



**SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH
OLYMPIAD 2024-25**

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. We will share your marks / result and other information related to SOF exams on your mobile number.
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).
Each question in Achievers Section carries 3 marks, whereas all other questions carry one mark each.
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. 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.

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.

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

1. There is never a shortage of _____ questions among students when asked to elaborate on what they have understood about the theory taught.
A. casually
B. casuists
C. casuistic
D. casualty
2. _____, Jamie was awarded the first prize at the national-level inter-school elocution competition.
A. Having talked the walk and walked the talk
B. Having kissed the Blarney Stone
C. Being given to talk some miles a minute
D. Being talked a black streak
3. The yaffle, a peculiar bird with distinctive green plumage, _____ deep within the dense foliage _____ the ancient forests.
A. should be heard, at
B. will be heard, by
C. might have heard, in
D. could be heard, of
4. Her sharp memory allowed her _____ every detail of the intricate painting after just one glance.
A. to dissolve
B. to recall
C. to be recalled
D. by dissolving
5. Days of intense rain _____ the river to _____, expanding past its banks and posing a hazard to anyone around.
A. caused, tumescent
B. will cause, tumultuary
C. has caused, torque
D. has been causing, tumefy
6. This book is the worst I have ever read in terms of ridiculous similes and _____ metaphors; it is absolute garbage.
A. rocambole
B. rococo
C. bewallow
D. setigerous
7. Despite a lack of resources, _____ dedicated team achieved _____ remarkable breakthroughs, but _____ work remained to be done.
A. the, some, much
B. a, any, most
C. the, few, many
D. a, much, all
8. The manager _____ the trainee because he refused to admit his fault, even after being caught red-handed.
A. calmed up
B. bristled at
C. beefed up
D. crew over
9. The family prepared a fleishig meal for dinner ensuring all the dishes _____ for their kosher meat-based dietary rules.
A. were suitable
B. have suitable
C. are suit
D. will suitable
10. Though she _____ the project alone, she was aware that she would need help to deliver it on time.
A. would completed
B. could have been completed
C. could be completing
D. could complete
11. The new software was developed _____ leading industry experts to ensure the high standards of functionality.
A. larging it up at
B. getting along off
C. doing away from
D. in conjunction with
12. The intricate maze of bureaucracy often obstructs the path to justice, _____ delay the resolution of important legal matters.
A. constructively
B. frustratingly
C. unstintingly
D. mandatorily

13. _____ you want to excel in this field, and networking is crucial, you should attend as many industry events as possible.
- If, since
 - Lest, or
 - Since, with
 - Although, though
14. The bank agreed to consider the property as _____ for the business loan.
- collateral
 - beneficiary
 - equity
 - default
15. After years of saving up, they finally decided to _____ their plan to set up a small business in their hometown.
- go ahead with
 - plump down
 - romp off
 - shore up
16. In the abandoned village, _____ dared to venture after dark because of some mysterious occurrences.
- anybody
 - anyone
 - nobody
 - everybody
17. _____ the heated debates, the conference saw several innovative solutions _____ proposed for global issues.
- Since, were
 - Despite, been
 - Across, were
 - Amidst, being
18. The restoration team _____ preserving the ancient frescoes to ensure that the artwork remains intact.
- had being carefully
 - has been carefully
 - have been carefully
 - had carefully
19. By the end of the year, governments worldwide _____ new cybersecurity measures to protect against escalating digital threats.
- will be enacting
 - will have been enacted

