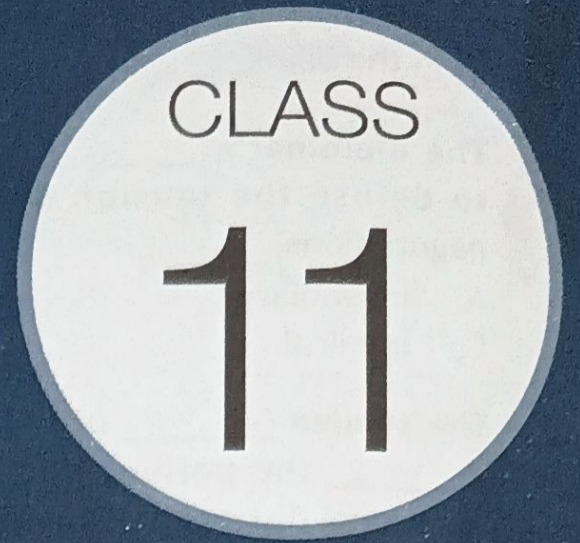
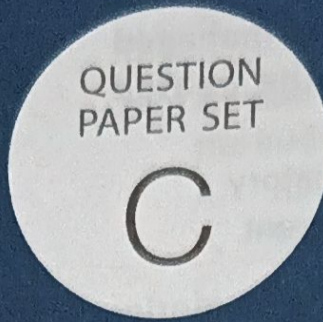


SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD 2025-26



Total Questions : 50

Time : 1 hr.

Guidelines for the Candidate

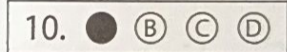
- 1. You will get additional ten minutes to fill up information about yourself on the OMR Sheet, before the start of the exam.
2. Write your Name, School Code, Class, Section, Roll No. and Mobile Number clearly on the OMR Sheet and do not forget to sign it.
3. The Question Paper comprises four sections: Word and Structure Knowledge (30 Questions), Reading (10 Questions), Spoken and Written Expression (5 Questions) and Achievers Section (5 Questions).
4. All questions are compulsory. There is no negative marking.
5. There is only ONE correct answer. Choose only ONE option for an answer.
6. To mark your choice of answers by darkening the circles on the OMR Sheet, use HB Pencil or Blue / Black ball point pen only.
7. Return the OMR Sheet to the invigilator at the end of the exam.
8. Please fill in your personal details in the space provided before attempting the paper.

Q.10: Fill in the blank.

Please teach my dog _____ a ball.

- A. to fetch B. learn C. show D. to learn

As the correct answer is option A, you must darken the circle corresponding to option A on the OMR Sheet.



Name:
SOF Olympiad Roll No.: Contact No.:

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL ASKED TO DO SO

For questions 1 to 22, choose the correct option to fill in the blank.

1. The diplomat's _____ remarks managed to defuse the tension during the heated negotiations.
 - A. incendiary
 - B. conciliatory
 - C. inimical
 - D. belligerent
2. The sudden _____ of repressed memories _____ the patient into a state of acute emotional distress that became a central focus during the therapy session.
 - A. resurgence, had thrust
 - B. suppression, thrust
 - C. catharsis, thrusts
 - D. compression, have thrust
3. Lara's _____ for organizing events along with her strategic planning and execution, _____ the company's most successful product launch to date.
 - A. largesse, lead
 - B. apathy, have lead
 - C. ineptitude, lead
 - D. acumen, has led
4. The law _____ by the government if they _____ a stronger majority in the parliament to implement its legislative agenda.
 - A. would have been passed, had had
 - B. had been passed, would have had
 - C. would be passed, have had
 - D. would have been passed, have
5. He began behaving _____ at social gatherings, disregarding long-held norms and making others increasingly uncomfortable.
 - A. customarily
 - B. aberrantly
 - C. preppily
 - D. placably
6. As he started reciting the poem aloud, he _____ the rhythm and cadence so badly that it _____ made any sense.
 - A. ennobled, hardly
 - B. revamped, almost
 - C. mangled, scarcely
 - D. adorned, really
7. Their accusations of corruption are hypocritical, considering that they were _____ corrupt, engaging in the very practices they now _____ so fervently.
 - A. lest, extol
 - B. just as, condemn
 - C. inasmuch, condone
 - D. neither, commend
8. She didn't _____ when her name was dragged through the mud as her silence spoke of strength, not surrender.
 - A. come full circle
 - B. paint the town red
 - C. bat an eye
 - D. take a rain check
9. _____ my mounting anxiety, the actual paper turned out to be so simple that I _____ have subjected myself to such undue stress.
 - A. Despite, needn't
 - B. In spite of, must
 - C. Due to, need to
 - D. Having, mustn't
10. They _____ unnecessarily pedantic by insisting that the director himself, and not his assistant, _____ delivered the keynote address.
 - A. are, should
 - B. might be, might
 - C. had been, may have
 - D. were being, should have
11. The witnesses, _____ was called to testify, disagreed on the key evidence, asserting that the mistake was not _____, but just a miscommunication.
 - A. one of whom, his
 - B. both of who, theirs
 - C. whom, their
 - D. who, me
12. The wind whispered _____ through the trees, a gentle breath that stirred the leaves like a lullaby on a warm afternoon.
 - A. blatantly
 - B. sibilantly
 - C. cursorily
 - D. cordately
13. I have _____ good few hobbies, including computer games, writing, and model collecting— all of which provide me with _____ welcome escape and _____ sense of accomplishment.
 - A. a, a, a
 - B. the, a, the
 - C. some, the, a
 - D. certain, a, the

