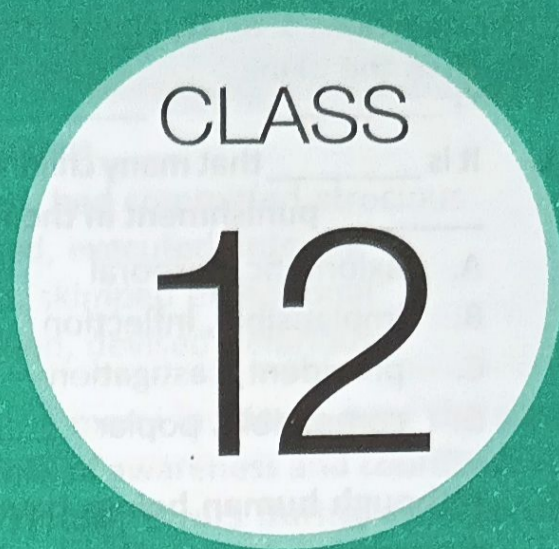
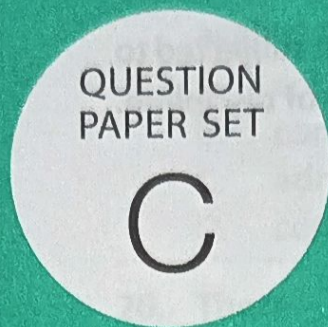




SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD 2025-26



Total Questions : 50

Time : 1 hr.

Guidelines for the Candidate

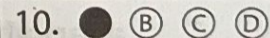
- 1. You will get additional ten minutes to fill up information about yourself on the OMR Sheet, before the start of the exam.
2. Write your Name, School Code, Class, Section, Roll No. and Mobile Number clearly on the OMR Sheet and do not forget to sign it.
3. The Question Paper comprises four sections: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

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.



- 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.



Name:.....

SOF Olympiad Roll No.:..... Contact No.:.....

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL ASKED TO DO SO

Table with 6 columns: THE WORLD'S BIGGEST OLYMPIADS, 27 Years of Trust, 99,499+ Schools, 72 Countries, 8.1+ Crores Assessments, 8 Olympiads

For questions 1 to 22, choose the correct option to fill in the blank.

1. It is \_\_\_\_\_ that many children are subjected to \_\_\_\_\_ punishment in the name of discipline.
  - A. axiomatic, corporal
  - B. implausible, inflection
  - C. provident, castigation
  - D. compatible, poplar

---

2. Although human beings have made \_\_\_\_\_ progress in science and technology, the \_\_\_\_\_ quest for the meaning of true happiness remains unresolved.
  - A. derivative, transitory
  - B. trailblazing, antiquated
  - C. unprecedented, perennial
  - D. preclude, incurring

---

3. Cataracts lead to a decrease in visual \_\_\_\_\_, accompanied by blurred vision, increased sensitivity to glare, and a diminished perception \_\_\_\_\_ the green-blue colour vision.
 

A. affinity, by	B. acuity, of
C. annuity, for	D. asperity, in

---

4. The constant \_\_\_\_\_ of minor technical flaws in the software led to a series of urgent updates, frustrating the development team and delaying the project launch.
 

A. eccentricity	B. acclimation
C. acervation	D. extubation

---

5. The \_\_\_\_\_ expression on his face made it clear that the unexpected news had shattered his spirits beyond repair.
 

A. blithesome	B. jocund
C. plangent	D. exultant

---

6. Every morning, my mother \_\_\_\_\_ prepares my lunchbox, wrapping each item \_\_\_\_\_ as it brings her a sense of calm in an otherwise chaotic day.
  - A. meticulously, modishly
  - B. dowdily, snappily
  - C. nattily, sloppily
  - D. sleazily, carefully

---

7. The thunder roared \_\_\_\_\_, and the wind swept \_\_\_\_\_ through the valley while the villagers moved hurriedly toward shelter, praying for the storm to pass.
  - A. vehemently, spiritlessly
  - B. languidly, tolerantly
  - C. clemently, vigorously
  - D. violently, unsparingly

---

8. \_\_\_\_\_ you submit the documents by next Monday, you will miss the registration deadline and no exceptions will be made, \_\_\_\_\_ you have a valid reason.
  - A. In case, after
  - B. In spite of, although
  - C. Unless, even if
  - D. While, even though

---

9. You may attend the international conference \_\_\_\_\_ you submit your presentation on time, \_\_\_\_\_ no late entries will be entertained under any circumstances.
  - A. on account of, yet
  - B. until, throughout
  - C. provided that, given that
  - D. only if, in accordance with

---

10. Success is not merely \_\_\_\_\_ result of luck or talent, but \_\_\_\_\_ outcome of perseverance, discipline, and making the most of \_\_\_\_\_ opportunities that come one's way.
 

