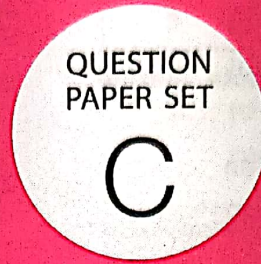


SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD 2025-26



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

Table with 5 columns: THE WORLD'S BIGGEST OLYMPIADS, 27 Years of Trust, 99,499+ Schools, 72 Countries, 8.1+ Crores Assessments, 8 Olympiads

WORD AND STRUCTURE KNOWLEDGE

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

1. Plastic pollution has led to the _____ of man-made materials into remote marine ecosystems.
A. effusion B. incursion
C. defenestration D. deflation
2. You should learn to _____ to your environment if you want to stay here.
A. adopt B. adapt
C. abroad D. abduct
3. The laws of nature are considered _____; they do not alter, no matter the circumstances.
A. indoctrinate B. immutable
C. gregarious D. congenial
4. Only a _____ villain would flee the scene before the battle even began.
A. lion-hearted B. strong-willed
C. lily-livered D. hard-boiled
5. As the linchpin of the research team, Dr. Malik worked with all departments to _____ when the project fell behind.
A. make up the leeway
B. be wide awake
C. boil over
D. fall down on
6. The man was so hungry that he ate the _____ loaf.
A. whole B. half
C. many D. quasi
7. The cat leapt onto the windowsill _____ without making a sound.
A. majorly B. lithely
C. humbly D. stridently
8. I had the opportunity to speak with the _____ authority of the head of security.
A. minster B. pastor
C. administration D. magisterial
9. The children backed away as the _____ cat _____, hissing and baring its teeth.
A. mannish, gave out
B. mired, got by
C. mangy, closed in
D. mongrel, fell in
10. _____, the archaeologists were able to _____ faint carvings on the cave wall just as the last rays of sunlight illuminated the surface.
A. Offensively, concern
B. Fortuitously, discern
C. Incidentally, embark
D. Coincidentally, forgo
11. The country is yet to _____ the use of nuclear weapons, raising concerns about humanitarian commitments.
A. vindicate
B. acquit
C. forswear
D. absolve
12. He _____ as the _____ for the company's losses for more than a year, while others escape scrutiny.
A. has been serving, fall guy
B. will served, crouton
C. might be served, croupier
D. serves, scapegoat
13. The politician _____ on sophistry to justify his actions long before the truth was uncovered by the press.
A. have been relying
B. relies
C. being relying
D. had relied
14. By next winter, your daughter _____ from all the rich holiday treats.
A. will have become pudgy
B. should be becoming pudgy
C. will have been pudgy
D. shall be being pudgy

15. After reading _____ article on climate change, I spoke with _____ expert and _____ drafted a summary for the team.

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

16. My friend, _____ lives abroad, has just come back home after four years.

- A. when B. whose
C. which D. who

17. The media covered the accusation _____ the company for violating environmental regulations.

- A. to B. with
C. at D. against

18. _____ she succeeds as a leader will depend _____ on her ability to listen as on her ability to make tough decisions.

- A. Whether, as much
B. If, whether
C. Although, that much
D. How, all

19. Rakesh _____ open the door.

- A. asked me to do not
B. told me to not to
C. ordered me to don't
D. requested me not to

20. She _____ be working late tonight, but I'm not entirely sure; better call her before heading over.

- A. must B. need
C. shall D. has to

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

21. "To play ducks and drakes" means _____.

- A. to squander, especially money
B. to behave mindfully in a serious situation
C. to face a difficult situation timidly
D. to deceive or mislead oneself

22. "To keep the wolf from the door" means _____.

- A. to have enough money to keep hunger and starvation away
B. to advance slowly but progressively
C. to suspect something without evidence
D. to move forward while disregarding the consequences

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

23. Despite of a good monsoon this year, my garden is yet to see any bountiful harvest.

- A. Despite of a good monsoon this year,
B. my garden is yet to see
C. any bountiful harvest.
D. No error

24. By whom was the headmaster help when he really needed it?

- A. By whom
B. was the headmaster help
C. when he really
D. needed it?

