



**SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH
OLYMPIAD 2025-26**

QUESTION
PAPER SET
C

CLASS
9

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. We will share your marks / result and other information related to SOF exams on your mobile number.
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).
Each question in Achievers Section carries 3 marks, whereas all other questions carry 1 mark each.
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.
E.g.

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.

10. ● (A) (B) (C) (D)

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.



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WORD AND STRUCTURE KNOWLEDGE

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

1. The _____ of the oppressive regime was a decisive blow to _____, signalling the people's resolve to reclaim their freedom.
 - A. vanquishment, despotism
 - B. blandishment, subservience
 - C. subjugation, benignity
 - D. ascendancy, affability

2. After days of self-doubt, she finally managed to _____ enough courage to confront her boss about the unfair treatment she received.
 - A. chip in
 - B. muster up
 - C. count on
 - D. hash off

3. The students' efforts to accomplish this working model based on Mars are _____!
 - A. biased
 - B. lowering
 - C. outstanding
 - D. inattentive

4. Despite his age, my grandfather remained in the _____, managing his daily responsibilities with _____ and without depending on anyone.
 - A. blue, great damage
 - B. black, utmost sorrow
 - C. pink, remarkable ease
 - D. white, much comfort

5. While Jonathan's sharp-witted attitude made him eminently _____, his disdain for small talk often left him feeling _____ in his friend circle.
 - A. audacious, retired
 - B. clubbable, isolated
 - C. edacious, assailable
 - D. tremulous, banded

6. Jessica told Bobby that he _____ quite disoriented but reassured him that her support _____, promising to always stand by his side.
 - A. seemed, was unwavering
 - B. seems, is unwavering
 - C. is appearing, had been unwavering
 - D. was appeared, was unwavered

7. True _____ is not derived from earthly possessions, but rather from spiritual clarity and contentment.
 - A. affliction
 - B. beatitude
 - C. reprobation
 - D. opprobrium

8. _____ had the committee reached an agreement on the revised policy _____ fresh wave of objections emerged.
 - A. No sooner, than a
 - B. Not only, but also
 - C. Hardly, then the
 - D. Neither, nor

9. Mawlynnong is regarded as the cleanest village in Asia because the villagers support _____ and work together _____ maintain its pristine environment.
 - A. each other, into
 - B. all, for
 - C. one another, to
 - D. themselves, onto

10. _____ did the students plagiarize everything for their project _____ avoided giving required references.
 - A. Neither, nor they
 - B. Not only, but they also
 - C. Although, but they
 - D. Either, or they

11. The weary villagers _____ by the leader's hopeful words, and their long-lost hope _____ from its slumber.
 - A. was stirring, was awakened
 - B. had been stirred, have awakened
 - C. were stirred, was awakened
 - D. have stirred, have been awakened

12. By mastering the art _____ ambition with humility, he earned the respect from both peers and rivals.
 - A. on surmounting
 - B. from foreboding

- C. of balancing
D. off deviating
13. _____ of books into beginners and advanced levels was done by our new librarian.
A. Categorization
B. Collection
C. Seizing
D. Underlining
14. The intern's suggestion was met with a _____ smirk from the manager, who clearly thought himself above such "novice ideas".
A. malleable
B. supercilious
C. reclusive
D. conscientious
15. The politician's promises _____ out to be nothing more than _____, leaving the public disillusioned and betrayed.
A. broke, kettle in fish
B. called, ten a penny
C. blew, bee's knees
D. turned, smoke and mirrors
16. _____ it was late and everyone was tired, neither James nor Maria wanted to leave, _____ the conversation had just gotten interesting.
A. Yet, as
B. Since, but
C. Though, for
D. For, so
17. If the committee _____ the proposal before the deadline, the team _____ the revised strategy immediately.
A. approve, shall be implementing
B. approved, implemented
C. approves, will implement
D. had approved, will be implementing
18. _____ moon looked incredibly beautiful last night, casting _____ soft glow over _____ town.
A. The, an, the
B. The, the, the
C. The, a, the
D. An, a, no article
19. Eliza decided to _____ for a vintage wedding dress, knowing that settling too soon _____ her both money and the chance to find a gem for her big day.
A. steep through, would cost

