

Guidelines for the Candidate

- You will get additional ten minutes to fill up information about yourself on the OMR Sheet, before the start of the exam.
- 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.
- 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 one mark each.
- All questions are compulsory. There is no negative marking.
- There is only ONE correct answer. Choose only ONE option for an answer.
- 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

10. ● (B) (C) (D)

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

- Return the OMR Sheet to the invigilator at the end of the exam.
- Please fill in your personal details in the space provided before attempting the paper.

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For questions 1 to 24, choose the correct option to fill in the blank.

1. _____ the recently acquired property, my uncle has other assets that he _____ to his children.
 - A. In addition to, willed
 - B. On account of, acquired
 - C. Subsequent to, squander
 - D. On behalf of, reprobate
2. When I confronted Ruchi about her mistake, she became _____, rudely refusing to agree with me.
 - A. clement
 - B. obdurate
 - C. obsequious
 - D. tractable
3. Varun refused to live a _____ life, so he decided to travel around.
 - A. quotidian
 - B. quodlibet
 - C. quoining
 - D. quoit
4. Sorry for my _____. I struggle to recall names and things, despite being young.
 - A. cognizance
 - B. lethologica
 - C. bullyrag
 - D. discernment
5. Mr. Clark _____ making his talk show the most watched TV show in all of Europe.
 - A. is been credited with
 - B. has been credited with
 - C. had credited to
 - D. was credited of
6. Stranded in a downpour with nowhere to go, I had no option but to _____ in my car.
 - A. kip down
 - B. knuckle down
 - C. fall out
 - D. mill around
7. Being agitated without any specific reason, Susan shouted at Nikhil to _____.
 - A. paper across
 - B. rain off
 - C. naff off
 - D. stave of
8. Kids these days are severely susceptible _____ peer pressure.
 - A. for
 - B. to
 - C. about
 - D. by
9. _____ had she arrived at the event _____ the closing ceremony ended.
 - A. Hardly, when
 - B. Inasmuch, so
 - C. Barely, then
 - D. Although, that
10. I _____ prefer to stop by this café and enjoy a cup of coffee by myself.
 - A. need just
 - B. would always
 - C. might random
 - D. should ever
11. When everyone thought he'd been done for, James made an incredible comeback by delivering a _____.
 - A. gambo
 - B. hootenanny
 - C. recumbentibus
 - D. syzygy
12. The idiom 'bells and whistles' means _____.
 - A. additional features that are not essential but make something more attractive
 - B. the mandatory celebration needed after win
 - C. the necessary additions when one buys something
 - D. the terms and conditions of any purchase made
13. My grandma often visits our family doctor with unreal and non-existent symptoms. She is suffering from a _____.
 - A. martinet
 - B. hypochondriac
 - C. hedonist
 - D. termagant

14. The new policy _____ all the previous guidelines, bringing them all under one comprehensive framework.

- A. eschews
- B. subsumes
- C. debars
- D. precludes

15. The idiom 'be the cat's whiskers' means _____.

- A. someone or something highly appealing
- B. something that is invaluable and authentic
- C. people who are stiff and always on guard
- D. something that is constantly on the move

16. There was a rumour that he was attacked _____ his neighbour after a long-running dispute _____ a shared alleyway.

- A. from, at
- B. at, for
- C. by, over
- D. of, for

17. When I moved in here, my mother suggested putting _____ furniture in _____ that corner and adding plants to _____ patio.

- A. the, no article, a
- B. a, a, the
- C. no article, no article, the
- D. the, a, no article

18. The leader _____ by some sychophants of maintaining a democratic _____ against the tyranny of the ruling party.

- A. had been accused, bulwark
- B. was accused, bulrush
- C. has being accused, bullace
- D. is accused, bulgur

19. _____ is no longer relevant in validating opinions _____ how things run in this organisation.