A. a, the, an	B. a, a, the
C. the, a, the	D. a, an, the

---

11. \_\_\_\_\_ essay submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ of the two students reflected unique points of view, making it difficult for the judges to select \_\_\_\_\_ one as the winner.
  - A. Each, each, either
  - B. Each, every, another
  - C. Every, each, neither
  - D. Each, both, other

---

12. Despite encountering \_\_\_\_\_ obstacles during the expedition, these two climbers showed remarkable resilience, whereas \_\_\_\_\_ others had quit.
 

A. some, much	B. plenty of, many
C. a lot of, more	D. all, the few

13. Owing \_\_\_\_\_ the rapid spread of misinformation \_\_\_\_\_ social media platforms, public trust \_\_\_\_\_ official communication began to decline.

- A. with, through, on
- B. for, of, in
- C. to, through, in
- D. against, on, for

14. I \_\_\_\_\_ to drink more water throughout the day, especially after I \_\_\_\_\_ how often I had headaches simply because I forgot to stay hydrated.

- A. had been trying, realized
- B. have tried, realizes
- C. was trying, had realize
- D. have been trying, realizing

15. After months of practice, the performance was \_\_\_\_\_; the dancers moved gracefully across the stage as if they \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. flawless, have sailing
- B. impeccable, were floating
- C. direful, were flying
- D. vamoosed, were immersing

16. Although the researchers \_\_\_\_\_ the antidote, they \_\_\_\_\_ further clinical trials to verify its effectiveness.

- A. may have invented, must still perform
- B. might discovered, might conduct
- C. have discovered, needn't not
- D. will formulated, should perform

17. Certificates of excellence \_\_\_\_\_ the best-performing students by the principal; their consistent efforts throughout the year \_\_\_\_\_, and were encouraged to set higher goals for the future.

- A. had awarded with, have lambasted
- B. were awarded to, were emblazoned
- C. is bestowed to, are adored
- D. are flattered for, have reprimanded

18. He requested the assistant \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. for prepare the presentation slides carefully so that they can avoid last-minute errors
- B. to prepare the presentation slides carefully so that they could avoid last-minute errors
- C. that he must prepare the presentation slides carefully such that they can avoid last-minute errors
- D. please prepare the presentation slides so carefully that they can avoid last-minute errors.

D. please prepare the presentation slides so carefully that they can avoid last-minute errors.

19. The convict \_\_\_\_\_ that he \_\_\_\_\_ crimes against the victims.

- A. confessed, had committed atrocious
- B. committed, executed entering
- C. admitted, skimped exceptional
- D. confounded, devised nefarious

20. There \_\_\_\_\_ many incidents over the past year when a lack of awareness and coordination \_\_\_\_\_ in serious errors during emergency procedures.

- A. was, has resulted
- B. are, have resulted
- C. had, were resulted
- D. have been, has resulted

21. He spent all his money on luxury gadgets, \_\_\_\_\_, while ignoring his pending bills and essential costs.

- A. caught in the crossfire
- B. calling a spade a spade
- C. catching at the shadow and losing the substance
- D. catching lightning from a bottle

22. It is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ to keep a house spotless when one has young kids or pets at home.

- A. Sisyphean task
- B. crash course
- C. alpha test
- D. snowball affect

For questions 23 and 24, choose the correct meaning of the given idiom.

23. "To rest on one's laurels" means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. to work harder and improve one's chance of success
- B. to rely on past success instead of working to improve
- C. to overwork oneself by doing too much
- D. to be sure about something

24. "Skeleton in the closet" means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. to make a desperate attempt to save oneself
- B. a popular fact to be kept as a secret
- C. an embarrassing or dangerous secret
- D. to reveal someone's secret

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

25. How do you spell the word that means "extremely old-fashioned"?

- A. Antequated      B. Obsolascent  
C. Antediluvian      D. Retrograd

26. How do you spell the word that means "an ancient writing system having alternate lines written in opposite directions"?

