



**SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH
OLYMPIAD 2024-25**

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CLASS **12**
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. ● (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. Despite the _____ of the situation, they managed to find a way to reconcile and mend their friendship.
A. actability B. asperity
C. adiposity D. affinity
2. With his impeccable style, confidence, and _____, Robert Pattinson effortlessly stole the spotlight at the red carpet.
A. affiche B. babiche
C. panache D. debouche
3. _____ should take care of _____ and prioritise their well-being in order to lead a happy and fulfilling life.
A. Anyone, oneself
B. All of us, one other
C. Most of all, everyone
D. Everyone, themselves
4. At the conference, the experts _____ and exchange ideas on the future of technology and innovation in India.
A. gathered to confabulate
B. gathering to consolidate
C. gather to convoluted
D. gathered to compiling
5. The officers pursued their investigation, _____ the suspect with relentless questioning and _____ crucial evidence.
A. bantering, advocating
B. benching, exhuming
C. barraging, unearthing
D. barrelling, interring
6. The board of directors _____ new policies regarding the use of natural resources at their next meeting.
A. could sanction
B. should have sanctioning
C. might be sanctioned
D. need to be sanctioned
7. Although I have no time for myself, I _____ to learn a new language this summer _____ my horizons.
A. may have endeavouring, broadening
B. might endeavour, to broaden
C. could endeavoured, to broadening
D. must endeavouring, to broaden
8. After the wedding ceremony, the couple was _____ in a beautiful vintage car to a tropical paradise.
A. whisked above B. whisking upon
C. whisked away D. whisking about
9. With his eyes glued to the phone, John _____ the sidewalk, completely unaware of the people around him.
A. trifled against B. ruffled along
C. plodded against D. bumped along
10. The butterflies _____ the flowers; the delicate wings creating a _____ display of colours.
A. flitting over, mesmerised
B. flitted along, mesmerising
C. flit off, mesmerising
D. flitted against, mesmerised
11. The beauty of the starry night was _____. No words could truly capture the awe-inspiring sight of that moment.
A. ineffable B. accruable
C. incunable D. scrutible
12. With a/an _____ understanding of human behaviour, she could easily decipher people's motives and intentions, which makes her a _____ judge of character.
A. asinine, atypical
B. whacky, anomalous
C. prudent, customary
D. perspicacious, exceptional
13. Harish _____ to comprehend the intricacies of quantum physics so that he _____ the subject.
A. is currently striving, can master
B. has currently strived, must mastered
C. is currently striving, shall mastering
D. will currently striving, would master

14. At the art exhibition next week, some renowned artists _____ their creative pieces while _____ the inspiration behind each piece.

- A. would be illustrating, explaining
- B. shall have illustrated, explained
- C. will be illustrating, explaining
- D. will have been illustrated, explained

15. Mary _____ greeted everyone at the party, her cheery greetings and hospitality made everyone feel _____ welcomed.

- A. slothfully, quickly
- B. effervescently, instantly
- C. inanimately, briskly
- D. gruffly, abruptly

16. Rajeev _____ dragged himself out of bed on a lazy Sunday morning, moving _____ as if he were still half asleep.

- A. quiescently, hastily
- B. vehemently, indolently
- C. ardently, drowsily
- D. torpidly, sluggishly

17. For _____ adventurous trip, I packed _____ backpack filled with _____ essentials, including a map, _____ some food articles, powerbank and an extra pair of socks.

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

18. Priya decided to take a break _____ social media, opting for a peaceful weekend _____ distractions.

- A. off, to
- B. from, sans
- C. over, minus
- D. out of, over

19. _____ I was exhausted from a long day at work, I mustered up the energy to go for a run _____ enjoy the beautiful sunset.

- A. Not only, but also
- B. Even though, yet
- C. Despite, also
- D. Although, and

20. The politician _____ by the media, enduring relentless public criticism and scrutiny for his actions.

- A. had pilloried
- B. was pilloried
- C. has been pillorying
- D. was being pillorying

21. The place _____ for a possible clue by the detective.

- A. had thoroughly searched
- B. had been thoroughly search
- C. is being thoroughly search
- D. was thoroughly searched

22. The receptionist greeted the guests and asked how _____.

- A. could she assist them during their stay
- B. may she assist them during their stay
- C. she might assist them during their stay
- D. she has assist them during their stay

23. Despite facing numerous challenges, she pursued her _____ of becoming a doctor to help others.

- A. avowed intent
- B. inferred intention
- C. outpoured method
- D. oblivious way

