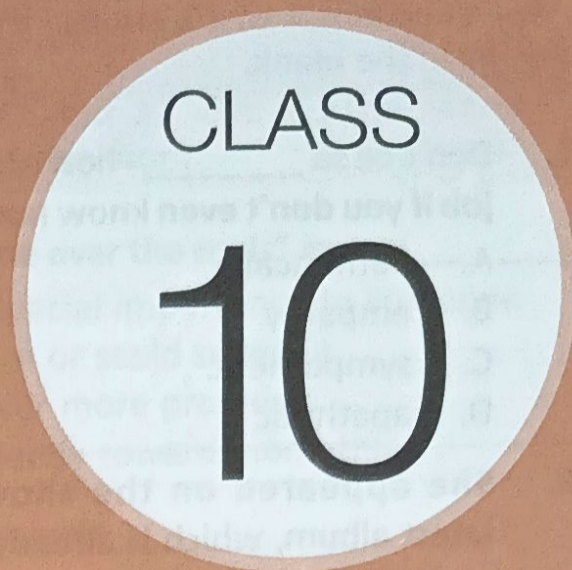
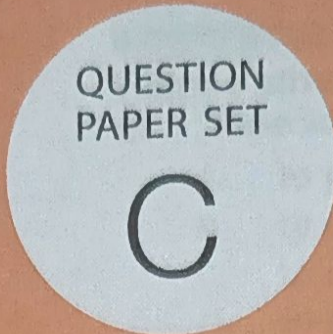




SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD 2025-26



Total Questions : 50

Time : 1 hr.

Guidelines for the Candidate

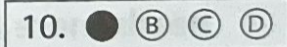
- 1. You will get additional ten minutes to fill up information about yourself on the OMR Sheet, before the start of the exam.
2. Write your Name, School Code, Class, Section, Roll No. and Mobile Number clearly on the OMR Sheet and do not forget to sign it.
3. The Question Paper comprises four sections: 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

WORD AND STRUCTURE KNOWLEDGE

For questions 1 to 20, choose the correct option to fill in the blank.

1. Don't be so _____ - how are you going to get a job if you don't even know how to write a letter?
 - A. pathetically
 - B. empathy
 - C. sympathetic
 - D. apathetic

2. She appeared on the show _____ her latest album, which is already receiving a lot of _____.
 - A. to plug, publicity
 - B. to tail back, censorship
 - C. to swan off, retention
 - D. for sawing off, discretion

3. The new policy has caused a major uproar amongst environmental _____.
 - A. abolitionists
 - B. lobbyists
 - C. yorkists
 - D. vorticists

4. Noise cancelling headphones usually _____ low pitches.
 - A. do over
 - B. do up
 - C. do away with
 - D. do away

5. I _____ with your _____ that the project needs more time and clearer communication.
 - A. concur, assessment
 - B. dissent, remuneration
 - C. assume, judgement
 - D. undertake, valuation

6. It is true that not _____ would acquiesce to the new policy, but a sense of _____ needs to be achieved.
 - A. a single person, incongruence
 - B. any of you, hostility
 - C. anyone, disillusionment
 - D. everyone, unanimity

7. The municipal council _____ a strict _____ against the burning of garbage by next week.
 - A. had been issued, sanction
 - B. will have issued, proscription
 - C. will be issuing, liabilities
 - D. shall be issued, litigation

8. Monika looked rather _____ when I disagreed with her, but I will stand by my opinion.
 - A. put to
 - B. carried out
 - C. put out
 - D. chewed on

9. Let me be the first to warn you that Lisa gives off a _____ air of warmth and friendliness; be careful.
 - A. superficial
 - B. scrupulous
 - C. meticulous
 - D. fastidious

10. I _____ to the ending of the novel but I can't help feeling it was _____.
 - A. couldn't wait, sentinel
 - B. had high hopes, pompous
 - C. was looking forward, contrived
 - D. am eager, picket

11. A couple of friendly _____ volunteered to show us the most beautiful sights of London.
 - A. junkets
 - B. mucks
 - C. spats
 - D. blokes

12. Two _____ were sent by the king _____ the town of Canterbury from enemy troops.
 - A. regiments, to garrison
 - B. squadrons, to ground down
 - C. parties, to set out
 - D. expletives, to nuke

13. When asked to take credit for the group's success, Belinda politely _____, insisting that it was a team effort.
 - A. demurred
 - B. desecrated
 - C. segregated
 - D. presented

14. Even before my brother got his driver's permit, he _____ drive _____ my father.

- A. should, surpassing
- B. could, better than
- C. might, ahead of
- D. must, unparalleled to

15. In the debate _____ environmental policies, the _____ argument was that immediate action was needed to combat climate change.

