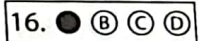


DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL ASKED TO DO SO

Total Questions: 50 | Time: 1 hr.

Guidelines for the Candidate

- You will get additional ten minutes to fill up information about yourself on the OMR Sheet, before the start of the exam.
- 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.
- 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.
- All questions are compulsory. There is no negative marking.
- There is only ONE correct answer. Choose only ONE option for an answer.
- 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.16: 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.
- Return the OMR Sheet to the invigilator at the end of the exam.
- Please fill in your personal details in the space provided before attempting the paper.



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WORD AND STRUCTURE KNOWLEDGE

FOR QUESTIONS 1 TO 24, CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION TO COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE.

1. He thought doing all the _____ of our boss would keep him in his good books, and he would be promoted soon.
 - A. blandishments
 - B. beatitudes
 - C. bombastics
 - D. bathetics

2. On our journey back home, we saw a huge _____ of trees, and the breeze there was so refreshing.
 - A. brood
 - B. clew
 - C. grove
 - D. gaggle

3. It was a private affair, and _____ was invited to it. Only high-profile celebrities and politicians were there.
 - A. not one
 - B. not somebody
 - C. not anyone
 - D. not everyone

4. My suitcase got exchanged with another passenger's at the airport. I mistakenly took _____, and he took _____.
 - A. hers, my
 - B. his, mine
 - C. mine, your
 - D. ours, her

5. The dream of studying at NYU that she _____ has come true after years of struggle and hard work.
 - A. integrated
 - B. manifested
 - C. propounded
 - D. outsourced

6. Do not let her _____ you with her charming looks. This is one of her tricks to mug you whenever she gets the opportunity.
 - A. retard
 - B. yield
 - C. beguile
 - D. baronial

7. The officer said that he would definitely _____ my suggestions and inform me when he had made up his mind about the decision.
 - A. mull over
 - B. mull off
 - C. mull for
 - D. mull on

8. Miss Sheena _____ her employees when she got to know they were not doing their best for the company's interests.
 - A. clam upon
 - B. bristled at
 - C. bristled for
 - D. chopped of

9. You _____ your car in the restricted zone; now the officers have towed it and it's at the station.
 - A. may not have parking
 - B. does not need to park
 - C. couldn't be parked
 - D. shouldn't have parked

10. It _____ have been frightening for him to know that the person he thought to be his well-wisher was actually deceiving him.
 - A. must
 - B. ought
 - C. shall
 - D. would be

11. They _____ me a higher-paying job than my current one, but I refused to take it and remained loyal to my current one.
 - A. are being offering
 - B. has been offering
 - C. were offering
 - D. shall be offering

12. The principal _____ all the students about the upcoming annual function and told them their participation is mandatory.

- A. had inform
- B. has informed
- C. has been informing
- D. have informed

13. She has performed _____ well in her exams and got admission to her dream college.

- A. exceptionally
- B. annoyingly
- C. eagerly
- D. bashfully

14. Everyone is told to go to the assembly hall for a prayer gathering; _____, they can go to their respective classes.

- A. whatsoever
- B. initially
- C. afterwards
- D. frightfully

15. 'The Guide' by R. K. Narayan is a/an _____ novel that breaks all sorts of barriers and gives the message that barriers are meant to be broken.

- A. rejuvenate
- B. prologue
- C. analogy
- D. didactic

16. Every citizen must be _____ of their basic rights and what's happening in the country.

- A. clamour
- B. catharsis
- C. cognizant
- D. chivalrous

17. Every year _____ my birthday, I celebrate it by giving out treats _____ the underprivileged.

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

18. _____ doing all the household chores, I went to the market to buy some fresh vegetables.

- A. Accept for
- B. Across off
- C. Among of
- D. Apart from

19. All the world's _____ stage, and all _____ men and women merely players-William Shakespeare.

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

20. A new policy to improve the education system in India _____ by the central government.

- A. will soon announce
- B. would soon be announce
- C. will soon be announced
- D. shall soon announce

21. I am more of a social person and like to interact with different types of people, _____ my wife is a bit more reserved.