24. The idiom "upset the applecart" means _____.

- A. to spoil the idea of going out on a trip
- B. to upset someone by calling him or her fatuous
- C. to disrupt a procedure by spoiling someone's plans
- D. to bring someone back to the reality

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

25. How do you spell the word that means "a bad-tempered person"?

- A. Curomudegeon
- B. Curmudgeon
- C. Curremudgeon
- D. Coremudgeon

26. How do you spell the word that means "not covered in scales or scale-like objects"?

- A. Esquamolose
- B. Esquemalose
- C. Esquamulose
- D. Esquamalose

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

27. Traipse

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| A. Quagmire | B. Expedition |
| C. Logjam | D. Gridlock |

28. Zany

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A. Sapient | B. Prosaic |
| C. Kooky | D. Average |

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

29. Dyspeptic

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. Exuberant | B. Irascible |
| C. Indignant | D. Fretful |

30. Cimmerian

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| A. Jocund | B. Saturnine |
| C. Elegiac | D. Tenebrous |

READING

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

For generations, Antarctica stood as the harshest of continents that could defeat the hardiest of men, remaining a pristine and mysterious place isolated from the rest of the planet. But today, we are seeing that even this remote and inhospitable continent is far from immune to the effects of human-induced climate change. In fact, it is one of the fastest-warming parts of the world, with serious consequences for us all.

Antarctica is losing a staggering 150 billion tonnes of glacier ice a year, and this rate of ice loss is accelerating. The main cause is ocean warming, which not only melts the ice sheet directly but also thins the floating ice shelves that hold the ice sheet on land. As the ice shelves lose strength, they allow more ice to flow into the sea, raising the sea level.

The far-reaching implications of Antarctic ice-melt encompass a broad spectrum of global environmental and climatic repercussions. The most obvious impact is the rise of global sea level, which threatens hundreds of millions of people living in coastal areas around the world. Even a few centimetres of sea level rise can increase the risk of flooding, erosion, storm surges, and saltwater intrusion, damaging homes, infrastructure, and farmland. A 2020 study found that a global mean sea level rise of one metre by 2100 would cause annual flood damages to increase by two to three orders of magnitude, affecting up to 20.3% of global GDP.

The loss of Antarctic ice poses a significant threat to our planet's climate system, as it can set off a feedback loop that exacerbates global warming. As the sea ice in the Antarctic region diminishes, it unveils larger stretches of open water. The darker water absorbs a greater amount of solar radiation, trapping more heat within the Earth's system. The Arctic has been exhibiting such change since the 1970s, and if the Antarctic is starting to behave like the Arctic, both polar regions would act to accelerate further warming.

Antarctic melt also threatens the disruption of ocean circulation, which carries heat and nutrients around the world. As the ice sheet melts, it dilutes the sea water with fresh water, making it less dense and less likely to sink. This could slow down the great conveyor belt that drives global ocean circulation, changing nutrient distribution, global weather patterns, and threatening food security.

Some sea level rise from Antarctica is now inevitable, but we can still avoid the worst impacts by urgently cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan, adopted at COP27, recognised the impacts of climate change on the cryosphere. Negotiations at COP28 need to build on this momentum and recognise that limiting global warming to 1.5°C is a physical necessity to prevent the irreversible collapse of West Antarctica.

We can achieve this by triggering positive tipping points for societal change. These are

rapid shifts in human behaviour, technology, policy, or markets that can lead to large-scale transformations that reduce emissions and enhance resilience.

The deployment of new technologies follows a well-known pattern of "S curves" of exponential uptake. The more we make something, the better we get at it, and costs fall in a predictable way, leading to accelerating growth in the deployment of the new technology. Models show that renewable energy is growing exponentially and is projected to provide over one-third of global electricity by 2030 and overtake fossil fuels. Similarly, EVs are becoming more affordable and accessible, thanks to the rapid drop in battery costs and the growth of charging infrastructure. These factors are driving the exponential uptake of EVs and reducing emissions from the transport sector.

This pattern of growth is likely to be followed in sector after sector, but to sustain momentum, we need innovators to solve the challenges that arise along the way. Whether through boosting demand via the First Movers Coalition, driving early investment via the Mission Possible Partnership, or collaborating to create the right policy conditions via the Breakthrough Agenda, we need ambitious goals and cross-sector partnerships to drive transformations.

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

Statement I: Even though some sea level rise from Antarctica is now unavoidable, we can still prevent the worst effects by urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Statement II: Larger expanses of open water are seen in the Antarctic region as sea ice retreats. More heat is retained inside the Earth's system because the darker water absorbs more solar radiation.