- A. of, treadle
- B. at, decisive
- C. by, primal
- D. over, dominant

16. The group chat was _____ after the event ended; everyone had something different to say, and no one was _____.

- A. in the same boat, pulling their punches
- B. in full spate, holding back
- C. at thin ice, making a hash
- D. out of the blue, speaking their mind

17. After walking for hours through _____ forest, we finally reached _____ old monastery at the foot of _____ Himalayas.

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

18. Molina told her sister that _____.

- A. she would go to the concert if she has known about it
- B. she would have gone to the concert if she had known about it
- C. she will have gone to the concert if she had known about it
- D. she had gone to the concert if she would known about it

19. I couldn't help but worry that the outfit looked a bit too _____ for the event, even though the salesman said that it was _____.

- A. frumpy, natty
- B. garish, gaudy
- C. crude, vulgar
- D. dowdy, drab

20. If, _____, the wind is kind, we may reach the shore by dawn.

- A. perchance

- B. erewhile
- C. fain
- D. betimes

For questions 21 and 22, choose the correct meaning of the given idiom.

21. "Rake someone over the coals" means _____.

- A. to give special importance to someone
- B. to criticize or scold severely
- C. to discover more problems
- D. to go directly towards something

22. "Jump ship" means _____.

- A. to leave a situation or job suddenly
- B. to elope with someone
- C. to do something before time
- D. to abscond after being released from prison

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

23. Not only did she missed the deadline, but she also forgot to notify the team, which caused major delays.

- A. Not only did she missed the deadline,
- B. but she also forgot to notify the team,
- C. which caused major delays.
- D. No error

24. She almost always complete her assignments punctually, even when the deadlines are unusually strict.

- A. She almost always
- B. complete her assignments punctually,
- C. even when the deadlines
- D. are unusually strict.

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

25. Plunder

- A. Maraud
- B. Largesse
- C. Conferment
- D. Bequest

26. Hortatory

- A. Concealing
- B. Advisory
- C. Deter
- D. Threatening

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

27. Spatter

- A. Saturate
- B. Desiccate
- C. Traduce
- D. Deluge

28. Varnish

- A. Lacquer
- B. Embellish
- C. Aggrandize
- D. Abrade

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

29. How do you spell the word that means "locally acquired"?

- A. Autochothenous
- B. Autocotonous
- C. Autochothonous
- D. Autochthonous

30. How do you spell the word that means "servile obedience"?

- A. Morigeration
- B. Meorigination
- C. Melorination
- D. Malerigation

READING

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

The ocean covers over 70% of the Earth's surface, yet much of it remains unexplored. Hidden in the inky blackness of the deep sea, far below the sunlit surface, live creatures so strange and rare that they almost seem like beings from another world. Among the most intriguing of these deep-sea dwellers are the anglerfish and the oarfish; two species that have fascinated scientists and even inspired myths for centuries.

Though very different in appearance and behaviour, both species tell us important stories about evolution, survival, and the mysteries of the ocean's unexplored depths. Perhaps one of the most famous deep-sea predators, the anglerfish is known for its horrifying, toothy grin and its bioluminescent lure that dangles from its head like a glowing fishing rod. The name "anglerfish" comes from this lure, which is used to attract prey in the dark waters thousands of meters below the surface.

The light at the tip of the anglerfish's lure is produced by bioluminescent bacteria,

which live symbiotically with the fish. This eerie glow stands out in the blackness of the deep, drawing in curious fish and crustaceans who mistake it for food or shelter. When they get too close, the anglerfish strikes with lightning speed, swallowing its prey whole with its oversized, expandable mouth. Another bizarre feature of the anglerfish is its reproductive strategy. In some species, the tiny male anglerfish attaches himself to a much larger female – literally fusing to her body and living as a permanent parasite. Over time, the male's organs degenerate until he is little more than a sperm-producing appendage. This odd behaviour ensures reproduction in a habitat where finding a mate is nearly impossible due to the vast distances and low population density.

While the anglerfish is small and terrifying, the oarfish is long, elegant, and mysterious. Growing up to 11 meters (36 feet) in length, the oarfish holds the record as the longest bony fish in the ocean. With its ribbon-like silver body, flowing red fins, and undulating movement, the oarfish has likely inspired countless stories of sea serpents told by sailors

throughout history. Unlike the anglerfish, oarfish are not predators that lurk in the darkness. Instead, they swim in the open ocean, usually between 200 and 1,000 meters deep. They feed mainly on plankton, jellyfish, and small crustaceans, filtering them from the water with their gill rakers. Oarfish are rarely seen alive, which adds to their air of mystery.

Most sightings occur when a sick or dying oarfish floats near the surface or washes up on shore. In Japanese folklore, the appearance of an oarfish was traditionally considered an omen of earthquakes or tsunamis, further adding to its mythical status.