- A. Catacresis      B. Boustrophedon  
C. Cuneform      D. Hierattic

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

27. Appurtenance

- A. Impedimenta

- B. Relinquishment  
C. Dispossession  
D. Consternation

28. Fussbudget

- A. Slipshod      B. Slapdash  
C. Hipster      D. Sniveler

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

29. Qualmish

- A. Ebullience      B. Finickiness  
C. Repugnance      D. Abhorrence

30. Evanescent

- A. Ephemeral      B. Fugacious  
C. Spasmodic      D. Interminable

## READING

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

Thousands of years ago, someone made a surprising discovery: when animal fat was mixed with ashes from a fire, it created a substance that could clean. Whether by accident or clever observation, this was the beginning of soap. The earliest known use of soap dates back over 5,000 years to ancient Babylon, in what is now Iraq. As centuries passed, cultures around the world began using soap to clean clothes, homes, and themselves. By the 1600s, soap was commonly made at home in the American colonies. In 1791, French chemist, Nicholas Leblanc patented the first large-scale soapmaking process. Today, the global soap industry is worth around \$50 billion a year.

Despite how common soap is, many people don't know exactly how it works and had never questioned about it. As a chemist, one can tell that understanding soap involves understanding a bit of science, especially why water alone isn't enough to get us clean.

Water is made of molecules called dihydrogen monoxide (two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom). It's an essential resource for all

life on Earth. Chemists categorize molecules that mix well with water as hydrophilic and these love water and dissolve in it easily. So when you rinse your hands with water, you're washing away hydrophilic substances, like dust or dirt that easily dissolves.

But not everything on your skin is water-loving. Some substances, like oils, are hydrophobic—they fear water and don't dissolve in it. Think about what happens when you mix oil and water, like in a bottle of salad dressing. No matter how much you shake it, they don't stay mixed. So, if your hands are covered in grease, food oils, or skin oils, water alone won't clean them.

This is where soap becomes a superhero. Soap molecules are uniquely structured—they're both hydrophilic and hydrophobic. Shaped like a tadpole, they have a water-loving head and water-fearing tail. This structure allows soap to act as a bridge between water and grease. That's also why soap feels slippery.

When you lather your hands with soap and water, the soap molecules surround the greasy or oily grime. They form tiny bubble-like structures called micelles. The hydrophobic tails attach to the grease or oil, while the hydrophilic heads face outward

toward the water. When you rinse, these micelles are washed away, taking the grime with them.

Let's zoom in a little more. Throughout your day, you pick up smears of food, dirt, sweat, and oils. This mess includes both water-loving and water-fearing particles. If you wash only with water, you might remove some dust or skin cells, but not the oily residue. Add soap, and the molecules go to work, surrounding and trapping the grime in micelles. Rubbing your hands together helps the soap reach more surface area and break apart stubborn dirt.

But soap doesn't just remove visible dirt—it also gets rid of microorganisms like bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Some of these are harmless or even helpful, but others can make us sick. Harmful microbes, or pathogens, have a protective outer layer called a membrane. Soap can break apart this membrane, destroying the microorganism. Then, water washes it away.

That's not all. Some bacteria feed on natural oils in your skin and produce bad smell as waste. Soap removes those oils and bacteria, helping you smell fresh again.

Whether you're using a bar soap or liquid soap, both work the same way. They lift away grime, destroy harmful germs, and leave your skin clean.

Soap has played a huge role in improving human health throughout history. It's one of the simplest and most effective tools we have, to stay healthy. Soap isn't just about getting rid of dirt—it's about protecting your body from the things you can't see.

**31. What are micelles?**

- A. Bubble-like oil particles present in water
- B. Soap molecules that have helical structures
- C. Structures formed when soap molecules surround grease or oil
- D. Soap molecules that reside in greasy or oily grime

**32. Choose the incorrect statement.**

- A. Because soap is common and familiar, many may not have questioned how it works, taking its effects for granted.

- B. Soap helps protect the body by removing grime.
- C. A soap molecule has a single nature, *i.e.*, hydrophilic only.
- D. Soap is considered more effective than water alone, in cleaning.

**33. Read Statements I and II and choose the correct option.**

**Statement I: When animal fat was mixed with ashes from a fire, it created a substance that could clean and was considered as a surprising discovery.**

**Statement II: According to a chemist, one must understand science in order to understand the function of soap.**

- 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.

**34. What important historical milestone is associated with the French chemist Nicholas Leblanc?**

- A. He invented the first bar soap.
- B. He discovered soap molecules.
- C. He patented the first large-scale soapmaking process.
- D. He founded the first soap company in the world.

