. Toy

In the Questions 68 to 71, select the word opposite in meaning of the given word.

Question 68

Repel

- A. Attract B. Concentrate C. Continue D. Attend E. None of the above

Question 69

Violent

- A. Harmless B. Gentle C. Tame D. Humble E. None of the above

Question 70

Malicious

- A. Indifferent B. Boastful C. Kind D. Generous E. None of the above

Question 71

Frugal

- A. Ostentatious B. Copious C. Generous D. Extravagant E. None of the above

In the Question 72 to 76, sentences are given with blanks are to be filled in with an appropriate word. Four options are suggested for each question. Select the right alternative out of the four.

Question 72

Barely had he arrived----- it started raining.

- A. When B. After C. Before D. Than

Question 73

He tried to ----- himself against a group of ruffians

- A. Support B. Collect C. Defend D. Save

Question 74

My aunty decided to take ----- and my sister to the market.

- A. Mine B. Myself C. I D. Me

Question 75

Find the ----- of the news.

- A. Headings B. Topics C. Titles D. Captions

Question 76

During Christmas the shops are ----- of people.

- A. Crowded B. Busy C. Bubbling D. Full

Questions from 77 to 81, choose the one option which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

Question 77

Gratify

- A. Pacify B. Appreciate C. Indulge D. Frank

Question 78

Extricate

- A. Complicate B. Pull C. Free D. Tie

Question 79

Inexplicable

- A. Chaotic B. Unaccountable C. Confusing D. Unconnected

Question 80

- A. Broke B. Poor C. Penniless D. Bankrupt

Question 81

Stringent

- A. Thrill B. Dry C. Rigorous D. Strained

Synonyms: In each section you will find a number of sentences, in which you will find one word UNDERLINED. For each underlined word, find the word nearest in meaning to the underlined part.

Question 82

The weavers have to do monotonous work

- A. Exhausting B. Autonomous C. Irksome D. Repetitive

Question 83

The country's economy is beginning to look up now.

- A. Improve B. Go down C. Remain static D. Look clear

Question 84

There is not a single word that is redundant in the report.

- A. Flowery B. Bombastic C. Unimportant D. Not needed

Question 85

Most of the politicians these days have a large number of toadies around them.

- A. Followers B. Professionals assistants C. Servants D. Sycophants

Question 86

The old man shows no sign of infirmity even though he is eighty years old.

- A. Indolence B. Fickleness C. Lack of firmness D. Feebleness

Questions 87 – 93: Reading Comprehension

Directions:

Each reading comprehension passage in this section is followed by questions based on the content of the reading passage. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question. The questions are to be answered on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.

Passage 1

A clear answer to whether the languages of the ancient American peoples were made use of for expressing abstract universal concepts can be sought in the case of Nahuatl, which like Greek and German, is a language that allows the formation of extensive compounds. By combining radicals or semantic elements, single compound words can express complex conceptual relations, often of an abstract universal character.

The tlamatime ("those who know") were able to use this rich stock of abstract terms to express the nuances of their thought. They also availed themselves of other forms of expression with metaphorical meaning, some probably original, some derived from Toltec coinages. Of these forms the most characteristic in Nahuatl is the juxtaposition of two words that, because they are synonyms, associated terms, or even contraries, complement each other to evoke one single idea. The juxtaposed terms, used as metaphor, suggest specific or essential traits of the being they refer to, introducing a mode of poetry as an almost habitual form of expression.

Questions

87. According to the passage, some abstract universal ideas can be expressed in Nahuatl by

- A. Putting various meaningful elements together in one word
- B. Taking away from a word any reference to particular instances
- C. Turning each word of a phrase into a poetic metaphor
- D. Giving a word a new and opposite meaning
- E. Removing a word from its associations with other words.

88. It can be inferred solely from the information in the passage that

- A. Metaphors are always used in Nahuatl to express abstract conceptual relationships
- B. There are many languages that, like Greek or German, allow extensive compounding
- C. The abstract terms of the Nahuatl language are habitually used in poetry
- D. Some record or evidence of the thought of the tlamatime exists
- E. All abstract universal ideas are ideas of complex relations.

89. A main purpose of the passage is to

- A. Argue against a theory of poetic expression by citing evidence about the Nahuatl
- B. Delineate the function of the tlamatime in Nahuatl society
- C. Explore the rich metaphorical heritage the Nahuatl received from the toltecs
- D. Describe some conceptual and aesthetic resources of the Nahuatl language
- E. Explain the abstract philosophy of the Nahuatl thinkers.