- A. because
- B. wherever
- C. unless
- D. whereas

22. _____ the ending of the movie was not what I expected, the overall story was excellent.

- A. Whether
- B. Until
- C. Although
- D. Through

23. The idiom, 'a whale of time' means _____.

- A. to enjoy oneself very much
- B. to see a whale in the ocean
- C. to earn a living by doing hard work
- D. to do things at proper time

24. The landlord said, "Please pay your rent on time."

The landlord _____.

- A. said that for paying our rent on time
- B. requested that we pay our rent on time
- C. ordered to pay his rent on time
- D. asked we could pay the rent on time

FOR QUESTIONS 25 AND 26, CHOOSE THE OPTION WITH CORRECT SPELLING.

25. How do you spell the word that means "very typical of a certain kind of person or thing"?
- A. Archytypal
 - B. Archetypical
 - C. Architypical
 - D. Archetypal
26. How do you spell the word that means "outstandingly bad"?
- A. Egregious
 - B. Eggrigious
 - C. Egerious
 - D. Egrigious

FOR QUESTIONS 27 AND 28, CHOOSE THE CORRECT SYNONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

27. Phlegmatic
- A. Stoic
 - B. Zealous

- C. Fervent
- D. Fiery

28. Iconoclast
- A. Believer
 - B. Conformist
 - C. Adherent
 - D. Maverick

FOR QUESTIONS 29 AND 30, CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANTONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

29. Exacerbate
- A. Heighten
 - B. Alleviate
 - C. Inflame
 - D. Aggravate
30. Travesty
- A. Distortion
 - B. Solemnity
 - C. Perversion
 - D. Burlesque

READING

FOR QUESTIONS 31 TO 35, READ THE PASSAGE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

Eight o'clock on a beautiful June morning in southern Wisconsin. The sun was shining. The birds were singing. And I was on my way to the stable, where I boarded my two horses. Little did I know that in just a few minutes I would become a "momma kitty".

As I slid open the barn door, I saw the calico cat. The previous evening, she had been plump with kittens, but now she was suspiciously thin, so I knew she had given birth during the night.

"After I feed the horses, you'll have to show me where you hid your babies," I said to her, scooping dry cat food into the dish.

I was going to let my horses in, so I figured I might as well feed all of them. As I walked to the other end of the barn

so I could open the door, the calico sat on the floor near one of the stalls to watch the horses come in, just like she did most mornings.

One by one, the horses clip-clopped to their stalls. I followed behind, closing their doors. But before I could close one door, the horse inside lunged at another who was just passing by. The mare jumped sideways to avoid being bitten and trampled the calico cat.

Almost before I could draw breath to scream, the calico cat was dead. I knelt beside her, stroking the soft fur. "Your kittens," I whispered. "What am I going to do about your kittens? I don't even know where they are."

The thought of orphaned kittens waiting for a mother who would never return brought tears to my eyes. How could I ever find them? Unless...

Every morning for the past week, when I let the horses inside, I saw the calico cat coming out of an unused dog kennel near the end of the barn. Was it possible she'd made a nest in the doghouse?

I went out to the kennel, peered into the doghouse, and sure enough, there were the kittens. A black, a gray and a tabby curled up together for warmth.

I got a hold of the kittens. All three fit in the palm of my hand.

After putting the kittens in a box, I went to the stable office so I could call my veterinarian for advice. I wasn't sure the newborns had even had a chance to nurse their mother. And they were so incredibly, impossibly tiny.

Because it was a weekend, my regular vet turned out not to be on call at the clinic. I knew I couldn't wait until Monday morning. The on-call vet I reached, however, was not at all helpful. "Don't even bother," he said. "They'll never make it."

When I hung up the phone, I had a hollow feeling in the pit of my stomach. Don't bother? How could I not bother? I had witnessed their mother's death and felt, somehow, sort of responsible because I hadn't gotten that door shut quickly enough—no, I just couldn't do it. I knew if I didn't try, I would have trouble sleeping at night for weeks to come. So I searched the yellow pages for another vet clinic.