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

32. The phrase "set off a feedback loop" means _____.

- a mechanism that allows a system to operate on a piece of string
- a mechanism that helps technologies support AI systems
- a mechanism that is put into motion by giving out feedback to the system
- a mechanism that helps a system self-regulate and adapt by using feedback

33. Which of the following statements states the aftereffects of the melting of ice?

- It maintains the global sea level even after the addition of melted ice.
- It makes the seawater less dense and less prone to sink by diluting it with fresh water.
- It makes the seawater sink underground, causing natural disasters.
- It evaporates the seawater by making it a little dense and likely to sink.

34. Which of the following options states the repercussions of a rise in sea level?

- Flooding
 - Storm surges
 - Change in global growth patterns
 - Saltwater intrusion
 - Damaging homes, infrastructure, and farmland
- (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) only
 - (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) only
 - (i), (ii), (iv) and (v) only
 - (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v)

35. Match the following based on the passage.

Column-I	Column-II
1. Drop in battery costs	a. By 2030
2. Deployment of new technologies	b. COP27
3. Sharm El-sheikh implementation plan	c. First Movers Coalition
4. Fossil fuels overtake	d. S curves
5. Boosting demand	e. EVs
A. 1-b, 2-d, 3-c, 4-a, 5-e	
B. 1-e, 2-c, 3-d, 4-b, 5-a	
C. 1-e, 2-d, 3-b, 4-a, 5-c	
D. 1-a, 2-c, 3-b, 4-e, 5-d	

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

Amitav Ghosh was born in Calcutta in 1956 and studied at Dehradun, New Delhi, Alexandria, and Oxford. He was awarded a doctorate from Oxford University.

His first novel, *The Circle of Reason*, set in India and Africa and winning the 1990 Prix Médicis Étranger, was published in 1986. Further novels are *The Shadow Lines* (1988); *The Calcutta Chromosome* (1996), about the search for a genetic strain that guarantees immortality and was the winner of the 1997 Arthur C. Clarke Award for Best Science Fiction; *The Glass Palace* (2000); and *The Hungry Tide* (2004), a saga set in Calcutta and the Bay of Bengal.

His books of non-fiction include three collections of essays: *Dancing in Cambodia and At Large in Burma* (1998); *The Imam and the Indian* (2002), around his experience in Egypt in the early 1980s; and *Incendiary Circumstances: A Chronicle of the Turmoil of Our Times* (2005).

"*The Glass Palace*" is an epic historical novel written by Amitav Ghosh. Spanning over a century and set in three countries, the novel weaves a captivating narrative that delves into themes of love, war, political upheaval, and cultural identity. The story begins in the mid-19th century and stretches through the 20th century, taking readers on a compelling journey through Myanmar (Burma), India, and Malaysia.

The novel opens in 1885 in Mandalay, the royal capital of Burma, during the height of the British colonial era. The narrative revolves around the life of Rajkumar, a young boy from India who, through a twist of fate, ends up in Burma and finds himself entangled with the royal family. Rajkumar, an orphan of Indian descent, is taken under the wing of Dolly, a young Burmese woman who later becomes his lifelong friend and love interest.

As the story unfolds, Ghosh paints a vivid picture of Burma's exotic landscapes, vibrant culture, and the opulent Glass Palace, where the Burmese royal family resides. Amidst

the grandeur of the palace, political turmoil brews as the British colonial forces march towards Mandalay to conquer the kingdom and take control of its rich resources.

The British invasion of Burma leads to the dethronement of King Thibaw and Queen Supayalat, and the royal family is exiled to Ratnagiri, India. Rajkumar, now a young man, follows them to India, where he witnesses the last remnants of an independent kingdom fall under the might of British imperialism. During this tumultuous time, he becomes involved in the teak logging trade, which sets the stage for his eventual rise as a successful businessman.

The novel follows Rajkumar's life, as well as that of Dolly and her family, over several decades. The story shifts between characters and locations, providing a panoramic view of historical events in Burma, India, and Malaysia. Ghosh masterfully weaves together the personal lives of the characters with the larger historical context, illustrating how the tides of politics and power affect ordinary individuals.

As the 20th century progresses, the novel explores the impact of World War II and the Japanese occupation of Burma. The characters are confronted with new challenges, and the shifting political landscape forces them to adapt to ever-changing circumstances. The once-prosperous Glass Palace now stands neglected and forgotten, mirroring the decline of the Burmese monarchy and the end of an era.

