ENGLISH LANGUAGE

2026

OBJECTIVE TEST

Answer all the questions.

Each question is followed by four options lettered A to D. Find the correct option for each question. Shade in pencil on your answer sheet the answer space which bears the same letter as the option you have chosen. Give only one answer to each question.

Do not spend too much time on a question. If you find a question difficult, leave it and go and try it again later. Use pencil throughout. If you wish to change an answer, erase your first answer completely and shade the appropriate space for the new answer.

An example is given below:

From the words lettered A to D, choose the word that best completes the sentence.
The three-month notice of resignation which the manager gave ..... in two weeks' time.
A. lapses B. expires C. disrupts D. develops
*The correct answer is **expires** which is lettered **B**, and therefore answer space B would be shaded.*

Do all rough work in this question paper.

Now answer the following questions.

PART A

LEXIS AND STRUCTURE

SECTION I

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. After months of training, Ama handled the tools adeptly while the others did so .....
   A. carelessly
   B. lazily
   C. disorderly
   D. unskillfully

2. We should all try to propagate the good policies of our leaders and not ..... them.
   A. conceal
   B. implement
   C. release
   D. withhold

3. Enyo's response to the lawyer's question was instinctive rather than .....
   A. complex
   B. deliberate
   C. familiar
   D. obvious

4. Rather than exacerbating our plight, the new policy ..... it.
   A. cancelled
   B. maintained
   C. mitigated
   D. refined

5. Instead of our commander visiting us as often as possible, he ..... does.

A. commonly
B. hardly
C. occasionally
D. randomly

6. Although Mary's textile business is thriving, Naomi's is .....
   A. changing
   B. decreasing
   C. stagnating
   D. struggling

7. We should not speak thoughtlessly about our leaders; we should be more .....
   A. honest
   B. passive
   C. respectful
   D. restrained

8. The fallen tree caused an obstruction on the highway; nothing else but its ..... will do.
   A. removal
   B. replacement
   C. transfer
   D. pruning

9. The meat we bought yesterday was tender, but today's is so .....
   A. hard
   B. difficult
   C. strong
   D. tough

10. The stench from the gutter contrasts sharply with the ..... from the stew.
    A. fragrance
    B. fume
    C. aroma
    D. scent

SECTION II

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

11. The chief forbade the woman ..... the stool room.
    A. in entering
    B. by entering
    C. with entering
    D. from entering

12. You should have known better than ..... with Stephen yesterday.
    A. argued
    B. argue
    C. to be arguing
    D. to have argued

13. Seth told his friend last year that athletics ..... the sport he liked until he discovered chess.
    A. has been
    B. was
    C. were
    D. is

14. The supervisor chided the ..... worker in the office.

A. proud worker only arrogant
B. only arrogant proud worker
C. only proud arrogant worker
D. worker arrogant only proud

15. This topic is ..... difficult to understand.
A. as
B. so
C. too
D. very

16. Normally, one cannot easily decide ..... an issue like this.
A. about
B. on
C. with
D. for

17. Thomas has ..... more money in the bank than you think.
A. little
B. much
C. some
D. this

18. Henry must tell Cynthia that he believes in .....
A. her
B. herself
C. him
D. themselves

19. Do you mean the baggage you left at the airport ..... given to another person now?
A. had been
B. has been
C. has being
D. would have been

20. ..... their arrival in town, no one has had any peace.
A. By
B. Since
C. Upon
D. With

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. There are rising cases of child <u>abandonment</u> resulting from unwanted pregnancies.
A. betrayal
B. desertion
C. refusal
D. rejection

22. Sampson has <u>asserted</u> that he will contest for this position next year.
A. argued
B. declared
C. promised
D. reported

23. Dodi's recent qualification has proved beneficial in his search for employment.

A. fruitful
B. helpful
C. positive
D. worthy

24. Shane was once embarrassed when her seven-year-old daughter insulted an adult in public.

A. chastised
B. shamed
C. harassed
D. hurt

25. Newly recruited soldiers undergo strenuous exercises to build their physical strength.

A. tough
B. rough
C. heavy
D. serious

26. Tertiary education places emphasis on cognitive skills.

A. intelligence
B. knowledge
C. mental
D. recognition

27. Mawuse offered little evidence to substantiate her claim.

A. challenge
B. support
C. disprove
D. strengthen

28. Alice will be with you momentarily.

A. later
B. again
C. always
D. briefly

29. Are you sure you were assaulted by the boys?

A. beaten
B. attacked
C. blamed
D. insulted

30. The state must employ more of the youth to alleviate the high incidence of crime.

A. avoid
B. cancel
C. reduce
D. stop

SECTION IV

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

31. The workers agreed at their meeting to petition management for a salary increase, but none would bell the cat. This means that none of them

A. was qualified to meet management.
B. had prepared to meet management.

C. was in a hurry.
D. was bold to lead.

32. In spite of Prince's plea, the judge stuck to his guns. This means that the judge

A. cautioned Prince to be of good behaviour.
B. was unkind to Prince.
C. adjourned the case indefinitely.
D. refused to change his decision.

