



**SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH
OLYMPIAD 2024-25**

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CLASS **8**

SET-B

Total Questions : 50 | Time : 1 hr.

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. ☒ A ☐ 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 20, choose the correct option to fill in the blank.

1. The volunteers had begun to _____ the survey papers before the event began.
 - A. doss about
 - B. do away
 - C. dob in
 - D. dole out
2. Multiple studies showed that many killed in car accidents _____ saved if they _____ wearing seat belts.
 - A. would have been, has been
 - B. could have been, had been
 - C. can have been, have been
 - D. will have been, had been
3. This course in digital marketing is free and _____ offer _____ course materials.
 - A. would, access to
 - B. would, excess into
 - C. should, excess to
 - D. will, assess into
4. Will it be fine if I bring my _____ Jacob to the party with me?
 - A. castigo
 - B. bigot
 - C. nemesis
 - D. amigo
5. The rabbinic teachings offer valuable _____ Jewish traditions.
 - A. insights into
 - B. insight to
 - C. direction towards
 - D. positions in
6. _____ being a famous cardiologist, Dr. Mark enjoys writing poetry too.
 - A. On behalf of
 - B. In addition to
 - C. Although
 - D. By way of
7. Sarah and Minnie engaged in a sincere conversation of _____ to sort the matter.
 - A. conciliation
 - B. aberration
 - C. bromination
 - D. diminution
8. The Indian Army _____ warned to expect _____ heavy air attack.
 - A. was, a
 - B. has, the
 - C. was, the
 - D. were, a
9. I _____ missed my EMI payment and was fine for the same.
 - A. inadvertently
 - B. mawkishly
 - C. dourly
 - D. sullenly
10. Once the kids _____ their seats, the food was served.
 - A. settle up
 - B. settling for
 - C. settled to
 - D. settled in
11. Everyone finds it difficult to get along with Samuel because he always uses very _____ language.
 - A. equidifferent
 - B. belligerent
 - C. hallowed
 - D. besprent
12. They will not be successful _____ they have strong desire to work hard.
 - A. whether
 - B. so
 - C. since
 - D. unless
13. Our car broke down near a secluded _____ building.
 - A. dilapidated
 - B. hackney
 - C. raptured
 - D. plunder

14. Well, we've noticed that your orders have been falling off lately, _____?

- A. hasn't they
- B. haven't they
- C. didn't they
- D. aren't they

15. Please _____ my offer and let me know next week whether you're interested or not.

- A. nod thorough
- B. mark down
- C. chew over
- D. double back

16. The hermit lived far away on the hilltop, which suited his _____ character.

- A. hedonist
- B. gourmand
- C. atheist
- D. ascetic

17. Before making a big investment, it's always wise to approach it with _____.

- A. remuneration
- B. circumlocution
- C. circumspection
- D. navigation

18. The manager asked his PA _____.

- A. whether she talks about the matter with her senior
- B. if she had talked about the matter with her senior
- C. if you have talked about the matter with your senior
- D. whether she has discussed the matter with her senior

19. At times, in the _____ of city life, people often neglect health and social life.

- A. hubbub
- B. chifftchaff
- C. spick span
- D. pitter-patter

20. The children had to _____ to school as both their parents had left for work.

- A. get themselves by
- B. get themselves over
- C. get themselves on
- D. get themselves off

For questions 21 and 22, choose the appropriate meaning for the following idioms.

21. 'Flash in the pan' means _____.

- A. a sudden success that does not continue
- B. to find a ray of hope in the darkness
- C. to be enraged frequently
- D. to be overwhelmed with emotions

22. 'Wag the dog' means _____.

- A. to openly and freely express your emotions
- B. tricking someone through a joke
- C. a diversion away from something of greater importance to one of lesser importance
- D. to be very friendly with everyone

For questions 23 and 24, choose the part of the sentence that has an error.