- A. Acclimatisation, with
- B. Accreditation, about
- C. Accountability, in
- D. Accoutrement, at

20. Daniel decided _____ until he got to his desired analysis so that there is no room for mistakes.

- A. to bang away
- B. to slack for
- C. to moiling around
- D. to spouting off

21. They said that they _____ less _____ what really happened.

- A. could have care, for
- B. would cared, about
- C. could have cared, about
- D. couldn't care, with

22. Sammy _____ his gratitude for the opportunity to win that medal for his country, _____ it was a bronze medal.

- A. expressed, even though
- B. proclaim, albeit
- C. declared, in spite
- D. infers, betwixt

23. The phrase 'accidents will happen in the best regulated families' means _____.

- A. mishaps and setbacks can seldom happen to rich families
- B. mishaps and setbacks are just a part of life
- C. mishaps and setbacks happen to families that are more careful
- D. mishaps and setbacks are what makes families regulated

24. By the time they graduate, the family _____ enough money for their higher studies.

- A. will have saved
- B. will save
- C. will have been saving
- D. will have been saved

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

25. How do you spell the word that means "a sequence of real or imaginary images like those seen in a dream"?

- A. Phantasmagoria
- B. Phantashmagoria
- C. Fantasticagoria
- D. Fantashagoria

26. How do you spell the word that means "a writer of the lives of the saints"?

- A. Hagliographer
- B. Haggiographer
- C. Haggeiographer
- D. Hagiographer

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

27. Plangent

- A. Crank
- B. Antic
- C. Triste
- D. Heady

28. Imprecate

- A. Maledict
- B. Consecrate
- C. Sacralize
- D. Lustrate

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

29. Cacodemon

- A. Afrit
- B. Naif
- C. Fiend
- D. Succubus

30. Georgic

- A. Bucolic
- B. Rune
- C. Anacreontic
- D. Urbanite

READING

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

Glistening in the dry expanses of the Nevada desert is an unusual kind of power plant that harnesses energy not from the sun or wind, but from the Earth itself.

The site, known as Project Red, pumps water thousands of feet into the ground, down where rocks are hot enough to roast a turkey. Around the clock, the structure sucks the heated water back up; it is then used to power generators. For some months now, this carbon-free, Earth-borne power has been flowing onto a local grid in Nevada.

Geothermal energy, though it's continuously radiating from Earth's super-hot core, has long been a relatively niche source of electricity, largely limited to volcanic regions like Iceland where hot springs bubble from the ground. But geothermal enthusiasts have dreamed of sourcing Earth power in places without such specific geological conditions—like Project Red's Nevada site, developed by energy startup Fervo Energy. Such next-generation geothermal systems have been in the works for decades, but they've proved expensive and technologically difficult, and have sometimes even triggered earthquakes.

The advances have garnered hopes that with enough time and money, geothermal

power—which currently generates less than 1 percent of the world's electricity, and 0.4 percent of electricity in the United States—could become a mainstream energy source. Some posit that geothermal could be a valuable tool in transitioning the energy system off of fossil fuels, because it can provide a continuous backup to intermittent energy sources like solar and wind.

Tapping that heat requires deep drilling and creating cracks in these non-volcanic, dense rocks to allow water to flow through them. Since 1970, engineers have been developing "enhanced geothermal systems" (EGS) that do just that, applying methods similar to the hydraulic fracturing—or fracking—used to suck oil and gas out of deep rocks. Dozens of such EGS installations have been built in the U.S., Europe, Australia and Japan—most of them experimental and government funded—with mixed success.

Famously, one EGS plant in South Korea was abruptly shuttered in 2017 after having probably caused a 5.5 magnitude earthquake. Fracking of any kind can add pressure to nearby tectonic faults. Other issues were technological—some plants didn't create enough fractures for good heat exchange or fractures travelled in the wrong direction and failed to connect the two wells.

Some efforts, however, turned into viable power plants, including several German and French systems built between 1987 and 2012 in the Rhine Valley. There, engineers made use of existing fractures in the rock.

But overall, there just hasn't been enough interest to develop EGS into a more reliable and lucrative technology, says geophysicist Dimitra Teza of the energy research institute Fraunhofer IEG in Karlsruhe, Germany, who helped develop some of the Rhine Valley EGS systems. "It has been quite tough for the industry."

