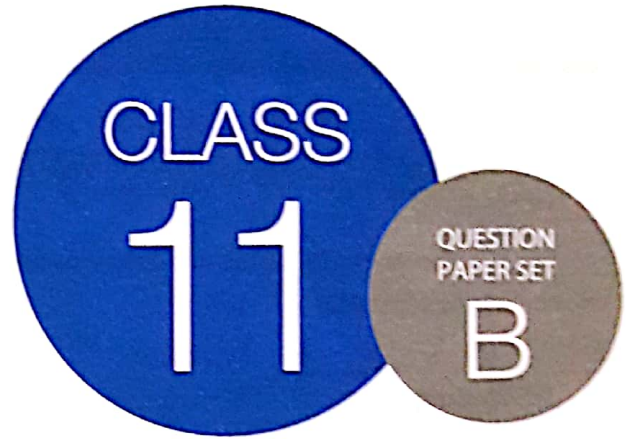


**SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD 2019-20**

*in association with*  
**BRITISH COUNCIL**



**DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL ASKED TO DO SO**

**Total Questions: 50 | Time: 1 hr.**

Name:.....

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

**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, Reading, Spoken and Written Expression & Achievers Section.**  
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.16: Fill in the blanks.**

**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 on this page before attempting the paper.



## WORD AND STRUCTURE KNOWLEDGE

FOR QUESTIONS 1 TO 24, CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD/PHRASE TO COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE.

1. \_\_\_\_\_, the prefects took my best friend to see the headmaster.  
A. Mistakes                      B. Mistaken  
C. Mistaking                     D. Mistakenly

---

2. The car really sounds great now that it \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. would be fixed    B. has been fixed  
C. gets fixed            D. will be fixed

---

3. There is no way of \_\_\_\_\_ the mess that we have made of the classroom.  
A. contravening    B. confirming  
C. contrasting        D. concealing

---

4. When \_\_\_\_\_ times are tough we must all stick together to make \_\_\_\_\_ things work.  
A. a, a                      B. no article, no article  
C. a, the                     D. the, a

---

5. The news about the environment seems to \_\_\_\_\_ contrary to what our government is saying.  
A. be run                      B. being running  
C. have ran                    D. run

---

6. The noise that \_\_\_\_\_ from the back of the bus scared all the people by the side of the road as it happened.  
A. was emanating    B. has emanated  
C. is emanating        D. will emanate

---

7. It has often \_\_\_\_\_ that there is no place for seniors to study during free periods at school.  
A. asked                      B. being told  
C. been said                 D. informed

---

8. Before even arriving, the team \_\_\_\_\_ it was not going to be a good night.  
A. will have decided  
B. was decided  
C. can decide  
D. had decided

---

9. My sister worked really hard last year, \_\_\_\_\_ has paid great dividends this year for her.  
A. what                      B. how  
C. when                      D. which

---

10. The teacher explained the exercise \_\_\_\_\_ the students.  
A. at                            B. with  
C. to                            D. around

---

11. I'm really tired. I think it's time I hit the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. hay                         B. floor  
C. door                        D. ground

---

12. I was so pleased to be able to \_\_\_\_\_ off some steam after the finals last week.  
A. take                        B. run  
C. blow                        D. move

---

13. Last night's match went down to the \_\_\_\_\_. It was really exciting but ended in a draw.  
A. ground                      B. fence  
C. valley                        D. wire

---

14. I've been \_\_\_\_\_ the books hard recently in preparation for the end of year exams.  
A. punching                 B. banging  
C. crashing                    D. hitting

---

15. \_\_\_\_\_ bones about it, this is the absolute last time I am going to play in goal.  
A. Do count                 B. Have some  
C. Take away                D. Make no

---

16. We won't need too many things because we should be able to \_\_\_\_\_ with what I already have.  
A. make do                    B. set on  
C. can have                    D. have at



17. This medicine has been \_\_\_\_\_ from a tropical plant in the north of the country.

- A. devolved            B. deprived  
C. derided            D. derived

18. The new law will \_\_\_\_\_ the entire community equally, hopefully in a positive way.

- A. implement        B. implode  
C. impasse            D. impact

19. Your sister's performance last night \_\_\_\_\_ our expectations.

- A. excelled            B. expelled  
C. exceeded          D. excepted

20. If you don't stop overspending all the time, you'll \_\_\_\_\_ run out of money.

- A. calculably        B. inevitably  
C. inexhaustible    D. estimable

21. I \_\_\_\_\_ from the theatre without telling my classmates because it would have been really dull.

- A. addicted            B. abdicated  
C. absconded        D. abbreviated

22. Training every morning at 6 am really is the \_\_\_\_\_ of my life right now.

- A. brawn              B. bane  
C. bridge              D. bereft

23. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ of players who can reach the right level to play against us.