33. Since Adjei was the only one repeated in his class, he put on a brave face before his new mates. This means that he

A. didn't show he was upset.
B. decided to work harder.
C. ignored his former mates.
D. complained bitterly.

34. Sam wrote the statement under duress. This means that he was

A. tired and weak.
B. forced to do so.
C. in an angry mood.
D. drunk and sleepy.

35. Many of us think that Jacob's promotion to the new office is like putting a square peg in a round hole. This means that Jacob

A. is more than qualified.
B. has paid a bribe for his position.
C. dislikes the new position.
D. is unsuitable for the new position.

36. I'd advise that you let sleeping dogs lie on that issue. This means that you should

A. avoid raising the issue.
B. not engage other people on the issue.
C. not create confusion.
D. avoid contributing to the issue.

37. You are adding insult to injury by scolding these unsuccessful students. This means that you are

A. discussing the plight of the students again.
B. disgracing the students now.
C. destroying the students more.
D. upsetting the students more.

38. For reasons I cannot explain, Hudu's plans to go to university went up in flames. This means that Hudu had

A. no one to discuss his plans with.
B. no one to encourage him.
C. to abandon education.
D. to continue his plans.

39. I think we've given Linda enough advice; now the ball is in her court. This means that Linda should

A. begin to take action.
B. think about it.
C. pray about it.
D. begin to behave well.

40. Zack hit the nail on the head when he said Philip was at fault. This means that Zack was

A. apologetic.
B. careful.

C. right.
D. stern.

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.

*Attending high school in a rural area rather than in the city is memorable in many ways. It gave me my first experience of farming, especially of farming **41**. On our first visit to the school farm, we are introduced to many tools that are commonly used there. One of them is the machete which is used for **42** the bushes. When there is the need to remove tree stumps and huge stones, we use the **43**. We use the hoe to dig in order to loosen the **44**. However, in preparing beds, the **45** is preferable. Seeds are nursed on these beds, and when they **46**, they are transplanted. To irrigate the farm, we build a **47**, into which we pour a lot of water that drains gradually through **48** into the rest of the farm. In addition to this, we use the watering-can to **49** water on the seedlings. Later, we use the trowel to loosen the soil around the young plants. When there is no trowel, a gardening **50** can be used.*

	A	B	C	D
41.	implements	machines	instruments	gadgets
42.	cutting	removing	tidying	clearing
43.	cutlass	pick-axe	sickle	rake
44.	soil	ground	mud	clay
45.	spade	axe	mattock	shears
46.	developed	shoot	germinate	emerge
47.	trough	container	tank	barrel
48.	gutters	gullies	ditches	lanes
49.	pour	shower	spray	sprinkle
50.	fork	spoon	knife	pruner

PART B

Answer 30 questions in this part: 10 questions on Prose, 10 questions on Drama and 10 questions on Poetry.

PROSE

Answer any set of 10 questions numbered 51 to 60 in either Section I or Section II.

SECTION I

NON-AFRICAN PROSE

ROBERT L. STEVENSON: Treasure Island

Read the following extract and answer questions 51 to 53.

'No, sir; not money, I think' replied I. 'In fact, Sir, I believe I have the thing in my breast-pocket; and, to tell you the truth, I should like to put it in safety.'

51. The speaker is .....
    A. the Captain
    B. Long John Silver
    C. Dr Livesey
    D. Jim Hawkins

52. To hint him of his chasers, the addressee offers to pay the speaker ..... pennies each month.
    A. four
    B. five
    C. six
    D. seven

53. The addressee is .....
    A. Dr Livesey
    B. the Captain
    C. Mr Dance
    D. Jim Hawkins

Read the following extract and answer questions 54 to 56.

Squire Trelawney, Dr Livesey, and the rest of these gentlemen having asked me to write down the whole particulars about Treasure Island, from the beginning to the end, keeping nothing back but the bearing of the island, and that only because there is still treasure not yet lifted, I take up my pen in the year of grace.....

54. The speaker is .....
    A. Jim Hawkins
    B. Captain Flint
    C. Squire Trelawney
    D. John Silver

55. The speaker starts writing in the ..... century.
    A. 17th
    B. 18th
    C. 19th
    D. 20th

56. The underlined is an example of a/an .....
    A. assonance
    B. alliteration
    C. simile
    D. metaphor

57. The character who finds a ship for the expedition is .....

A. Dr Livesey
B. John Silver
C. the Squire
D. the Captain

58. Pew is a ..... beggar in *Treasure Island*.

A. lame
B. deaf
C. blind
D. dumb

59. Mr Dance is a .....

A. pirate
B. medical officer
C. revenue officer
D. cook

60. The character who is also known as Bill is .....

A. Dr Livesey
B. Jim Hawkins
C. John Silver
D. Captain Flint

SECTION II

AFRICAN PROSE

MAMLE WOLO: The Kaya Girl

Read the following extract and answer questions 51 to 53.