In 2015, for instance, the U.S. Department of Energy launched a research site in Utah. Several new North American startups, including Sage Geosystems and E2E Energy Solutions, are developing new EGS systems in Texas and Canada, respectively. It remains to be seen how these new EGS systems perform in the long term.

31. What makes Project Red different from other power plants?

- A. It combines both wind and sun for generating power.
- B. It is sourced from underground frosty water tables.
- C. It depends on heated underground water to generate power to be used.
- D. It uses radioactive energy to power the generators.

32. Read statements I and II and select the correct option.

Statement I: The Project Red may help develop a major source of energy that is different from the usual wind and solar energy.

Statement II: Geothermal energy sources could help generate electricity not only in the United States but also around the world.

- 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.

33. Give one advantage of geothermal energy sources that makes it valuable.

- A. It can provide a respite from using fossil fuels and exhaustive energy sources.
- B. It has completely replaced the use of solar and wind energy as sources of power generation.
- C. It is permanent and thus already provides an endless supply of energy for powering our homes.
- D. It can be harvested anywhere, as long as there is a good water source.

34. "One EGS plant in South Korea was abruptly shuttered in 2017" What does the phrase 'abruptly shuttered' suggest?

- A. That the plant was an illegal construction thereby mandating its destruction.
- B. That the plant had to be shut down due to fears of causing more damage to its surroundings.
- C. That the plant was capable of handling its power generation load.
- D. That the plant was constructed at the wrong site and thus had to be destroyed.

35. 'It has been quite tough for the industry.' What has been quite tough for the industry?

- A. The effort to generate enough interest in developing EGS so that it can become a more reliable and lucrative technology.
- B. The desire and resource to try to use EGS as a reliable source of generating geothermal power.
- C. Attempts to get more people to invest in making EGS a promising source of geothermal energy.
- D. The method of harvesting geothermal energy by companies.

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

By the end of his brilliant and tortured life, the Serbian American physicist, engineer, and inventor Nikola Tesla was penniless and living in a small New York City hotel room. He spent his days in a park surrounded by the creatures that mattered most to him—

pigeons—and his sleepless nights ruminating on mathematical equations and scientific problems. He designed and perfected his inventions in his head, a habit that would confound scientists and scholars for many years after his death.

Tesla believed his mind to be without equal, and he wasn't above chiding his contemporaries, such as Thomas Edison, who once hired him. If Edison had a needle to find in a haystack, Tesla once said, "he would not stop to reason where it was most likely to be, but would proceed at once, with the feverish diligence of a bee, to examine straw after straw until he found the object of his search."

But what his contemporaries may have been lacking in scientific talent (by Tesla's estimation), they made up for in other ambitions. Inventors like Edison and George Westinghouse possessed one trait that Tesla did not: a mind for business. In the last days of America's Gilded Age, Tesla made a dramatic attempt to change the future of communications and power transmission around the world. While working on his ideas he pitched to J.P. Morgan and managed to convince him that he was on the verge of a breakthrough, and the financier gave Tesla more than \$150,000 to fund what would become a gigantic, futuristic, and startling tower in the middle of Long Island in New York. In 1898, as Tesla's plans to create a worldwide wireless transmission system became known, Wardenclyffe Tower would be Tesla's last chance to claim the recognition and wealth that had always escaped him.

Tesla's work with electricity reflected just one facet of his fertile mind. Before the turn of the 20th century, Tesla had invented a powerful coil capable of generating high voltages and frequencies, leading to new forms of light, such as neon and fluorescent, as well as X-rays. Tesla also discovered that these coils, soon to be called "Tesla coils", made it possible to send and receive radio signals. He quickly filed for American patents in

1897, beating the Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi to the punch.

By 1912, Tesla began to withdraw from that doubting world. He was showing signs of obsessive-compulsive disorder. He became consumed with cleanliness and fixated on the number three: excessively washing his hands, counting his steps, staying only in hotel rooms with numbers divisible by three, and setting 18 napkins on his table during meals.