Both the anglerfish and the oarfish are more than just strange animals. They represent the unknown and the importance of exploration, adaptation, and balance in nature. The anglerfish shows us how extreme conditions shape evolution in surprising ways. Its bioluminescence, fused reproductive habits, and stealthy hunting tactics are not just fascinating they highlight the incredible diversity of life on our planet and how species can adapt to survive in even the harshest environments. The oarfish, on the other hand, serves as a symbol of mystery and discovery. Its ghostly appearance and immense size remind us that Earth still holds secrets, even at an age of advanced technology.

The anglerfish and oarfish are two incredible examples of life in the deep sea, each fascinating in its own right. One is a stealthy, nightmarish predator; the other, a gentle giant cloaked in myth. Together, they remind us that the ocean is a vast, complex, and still-mysterious world and that sometimes, the strangest creatures have the most important stories to tell.

31. Which of the following statements best contrasts the anglerfish and the oarfish, as described in the passage?
- A. The anglerfish lives near coral reefs while the oarfish inhabits shallow coastal areas.

- B. The anglerfish is known for its graceful swimming, while the oarfish is recognized for its predatory behaviour.
- C. The anglerfish uses deception to hunt in the darkness, whereas the oarfish glides through mid-depths and feeds passively.
- D. Both the anglerfish and the oarfish rely on bioluminescence to capture prey.

32. What common idea links the anglerfish and the oarfish together in the passage?

- A. Their potential for use in modern medicine
- B. Their declining population due to overfishing
- C. Their prosaic existence in the deep sea, each different from the other in their own right
- D. Their symbolic importance in understanding evolution and exploration, adaptation and balance in nature

33. Choose the correct statement that explains why the oarfish has historically been associated with myths and legends.

- A. It is a gentle giant that emits bioluminescent light that further adds to its mystical aura.
- B. Its stealthy hunting tactics resemble mythical legends.
- C. It is a reminder of the little knowledge that exists regarding life in the ocean's depths.
- D. Its appearance was considered to be an omen for earthquakes and tsunamis.

34. Which of the following pairs correctly shows a synonym and its corresponding antonym?

- A. Discovery – Encounter
- B. Singular – Mystery
- C. Exploration – Probation
- D. Balance – Imparity

35. Why is the male anglerfish fish called a sperm-producing appendage?

- A. The male anglerfish has developed a simple reproductive system.
- B. The male anglerfish plays a dominant role in the reproductive process.
- C. The male anglerfish contributes genetically but loses autonomy and function after attachment during reproduction.
- D. The male anglerfish dies immediately after mating.

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

Migration is one of the most remarkable natural phenomena on Earth. It is the seasonal movement of animals from one region to another, often covering thousands of kilometres across challenging terrain. While many animals migrate, some of the most extraordinary examples occur in the skies and the oceans.

Birds are the most well-known migrants, with thousands of species flying long distances between breeding and wintering grounds. Aerial migration is a marvel of endurance, navigation, and adaptation. From tiny songbirds to powerful raptors, birds rely on a combination of environmental signals, such as the position of the sun, stars, Earth's magnetic field, and even smell, to guide them. One of the most famous bird migrants is the Arctic Tern, a small, graceful seabird that holds the record for the longest known migration in the animal kingdom. Every year, the Arctic Tern travels from its breeding grounds in the Arctic all the way to Antarctica and back—a round trip of over 70,000 kilometres. This incredible journey ensures that the tern experiences two summers each year, maximizing its access to food.

Another aerial marvel is the Bar-tailed Godwit, a shorebird known for its non-stop flight of over 12,000 kilometres from Alaska to New Zealand. This bird does not stop to feed or rest, relying entirely on stored body fat and a well-adapted physiology to complete its journey. The godwit's flight is a testament to endurance and navigation without the aid of landmarks or GPS. Bird migration is not only a natural wonder—it is also vital for ecosystems. While birds command the skies, the oceans are home to equally impressive migratory journeys. Among the most iconic oceanic migrants are Humpback Whales. These majestic creatures migrate annually between their summer feeding grounds in polar waters and their winter breeding

grounds in tropical or subtropical seas. Some populations of humpbacks travel over 8,000 kilometres, using sound and memory to navigate through the vast, featureless ocean.

Another incredible oceanic migrant is the Leatherback Sea Turtle, the largest of all sea turtles. These reptiles travel thousands of kilometres across entire ocean basins to feed on jellyfish and return to the beaches where they were born to lay eggs. Eels and salmon also undertake dramatic migrations. The European Eel, for example, is born in the Sargasso Sea in the Atlantic Ocean and migrates all the way to European rivers to grow before returning to the Sargasso Sea to spawn and die. Similarly, salmon are born in freshwater rivers, migrate to the ocean, and then return years later to the exact same river, guided by smell and magnetic fields. These oceanic journeys are not only vital for reproduction but also for the transfer of nutrients across ecosystems. For example, when salmon return to spawn and die, their bodies provide rich nutrients to river ecosystems, supporting plants, insects, and even bears.