Passage 2

Certain scraps of evidence bear out those who hold a very high opinion of the average level of culture among the Athenians of the great age. Pericles's funeral speech is undoubtedly the most famous evidence from Athenian literature, that its level was indeed high. However, Pericles was a politician, and it is possible that he was flattering his audience. We know that thousands of Athenians sat hour after hour in the theater listening to the plays of the great Greek dramatists. The Greek plays, particularly the tragedies,

maintained an extremely high intellectual level throughout, with no letdowns, no concessions to the lowbrows or to the demands of "realism", like the gravediggers scene in Shakespeare's Hamlet. The music and dancing seen in these plays were also of an equally high level. The best modern parallel can be seen in the restrained, difficult opera of the 18th century. The comparison is no doubt dangerous, but can you imagine almost the entire population of an American city (in suitable installments, of course) sitting through performances of Mozart's Don Giovanni or Gluck's Orpheus? Perhaps the Athenian masses went to these plays because of a lack of other amusements. They could at least understand something of what went on, since the subjects were part of their folklore. Undoubtedly the theme of grand opera is not part of the folklore of the American people.

Questions

90. From the passage it is evident that the author seems to question the sincerity of

- A. politicians
- B. playwrights
- C. opera goers
- D. "low brows"
- E. Grave diggers.

91. According to the author the average American

- A. Enjoys Hamlet
- B. Loves folklore
- C. Is not able to understand grand opera
- D. Seeks a high cultural level
- E. Lacks entertainment.

92. From the passage, we can say that the author's attitude toward Greek plays is one of

- A. Qualified approval
- B. Grudging admiration
- C. Studied indifference
- D. Partial hostility
- E. Great respect.

93. The author makes a suggestion that Greek plays

- A. Were demanding on the actors
- B. Flattered their audiences
- C. Were focussed on a limited audience
- D. Were dominated by music and dancing
- E. Stimulated their audiences.

Questions 94 – 100: Improving Sentences

- Read the entire sentence carefully but quickly. Note the underlined portion because that is the portion that may have to be revised.
- Remember that the portion with no underline stays the same.
- Mark choice A. if the underlined portion seems correct. Check the other choices quickly to make sure that A. is really the best choice.
- Think of how you would revise the underlined portion if it seems wrong. Look for your revision among the choices given.
- Replace the underlined portion of the sentence with choices B. through E. if you don't find your revision. Concentrate on the choices that seem clear and exact when you read them.

94. In ancient times, Nubia was the principal corridor where there were cultural influences transmitted between Black Africa and the Mediterranean basin.
- A. where there were cultural influences transmitted
 - B. through which cultural influences were transmitted
 - C. where there was a transmission of cultural influences
 - D. for the transmitting of cultural influences
 - E. which was transmitting cultural influences
95. It is a special feature of cell aggregation in the developing nervous system that in most regions of the brain the cells not only adhere to one another and also adopt some preferential orientation.
- A. to one another and also adopt
 - B. one to the other, and also they adopt
 - C. one to the other, but also adopting
 - D. to one another but also adopt
 - E. to each other, also adopting
96. Like Byron at Missolonghi, Jack London was slowly killed by the mistakes of the medical men who treated him.
- A. Like Byron
 - B. Like Byron's death
 - C. Just as Byron died
 - D. Similar to Byron
 - E. As did Byron
97. One of every two new businesses fail within two years.
- A. fail
 - B. fails
 - C. should fail
 - D. may have failed
 - E. has failed
98. Even today, a century after Pasteur developed the first vaccine, rabies almost always kills its victims unless inoculated in the earliest stages of the disease.
- A. its victims unless inoculated
 - B. its victims unless they are inoculated
 - C. its victims unless inoculation is done
 - D. the victims unless there is an inoculation
 - E. the victims unless inoculated
99. In a period of time when women typically have had a narrow range of choices, Mary Baker Eddy became a distinguished writer and the founder, architect, and builder of a growing church.
- A. In a period of time when women typically have
 - B. During a time in which typically women have
 - C. Typically, during a time when women
 - D. At a time when women typically
 - E. Typically in a time in which women
100. Carbon-14 dating reveals that the megalithic monuments in Brittany are nearly 2,000 years as old as any of their supposed Mediterranean predecessors.
- A. as old as any of their supposed
 - B. older than any of their supposed
 - C. as old as their supposed
 - D. older than any of their supposedly
 - E. as old as their supposedly