- A. detente            B. dream  
C. dearth              D. debacle

24. I found the commentator for the ODI yesterday so \_\_\_\_\_ that he annoyed me throughout the day.

- A. reassuring        B. bright  
C. reputable        D. fatuous

FOR QUESTIONS 25 AND 26, CHOOSE THE CORRECT SYNONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

25. Evocative

- A. Eminent            B. Expressive  
C. Educated          D. Enlightened

26. Siphon

- A. Drain              B. Mold  
C. Spin                D. Revert

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

27. Hyperbole

- A. Understatement    B. Overreaction  
C. Interdependency   D. Noncommitment

28. Inexorable

- A. Merciful            B. Revised  
C. Populated          D. Crass

FOR QUESTIONS 29 AND 30, CHOOSE THE OPTION WITH CORRECT SPELLING.

29. How do you spell the word that means 'in opposition to a civil authority or government'?

- A. Insurgent          B. Ensargeant  
C. Ansarguent        D. Unsuraget

30. How do you spell the word that means 'given to lying'?

- A. Mendacious        B. Mandaciated  
C. Mondicuse        D. Munecaide

## READING

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

Two discrete groups of students are sometimes said to exist: one showing academic prowess, the other with sporting

or practical aptitudes. This **dichotomy** could be artificial or even bogus, though. Some experts believe ability in one sphere is likely to overlap with the other. In other words, can trying hard in sporting endeavours benefit other aspects of students' schoolwork?

In order to answer this question, an important distinction needs to be drawn. Although often conflated, practice and training are actually separate, yet complementary. Practice can be defined as “repeated exercise in or performance of an activity or skill so as to acquire or maintain proficiency in it.” This brings connotations of monotonous repetition or rehearsal of simple tasks. It also appears to exclude the highest level of performers who need to excel rather than ‘maintain’. By contrast, training is “the act, process, or method of one that seeks to improve skill, knowledge, or experience in a certain area.” We can infer that this process involves making specific adjustments to techniques, correlating with improved performance. Sport scientists maintain that credible training leads to thriving and motivated competitors in a wide range of activities. Technical work (training) can be successfully combined with application of that learned or acquired technical ability (practice).

Sports scientists have increasingly seen the drawbacks of an over-reliance on practice. Some players may depend too greatly on effort (practice) over skill and technique (training). This will hide gaps in their game that superior opposition will exploit. There’s also a risk of rehearsing experience and skills rather than actually gaining the specific skills required. In practice sessions coaches may talk too much and waste time on negative feedback and tactical discussions. Another pitfall is practising with unrealistic equipment, such as an over-heavy bat in baseball. This emanates from the mistaken belief that swinging strength will be improved. Another misapprehension with athletic type exercises stems from a fundamental misunderstanding: that athletic ability can be trained. Traits like reaction time and agility - unlike soccer dribbling, stamina

and flexibility - depend solely on genetics.

Rather, the goal of training should be to develop skills, techniques, and strategies that produce the best results in competition. Sports experts argue that success depends on training taking place under the same conditions that will be experienced in competition. Consistently, executing a key skill at a high level, at speed, when fatigued and under pressure in competition conditions has to be the target. Another key factor they identify is attitude towards mastery of their discipline. While lower achieving players strive towards an ideal of ‘mastery’, they either don’t understand what mastery means or aren’t committed to the necessary training. The objective of elite players’ training, however, is mastery itself, according to sport scientists. These exceptional players are clearly in a small minority, remaining outside their comfort zone at all times, continually pushing their thresholds.

