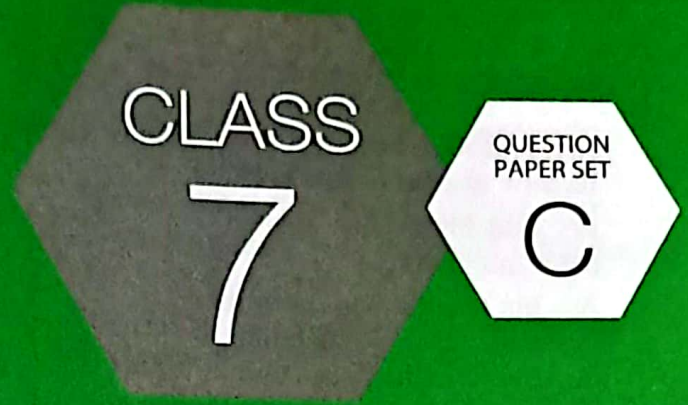




**SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD 2023-24**



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

Total Questions: 50 | Time: 1 hr.

### Guidelines for the Candidate

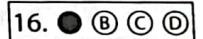
- You will get additional ten minutes to fill up information about yourself on the OMR Sheet, before the start of the exam.
- Write your **Name, School Code, Class, Section, Roll No.** and **Mobile Number** clearly on the **OMR Sheet** and do not forget to sign it. We will share your marks / result and 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.

Name:.....

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FOR QUESTIONS 1 TO 20, CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION TO FILL IN THE BLANK.

1. Jay said to his mother, "My teacher taught us how to count numbers."  
Jay told his mother that \_\_\_\_\_ how to count numbers.  
A. his teacher has teach them  
B. their teacher has taught them  
C. their teacher have taught them  
D. his teacher had taught them

---

2. I had such high \_\_\_\_\_ for myself that I gave my best to achieve them, not realising I was torturing myself at the same time.  
A. inspirations  
B. aspirations  
C. conspirations  
D. modulations

---

3. You \_\_\_\_\_ have agreed to the terms and conditions laid out by the institution, and now there's nothing you can do about \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. itself, yours  
B. itself, it  
C. yourself, yourself  
D. yourself, it

---

4. When it rains, nature takes care of them and \_\_\_\_\_ them.  
A. nourish  
B. nourishes  
C. nourished  
D. nourishing

---

5. \_\_\_\_\_ had I ordered my meal \_\_\_\_\_ I got called to come back home.  
A. No sooner, that  
B. Barely, when  
C. Rather, than  
D. Either, or

---

6. After the initial stress and occasional doubts, the business began to cruise \_\_\_\_\_ with unprecedented results.  
A. to  
B. at  
C. along  
D. above

---

7. I was \_\_\_\_\_ omitted from the list of attendees for the charity event that my relatives are hosting.  
A. inadvertently  
B. scarcely  
C. enormously  
D. least

---

8. Among my siblings, I was \_\_\_\_\_ least problematic and was adored by my parents.  
A. the  
B. a  
C. an  
D. no article

---

9. The whole congregation will be given the seminar papers \_\_\_\_\_ the presentation ends.  
A. ones  
B. once  
C. wants  
D. whence

---

10. Modesty is not one of the characteristics of an \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. altruist  
B. almsgiver  
C. empyrean  
D. egotist

---

11. During the course of our trip, I became \_\_\_\_\_ with numerous wonderful people.  
A. acquainted  
B. experienced  
C. encountered  
D. entwined

---

12. Neither of the teams \_\_\_\_\_ chosen to represent the state after their scuffle.  
A. was  
B. were  
C. are  
D. has

---

13. Does that mean, you are trying to \_\_\_\_\_ from those messages that he is not telling the truth?  
A. incite  
B. confer  
C. imply  
D. bestow

14. It is I who \_\_\_\_\_ to be charged for the whole team's meal since I lost the bet.

- A. are
- B. was
- C. were
- D. is

15. A/An \_\_\_\_\_ deals with the skeletal structure of the body and treats injuries concerning the bones.

- A. orthopedist
- B. cardiologist
- C. orthodontist
- D. optometrist

16. After more than a decade of being on the run, the \_\_\_\_\_ gangster was found hiding in one of the high-end hotels in the capital.

- A. anonymous
- B. chronological
- C. notorious
- D. famous

17. I went to the doctor and was \_\_\_\_\_ from taking any candy, pastries, or sweets for a month.

- A. prescribed
- B. prohibited
- C. persuaded
- D. proceeded

18. Their philosophies are so \_\_\_\_\_ that they can never come to any agreement or mutual understanding.

- A. disparagement
- B. desperate
- C. disparate
- D. comparable

19. Had I been more frugal with my expenses, I \_\_\_\_\_ saved enough for a house by now.

- A. should
- B. will had
- C. would had
- D. would have

20. \_\_\_\_\_ I would love to stay for the night, my parents will be looking for me, so I should take my leave now.