The next veterinarian I called was much more optimistic about the situation. "Bring them into the office," he said. "We'll weigh them, and I'll tell you what you need to do."

The kittens only weighed three ounces each, and at first, they consumed half an eyedropper of canned milk replacer three times a day. The vet told me their mother would normally feed them every two hours but that I shouldn't try feeding them that often. "They won't be really hungry, and then you'll get frustrated, and they'll get frustrated. Feed them three times a day,"

he explained. In a few days, the kittens started to put on weight.

All these years later (12 to be exact!), I'm happy to say the kittens grew up to be healthy, lively cats. Two of them, a 7-pound black female, Nightshade, and a 13-pound tabby male, Sebastian, became as much a part of the family as my other four cats. The gray kitten was adopted by a woman who desperately wanted another cat. Nightshade and Sebastian are not suffering any problems from being orphaned as newborns. Except, perhaps, for the fact that Sebastian becomes uneasy when the kitty food dishes are empty. He'll come to find me "talking", chirping and purring non-stop while running a few feet ahead to lead me to the dishes. All I have to do is put out a handful of dry food, and he's satisfied. Most of the time he's not even hungry; he's just worried, I think, because the dishes are empty.

As for Nightshade, she has turned my six-foot-two-inch-tall husband from a man who swore he didn't like cats into a person who holds her, cuddles her, and tells her she has "itty-bitty kitty fitties (feet)".

31. How did the two veterinarians differ when the writer approached them?
- A. The first refused to help while the second made an excuse about being unavailable.
 - B. The first helped but to no avail while the second ignored the writer.
 - C. The first flatly remarked that the kittens would die while the second decided to give the kittens a chance.
 - D. The first gave the wrong prescription while the second could not save the kittens.
32. What was Sebastian's main 'complaint' to the writer?
- A. He did not like the kitty food dishes to be empty.
 - B. He wanted the writer to cuddle with him.
 - C. He did not like sharing his food with Nightshade.
 - D. He preferred to be adopted by someone else.

33. Choose the statement which is incorrect according to the passage.
- The writer's husband was 6 ft 2 inches tall.
 - The three orphaned kittens were black, gray and tabby.
 - The second veterinarian was eager to tell the writer to not bother about the kittens.
 - The kittens grew up to be healthy and lively cats.
-
34. Why did the writer refuse to give up on the orphaned kittens?
- She wanted to make an effort instead of simply giving up without trying.
 - She wanted to ensure the first veterinarian was wrong in his response.
 - She wanted to have more cats in the house.
 - She knew her husband would love to have more cats to take care of.
-
35. Choose the word closest in meaning to 'desperately'.
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| A. Strangely | B. Intensely |
| C. Awkwardly | D. Dejectedly |

FOR QUESTIONS 36 TO 40, READ THE PASSAGE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

The man is about to do magic. Surely anyone doing great magic wears a tux. It logically follows that a person dressed in attire not worn generally by the public in nearly sixty years must be a well-trained and entertaining artist.

Some people's responses to the questions range from:

"People won't know we're magicians if we don't wear our uniform," bemoan the penguin-like prestidigitators.

and

"Real magicians must wear tuxes," cries the part-time professional in his ill-fitting and second-hand attire.

The question of what magicians should wear has been around for more than a

century. The correct answer has been around just as long. Unfortunately, many magicians don't get it.

Jean Robert-Houdin, the father of modern magic, looked around at how his fellow magicians dressed. The common uniform for a "real magician" was to dress up like a wizard, complete with a conical hat. Robert-Houdin chose to view magic as an art. He devised many wonderful effects. He would go out on a bare stage to present his magic, dressed in formal evening attire. Robert-Houdin dressed just like his audience.

The point being made is simple. If you want magic to be viewed as a fine art, take your performance and dress seriously. Let the quality of your magic performance speak to the level of your magic artistry. If you want to be a magic clown, then dress like a penguin.

Then what about Lance Burton? Lance's performing personality makes wearing a tuxedo appropriate for his performance. Mr. Burton consciously links back to magic's historical roots. He portrays the great magician of our past. Lance performs classical magic effects while donning classical magical attire.

