WEST AFRICAN SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER 1 — OBJECTIVE TEST

2017

SECTION 1

In each of the following sentences, there is a word underlined and one gap. From the list of words lettered A to D, choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the underlined word and that will, at the same time, correctly fill the gap in the sentence.

1. Honest labour can lift one from circumstances of **poverty** to _____.

A. happiness
B. generosity
C. development
D. affluence

2. Trained physicians are more careful than _____ doctors when treating patients.

A. careless
B. quack
C. reckless
D. indifferent

3. The leader encouraged all present not to be _____ by recent happenings.

A. controlled
B. disheartened
C. cautioned
D. surprised

4. His knowledge in the sciences is only **superficial** and not _____.

A. profound
B. instructive
C. complex
D. strong

5. Electricity supply is only **erratic** in the city but _____ in the villages.

A. frequent
B. stable
C. normal
D. available

6. People who talk about others can only do **temporary**, not _____ damage to them.

A. heavy
B. serious
C. lasting
D. considerable

7. It is difficult to afford **sumptuous** meals nowadays; one has to make do with _____ ones.

A. frugal
B. unbalanced
C. unpalatable
D. available

8. The advantages of reconciliation far outweigh living in _____.

A. disharmony
B. opposition
C. indifference
D. violence

9. Academic performance, which was at its lowest **ebb**, is now at its _____.

A. climax
B. tip
C. peak

D. maximum

10. It is advisable to avoid **apathy** and embrace _____.

A. bravery
B. leniency
C. satisfaction
D. enthusiasm

SECTION II

From the list of words lettered A to D, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences.

11. Some articles of noted value are always in _____ demand.

A. great
B. pressing
C. urgent
D. rising

12. The publication _____ considerable light on the subject.

A. conveys
B. provides
C. reveals
D. sheds

13. Positive results are achieved when matters are put in the _____ perspective.

A. concise
B. right
C. sound
D. direct

14. The board was entrusted with the responsibility to _____ the affairs of the company.

A. drive
B. navigate
C. steer
D. guard

15. Both countries believe that economic co-operation will be to their _____ advantage.

A. unilateral
B. crucial
C. mutual
D. substantial

16. Impressive achievements were made during the chairman's _____ of office.

A. regime
B. tenure
C. occupancy
D. reign

17. For some time now the company has been _____ the verge of collapse.

A. in
B. on
C. around
D. near

18. As Maya gained experience in life, she learnt not to act _____ reason.

A. beside
B. across
C. against
D. outside

19. Understanding one another makes it far _____ for tolerance to flourish.

A. easier
B. easy
C. easiest
D. much easy

20. In times of unrest, the distribution system _____ to a halt.

A. is ground
B. is grinding
C. grinds
D. grounded

SECTION III

Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one which is nearest in meaning to the underlined word or expression in each sentence.

21. The **velocity** of light could not be determined until quite recently.

A. colour
B. speed
C. power
D. movement

22. All these **prospective** investors attended the meeting.

A. rich
B. enterprising
C. selected
D. potential

23. Only humans have the **innate** ability to cook their food before eating.

A. intimate
B. real
C. substantial
D. inborn

24. Whenever **avarice** rears its ugly head, it should be avoided.

A. antagonism
B. greed
C. selfishness
D. obsession

25. After days of heavy rains, the islanders feared a possible **inundation**.

A. submerging
B. flooding
C. overflow
D. deluge

26. Mary succeeded through **perseverance**.

A. persistence
B. knowledge
C. accomplishment
D. inspiration

27. Confidence tricksters can dupe only **gullible** people.

A. careless
B. naïve
C. greedy
D. humble

28. The weather is **serene** today.

A. friendly
B. intense
C. great
D. calm

29. A swarm of locusts caused widespread **damage** to the crops.

A. deterioration
B. destruction
C. wreckage
D. spoilage

30. Many people are unable to cope with **escalating** medical expenses.

A. ascending
B. rising
C. heightening
D. expanding

SECTION IV

After each of the following sentences, a list of possible interpretations is given. Choose the interpretation you consider most appropriate for each sentence.

31. The job seekers were told to keep their fingers crossed. This means the job seekers were to

A. revise their notes thoroughly
B. crosscheck their documents
C. receive further instruction
D. hope for the best

32. In spite of severe criticism, he stood his ground. This means that he

A. remained on the grounds
B. reasoned sensibly
C. made remarkable progress
D. remained firm

33. When I appeared before the interview panel, I had my heart in my mouth. This means that I

A. was more than ready
B. was very anxious
C. lost my voice completely
D. felt quite indifferent

34. Policies are formulated by those at the helm of affairs. This means that policies are made by those

A. with the know-how
B. in authority
C. in favour of affairs only
D. who are present at the time

35. They were asked to obey the instruction to the letter. This means that they were to obey the instruction

A. according to the letters
B. as and when requested
C. in every detail
D. only in part

36. The contestants spent precious time splitting hairs over matters. This means that the contestants

A. were arguing over unimportant issues
B. tried to dye their hair in disguise
C. caused serious alarm about events
D. preferred only superior products

37. The monetary reward came to him as a windfall. This means that the reward was

A. an added advantage
B. adequate compensation
C. well earned
D. an unexpected fortune

38. The smugglers hid themselves until the coast was clear. This means that the smugglers hid

A. for the time being
B. until the danger was over
C. until investigation was over
D. to seek protection at the coast

39. The law-breakers will be made to face the music. This means that they will be

A. brought before the law
B. deprived of all music
C. reconsidered on appeal
D. arrested and relocated

40. Although prudent measures were put in place to salvage the economy, it still remained in the doldrums. This means that the economy

A. lacked clear direction
B. performed beyond expectation
C. depended on the importation of drums
D. lacked any improvement

SECTION V

In the following passage, the numbered gaps indicate missing words. Against each number in the list below the passage, four choices are offered in columns lettered A to D. For each numbered gap, choose from the options provided for that number the word that is most suitable to fill the gap.

The courtroom was hushed but alive with suppressed excitement. The widely publicised trial of the notorious criminal was for that day. At a signal from the courtroom —41—, the audience stood up respectfully as the —42— judge entered. Soon afterwards the —43— also filed in. The —44— and his team, as well as the defence —45—, also took their positions; the legal battle commenced. People from all walks of life had assembled there just to listen to the —46—. The prosecution read the charges —47— against the accused. The defence vehemently objected to all of them. The judge —48— the objections as the evidence before the court was clear and incontrovertible. Eventually, a —49— was given; a —50— sentence was slapped on the accused. The audience did not express any pity for him; everyone praised the court for allowing the law to take its course.

41.

A. Attendant
B. Clerk
C. Official
D. Interpreter

42.

A. Presiding
B. Leading
C. Additional
D. Ruling

43.

A. Staff
B. Panel
C. Jury
D. Bench

44.

A. Presenter
B. Complainant
C. Recorder
D. Prosecutor

45.

A. Counsel
B. Counsellor
C. Registrar
D. Administrator

46.

A. Procedures
B. Presentations
C. Processes
D. Proceedings

47.

A. Levelled
B. Stated
C. Invoked
D. Pronounced

48.

A. Overrode
B. Overran
C. Overturned
D. Overruled

49.

A. Decision
B. Verdict
C. Summary
D. Conviction

50.

A. Weighty
B. Prolonged
C. Painful
D. Heavy