14. The pressure of deadlines and the demands of technology often leave IT workers with little room for peace, _____ or genuine human connection.

- A. obtuseness B. introspection
C. immolation D. abomination

15. The agents who conducted a more thorough investigation into the raw intelligence, reported that they had found no concrete evidence to _____ the existence of the threat.

- A. coacervate B. obfuscate
C. collaborate D. corroborate

16. The bright and _____ students of all the well-respected schools eagerly participated in the debate competition.

- A. apathetic B. covetous
C. virulent D. inquisitive

17. The couple _____ themselves _____ one another after years of courtship, much to the delight of their families.

- A. affianced, to B. aligned, to
C. engaged, at D. adhered, from

18. The streets _____ desolate and unkempt, _____ from the orderly streets and meticulously laid brick sidewalks of Philadelphia.

- A. were, a far cry
B. are, a case in point
C. had been, a dead ringer
D. being, a stark contrast

19. He knew that including a personal anecdote at the start of his speech was a _____ way to capture the audience's attention.

- A. know-all B. fail-save
C. full-proof D. can't-miss

20. Although he had spent years studying _____ complexities of the issue, his arguments were often _____ the most basic facts, leading to a loss of credibility.

- A. some, undermined into
B. the, clouded by
C. few, supported by
D. the, hindered through

21. Mr. Stark _____ a defamation lawsuit against his business partner _____ spreading false

statements that damaged his professional reputation.

- A. initiate, after
B. initiated, for
C. has initiated, by
D. is being initiating, on

22. He said that if she _____ more careful during the audit, the discrepancies _____ unnoticed.

- A. hasn't been, would go
B. hadn't been, might have gone
C. would be, would have gone
D. wasn't, should go

For questions 23 and 24, choose the correct meaning of the given idiom.

23. "Drive a wedge between" means _____.

- A. to ruin the relationship between two people or groups
B. to experience hardships and difficulties
C. to make fun of someone and criticize them publicly
D. to change the topic of a conversation

24. "In the catbird seat" means _____.

- A. an upcoming achievement that one is expecting
B. a position of great prominence or advantage
C. a victory that one has achieved through unfair means
D. a position where one is caught in a difficult situation

For questions 25 and 26, choose the option with correct spelling.

25. How do you spell the word that means "a replica or copy"?

- A. Doppleganger B. Facsimile
C. Eidolone D. Comepeer

26. How do you spell the word that means "something that is lengthy and complicated"?

- A. Fuchtsia B. Sacriligious
C. Rigmarole D. Blurble

For questions 27 and 28, choose the correct synonym of the given word.

27. Ersatz

- A. Pinchbeck B. Veritable
C. Kosher D. Decorous

28. Fiat

- A. Embargo
- B. Decree
- C. Veto
- D. Fickle

- B. Arrestment
- C. Nascence
- D. Incipience

For questions 29 and 30, choose the correct antonym of the given word.