23. Dr. Peter's team were aghast to see that he had scattered the instruments all across the room.

- A. Dr. Peter's team were aghast
- B. to see that he had
- C. scattered the instruments
- D. all across the room.

24. You are advised to carefully consider all the potential risk and benefits.

- A. You are advised
- B. to carefully consider
- C. all the potential
- D. risk and benefits.

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

25. Kvetch

- A. Squawker
- B. Emblazon
- C. Oratorio
- D. Canticle

26. Concinnity

- A. Incoherence
- B. Consonance
- C. Animus
- D. Schism

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

27. Surly

- A. Huffy
- B. Ornery
- C. Waspish
- D. Irenic

28. Cadaverous

- A. Emaciated
- B. Scrawny
- C. Burly
- D. Blanched

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

29. How do you spell the word that means 'the belief that the world can be made better by human effort'?

- A. Meliorism
- B. Melanism
- C. Meiobar
- D. Megathere

30. How do you spell the word that means 'the state of being dull or lethargic'?

- A. Hechima
- B. Heuristic
- C. Hecogenin
- D. Hebetude

READING

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

Home to 533 living tribes, India's tribal population is the largest in the world. Despite encroaching urbanisation, habitat loss, and dwindling livelihoods, many tribal communities continue to practice their traditions and conserve the ancient wisdom handed down by their ancestors. On the eastern edge of India's northeastern province of Nagaland, perched high atop a ridge of a far-ahead mountain, sits Longwa village, home to one such tribe, the Konyak Naga tribe. The Konyaks have been around since 'time immemorial', they like to say; they and their predecessors were nomads in the area for thousands of years, roaming for water and food on mountains and lowlands. They are the largest of the region's 16 officially recognised tribes and the last of the tattooed headhunters. Straddled between India and Myanmar, the international border slices through the heart of this village. Here people, too, live between two worlds, one in the present and one in the past. Young children in hoodies today stand astride their grandparents, the older relics of an ancient belief system.

When you follow the Brahmaputra River in the Mon region of Nagaland in the first week of April, you will find yourself at the start of the Aoling festival. A fervent prayer for a good harvest, the holiday is a celebration of the art and resplendence of the Konyak tribe. Traditional garments are a shockwave of colours; electric blue and fiery red, covered in beads, glass, shell, stone, teeth or tusks, claws, horns, metal, bone, wood, seeds, and hair.

The descendants of the Konyaks are remnants of a vanishing culture today. Of all the tribes that lived in the hills of what is now Nagaland, the Konyaks were particularly feared. Made up of several groups, each differentiated by language and distinctive facial tattoos, they all practised headhunting—decapitating members of rival tribes being a rite of passage for young Konyak boys. Konyaks believe the soul force lies in the human skull, which is why headhunting was a way for people to seize power and settle disputes. They were also one of the most isolated tribes in the region. That began to change 200 years ago. In the 1870s, missionaries from America began setting up schools in the region, and, over the following decades, thousands converted to Christianity. The Konyaks were

among the last. Their traditions and ancient customs were eventually marked heathen by overzealous missionaries in a quest to 'civilise' the Konyaks. The British Raj banned headhunting in 1935, and over the years, the younger generations have begun to adopt modern ways, and the unique culture of tattooing, too, has faded.

Today, most of the villages in Nagaland have at least one Christian church. The church in Longwa is in a vast field atop the ridge, right below the house of the village chief.

For all the benefits of supposed modernisation, Nagaland is one of the most militarized zones in the country. The northeast is still largely cut off from the rest of the country in terms of jobs, healthcare, and opportunities, and they face continuous harassment and racism when they visit the 'mainland'. Progress is inevitable. It is the way of the world. But the world cannot be whole without the indigenous people, who are the source of our lives and arts. Their ways question the systems of our universe, forcing us to know ourselves deeper and our connections with the earth better.

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

Statement I: Urbanisation, habitat loss, and dwindling livelihoods are the hindrances that interfere with India's tribal population.