Near the end of his life, Tesla became fixated on pigeons, especially a specific white female, which he claimed to love almost as one would love a human being. Tesla said the white pigeon visited him through an open window at his hotel one night, and he believed the bird had come to tell him she was dying. He saw "two powerful beams of light" in the bird's eyes, he recalled. "Yes, it was a real light, a powerful, dazzling, blinding light, a light more intense than I had ever produced by the most powerful lamps in my laboratory." The pigeon died in his arms, and the inventor claimed that in that moment, he knew that he had finished his life's work.

Throughout the following years, Tesla would make news from time to time while living on the 33rd floor of the New Yorker Hotel. Though the inventor's genius had forever changed the world of electrical engineering, Tesla's final days were clouded by his business and social ineptitudes. He died at the age of 86, in debt, though Westinghouse had been paying his room and board at the hotel for years.

36. Read statements I and II and select the correct option.

Statement I: Tesla's coils are capable of generating high voltages and frequencies and sending and receiving radio signals.

Statement II: One thing that distinguished inventors like Edison and George Westinghouse from Tesla was their economic acumen.

- 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.

37. Choose the incorrect statement.

- A. Nikola Tesla can work out his designs and inventions in his head without the need to draw them out on paper.
 B. Tesla successfully managed to arrange funds to build Warendclyffe Tower.
 C. Towards the end of his life, Tesla got fixated on a white male pigeon.
 D. Tesla believes that all his contemporaries have one thing in common: they all lack scientific talent.

38. Choose the incorrect pair of synonym and antonym.

- A. Ruminant - Overlook
 B. Diligence - Supineness
 C. Fixate - Indifferent
 D. Ineptitude - Inability

39. What was the inference that Tesla got from the death of the white pigeon in his arms?

- A. That it was time for him to say goodbye to the world too.
 B. That the bird's death heralds a change in his professional life.
 C. That his inventions are going to make a huge impact on the world.
 D. That his contributions to the world are much required.

40. Choose the option in which the word 'pitch' is used in the same way as in the passage.

- A. Jerry was asked to throw the first pitch to commemorate his retirement.
 B. When we pitched the idea of starting a business from our basement, no one cared to listen or invest in our venture.
 C. The vocalists were tested according to the pitch of their voice to determine the final group.
 D. All the while, we were pitching for the home team to win the game.

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

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

41. Nader: Beyond physical deterioration, what other obstacles _____ attempts to _____ the ancient scrolls?

- A. have impeded, be deciphering
 B. has impeded, decipher
 C. have impeded, decipher
 D. impeded, deciphered

42. Mom: Remember to put some in your savings account right away. It's good to _____.

- A. be left holding the baby
 B. be just before you're generous
 C. count your chickens
 D. give up on your day job

43. Doctor: If you do _____ to curb your lifestyle and unhealthy eating habits, sooner or later, you _____ to face the music.

- A. anything, can
 B. everything, must
 C. something, had
 D. nothing, will have

44. Jennie: Jane isn't in a good mood lately, so beware; you'll be _____.

- A. hung out to dry
 B. in stitches
 C. long in the tooth
 D. on cloud nine

45. Susan : Whenever we go out for dinner as a family, we make sure to order _____ so that everyone gets to pick their dishes.

- A. alfresco
 B. a la carte
 C. bete noire
 D. pergola

ACHIEVERS SECTION

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

46. Their animosity _____ into violence, which claimed the lives of many while seemingly trying to _____ the role of the agitators.

- A. spiralled, downplay
- B. gheraoed, involve
- C. fizzled, determine
- D. sked, undermine

47. When his son, who _____ out of the country for more than 20 years, came for the holidays, he became _____.

- A. had been, vermouth
- B. has been, verklempt
- C. had being, versine
- D. have been, verrucae

Choose the correct synonym of the given word.

48. Trice

- A. Aeon

- B. Jiffy
- C. Coon's age
- D. Perpetuity

Choose the correct antonym of the given word.

49. Gris-gris

- A. Periapt
- B. Phylactery
- C. Amulet
- D. Jonah

Choose the correct option to complete the conversation.

50. Reporter: Authorities must act promptly to _____ the _____ of catastrophe for civilians, wasting no time.

- A. augment, culmination
- B. contain, cavernous
- C. extenuate, reverberant
- D. mitigate, crescendo



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