- will enacted
- will had enacted

20. My mother said, "You must clean up before you come for dinner."
- My mother _____.
- told me to come for dinner after I clean up
 - told me that I must clean up if I want to come for dinner
 - said that I had to clean up before I came for dinner
 - said I have to clean up for dinner before I start
21. Despite being fatigued, the marathon runner _____ pushed himself forward, determined to finish the race _____.
- frenetically, thoroughly
 - relentlessly, triumphantly
 - effortlessly, voluntarily
 - hardly, eventually
22. Jatin is not only knowledgeable but also has a cooperative and friendly demeanour; he is really the _____.
- bean counter
 - smart Alec
 - salt of the earth
 - pen pusher
23. During an important discussion, he suddenly brought up his weekend plans, which was _____ entirely.
- horse of a different colour
 - Charley horse
 - wild horse dragging him
 - putting horse out to jungle
24. An ability to stay calm in difficult situations is known as _____.
- oracity
 - sangfroid
 - otiose
 - agita

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

25. Palaverous
- Apposite
 - Compendious
 - Sententious
 - Hifalutin

26. Lugubrious
A. Lousy
B. Jaunty
C. Jostling
D. Zippy

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

27. Flummox
A. Addle
B. Stymie
C. Rouge
D. Lucid
28. Schmaltzy
A. Twee
B. Sudsy
C. Mawkish
D. Sardonic

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

29. What is the correct spelling for a person who is 'a tightrope walker or a similar performer on a slack rope'?
- A. Fabulist
B. Kerygmatic
C. Declensionist
D. Funambulist
30. What is the correct spelling for something that is 'characterised by or designed to display rhetorical or oratorical skill'?
- A. Epideictic
B. Theurgy
C. Emetic
D. Kingric

READING

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

The transition to online learning in the United States during the Covid-19 pandemic was, by many accounts, a failure. While there were some bright spots across the country, the transition was messy and uneven—countless teachers had neither the materials nor training they needed to effectively connect with students remotely, while many of those students were bored, isolated, and lacked the resources they needed to learn. The results were abysmal: low test scores, fewer children learning at grade level, increased inequity, and teacher burnout. With the public health crisis on top of deaths and job losses in many families, students experienced depression, anxiety, and suicide risk.

Effective remote learning won't happen if schools aren't already employing best practices in the physical classroom, such as creating a culture of learning from mistakes, empowering teachers to meet individual student needs, establishing high expectations, and setting clear goals supported by frequent

feedback. While it's ambitious to envision that every school district will create seamless virtual learning platforms—and, for that matter, overcome challenges in education more broadly—the lessons of the pandemic are there to be followed or ignored.

But the sheer magnitude of options for online learning didn't necessarily mean it worked well, Schwartz said, "It's the quality part that has to come up in order for this to be a really good, viable alternative to in-person instruction." And individualised, self-directed online learning proved to be a pipe dream — especially for younger children who needed support from a parent or other family member even to get online, much less stay focused.

Students also often didn't have the materials they needed for online school, some lacking computers or internet access at home. Teachers didn't have the right training for online instruction, which has a unique pedagogy and best practices. Numb from isolation and too many hours in front of

a screen, students failed to engage in coursework and suffered emotionally.

Another powerful insight from pandemic-era remote schooling involves the evolving role of teachers. Historically, a teacher's role is the keeper of knowledge, who delivers instruction. But in recent years, there has been a shift in approach, where teachers think of themselves as coaches who can intervene based on a student's individual learning progress. Technology that assists with a coach-like role can be effective — but requires educators to be trained and comfortable interpreting data based on students' needs.

Remote schooling requires new technology, and already, educators are swamped with competing platforms and software choices — most of which have insufficient evidence of efficacy. Traditional independent research on specific technologies is sparse.

The moment is ripe for innovation in online and in-person education. There's an opportunity and a need for technology that empowers teachers to improve learning outcomes and work more efficiently. Online and hybrid learning are clearly here to stay — and likely will be called upon again during future temporary school closures.

31. What inference can you make from the given passage about how inadequate teacher training impacts online instruction?

- A. It has no effect on student engagement.
- B. It led to a decline in students' motivation.
- C. It helped increase the test scores.
- D. It improved the quality of virtual classroom interactions.

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

Statement I: Online learning has become the primary mode of education in the US.