- B. look out, will costing
C. check out, may be cost
D. shop around, might cost
20. After the midterms, James _____ threw himself into his studies, determined to improve his grades.
A. irresolutely
B. relentlessly
C. unanimously
D. equivocally
21. He ran through the streets _____, looking for his lost dog by calling its name desperately.
A. dementedly
B. indolently
C. languidly
D. valorously
22. She _____ her dream of studying at the University of Sussex for years, and finally her dream unfolded into reality.
A. would be harboring
B. had been nurturing
C. persuaded
D. clings to

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

23. "Cut like a knife through butter" means _____.
A. very quickly and easily
B. to be on equal footing
C. do not cut with any weapon
D. have a medical operation
24. "Dead to the world" means _____.
A. to make no effort at all
B. no longer at the peak of one's abilities
C. to be in deep sleep
D. completely unaware of the surrounding

For questions 25 and 26, choose the correct synonym of the given word.

25. Sourpuss
A. Grouch
B. Stoical
C. Fantast
D. Servile
26. Counterfeit
A. Novel
B. Canonical
C. Accredited
D. Spurious

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

27. Flummoxed
- A. Stymied
 - B. Collected
 - C. Fuddled
 - D. Gravelled

28. Resplendent
- A. Refulgent
 - B. Flamboyant
 - C. Relucent
 - D. Caliginous

For questions 29 and 30, choose the option with correct spelling.

29. How do you spell the word that means "someone who gets annoyed easily"?
- A. Curmudgeon
 - B. Cermadgone
 - C. Carmudgeon
 - D. Cirmadgion
30. How do you spell the word that means "an abnormal fear of lightning or thunder"?
- A. Kiraunoepobia
 - B. Kiraunophobia
 - C. Keraunophobia
 - D. Kerauonophobia

READING

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

In an era where artificial intelligence is rapidly encroaching upon creative domains, Hayao Miyazaki, the visionary co-founder of Studio Ghibli, stands as a resolute guardian of human artistry. His vehement opposition to AI-generated animation underscores a profound belief: true creativity is an inherently human endeavour, deeply rooted in emotion, intention, and imperfection. Miyazaki's disdain for AI in animation is not merely a reactionary stance, but a reflection of his lifelong artistic philosophy, developed over decades of hand-crafted storytelling.

In 2016, during a demonstration of AI-generated animation, he expressed being "utterly disgusted", deeming it "an insult to life itself." He criticized the AI's lack of understanding of human suffering, highlighting its inability to convey genuine emotional depth. For Miyazaki, creativity is not a mechanical output, but an expression of the soul—a reflection of personal experiences, cultural heritage, and deep emotional currents. His reaction was not just to the crude visuals presented, but to the notion that a machine, devoid of empathy and consciousness, could somehow replace the artist's role in storytelling.

Studio Ghibli's creations exemplify the irreplaceable value of human touch in art. Films like *Spirited Away*, *Princess Mononoke*, and *Howl's Moving Castle* are celebrated for their intricate hand-drawn animation, rich storytelling, and complex characters. These works delve into themes of environmentalism, pacifism, and the human condition, offering narratives that are as emotionally resonant as they are visually stunning. The meticulous attention to detail in backgrounds, character design, and even the use of silence, reveals an intuitive understanding of rhythm and emotion that only a human can master. Ghibli films do not simply entertain, they invite viewers into deeply immersive worlds that mirror the ambiguities of real life.

A distinctive feature of Ghibli films is their portrayal of strong, multifaceted female protagonists. Characters such as Chihiro, Nausicaä, and Kiki are not mere archetypes, but individuals with agency, vulnerability, and growth. Their journeys reflect the studio's commitment to nuanced storytelling that transcends gender stereotypes and speaks to universal human experiences. These characters struggle, adapt, and evolve—processes grounded in emotional truth that cannot be reduced to data points or algorithms. Miyazaki's critique of AI-generated art also touches upon the broader

implications of technology on creativity. He warns that reliance on AI risks eroding the authenticity and emotional resonance that define human-made art. As AI tools become more prevalent, there's a growing concern that audiences may gravitate toward these easily produced imitations, potentially sidelining original works that require time, effort, and emotional investment.