The migration of birds and oceanic animals is more than just a survival strategy, it is an intricate part of the planet's natural balance. Migrating animals help connect ecosystems, distribute nutrients, and support food chains. Their journeys indicate the health of the environment, as changes in migration patterns often reflect broader ecological shifts. However, these migrations face growing threats nowadays. Human activities such as urbanization, overfishing, climate change, and plastic pollution can disrupt migratory paths, destroy critical habitats, and reduce food availability. Light pollution can disorient migrating birds, while ocean noise from ships and industrial activity interferes with the communication and navigation of marine animals.

Efforts to protect migratory species include establishing marine reserves, protecting

wetlands, reducing light and sound pollution, and tracking animal movements through satellite technology. Education and global cooperation are essential, as many of these species cross international borders and require coordinated conservation strategies. By understanding and protecting these migrations, we are not only preserving the lives of these remarkable travellers but also maintaining the health of our planet's interconnected ecosystems.

36. Which animal migration described in the passage involves a round trip of approximately 70,000 kilometres?

- A. Bar-tailed Godwit
- B. European Eel
- C. Humpback Whale
- D. Arctic Tern

37. Choose the correct option.

Assertion : Climate change can alter the migration patterns of marine and avian species.

Reason : Animals rely solely on visual landmarks to navigate during migration.

- A. Both assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- B. Both assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

- C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- D. The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

38. What can be inferred as a challenge faced by migratory animals today, based on the passage?

- A. Most migratory routes are now longer than before.
- B. Only birds are affected by pollution during migration.
- C. Human activity has introduced new obstacles across both land and sea migratory paths.
- D. Migration is no longer crucial for ecological balance.

39. Choose the incorrect statement.

- A. Salmon use smell and magnetic fields to return to the river they were born in.
- B. Leatherback turtles migrate across entire ocean basins to feed on jellyfish.
- C. The Bar-tailed Godwit rests periodically during its 12,000 kilometre flight.
- D. Arctic Terns experience two summers annually because of their migration.

40. Which of the following is an antonym of the word "vital"?

- A. Marginal
- B. Essential
- C. Energetic
- D. Constant

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

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

41. Maya : Did you remember to submit the report last night?

Oliver : Of course I did! Why do you always think I'm going to forget?

Maya : Whoa, no need to _____! I was just checking in on you.

- A. keep a stiff lip
- B. bend your ears
- C. hit the ground running
- D. jump down my throat

42. Anand : Just because I come from a small rural town doesn't mean I _____.

- A. just fell off the turnip truck
- B. jumped the shark
- C. look before I leap
- D. hit the nail on the toe

43. Dad : _____ he has to leave early in the morning for the office, he's always so _____.

- A. Each time, strain
- B. Wherever, finicky
- C. Whenever, fussy
- D. Wheresoever, worrisome

44. Laura : Perhaps she doesn't realize how annoying people find her.

Jane: Well, whether she realizes it or not,

_____.

- A. she's a coffee for every mug
- B. she's a pain in the muscle
- C. she's a pain in the neck
- D. she and her complaints

45. Ella : I can't believe how busy the shops are already!

Thomas : Yeah, it always gets crazy in the _____ to Christmas; everyone's rushing to buy gifts.

- A. cool-down
- B. sign-off
- C. warp-up
- D. run-up

ACHIEVERS SECTION

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

46. As the wind picked up and the _____ path crumbled beneath his boots, however, Manish _____ and continued to push steadily towards the summit.

- A. fructuous, whiled away the hours
- B. frangible, got his head down
- C. slogged, threw in the towel
- D. grafted, put his back into it

47. He is the _____ of the city's art collectors; revered and respected by artists and all.

- A. doyen
- B. clod
- C. choler
- D. paeon

Choose the correct synonym of the given word.

48. Chagrin

- A. Dolor

- B. Vivificate
- C. Exegesis
- D. Venerate

Choose the correct antonym of the given word.

49. Tribulation

- A. Travail
- B. Asperity
- C. Alleviation
- D. Crucible

Choose the correct option to complete the conversation.

50. Clarice : I didn't mean to hurt her feelings. I only meant to help by giving her advice.

Ishita : You know what they say; _____.

- A. every cloud has a golden lining
- B. the road to hell is paved with good intentions
- C. put all your eggs in one basket
- D. there is no smoke without anger



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