Statement II: Students, unlike teachers, were well-equipped with resources for online education but lacked interest.

- 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. Which of the following best describes the idiom 'a pipe dream' as used in the passage?

- A. A dream that is available but unachievable.
- B. A dream that is unrealistic or unlikely to happen.
- C. A dream that is shared by many people.
- D. An easily achievable dream that anyone can get.

34. What major shift in perspective has occurred recently about the function of teachers?

- A. Teachers' primary focus is on delivering instruction and imparting knowledge.
- B. Teachers have transitioned from being coaches to being knowledge keepers.
- C. Teachers view themselves as coaches who intervene based on the learning progress of a student.
- D. Teachers depend solely on technology to help students learn.

35. What challenges did teachers face during the transition to online learning?

- A. They had ample materials and training that helped them effectively connect with students.
- B. They faced logistical issues, but were able to maintain high levels of student engagement.
- C. Many lacked the necessary materials and training to help them connect with students.
- D. They were unable to enjoy their precious time with students, leaving them burnt out.

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

Nancy Drew, a teenage detective became the archetype of a kind of tough American woman: smart and fierce in the face of violence, but also well-respected by police and her doting father. Fashionable, too. Even though she was just a fictional character, she was inspirational, and none other than Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Sonia Sotomayor have said she was a huge influence in their lives.

The real mystery of Nancy Drew is how such a fictional character could inspire real women. Clues can be found in the woman who fleshed out the young detective's personality, who was named Mildred Wirt Benson. Over the years many different writers worked on Nancy Drew's stories, which were always published under the pen name of Carolyn Keene. But the very first books in the series, the ones that established her particular steely bravery, were written by Benson, who was just as tenacious and bold and independent as her heroine. Benson sought adventure and bucked conventions throughout her life. Once she was even locked in a room.

Mildred Benson was born in 1905 in Ladora, Iowa, a rural farming community near Iowa City. An avid reader of children's classics like Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, children's magazines, and serial fiction, she preferred the books written for boys over those for girls, she said, because they focused on adventure and action. In rural Ladora, there were few career opportunities for women outside of domestic pursuits. Most girls planned on raising families and helping run the farms. Benson was a country doctor's daughter who often rode with her father on patient calls, and that life was never in the cards. Benson's parents encouraged her to get a college education, and to pursue adventure and her writing career. She graduated early from high school and enrolled in the University of Iowa, excelling in her classes and as a championship diver. She graduated with a degree in English in 1925—just five years after women earned the right to vote—and soon after, in 1927, she would become the first student, man or woman, to earn a master's degree in journalism at Iowa. She travelled to New York City, where she began pursuing her long-sought career in writing.

During her first trip to New York, she met a businessman named Edward Stratemeyer whose company, the Stratemeyer Syndicate, hired ghostwriters to write popular books. For a flat fee, these writers produced manuscripts based on outlines provided by

the syndicate, signing away their authorship rights. Stratemeyer then attributed the books to pseudonymous authors and farmed them out to publishers.

Stratemeyer didn't have work for Benson right away, but he soon hired her to work on the "Ruth Fielding" series, which she had read as a child, and then asked her to help him launch a new series, about a teenage girl detective named Nancy Drew. The three-page outline Stratemeyer wrote for the first Nancy Drew book, "The Secret of the Old Clock", set a tone for his new protagonist, whom he described as "An up-to-date American girl at her best, bright, clever, resourceful, and full of energy."

Benson's original Nancy Drew, depicted in books such as "The Hidden Staircase", "The Secret at Shadow Ranch", and "The Clue in the Crumbling Wall", was a brash and daring sleuth. The 1930s and 1940s, when this first Nancy Drew debuted, were a time when girls who liked to read were ready for something more than the norm—those books Benson described as "namby-pamby" girls' series of the time.