In conclusion, while AI may serve as a tool for certain tasks, it cannot replace the depth, nuance, and emotional resonance of human creativity. Studio Ghibli's legacy, underpinned by Miyazaki's vision, stands as a poignant reminder that art is not just about aesthetics, but about conveying the intricacies of the human spirit. As technology continues to evolve, it is imperative to preserve and celebrate the irreplaceable value of human-made art.

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

Statement I: According to Hayao Miyazaki, AI is inept in understanding and conveying human emotions, making it a fallible creative partner in storytelling.

Statement II: Miyazaki was quite intrigued while watching the demonstration of AI generated animation.

- 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 statement.

- A. Hayao Miyazaki called AI generated animation "an insult to life itself".
- B. Honouring and preserving the significance of human-made art is incumbent, even if technology continues to advance.
- C. Miyazaki believes that AI-generated animation has the potential to surpass human creativity in emotional depth.
- D. Miyazaki portends that reliance on AI risks eroding the authenticity and emotional resonance that define human-made art.

33. According to the passage, what is the key belief underlying Hayao Miyazaki's opposition to AI-generated animation?

- A. True creativity is an inherently human endeavour, deeply rooted in emotion, intention, and imperfection.
- B. AI-generated content often highlights the beauty of human imperfection.
- C. Miyazaki believes AI can effectively convey human suffering through animation.
- D. He sees AI-generated art as a reflection of modern artistic progress.

34. Which of the following statements about Studio Ghibli's films are true, according to the passage?

- I. Studio Ghibli films often explore themes of environmentalism, pacifism, and the human condition.
 - II. These films feature strong, multifaceted female protagonists with agency, vulnerability, and growth.
 - III. The sole purpose of these films is to mirror the certainty of real life.
 - IV. Studio Ghibli's films are celebrated for their intricate hand-drawn animation and rich storytelling.
- A. I and IV only
 - B. II and III only
 - C. I, II and IV only
 - D. All of these

35. Find the word from the passage that means the same as "intense".

- A. Vehement
- B. Complex
- C. Nuance
- D. Resonance

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

The BRICS—comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has evolved from a mere economic concept into a formidable coalition representing a significant portion of the global population and economic activity. Initially coined as "BRIC" by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001 to highlight emerging economies, the group expanded in 2010 with South Africa's inclusion, becoming BRICS.

The primary objective of BRICS is to foster a multipolar world order that challenges the dominance of Western-led institutions. By promoting economic cooperation, political

dialogue, and cultural exchange, BRICS seeks to create an alternative framework that reflects the interests and aspirations of developing nations. Collectively, BRICS nations account for approximately 41% of the global population and 35% of global GDP, surpassing the G7 in these metrics. This coalition has made significant strides in global governance, establishing institutions like the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), which provide financial support to member countries and other emerging economies.

A critical aspect of BRICS's strategy is to reduce dependence on the US dollar in international trade and finance. This move is driven by the desire to mitigate the impact of US sanctions and to assert greater control over their economic destinies. One of the notable initiatives in this regard is the development of BRICS Pay, a decentralized payment system that facilitates transactions in local currencies among member states.

Additionally, BRICS countries have been promoting the use of their local currencies in bilateral trade agreements. For instance, India has engaged in agreements with countries like the UAE and Malaysia to settle trade in Indian Rupees, thereby reducing reliance on the dollar. While these efforts are still in nascent stages, they signify a concerted push towards a more diversified global financial system.

The expansion of BRICS has been a topic of significant interest. In recent years, countries such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia have expressed interest in joining the bloc. This expansion reflects the growing desire among emerging economies to be part of a platform that represents their interests on the global stage. As of early 2025, BRICS+ has become a more inclusive framework, encompassing a broader range of nations committed to the principles of cooperation and mutual development.

BRICS provides a protective umbrella for its member countries by offering a platform for dialogue and cooperation, thereby enhancing their collective bargaining power

in international forums. The establishment of the NDB and the CRA has provided financial support to member countries, enabling them to undertake development projects and manage financial crises more effectively.