For ordinary mortals too, sport can also be enormously beneficial. Young people often do better at school if they’ve learnt what it takes to compete while enjoying being part of a team. They also learn responsibility and the value of teamwork. Academic performance can be enhanced by physical activity. Increased brain function through physical exertion results in greater energy and contributes to improved memory and concentration levels. A healthy ego, increased self-confidence and improved temperament can be other positive side effects of doing sport. Moreover, taking part in sport has beneficial social corollaries. People of different backgrounds are brought together, and a sense of community is created. They develop connections that bond together people from all walks of life. International students can find the easiest way of making friends is to play something



like an informal game of basketball at the school gym.

One factor that can't be ignored when discussing achievement is talent. There is no scientific consensus on the extent that 'nature' (genetic and hereditary factors) plays a part in success. In academic terms the 'nature versus nurture' debate translates into 'ability versus attainment'. Again, experts cannot agree on their relative importance. When talent and application in the sporting and academic spheres are combined, though, students can have double success. If offered academic scholarships, athletes get the chance to go professional along with valuable education and qualifications.

31. Choose the best title or heading for the passage.
- A. Studying Hard Leads to Sporting Success
  - B. Regular Practice Gets Better Results
  - C. Sports Mastery Depends on Less Training
  - D. How Understanding Practice and Training Helps
- 
32. According to the text, how can playing sport help with academic study?
- A. Mixing with different social groups through sport is educational.
  - B. Students form relationships through sport that help with their studies.
  - C. It allows students to focus and remember better.
  - D. Feeling better about yourself through sport means you develop a positive mentality.
- 
33. What does the text say about natural ability?
- A. People don't agree about how large a part it plays in sporting and academic success.
  - B. Most people are either talented or they need to try extra hard to be successful.
  - C. Becoming a paid sports person requires the backing of a school or university.
  - D. It needs to be combined with dedicated study for people to reach their potential.

34. It's argued in the text that only elite players and athletes \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. are those that don't get too tired and stressed by top level performance
  - B. always work on the features that will be needed in real-life competitions
  - C. continually challenge themselves by setting the highest standards
  - D. retain a positive approach to their sport at all times, despite difficult opponents
- 
35. What is the meaning of 'dichotomy' in the first paragraph?
- A. A statement that something remains valid if certain objects, relations, or operations are interchanged.
  - B. A division or contrast between two things that are or seem opposed or entirely different.
  - C. A critical split in views, beliefs or interests, that leads to opposition between two groups.
  - D. A separation by difference of opinion or feeling, such as a disagreement or dispute.

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

Smaller family size is becoming a reality throughout the world as the 21<sup>st</sup> century progresses. This phenomenon means the average number of children will have declined to 1.0 per household. This figure has almost halved from 1.9 per household in 1980. The ways in which this trend will impact individuals and economies could be far-reaching.

Teenagers and younger children experience many benefits to both smaller and larger family units. The 'only child' has historically attracted a certain amount of stigma. Yet the one-child family is inevitably a more controlled environment, where fewer relationships result in a less complicated family dynamic. The parents have more time and energy to become attuned to the

child's needs and **predilections**. Studies reveal that only children are more inclined to be independent and flexible, showing more creativity than those with siblings. However, having a brother or sister can be one of the best ways of learning how to navigate relationship struggles and resolve conflicts. It's often the case that a sibling may turn into a best friend later in life. Research reveals that a good sibling relationship promotes altruism in teenagers, especially boys. It also may lead to healthier, happier adults, who have the ability to control their emotions.

Nevertheless, children in larger families often fall victim to sibling rivalry, jealousy and a craving for parental attention. An older brother may be a physical bully, a younger sister may borrow without asking. Irrespective of culture or background, it may appear that they do whatever they want. Siblings may start to feel like a teenager's worst enemies. By contrast, the only child can feel pressurised by unrealistic parental expectation. Receiving excessive attention and praise may also cause undesirable personality traits. These only children may become overly dependent, selfish and socially inept. Some studies have also shown that they scored lower on 'agreeableness', suggesting that they lack sociability and empathy. They've even been accused of finding it difficult to share and play well with others.

Gender is another factor that significantly influences sibling relationships. Biology dictates that two brothers are more alike each other than a brother and a sister. Although there are always exceptions, this genetic similarity is likely to make the brothers bond more easily than a sister and brother. Scientists have also found that sisters are more genetically similar than brothers. This may account for the particular closeness often experienced by

two or more sisters. Identical twins, of course, are the most closely related people on the planet. In some cases their mutual understanding is uncanny, going beyond what can easily be explained by science. They often share the same tastes and can sometimes choose similar spouses and do similar jobs as well as looking almost identical.