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

25. Overwhelm

- A. Succumb B. Capitulate
C. Inundate D. Relent

26. Podium

- A. Fiesta B. Lectern
C. Stairway D. Placate

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

27. Volatile

- A. Arbitrary B. Capricious
C. Placid D. Ambivalent

28. Docile

- A. Compliant B. Wayward
C. Pliable D. Deliberate

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

29. How do you spell the word that means "the state of imprisonment, especially for political or military reasons"?
- A. Internment B. Juncsion
C. Forment D. Commisary

30. How do you spell the word that means "a long, steep slope that forms as a result of faulting or erosion"?
- A. Emcapmant
B. Encarpmant
C. Eccscapment
D. Escarpment

READING

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

Many mountains form by folding, faulting, uplifting, and erosion of the Earth's crust. Volcanic terrain, however, is built by the slow accumulation of erupted lava. The vent may be visible as a small bowl shaped depression at the summit of a cone or shield-shaped mountain. Through a series of cracks within and beneath the volcano, the vent connects to one or more linked storage areas of molten or partially molten rock (magma). This connection to fresh magma allows the volcano to erupt over and over again in the same location. In this way, the volcano grows ever larger, until it is no longer stable. Pieces of the volcano collapse as rockfalls or as landslides. Molten rock below the surface of the Earth that rises in volcanic vents is known as magma, but after it erupts from a volcano it is called lava. Magma is made of molten rock, crystals, and dissolved gas—imagine an unopened bottle of soda with grains of sand inside. The molten rock is made of the chemicals—oxygen, silicon, aluminium, iron, magnesium, calcium, sodium, potassium, titanium, and manganese. After cooling, liquid magma may form crystals of various minerals until it becomes completely solid and forms an igneous or magmatic rock.

Originating many tens of miles beneath the ground, magma is lighter than the surrounding solid rock. It is driven towards Earth's surface by buoyancy and pressure from gas within

it. Magma forces its way upward and may ultimately break through weak areas in the Earth's crust. If so, an eruption begins.

Magma can erupt in a variety of ways. Sometimes molten rock simply pours from the vent as fluid lava flows. It can also shoot violently into the air as dense clouds of rock shards (tephra) and gas. Larger fragments may fall back around the vent, and clouds of tephra may move down the slope of the volcano under the force of gravity. Ash, tiny pieces of tephra—the thickness of a strand of hair, may be carried by the wind only to fall to the ground many miles away. The smallest ash particles may be erupted miles into the sky and carried many times around the world by winds, high in the atmosphere before they fall to the ground.

Cinder cones are the simplest type of volcano. They are made of small pieces of solid lava, called cinder, that are erupted from a vent. The ground shakes as magma rises from within the Earth. Then, a powerful blast throws molten rocks, ash, and gas into the air. The rocks cool quickly in the air and fall to the earth to break into small pieces of bubbly cinder that pile up around the vent. They accumulate as a small cinder cone that can be as high as a thousand feet above the surrounding ground. If the wind is blowing during the eruption, cinder is carried downwind before it's deposited into an oval shape.

Some of the Earth's grandest mountains are composite volcanoes—sometimes called stratovolcanoes. They are usually tall with steep even sides and are made out of repeating layers of lava flows, volcanic ash, cinders, blocks, and volcanic bombs. Some composite volcanoes rise over 8,000 feet above their surroundings, but they reach much higher elevations above sea level. Ojos del Salado in Chile is the tallest composite volcano on Earth with a summit elevation (height above sea level) of 22,615 feet; the tallest in the U.S. is Mount Rainier in Washington State, with a summit elevation of 14,410 feet.

31. Which of the following best explains why a volcano may erupt multiple times in the same location?

- A. When it consists of a series of cracks within and beneath the volcano.
- B. When it is connected to a continuous source of fresh magma.
- C. When it pours out of the vent as fluid lava flows.
- D. When it has high buoyancy and the gas pressure from the lava propels the magma.

32. What causes volcanic ash to travel long distances across the globe?

- A. Ash is shot up violently into the air causing it to cover larger surface area.
- B. Strong winds in the upper atmosphere carry fine ash particles.
- C. Tiny pieces of tephra carry weight as light as that of many strands of hair.
- D. Ash becomes weightless in the air and continues to float forever.

33. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a material found in magma?

- (i) Titanium
 - (ii) Manganese
 - (iii) Mercury
 - (iv) Silicon
- A. (i) and (ii) only
 - B. (iii) and (iv) only
 - C. (ii) only
 - D. (iii) only

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

Statement I : The wind direction during eruption carries cinders downward before it is deposited into an oval shape.

Statement II : Stratovolcanoes are formed from repeated eruptions that pile up layers of lava, ash, and rocks, building steep, tall mountains.

- 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.

35. Ojos del Salado in Chile stands with a summit elevation of _____.

- A. 14,410 feet
- B. 8,000 feet
- C. 22,615 feet
- D. 2,000 feet

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

Sofya Kovalevskaya (1850-1891) was the world's first female professor of mathematics. She taught at Stockholm University, where she was awarded a Professorial Chair. Born in Russia, she entered into a marriage of convenience with Vladimir Kovalevsky at the age of 18. He was a follower of Russian nihilist thinkers and supported their ideas of emancipation and education for women. As a married woman, Kovalevskaya was able to travel and study abroad.

In 1869, Heidelberg University accepted her application as its first female student. She studied mathematics with Leo Königsberger and, on his suggestion, moved to Berlin. Because women were not allowed to study there, she was able to convince Karl Weierstrass, one of the most renowned German mathematicians of the era, to tutor her privately. With his support, she was awarded a doctorate in absentia, meaning without an oral exam, from Göttingen University. The 24-year-old graduated summa cum laude (with highest honour). The topic of her dissertation was "The Theory of Partial

Differential Equations". In 1881, she and her three-year-old daughter returned to Berlin to resume her work in mathematics. However, at that time it was almost impossible for a single woman separated from her husband to find a job, especially as a mathematician. Following her husband's death, she received support from her friends and Weierstrass.

Since 2002, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has been awarding an annual research prize in her name. It is one of the most valuable scientific awards in Germany. With the prize money, scientists are able to work at a German higher education institution or research facility of their choice for five years and develop their own working groups, free from administrative restraints.

Sofya Kovalevskaya was interested in mathematics from a young age and was also taught the subject at home, which was quite unusual for the time. She had supporters and built up a network for herself. Above all, however, she was inspired by her academic tutor in Berlin, Karl Weierstrass, the Academician and Professor at Berlin University. He too was ahead of his time and was also something of an exception among the university professors, as he chose to teach her privately and support her. The first female professor of mathematics in Germany was appointed after 1945, which also serves to underline the exceptional nature of Sofya Kovalevskaya and her tutor Karl Weierstrass.

Kovalevskaya was very unconventional. Not only did she want to study — which at the time was considered "unwomanly" and was actually prohibited in many countries — she also wanted to study mathematics, a subject that was quite simply considered a male domain in the 19th century. She also wanted to be self-sufficient and independent — this too was unusual, and not only in 1880. The era's image of women did not allow an independent career for "well-raised" daughters. They were supposed to

marry, have a family, be charming and lovely, and perhaps harbour artistic ambitions, but under no circumstances were they to be independent or have a career. Sofya managed it, through her tenacity, her self-confidence and her work.

Today, women have equal rights before the law, and this has been the case for decades. But in reality, there are still shortcomings — the fact that we have to discuss and write about this at all, shows the disconnection between the situation de jure and de facto (by law and in reality). Objective obstacles, for example, include a lack of transparency in academic recruitment processes, unequal pay despite equal levels of qualification, or precarious and almost exclusively temporary positions for women in higher education. It still requires guts, bravery, self-confidence and perseverance if a woman wants to become a renowned scientist and professor like Sofya Kovalevskaya. And they require supporters and friends, just like Karl Weierstrass.

36. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's award allows winners to _____.
- A. teach permanently at German universities
 - B. set up working groups with administrative restrictions
 - C. perform mandatory research under government supervision
 - D. work or conduct research freely at a German institution for five years
37. Choose the correct statement in terms of what sparked Sofya Kovalevskaya's passion for mathematics.
- A. Sofya was inspired by her academic mentor in Berlin, Karl Weierstrass.
 - B. With early exposure to mathematics at home and encouragement from her supporters, Sofya built up a network.
 - C. Though seen as unwomanly, Sofya wanted to defy the limits placed upon women and study mathematics, to be self-sufficient and independent.
 - D. All of these

38. Which statement best reflects women's position in higher education today as described in the passage?

- A. Women now have complete representation in academic fields without facing any objective barrier.
- B. Women legally have equal rights, but objective barriers and biases in academia still persist.
- C. Women's opportunities have decreased because higher education has become more competitive.
- D. Women are now preferred for permanent positions and face fewer challenges than before.

39. Choose a word from the passage which means the same as "persistence".

- A. Recruitment

- B. Tenacity
- C. Circumstances
- D. Exceptional

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

Statement I : Sofya was awarded her doctorate from Heidelberg University after completing an oral exam.

Statement II : She returned to Berlin in 1881 to take up a teaching position.

- 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.

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

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

41. Ravi : Engaging in a discussion with him is futile. His _____ mindset leaves no room for rational dialogues or differing perspectives.

- A. liberal
- B. bigoted
- C. progressive
- D. advanced

42. Daniel : I find it fascinating how some choose anonymity despite achieving success.

Elaina : True. It's _____, seeking fame while avoiding recognition.

- A. antiradical
- B. fathomable
- C. paradoxical
- D. understandable

43. Ron : Hey, is that a doll on your bed? It's a bit creepy.

Silvia : My cousin gave it to me as a prank. But to me, it's a _____ toy.

- A. silly, funny, little
- B. little, silly, funny
- C. old, tiny, cute
- D. cute, old, tiny

44. Aniket : I hope you're done with drafting the report for the meeting today.

Rakesh : I started it but I _____ as I got caught up with other tasks.

- A. can't follow up
- B. couldn't follow through
- C. won't drop back
- D. will be catching up

45. Gina: We're in a state of lockdown! Everything has _____.

Maisie: You're right! It feels like an apocalypse.

- A. come to a standstill
- B. come to terms
- C. keep in touch
- D. gone off the walls

ACHIEVERS SECTION

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

46. The documentary opened with a powerful segment on the _____ of civilians after the nuclear disaster, which served as a chilling _____ to the broader discussion on human rights violations.
- A. interment, lead-in
 - B. pejorative, lean-to
 - C. locative, lease-back
 - D. rededication, make-work
47. The hotel charged _____ for even the most basic _____, leaving many guests feeling frustrated and overcharged.
- A. generously, features
 - B. exorbitantly, amenities
 - C. prolatively, pleasantries
 - D. illatively, courtesies

Choose the correct synonym of the given word.

48. Expletive
- A. Explicate
 - B. Obscenity

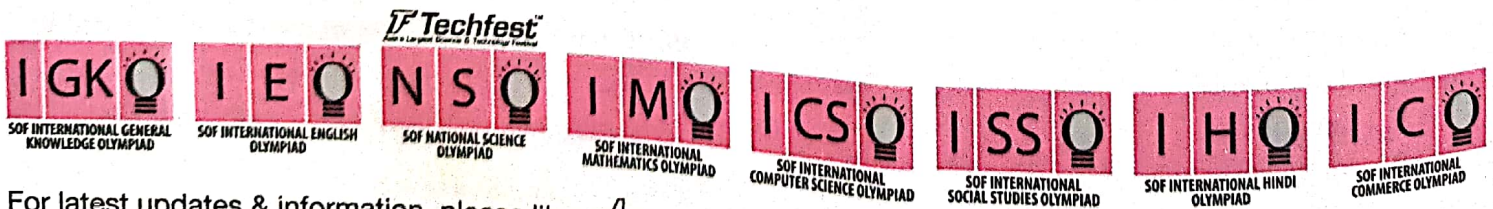
- C. Expository
- D. Generalize

Choose the correct antonym of the given word.

49. Phlegmatic
- A. Fervent
 - B. Stolid
 - C. Serene
 - D. Indrawn

Choose the correct option to complete the conversation.

50. Alisha: Did you hear the way Ross spoke to the manager in the meeting?
Merra: I know! Ever since he got a promotion, he's really started to _____.
- A. get above himself
 - B. get a cut below
 - C. set himself straight
 - D. get around himself



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