The strength of BRICS lies in its diversity and the shared commitment to reforming global governance structures. The bloc's ability to mobilize resources, advocate for reforms in international institutions, and promote sustainable development initiatives underscores its growing influence in global affairs.

BRICS has transformed from a theoretical concept into a dynamic coalition that plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of global governance. Through its initiatives in de-dollarisation, expansion, and protection of member interests, BRICS is charting a course towards a more inclusive and multipolar world order. While challenges remain, the group's collective efforts signify a significant shift in the global balance of power, offering new avenues for cooperation and development among emerging economies.

36. Choose the incorrect statement regarding the BRICS.

- A. The primary objective of BRICS is to foster a multipolar world order that challenges the dominance of Western-led institutions.
- B. BRICS has shifted from a dynamic coalition to a theoretical concept, playing a paltry role in shaping global governance.
- C. BRICS countries have been promoting the use of their local currencies in bilateral trade agreements to reduce reliance on the US dollar.
- D. The expansion of BRICS reflects the growing desire among emerging economies to be part of a platform that represents their interests on the global stage.

37. The synonym of the word "nascent" as used in the passage is _____.

- A. budding
- B. mature
- C. dynamic
- D. static

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

Statement I: The strength of BRICS lies solely in the economic power of its member countries, complacent in its commitment to reforming global governance structures.

Statement II: BRICS provides a protective umbrella for its member countries by offering a platform for dialogue and cooperation, enhancing their collective bargaining power in international forums.

- 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.

39. One of the critical aspects of BRICS's strategy is _____, which aims to reduce dependence

on the US dollar in international trade and finance.

- A. de-dollarisation
- B. modernization
- C. globalization
- D. de-privatization

40. Which of the following is a major goal of BRICS as it seeks to reshape global governance?

- A. To create a more inclusive and multipolar world order that challenges Western-dominated institutions
- B. To reduce the influence of emerging economies in global affairs
- C. To focus solely on increasing trade between BRICS countries without considering global political influence
- D. To preserve the dominance of the US dollar in international finance

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

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

41. Employee: The robber entered the shop _____ as a customer, threatened the cashier at gunpoint to empty the cash box into his bag, and then _____.

- A. authenticated, crawled off
- B. exhibited, backed out
- C. masqueraded, marched in
- D. disguised, slunk away

42. Emma: When my mother came across her college album, she gazed _____ at the photographs of her youthful days.

- A. tardily
- B. languishingly
- C. diffusely
- D. curatively

43. John: Do you remember the football match between Argentina and Peru?

Ted: Yes, certainly. Argentina achieved a _____ over Peru, a triumph that paved their way to the finals.

- A. clean sweep
- B. standing ovation
- C. crushing wipe
- D. dramatic overthrow

44. Payton: Selena looks quite _____. I think she's got some good news.

Cassidy: You bet! She just received her college acceptance letter.

- A. shallow
- B. chuffed
- C. sallow
- D. hoary

45. Teacher: When the students were notified about the summer camp, they _____ in excitement.

- A. turned a blind eye
- B. passed the buck
- C. hit the nail on their head
- D. kicked up their heels

ACHIEVERS SECTION

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

46. As the cold wind howled outside, they gathered around the warm fire in the cozy _____, enjoying the comfort of its warmth.

- A. rickrack
- B. inglenook
- C. abattoir
- D. placation

47. Though Larry claimed to be helping, he couldn't resist _____ at every poker game, distracting the players with his _____ tips.

- A. enunciating, badgered
- B. placating, presumptuous
- C. deprecating, volitional
- D. kibitzing, unsolicited

Choose the correct synonym of the given word.

48. Codswallop

- A. Hogwash

- B. Veridical
- C. Truism
- D. Assiduous

Choose the correct antonym of the given word.

49. Elongated

- A. Prolixity
- B. Beanpole
- C. Protracted
- D. Ephemeral

Choose the correct option to complete the conversation.

50. Becky: A _____ group of friends paraded through the city, their jubilant voices echoing as they _____ in their victory.

Stacy: They were absolutely electric. We could feel the celebration in the air.

- A. roisterous, revelled
- B. subdued, caroused
- C. compliant, thrived
- D. boisterous, imploded



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
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