I come from a small village close to Tolon... I was not born there but when I was four years old my parents gave me to my auntie...
'They gave you to her?' I interrupted. 'What for?'
'For life', Faiza said simply. 'That is our tradition.'
I did not really understand but I wanted her to continue the story so I kept quiet.

51. The story is about .....

A. Abena
B. Mike
C. Stephen
D. Faiza

52. The extract reflects .....

A. misjudgment of others
B. little knowledge of the practice of others
C. the effects of child abuse
D. unusual friendships

DRAMA

Answer any set of 10 questions numbered 61 to 70 in either Section I or Section II.

SECTION I

NON-AFRICAN DRAMA

HENRIK IBSEN: An Enemy of the People

61. The place setting of the extract is Dr Stockmann's .....
    A. sitting room
    B. dining room
    C. consulting room
    D. bed room

62. The protagonist of the play is .....
    A. Peter Stockmann
    B. Hovstad
    C. Horster
    D. Thomas Stockmann

63. The play is divided into ..... acts.
    A. three
    B. four
    C. five
    D. six

SECTION II

AFRICAN DRAMA

BILL MARSHALL: The Son of Umbele

Read the following extract and answer questions 61 to 64.

> *Maybe that isn't funny. But you should have heard father going on ... Yes, he's going to bark out his commands from that chair and we're going to hear it far in the ocean and do as he says. Now, doesn't that make him the biggest clown?*

61. The speaker is .....
    A. Benko
    B. Zekey
    C. Attu
    D. Joshua

62. The underlined is a/an .....
    A. metonymy
    B. allusion
    C. hyperbole
    D. oxymoron

63. When the speaker acts out his father's behaviour he is illustrating .....
    A. imitation
    B. repetition
    C. mimicry
    D. allusion

64. The speaker sees his father as .....
    A. un-cooperative

B. disrespectful
C. fearful
D. disgusting

Read the following extract and answer questions 65 to 68.

'So I hear, the little bastard! If I see him, I'll put a rope round his neck and hang him in my backyard.'

65. The speaker is .....
A. Duella
B. Sumako
C. Attu
D. Zekey

66. The dominant device in the extract is .....
A. situational irony
B. dramatic irony
C. sarcasm
D. oxymoron

67. The tone of the speaker is .....
A. fearful
B. angry
C. indifferent
D. sorrowful

68. The little bastard is .....
A. Joshua
B. Attu
C. Zekey
D. Sumako

Read the following extract and answer questions 69 to 70.

No cause, because there wasn't one. I was only to believe that. It worked for some time till I began to ask the same question - what cause?

69. The tone of the speaker is one of .....
A. resignation
B. anger
C. pride
D. indifference

70. What provoked the speaker's response is the mention of his .....
A. siblings
B. mother's occupation
C. father
D. marital status

POETRY

Answer any set of 10 questions numbered 71 to 80 in either Section I or Section II.

SECTION I

NON-AFRICAN POETRY

WILFRED OWEN: Anthem for Doomed Youth

71. In the poem, 'those who die as cattle' is a/an .....
    A. metaphor
    B. allusion
    C. personification
    D. simile

72. In the lines 'Oh kinsmen! We must meet the common foe' the underlined is a/an .....
    A. personification
    B. hyperbole
    C. apostrophe
    D. onomatopoeia

SECTION II

AFRICAN POETRY

OSWALD MTSHALI: Nightfall in Soweto

Read the following extract and answer questions 71 to 72.

A murderer's hand lurking in the shadows, clasping the dagger, strikes down the helpless victim

71. The underlined is an example of a/an .....
    A. simile
    B. alliteration
    C. assonance
    D. synecdoche

72. The diction creates an atmosphere of .....
    A. confusion
    B. anger
    C. insecurity
    D. horror

KOFI AWOONOR: The Weaver Bird

73. The main cause of Africa's woes is .....
    A. thoughtlessness
    B. gullibility
    C. inaction
    D. selfishness

74. In the poem, Africans are portrayed as .....
    A. aggressive
    B. conciliatory
    C. naive
    D. foolish

JOHN PEPPER CLARK: Night Rain

75. The place setting of the poem is likely a .....
    A. countryside

B. city
C. town
D. wilderness

76. The poem is built on the contrast between the poet's .....
A. likes and dislikes
B. past and present life
C. real and unreal encounters
D. family and guests

DAVID RUBADIRI: An African Thunderstorm

77. The dominant literary device used to convey the violence of the storm is .....
A. onomatopoeia
B. apostrophe
C. consonance
D. oxymoron

78. The effect of the storm is felt .....
A. on the trees
B. far away
C. everywhere
D. in the village

GABRIEL OKARA: Once Upon a Time

79. The use of the word 'but' in 'but that is gone' signifies a .....
A. behavioural change
B. longing for love
C. moral uprightness
D. positive change

80. The mood of the poem is one of .....
A. excitement
B. unhappiness
C. uncertainty
D. indifference