29. Baseline

- A. Precedent

30. Druthers

- A. Proclivity
- B. Discretion
- C. Volition
- D. Coercion

READING

For questions 31 to 35, read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The debate over water management, particularly regarding the construction of large dams, has become a focal point for environmentalists, policymakers, and activists in recent decades. While dams have historically been seen as essential for providing irrigation, power generation, and flood control, growing public opposition has emerged due to their significant social and environmental costs. The argument over the effectiveness of dams has gained prominence as more than sixty percent of the world's largest rivers have already been dammed, and studies have shown that many dams have failed to meet their intended goals despite large investments.

In 2000, the World Bank and the World Conservation Union published a joint report that highlighted the negative consequences of large dams. The report acknowledged that dams have made considerable contributions to human development but stressed that they often come at an unacceptable price. The social and environmental costs include the displacement of lakhs of people, destruction of ecosystems, and damage to fisheries. The report also noted that in many cases, even crores of rupees invested in dams have not yielded the expected benefits in terms of irrigation, power, or flood control.

The Narmada project, which began in the 1940s, has faced fierce opposition due to the displacement of local communities and the

perceived lack of adequate compensation. Activists have staged protests, including hunger strikes and chaining themselves to boulders, to halt the construction of the dams. Writer Arundhati Roy has been one of the most vocal critics, arguing that large dams like the Sardar Sarovar Dam have failed to lift India's poor from poverty. Instead, she argues, they have concentrated power and resources in the hands of the wealthy while displacing vulnerable communities.

Proponents of large dams argue that they are essential for addressing water scarcity in countries like India, where water storage is crucial for agriculture, particularly during periods of drought. Experts like Dr. Peter Gleick emphasize that in countries with large agricultural sectors and erratic rainfall, dams are sometimes seen as the only viable solution. While acknowledging the flaws of large dams, Gleick points out that the rapid development in countries like India requires infrastructure on a scale similar to that achieved by Western nations over centuries. However, as water scarcity becomes an increasingly global concern, conservation and efficiency have become focal points for addressing water challenges. Gleick, who has spent much of his career researching water resources, argues that the United States, for example, has successfully reduced its water use per capita over the past few decades, despite population growth and economic expansion.

The concept of “virtual water” also plays a role in rethinking global water use. Virtual water refers to the amount of water embedded in products like food and textiles, which are traded across borders. By importing goods produced in water-scarce regions, countries can reduce their own water consumption. This concept has gained prominence in discussions about how to manage water resources on a global scale, especially as trade and globalization continue to shape the way water is consumed worldwide.

At the same time, newer technologies such as desalination have been presented as potential solutions to water shortages. Countries like those in the Persian Gulf, which lack freshwater resources but have access to abundant seawater, are heavily investing in desalination. However, while desalination offers a potential solution for some, it remains prohibitively expensive for many developing countries. In India, for example, desalinated water would cost many times more than water from traditional sources like wells.

In conclusion, while large dams have been a crucial tool for managing water resources historically, their social, environmental, and economic costs have sparked growing opposition. As countries like India and others in the developing world seek solutions to their water challenges, a shift toward more sustainable, efficient water management practices, such as conservation and the use of technologies like drip irrigation, offer a promising alternative. The future of water management may lie in finding a balance between new technologies and more efficient use of existing resources, ensuring that both the environment and vulnerable communities are protected.

31. Read Statements I and II and choose the correct option.

Statement I: Many large dams, though heavily funded, have failed to deliver their promised benefits.

Statement II: The World Bank report praised large dams as environmentally sustainable with no significant drawbacks.

A. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.
C. Both the Statements I and II are correct.
D. Both the Statements I and II are incorrect.

32. Choose the incorrect option.

- A. The U.S. has reduced per capita water use despite population and economic growth.
B. Some experts view large dams as necessary in regions with erratic rainfall and heavy reliance on agriculture.
C. Despite its flaws, proponents of large dams continue to argue regarding their inconsequential nature in terms of necessity.
D. The World Bank and the World Conservation Union’s joint report highlighted the social and environmental costs of large dams.

33. Which of the following is underscored in the extract as a critical issue to address, for the future of water management?

- A. Searching for abortive measures to make use of existing resources
B. Focusing on conservation and technology
C. Continuing with traditional methods without change
D. Overpassing the environmental costs of dams

34. What is the main benefit of the concept of “virtual water” in managing global water resources?

- A. It reduces water consumption by producing goods domestically.
B. It allows countries to conserve water by importing goods in water-scarce regions.
C. It increases water consumption by exporting water-intensive products.
D. It focuses on improving water storage in domestic regions only.