It would be decades before most Nancy Drew fans learned that Benson was the original Carolyn Keene—the Stratemeyers always kept authors' identities under wraps, preferring to tell fans that the family wrote all the books. The truth slowly leaked out, starting in the 1970s, thanks to researchers who discovered Benson had been Carolyn Keene. In 1993 the University of Iowa held a widely-publicised Nancy Drew Conference, after which Benson finally got the public credit and adulation she deserved. She was even named the "Person of the Week" by ABC's *World News Tonight* with Peter Jennings.

36. How did Mildred Wirt Benson pose a challenge to conventional gender norms during her lifetime?
- By conforming to societal expectations and prioritizing domestic life over her aspirations

- B. By actively advocating for women's rights and gender equality through her work
- C. By openly defying society's expectations and choosing a career and higher education
- D. By rejecting opportunities that most young girls want and instead focusing solely on male-dominated career choices

38. What was the role of Edward Stratemeyer in Mildred Benson's writing career?

- A. He provided Benson with recognition for her novels and seldom attributed them to pseudonymous writers.
- B. He became her mentor and guided her throughout her publishing industry career.
- C. He made Benson retire from the publishing industry because he felt she had lost her ambition to be creative.
- D. He offered Benson opportunities to work on numerous popular book series, such as the Nancy Drew series.

39. Choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Benson's identity as the original Carolyn Keene was kept secret for several decades, without any suspicion.

Reason (R): The Stratemeyer Syndicate employed writers like Benson while attributing

the books to pseudonymous authors rather than revealing the authors' real identities.

- A. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true but R is false.
- D. A is false but R is true.

39. According to the passage, how impactful was Nancy Drew on society?

- A. Her character helped women gain more confidence in whenever they chose a career in politics.
- B. Her character inspired families to let their daughters be independent and try to get jobs as soon as possible.
- C. Society accepted that women are also capable of doing detective work, which was primarily a man's expertise.
- D. Her character inspired women to pursue careers even in male-dominated fields, changing societal norms.

40. The term 'namby-pamby' can also mean same as _____.

- A. Sinewy
- B. Nebbish
- C. Temerarious
- D. Stalwart

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

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

41. Sammy: When it comes to addressing complex global challenges like terrorism and pandemics, diplomacy _____ more involved.

- A. should be
- B. would have being
- C. might have
- D. ought to

42. Patrick: My friends believe that _____ economics is an effective way to reduce inequality.

- A. full-court press
- B. brown-nose
- C. trickle-down
- D. first-hand

43. Jason: My work focuses _____ balancing the benefits of data-driven technologies _____ privacy and surveillance concerns.

- A. in, for
- B. on, with
- C. at, to
- D. on, by

44. Varun: Do you think historical narratives _____ our understanding of contemporary events and societal structures?

- A. help to shaping
- B. has helped shape
- C. help shape
- D. will help shaped

45. Sahil: When the doors of opportunity open, you _____ the chance before it becomes too late.
- A. could take

- B. would take
C. must take
D. might take

ACHIEVERS SECTION

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

46. She has been painstakingly crafting a detailed family tree, tracing her _____ back several generations, and uncovering fascinating stories about her _____.

- A. ancestry, forebears
B. progeny, kins
C. posterity, progeny
D. scion, cohort

47. He would often _____ late into the night, studying complex texts and equations.

- A. pullulate
B. mucronate
C. ungulate
D. lucubrate

Choose the correct antonym of the given word.

48. Histrionic

- A. Prosy

- B. Stagy
C. Hammy
D. Wondrous

Choose the correct synonym of the given word.

49. Turgescant

- A. Flaccid
B. Ventricose
C. Quaggy
D. Paludal

Choose the correct option to complete the conversation.

50. Tony: His _____ from modest origins to _____ height of fortune was regarded as the perfect _____ of the American dream.

- A. acclivity, affliction
B. ascent, embodiment
C. glaxis, verity
D. gradient, integument



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