Statement II: Konyaks lived in diverse groups extricated by language and distinctive facial tattoos.

- 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. Konyaks lived between two worlds, one in the present and one in the past, as _____.

- A. the international border between India and Myanmar slices through the heart of their village

- B. the younger generations have begun to adopt modern ways, whereas the older follow ancient relics
- C. they are the largest of the region's 16 officially recognised tribes and the last of the tattooed headhunters
- D. they have been around since 'time immemorial'

33. Choose the correct statement.

- A. Konyaks were feared due to the fact that they were headhunters.
- B. Konyaks believed the soul force lies in the human skull, for which they headhunted so as to retain their vanishing culture.
- C. In the month of April, Konyaks perform the Aoling festival to celebrate the art and paltriness of the Konyak tribe.
- D. The advent of Christianity in most villages in Nagaland made the Konyak tribe uncouth also.

34. The synonym of the word 'descendants' as used in the passage is _____.

- A. legatees
- B. progenitors
- C. legmen
- D. hirelings

35. Select the option that lists statement(s) true of the Konyak tribe.

- A. Konyaks from Longwa village have been nomads since ancient times, wandering for water and food on mountains and lowlands.
- B. After the advent of Christianity, the entire Konyak tribe adopted modern ways of living.
- C. The Konyaks are the largest of Nagaland's officially recognised tribes and the last of the tattooed headhunters.
- D. Both A and C

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

Regarded as one of Canada's finest living writers, Margaret Atwood is a poet, novelist, story writer, essayist, and environmental activist. She is perhaps most recognised, though, for her novels, in which she

masterfully tells open-ended tales while analysing modern-urban life and politics. Her female characters are strong and enigmatic. The envisaged civilisations and cultures in her novels are not ideal; rather, they are fearful or constricting. The dystopian future presented in Atwood's book is firmly feminised.

The term "dystopia" refers to a dystopian future society where people face human suffering, poverty, oppression, violence, disease, or pollution. It is a society where people live in a state of scarcity, tyranny, or both. The author's perspective on the future is obscured by inciting dread of the undesirable effects of current behaviour. A wonderful illustration of how a postmodern novel alters the Gothic style is "The Handmaid's Tale". The uniqueness of Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale" is that it prominently features a variety of Gothic characteristics while also being heavily infused with postmodernist ideas. It is conceivable to see Gothic as a parabolic investigation of the restricted and even endangered lives of women.

For "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood, a first-person narrator is employed. As a result, the Handmaid's voice is used to tell the story to us. The author adopts the role of a character when writing in the first person and narrates the tale "from the inside". This makes the readers interested and able to empathise with the character, strengthening the impression that the book is "real". First of all, the story has a significant role for the proper name alone. In the mask, the persona is dehumanised. Offred is not who she truly is; she is a Handmaid. This results in the creation of a fantastical universe that appears completely weird, warped, and terrible. Defamiliarization is the author's method for achieving this impact. Atwood places the story near the end of the 20th century, when the oppressive totalitarian regime known as the Republic of Gilead was established in what had formerly been New England. The author

manipulates real materials to create elements that are almost surreal and frightful. The story as a whole, alternates between forced action and withdrawal, between stealthy risk-taking and hesitant pulling back. Additionally, the author astounds readers not only with a wide range of narrative techniques that show odd and horrifying situations but also with a profusion of textual games.