35. The correct antonym of the word “displacement” as used in the passage is _____.

- A. Relegation B. Extradition
C. Deportation D. Repatriation

For questions 36 to 40, read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Roughly 14 billion miles from Earth, a 12-inch gold-plated disc floats through the darkness of deep space. This is the Golden Record,

launched aboard NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft in 1977 (and its twin on Voyager 2). Though the mission's planetary flybys ended long ago, the probe now travels at nearly 500 times the speed of sound, carrying this disc as a message for any extraterrestrial beings it may encounter. Designed to communicate the story of human civilization, the record contains images, mathematical equations, astronomical coordinates, and sounds—an ambitious attempt to express both the existence and intelligence of humanity without relying on shared language.

One of the most elegant choices for such communication is music, which requires no visual interpretation or spoken vocabulary. Instead, it speaks through the universal fabric of frequencies—amplitude over time—directly etched into the disc's surface. The curators understood music's power: inscribed on the record are the words, "To the makers of music—all worlds, all times."

When deciding what music might best reflect the human spirit and intellect, Johann Sebastian Bach quickly came to mind. According to one widely shared (though possibly apocryphal) story, some objected to including Bach's music, claiming it would be "just showing off". In the end, however, three of the 27 musical pieces selected for the Golden Record were by Bach, suggesting that his work alone represented over 11% of humanity's entire musical legacy.

This vision of Bach's music drifting through space, symbolizing human perfection, reflects a long-standing perception of his work as transcendent and timeless. Though rooted in the Baroque era and famed for its intricate counterpoint, Bach's music has proven adaptable to countless interpretations and instruments—from harpsichord to synthesizer, from classical string quartets to jazz trios. His music seems to ignore the boundaries of genre, era, and style.

Musicians and listeners often exhaust their vocabulary trying to describe Bach's genius. Beethoven called him "the immortal god of harmony". Wagner described his music as

"the most stupendous miracle in all music". Max Reger considered him "the beginning and end of all music". Brahms, writing to Clara Schumann, said of the Chaconne, "On one stave, for a small instrument, the man writes a whole world of the deepest thoughts and most powerful feelings". He added that had he imagined composing such a work, the emotional weight would have driven him mad.

Yet, beneath this aura of perfection lies a much more human story. Thanks to historical preservation, we have access to Bach's beautiful manuscripts—but we often forget the reality of their creation. His brilliance wasn't effortless. It came through relentless study and hard labour: copying Vivaldi scores by candlelight despite failing eyesight, walking 280 miles to hear an organist play, recycling older material, and constantly adapting to shifting tastes. He balanced creativity with practical demands, dealing with temperamental employers, political turmoil, and personal loss.

Understanding Bach's music means not only admiring its mechanics but also appreciating the man behind it. Few portraits of Bach exist, partly because he refused to sit still for artists. Those that do survive seem more interested in conveying his musical identity than his personality—portraying him holding a score or with hidden musical symbolism woven into his clothing. In these images, the music is foregrounded; the man recedes.

Bach was not only a master of harmony but also of intellectual playfulness. He delighted in puzzles, patterns, and mirror-like musical forms. His personal monogram, which adorned his seal and goblet, resembled a decorative crest but was in fact a clever design: the initials "JSB" mirrored the layered and intricate nature of his compositions making it immediately beautiful but revealed deeper meaning upon closer inspection.

Ultimately, Bach's legacy endures not only because of its technical brilliance or spiritual resonance, but because it reflects the full complexity of human experience—joy and sorrow, intellect and emotion, playfulness and devotion.

36. Choose the correct statement.

- A. The words inscribed on the Golden Record is a message asking musicians to create music about world events that transcends time.
- B. The endurance of Bach's legacy stems not merely from its technical brilliance but also from its spiritual resonance.
- C. Three of the 11% musical pieces on the Golden Record are by Johann Sebastian Bach.
- D. Despite being rooted in the Baroque era, Bach's music has proven to be immutable to interpretations.

37. Read Statements I and II and choose the correct option.

Statement I: Travelling beyond the solar system at hypersonic speed, Voyager 1 carries a disc encoding humanity's essence without relying on a specific language.

Statement II: Music was chosen for the Golden Record because it communicates meaning without the need for language or visuals.