**35. Choose the correct pair of synonym and antonym of the word "grime".**

- A. Taint – Bemire      B. Smirch – Dishevel
- C. Deterge – Scour      D. Daub – Purge

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

India's logistics sector is undergoing a transformative shift, driven by integrated transport planning, digital innovation, and large-scale infrastructure development. Currently, road transport dominates freight movement, accounting for nearly 70%, while the railways lag behind at under 30% due to high tariffs resulting from cross-subsidisation. Inland waterways, despite being significantly more cost-effective, remain largely underutilised. This modal imbalance

inflates logistics costs, congests highways, and undermines environmental sustainability. The government is now focusing on breaking silos across different transportation modes through initiatives like PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy (NLP), which aim to foster seamless multimodal connectivity.

Policy and regulatory reforms are central to the sector's progress. The NLP, supported by PM Gati Shakti, seeks to synchronise planning and investment across ministries and states to create a unified logistics ecosystem. The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has already streamlined interstate movement of goods, effectively transforming India into a single national market. As a result, logistics costs have seen a measurable decline, falling by 0.8 to 0.9% of GDP between FY14 and FY22. Platforms like the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), with over 600 registered entities, are enhancing data transparency and coordination across stakeholders.

At the heart of this transformation is a massive infrastructure investment. Dedicated freight corridors (DFCs), multimodal logistics parks, and enhanced port connectivity are beginning to improve efficiency. These developments are part of broader national frameworks like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, and the National Infrastructure Pipeline, which aim to reduce turnaround time and freight costs.

Digital technology is another key growth lever. The use of RFID, GPS tracking, blockchain, and government portals like ICEGATE and E-Logs is enhancing visibility, reducing delays, and automating supply chain processes. India's improvement in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index, moving up six places to 38<sup>th</sup> in 2023, highlights the impact of these advancements.

Demand for efficient logistics is further being propelled by India's manufacturing push under the Make in India and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes. As the country aspires to become a global manufacturing hub, seamless logistics systems are vital. With manufacturing contributing 15.3% to GDP in FY22 and projected to grow further, logistics infrastructure must keep pace. E-commerce

is another catalyst, with the Indian market expected to reach \$200 billion by 2026. This has spurred investment in last-mile delivery, hyperlocal logistics, and tech-driven warehousing, particularly in Tier II and III cities. The logistics sector is expected to expand from \$435 billion in FY22 to \$591 billion by FY27.

Alongside growth, formalisation and employment are accelerating. The sector, which currently employs around 22 million people, is expected to generate 10 million additional jobs by 2027. Skilling initiatives and employee-linked incentive schemes are professionalising a traditionally informal industry. Organised logistics providers, who held just 6% of the market in FY22, are projected to grow rapidly, driven by tech adoption and structured training programs.

Environmental sustainability is becoming a priority, influenced by ESG norms and rising global scrutiny. The sector accounts for around 14% of India's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, primarily from diesel-based trucking. Efforts are underway to promote electric fleets, green logistics corridors, and coastal shipping. Freight villages, energy-efficient ports, and carbon-tracked supply chains are being developed to reduce emissions and attract ESG-aligned investment. Programs like the Sagar Sethu portal and compliance with international benchmarks such as EEXI are early steps in this transition.

However, challenges persist. India's logistics cost remains high at 14–18% of GDP, compared to the global average of 8%, affecting the competitiveness of exports and small businesses. Regulatory fragmentation across multiple ministries and inconsistent state-level rules create operational inefficiencies, with compliance burdens contributing to nearly a quarter of logistics delays. Digital transformation is uneven, with small and informal players often lacking access to or understanding of essential technologies. The workforce, largely unorganised, suffers from low productivity and limited training in digital and ESG-related practices.

To overcome these barriers, India must accelerate multimodal infrastructure

development, ensure universal tech adoption, formalise the unorganised sector, and launch a national logistics skilling mission. Strengthening centre-state coordination and leveraging AI and geospatial intelligence for logistics planning will also be essential. As India targets a \$6 trillion economy by FY30 and \$26 trillion by FY48, an efficient, sustainable, and tech-driven logistics sector will be pivotal to realising that ambition.