This is completely different from the approach of 99.998% of the other magicians wearing tuxes. Most part-time professional magicians wear tuxes without regard to their performing personality. The key to what to wear is your performing personalities. Begin with the assumption that a tux is not an option. Examine the key elements of your performing personality that you want to communicate to your audience. Tailor your dress to consciously communicate those key elements.

Finding ways to contrast with your audience that communicate positively about your performing personality goes a long way in ensuring you are dressed appropriately for your performance.

The point is that the outfit chosen by the magician must relate to the performing personality that the magician or performer is trying to emulate and show.

Let's get back to the original question. Why do magicians wear tuxes?

Nobody knows the right answer, not even the magicians. But knowing your performing personality goes a long way towards ensuring that you dress appropriately for the character you're portraying. Select your dress to complement your venue and performing personality. Treat your magic performance like the artistic performance you want it to be.

36. Choose the statement which is incorrect based on the passage.
- A. If you want magic to be viewed as a fine art, take your performance and dress seriously.
 - B. Most part-time professional magicians wear tuxes without regard to their performing personalities.
 - C. The outfit chosen by the magician must relate to the performer's personality.
 - D. Robert-Houdin portrays the great magicians of our past.

37. How are Robert-Houdin and Lance different in their approach to a magician's appearance?
- A. Robert-Houdin wore a suit and a pointed hat while Lance wore evening attire.
 - B. Robert-Houdin dressed in bright colours to be easily spotted while Lance would blend in with the audience.

- C. Robert-Houdin dressed like his audience in formal evening attire whereas Lance wore the classical magical attire.
- D. Robert-Houdin preferred formal attire while Lance would be in a suit completed with a round hat.

38. The writer believes that the key to what to wear, for a performer, is _____.
- A. performing personality
 - B. audience response
 - C. following traditions
 - D. the weather condition

39. How is the dressing style relevant for a magician or any performer?
- A. The performer's appearance must be in sync with the theme and venue of the performance.
 - B. The performer needs to be dressed better than the audience to stand out and be noticed easily.
 - C. The performer should not dress better than the audience as that will make the audience feel bad.
 - D. The performer needs to distract the audience with his dress so that they will not figure out the 'truth' about his performance.

40. The correct synonym of the word 'emulate' is _____.
- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A. destroy | B. imitate |
| C. conquer | D. correct |

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

FOR QUESTIONS 41 TO 45, CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION TO COMPLETE EACH CONVERSATION.

41. Amber : We have to hurry _____ we don't want to get stuck in traffic.
- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| A. in spite | B. in case |
| C. only for | D. except of |
42. Jasmine : I have anger issues. It has made me do things _____ I am not proud of.

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| A. that | B. for |
| C. what | D. so |

43. Mother : The guests can arrive any time now, so _____ and don't make me remind you again.
- A. look to your laurels
 - B. get your act together
 - C. go down a treat
 - D. up in arms

44. Rebecca: I was _____ my friends to buy a beautiful white gown for my wedding.
- shopping over for
 - shopping off by
 - shopping with along
 - shopping around with

45. Gym Trainer: You should avoid junk food in your diet because you are _____.
- when to eat
 - how to eat
 - why you eat
 - what you eat

ACHIEVERS SECTION

FOR QUESTIONS 46 AND 47, CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION TO COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE.

46. The government is taking mandatory actions _____ our country's reputation around the world.
- for ridicule
 - to aggrandize
 - to enervate
 - so obdurate
47. A person who practises self-denial as a part of spiritual discipline is known as an _____.
- aesthetic
 - averse
 - ascetic
 - atheist
48. CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANTONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.
- Pellucid

- Transparent
- Crystal
- Nebulous
- Limpid

49. CHOOSE THE CORRECT SYNONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

Promulgate

- Propagate
- Withhold
- Fortunate
- Suppress

50. CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION TO COMPLETE THE CONVERSATION.

Isabella: She definitely _____ through her performance last night. I had tears in my eyes.

- went of limits
- poured her heart out
- bit her tongue
- turned a deaf ear



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