In normal circumstances, parents aren't able to determine whether to have twins, let alone the gender of their baby. What is within their control, however, is how many children they have. What has been perceived as the ideal family size has varied throughout history and in different cultures. For example, in the USA two is now seen as the perfect number of children by almost half of those surveyed. In the 1970s, mean ideal number of children was for 2.9 children, whereas forty years earlier, it was 3.6. Reasons behind these changes include: the availability of the birth control pill (from the 1960s onwards), increased numbers of women in the workforce and higher costs in bringing up children. In a recent US survey, costs were given by 65% as the reason for not having more children, while fewer than 10% mentioned personal choice, sparsity of time and career concerns.

This decline in the average number of children per household is being seen all over the world. The global forecast is for it to decline to 1.0 per household by 2020. Apart from the Middle East and Africa, all regions globally will soon have an average number of children of below 2.0 per household. Meanwhile, single-parent households are rising rapidly in some countries. If these trends continue, today's teenagers may face some difficult financial decisions as they consider their retirements.



36. Choose the best title or heading for the passage.
- One Child is Easier for Parents
  - Benefits of Being an Only Child
  - Larger Families are Healthier
  - Family Size Influences Our Behaviour
- 
37. According to the text, what can cause only children to not consider others?
- They don't like mixing with other children.
  - Having brothers and sisters to play with.
  - Too much parental attention.
  - Their parents don't expect too much of them.
- 
38. Who are the most similar, according to the text?
- Two sisters
  - Two brothers
  - Identical twins
  - A brother and a sister
- 
39. According to the text, most parents \_\_\_\_\_.
- can choose how many children to have
  - want to have at least two children
  - have too little time for their children
  - prefer to have sons rather than daughters
- 
40. What does the word 'predilection' mean in paragraph 2?
- An inadequate or faulty part of a person's character.
  - A prejudice or unreasonable opinion or feeling of dislike about a social group.
  - A normal tendency to move or act in some direction or towards some point or result.
  - A preference, special liking or bias in favour of something.

### SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

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

41. Aisha: When is the game going to end?  
Anne: \_\_\_\_\_, it's only just begun, and I don't want you to ruin it.
- Leg up
  - Pipe down
  - Stranger things
  - Push over
- 
42. Esmi: Do you have any \_\_\_\_\_ I can borrow?  
Bill: Why? Is your skin sore?
- quixotic
  - mores
  - partisan
  - emollient
- 
43. Reg: I rarely read, so have only just started the \_\_\_\_\_ we have to read for literature.
- yoke
  - veracity
  - tome
  - hegemony
- 
44. Teacher: I'm sure you \_\_\_\_\_ hard for today.  
Student: We tried, but we have all been so busy.
- study
  - have been studying
  - will be studying
  - were studied
- 
45. Deena: I can't make \_\_\_\_\_ of this new textbook we have. It's like it's in another language.
- wrong or right
  - head nor tail
  - big or small
  - high or low

## ACHIEVERS SECTION

FOR QUESTIONS 46 AND 47, CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD/PHRASE TO COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE.

46. Losing by so many runs last week was a real shock to \_\_\_\_\_ for everyone, I think.

- A. an umpire
- B. a game
- C. all players
- D. the system

47. I washed the floor even though the painter \_\_\_\_\_, so I could get the place tidy sooner.

- A. hadn't gone
- B. had gone
- C. could have gone
- D. wouldn't of gone

48. CHOOSE THE CORRECT SYNONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

Expunge

- A. Tranquilise

- B. Review
- C. Obliterate
- D. Berate

49. CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANTONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

Grandiloquent

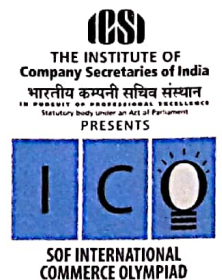
- A. Unenthusiastic
- B. Unadorned
- C. Uncompromising
- D. Unappreciated


50. CHOOSE THE MOST SUITABLE OPTION TO COMPLETE THE CONVERSATION.

Brandon: I do feel sorry for your brother.

Erik: Yeah, he's rather \_\_\_\_\_ most of the time.

- A. hapless
- B. benign
- C. pretentious
- D. rustic



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