36. What is the main reason behind the modal imbalance in India's logistics sector?

- A. Lack of road connectivity
- B. High tariffs on rail transport and underutilisation of waterways
- C. Low demand for freight movement
- D. Insufficient labour in logistics

37. Choose the incorrect statement.

- A. Formalising an unorganised sector is essential as it allows for better productivity, structured training and tech adoption.
- B. Training the workforce in digital tools, ESG practices, operational efficiency prepares workers for a tech-driven logistics ecosystem.
- C. The projected growth of India's logistics sector by FY27 is \$ 598 billion.
- D. The digital transformation is described as

"uneven" due to a gap in adoption and efficiency.

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

Statement I: As manufacturing expands under initiatives like Make in India and PLI, the demand for efficient logistics decreases.

Statement II: Digital technology helps improve visibility and reduces delays in India's logistics.

- 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.

39. How is environmental sustainability being addressed in the logistics sector?

- A. By banning freight movement at night
- B. By promoting electric fleets and carbon-tracking systems
- C. By shutting down diesel truck operations
- D. By limiting cargo to railways only

40. Choose the correct pair of synonym and antonym of the word "catalyst".

- A. Subagent – Expedient
- B. Incentive – Antecedent
- C. Repulsion – Hindrance
- D. Stimulus – Deterrent

## SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

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

41. Kim: Well, I thought I was good at science, but AP Chemistry is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Sam: Yeah, we really shouldn't take it lightly.

- A. par for the course
- B. whole new ballgame
- C. white elephant
- D. ivory tower

42. Kartik: Our team's cheerleaders did a great job of \_\_\_\_\_ the team and supporters throughout the competition.

Jay: Absolutely! They really kept the energy

high and the crowd \_\_\_\_\_!

- A. gearing out, jazzed up
- B. geeing up, pumped up
- C. gadding around, keyed up
- D. hacking up, fired up

43. Mohita: I gave this company fifteen years and today a \_\_\_\_\_ was promoted ahead of me, I am truly frustrated.

Arunita: I can understand your frustration as we are passengers of the same boat.

- A. Jenny-on-the-spot
- B. Johnny-come-lately
- C. Tom, Dick and Henry
- D. Buckley's and Nunn

44. Johnsy: By next summer, I \_\_\_\_\_ on my novel for nearly five years, crafting intricate plots and developing characters with remarkable realism.
- would have be working
  - would have worked
  - will have been working
  - must work

45. Emma: Dean lost his job when it was discovered that he had been \_\_\_\_\_ money from the clients for his own use.  
Evan: That's not good on his part.
- charting away
  - siphoning off
  - ferreting out
  - drawing in

## ACHIEVERS SECTION

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

46. The \_\_\_\_\_ of car horns, shouting vendors, and blaring music made it nearly impossible to find a moment's peace in the bustling market.
- babel
  - equable
  - comity
  - thralldom
47. Although the painting appeared \_\_\_\_\_ to the untrained eye, connoisseurs praised its subtle composition and \_\_\_\_\_ brushstrokes.
- incongruous, nuanced
  - stannary, niched
  - galvanizing, gault
  - crude, arid

- Synoptic
- Pleonasm
- Brevity

Choose the correct antonym of the given word.

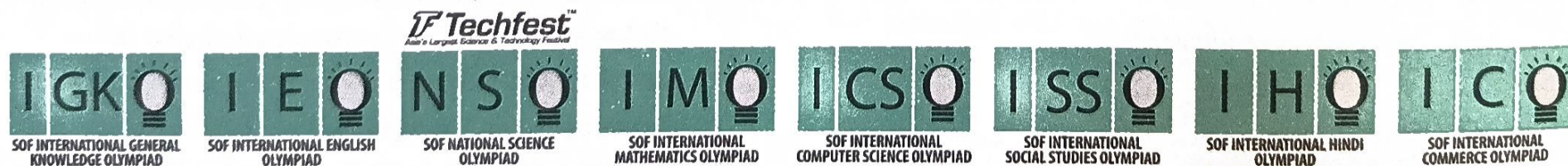
49. Bibulous
- Crapulous
  - Dissolute
  - Teetotal
  - Sottish

Choose the correct option to complete the conversation.

50. Father: I have \_\_\_\_\_ with a lot of bad behaviour from my son; it is time to \_\_\_\_\_.
- to bear, keep him on the edge of his seat
  - to deal, eat my hat
  - put on, take a dim view
  - put up, read him the riot act

Choose the correct synonym of the given word.

48. Logorrhea
- Concision



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Head Office: Plot 99, Sector 44 Institutional area, Gurugram -122 003 (HR), India  
Email: [info@sofworld.org](mailto:info@sofworld.org) | Website: [www.sofworld.org](http://www.sofworld.org)