Similes, personifications, symbols, and metaphors all play a very specific role in Atwood's writings. First off, they frequently relate disparate fields. Atwood's narrative in "Alias Grace" is primarily chronological. She grows more self-assured, and her inventiveness demonstrates this. The idea that history is only as meaningful as one chooses to make it is one of the central tenets of the postmodern movement. To the postmodern philosopher, history is merely a narrative that people construct about their past. This postmodern concept is beautifully explored in "Alias Grace" by Margaret Atwood. Atwood investigates how a story's framing affects its meaning by utilising postmodern writing styles and techniques. Atwood creates a complicated work that investigates a historical moment in an original way by blending several literary styles, including prose, poetry, letters written in a bygone era, and historical documents like newspaper clippings. In "Alias Grace" Atwood states in her afterword, "I have not changed any known facts, but the documented stories are so inconsistent that few people can be sure of anything. Unquestionably known facts come to light." Even though Grace Marks' case is cloaked in mystery, Atwood does a fantastic job of piecing together the scant historical evidence she had at her disposal. The manner in which Atwood fills in the spaces reveals her interpretation of Grace Marks' story. Atwood retells a historical woman's tale that explores gender identity in the same way that she explores national identity.

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

Statement I: Dystopia refers to a bygone dystopian society where people suffer from poverty, violence, etc.

Statement II: In *The Handmaid's Tale*, Atwood refashions Gothic elements through a postmodern literary lens.

- 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. Atwood uses simple imagery to engage the senses of the reader in her novels.
- B. History is just a narrative people device about their past.
- C. To make the readers engage with her character, Atwood employs first-person narration while jotting down Offred's story.
- D. Atwood comments that she never tried to manipulate historical facts but tried to bring forth the already-known facts.

38. "The Handmaid's Tale" is specifically characterised by _____.

- A. a fuse of prose, poetry, letters written in a bygone era, and historical documents like newspaper clippings
- B. chronological historical narrative
- C. a parabolic investigation of oppressed women
- D. postmodern philosopher history

39. What could be the possible reason of Atwood saying in her afterword, "I have not changed... facts come to light"?

- A. To point out that a writer is free to distort historical facts while writing
- B. To provide a new space for creativity, narrativisation, and historical possibility in writing
- C. To make Grace Marks' story more popular
- D. To make it a postmodern concept

40. The synonym of the word 'demonstrates' as used in the passage is _____.

- A. substantiates
- B. arbitrates
- C. sequesters
- D. perpetrates

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

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

41. Jacob : Roma struggled to break free from her suffocating past, so with determination, she snipped the _____ and embraced a new path.

- A. purse strings
- B. third strings
- C. apron strings
- D. string beans

42. Peter: Lots of people don't like Ketan, _____.
So, you judge for yourself.

- A. and he doesn't like them
- B. and he talks to people he trusts
- C. but he is actually not nice

D. but some differ in their opinion

43. Mark : What's wrong with this place?

Robert : First, the basement flooded, and then, _____, a pipe burst in the kitchen.

- A. up and about
- B. beneath contempt
- C. at all thumbs
- D. adding insult to injury

44. Harish : The trial felt like a _____, with the judge being biased and the evidence being disregarded.

- A. court jester
- B. kangaroo court
- C. court of last resort
- D. court of public opinion

45. Mrs. Mitra: She is a bit busy; I can pass a message to her if there is any.
Anna: No, that's okay. Just tell her I'll call back in _____ hours.

- A. few
- B. a few
- C. little
- D. a little

ACHIEVERS SECTION

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

46. The new laws introduced in the assembly can have a _____ effect on the members in particular situations.

- A. proletary
- B. hortatory
- C. lapidary
- D. prefatory

47. Stuart was a brilliant debater who always responded with his witty remarks; therefore, his gift of _____ was celebrated everywhere.

- A. repartee
- B. taciturnity
- C. consternation
- D. timorousness

Choose the correct synonym of the given word.

48. Arraign

- A. Exonerate

- B. Amnesty
- C. Indict
- D. Exculpate

Choose the correct antonym of the given word.

49. Imperium

- A. Prerogative
- B. Sceptre
- C. Despotism
- D. Impotency

Choose the correct option to complete the conversation.

50. Avery: There's always a solution _____ eve problem; just finish it off in the right spirit _____.

- A. to, satiety
- B. of, perturbation
- C. of, compunction
- D. to, sangfroid



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