- A. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

- C. Both the Statements I and II are correct.
- D. Both the Statements I and II are incorrect.

38. In the surviving portraits of Bach, what aspect is subtly prioritized over his personal identity?

- A. His emotional depth and temperament
- B. The presence of the man preceding his music
- C. The symbolic presence of his musical identity
- D. Full complexity of human experience—joy and sorrow

39. Why is Bach's monogram described as "immediately beautiful but revealed deeper meaning upon closer inspection"?

- A. It propounded the beginning and end of all music.
- B. It mirrored the layered and intricate nature of his compositions.
- C. It served as a musical symbol encoded with sacred geometry.
- D. It compromises the myriad of human emotions and experience.

40. Choose the correct synonym of the word "exhaust" as used in the passage.

- A. Enervate
- B. Inundate
- C. Ignominy
- D. Foment

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

For questions 41 to 45, choose the correct option to complete each conversation.

41. Dr. Ellis: When I presented the data proving their theory wrong, they just sat there in silence.

Dr. Kumar: I would've been _____ such an undeniable evidence too.

- A. relinquish under
- B. fogged up from
- C. blowed away at
- D. bowled over by

42. Nick: Did you really correct the professor's grammar mid-lecture?

Amy: I couldn't help myself, _____! He gave me a really dirty look. I'm done for!

- A. Katie, bar the door
- B. let the rat out of the bag
- C. hit the books
- D. let sleeping dogs lie

43. Host 1: Why did you start the ceremony before the guest of honour even arrived?

Host 2: He was taking too long to arrive, so we _____ and started the award ceremony.

- A. hit the sack
- B. pulled the plug
- C. jumped the gun
- D. broke the ice

44. Ravi: Did you hear? Mr. Das is finally retiring next month!

Neha: [laughs] Everyone knew that _____. That's old news.

- A. Queen Anne is dead
- B. queer as a three-dollar bill
- C. salt of the earth
- D. speak of the devil

45. Klara: Did you get your wallet back?

Ivan: No. If I _____ to the cafe immediately,
I might have found it.

- A. had returned
- B. return
- C. was returning
- D. would return

ACHIEVERS SECTION

For questions 46 and 47, choose the correct option to fill in the blank.

46. Every procedure _____ the coronation ceremony was executed with a _____ observance of centuries-old traditions, adding solemnity to the event.

- A. at, perfunctory
- B. during, punctilious
- C. throughout, desultory
- D. in, impetuous

47. In 1945, as if _____ the ruins left by violence and chaos, Picasso unveiled one of his most _____ series of political paintings, bold in colour and unrelenting in message.

- A. in light of, cathetic
- B. on account of, detractive
- C. in lieu of, meagre
- D. in defiance of, evocative

Choose the correct synonym of the given word.

48. Cachinnate

- A. Apoplectic

- B. Crackjaw
- C. Guffaw
- D. Vesicate

Choose the correct antonym of the given word.

49. Leprechaun

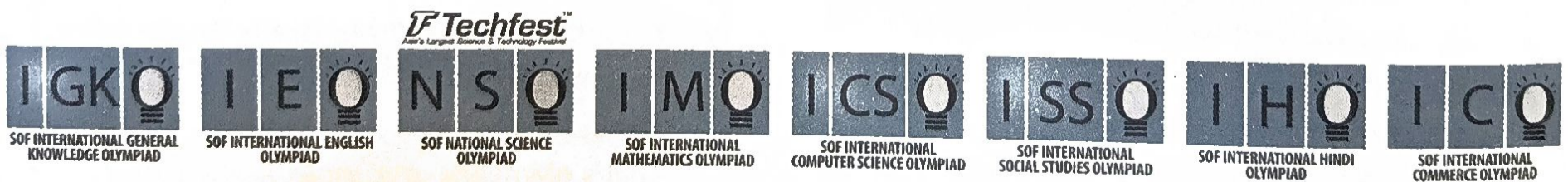
- A. Gremlin
- B. Kobold
- C. Goliath
- D. Elf

Choose the correct option to complete the conversation.

50. Kevin: After _____ and overcoming countless hurdles, they finally made it to the remote facility where humans had been keeping boobooks in captivity.

Samuel: Yeah, it was _____.

- A. jumping through hoops, not a walk in the park
- B. taking the easy road, a piece of cake
- C. walking on air, smooth sailing
- D. hitting the jackpot, child's play



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