Throughout the novel, Ghosh delves into themes of identity, exile, and the search for belongingness. The characters grapple with questions of nationality and cultural heritage, especially those like Rajkumar, who have Indian roots but are deeply entrenched in Burmese society. The story also sheds light on the plight of immigrant communities and their struggles for survival and integration.

Ghosh's portrayal of historical events is deeply researched and masterfully interwoven with the personal stories of the characters. His prose captures the essence of each era

and location, bringing to life the vibrant landscapes and rich cultural tapestries of Burma, India and Malaysia.

In the end, "The Glass Palace" is not merely a historical account but a poignant exploration of human emotions and resilience in the face of adversity. Ghosh's characters are complex and multidimensional, making them relatable and unforgettable to readers.

As the novel reaches its conclusion, it leaves readers with a profound sense of the interconnectedness of human lives across time and space. "The Glass Palace" stands as a testament to the enduring power of storytelling and its ability to illuminate the past while resonating with the present. Amitav Ghosh's magnum opus is a true masterpiece that offers a rich and immersive literary experience to its readers.

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

Statement I: Ghosh skillfully combines the personal narratives of the protagonists with a well-researched representation of historical events.

Statement II: The King Thibaw, and Queen Supayalat themselves surrendered even before the invasion of Burma by the Britishers.

- 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. Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding 'The Glass Palace', according to the passage?

- A. The Glass Palace delves deeply into human emotions and perseverance in the face of hardships, going beyond a basic historical narrative.

- B. The story centres on Rajkumar, a young Indian kid who, by a strange turn of events, travels to Burma and becomes involved with the royal family.
- C. The novel examines the effects of World War II and the Japanese rule of Burma as the 20th century goes on.
- D. The narrative highlights the predicament of native communities and their battles for assimilation and survival.

38. According to the passage, how does Rajkumar become a successful entrepreneur?

- A. Rajkumar, who has Indian roots, found life-changing opportunities in Burma by working as a head servant in the royal family.
- B. Rajkumar falls in love with Dolly, the princess of the royal Burmese family, and uses his in-laws as a means to get success in the business world.
- C. Rajkumar starts working in the teak logging industry, which paves the way for his ultimate ascent to success in the business world.
- D. Rajkumar becomes a prominent member of the British colonial forces that attacked Mandalay to conquer the kingdom.

39. The phrase "magnum opus" means _____.

- A. the current status of things
- B. a great work of literature produced by a writer
- C. writing arranged with a metrical rhythm
- D. exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken seriously

40. Which of the following options lists a saga set in Calcutta and the Bay of Bengal and the other one revolves around Amitav Ghosh's experience in Egypt, respectively?

- A. The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide
- B. The Calcutta Chromosomes, The Shadow Lines
- C. A Chronicle of the Turmoil of Our Time, The Glass Palace
- D. The Hungry Tide, The Imam and the Indian

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

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

41. Monika: I _____ by the incredible talent displayed in the concert I attended with my friends last night.

- A. was astounding
- B. had been astounded
- C. am being astound
- D. have been astound

42. John: The excitement in the stadium was at _____ after the home team scored the winning goal in the finals.

- A. alternate universe B. ill effect
C. high enervation D. fever pitch

43. Amber: Sometimes hearing _____ from the person you love can literally work wonders.

- A. sweeten the kitty
B. sweetness and light
C. sweet nothings
D. sweet dreams

44. Adam: You really _____ with that suggestion! It's exactly what we need to solve the problem.

- A. hit the ground running
B. hit the nail on the head
C. hit the hay
D. hit the wall

45. Bella: I haven't seen my childhood friend for _____, but we recently reconnected, and it was wonderful!

- A. donkey's years B. along in years
C. dog's years D. golden years

ACHIEVERS SECTION

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

46. The guitarist's fingers danced across the strings, effortlessly playing a beautiful _____ that filled the room with melodic harmony.

- A. imbroglia B. arpeggio
C. anhedonia D. mercurial

47. The _____ nature of her job requires her to constantly travel to different cities for client meetings.

- A. apocalyptic B. peripatetic
C. preamble D. churlish

Choose the correct synonym of the given word.

48. Pecksniffian

- A. Primordial
B. Unctuous

- C. Irrefutable
D. Patrician

Choose the correct antonym of the given word.

49. Panoptic

- A. Circumscribed
B. Cosmic
C. Overarching
D. Inclusionary

Choose the correct option to complete the conversation.

50. Anchor: Thanks for coming everyone. Now, the event is over and _____.

- A. John Doe can be lost
B. Elvis has left the building
C. Marry become merry
D. Laila has hit the point



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