- A. As much as
- B. Since

- C. Despite
- D. Whereas

FOR QUESTIONS 21 AND 22, CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE MEANING FOR THE FOLLOWING IDIOM/PROVERB.

21. 'Money talks' means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. wealth provides power and influence
- B. money can talk
- C. money can make things worse
- D. money can buy everything

22. 'Bone of contention' means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. something that causes success
- B. something that causes a quarrel
- C. something that solves a problem
- D. something that proves a point

FOR QUESTIONS 23 AND 24, CHOOSE THE PART OF THE SENTENCE THAT HAS AN ERROR.

23. Despite the teacher's efforts to make the test difficultly, it only proved to be child's play for the students.

- A. Despite the teacher's efforts
- B. to make the test difficultly,
- C. it only proved to be
- D. child's play for the students.

24. I do not wish to recommend any particular book for you to read since the genre one enjoys read differs from person to person.

- A. I do not wish to recommend any particular
- B. book for you to read since
- C. the genre one enjoys read
- D. differs from person to person.

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

25. A. Superuntendent  
B. Superintendent  
C. Superintandent  
D. Supurintendant

26. A. Dilettante  
B. Delettante  
C. Diletante  
D. Dilettente

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

27. Dolorous

- A. Cheery
- B. Giddy
- C. Blithe
- D. Rueful

28. Commiseration

- A. Solace
- B. Mercilessness
- C. Indifference
- D. Disdain

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

29. Castigate

- A. Excoriate
- B. Lambaste
- C. Pummel
- D. Exonerate

30. Vacillate

- A. Dither
- B. Persist
- C. Fluctuate
- D. Hedge

## READING

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

Sustainability starts with you; the smallest change you can make in your own home or office can have a huge effect further up the chain. Simply by buying the right products, you can help yourself and your family save heaps of money and also help the environment through these purchases.

Natural and alternative health and lifestyle products can really benefit you and your family.

Did you know that the industry of healthy foods and natural products in their retail and business forms has increased by 75% in the last 5 years alone?

This article has a few simple answers to why natural, more healthy alternatives can deliver much greater health benefits than just going and getting some vitamins from your local drug store.

Many elements and chemicals that help our body function and boost our immune system can only be found in a "stable" form in foods and drinks that occur naturally. By taking these natural chemicals from their natural states and trying to "bottle" them, it is virtually impossible without further adding dangerous additives and man-made chemicals.

Furthermore, the organic industry, which seems so new, is coming back after about 50 years of "conventional" farming to boost the sustainability and production needed in agriculture.

For some reason, people think that organics has never existed before, and it was only about 50 years ago that we didn't have pesticides, fertilisers and herbicides and relied purely on the co-dependent relationships of ecosystems.

People are again realising the benefits of organics after 50 years of cancer-causing chemicals being passed along in our food. It is strange, as many people who have had the initial stages of cancer have converted to organics for added support for their immune systems.

From organics to sustainable lifestyles, which include our complete environment from building to water to energy production to health, everything is a dynamic system and will become increasingly important as global warming becomes more of a problem.

This leads me to the next step: sustainable building. Did you know that your home can become a toxic and uncomfortable environment for you and your family if

you don't think consciously about the types of products you use within and around your house?

Many insulation and cabinetry products use materials that contain a vast amount of formaldehyde, which is a very toxic and carcinogenic chemical. Paints and finishes can contain high levels of VOCs (volatile organic compounds), which have been proven to cause serious health issues and lead to "sick house syndrome". Building materials used for the structure of your home can be cheap and cause the temperature in your home to be very uncomfortable and the air conditioner you use to make up for these costs you hundreds of dollars every year.

Might as well give up, hey? No way...

There are so many resources and products available at your request that can dramatically change the negative aspects and improve your overall wellbeing as well as that of your family, whilst at the same time improving the quality of products that are good for the environment also. For instance, there are many paint companies with low to zero VOC products; insulation has been developed using cellulose (recycled paper basically) with no formaldehyde; energy-efficient air conditioners exist; and there are many other products that are affordable but have the qualities to increase the comfort of your home.

The main point is that if you buy for the health and comfort of you and your family, the results will be beneficial to both you and the environment. This is what I mean by a dynamic system. Sustainability isn't about knowing everything about what does what and where it goes; it is simply about working with your local environment to produce the best possible outcome that will save you money, your health and the environment.

I suggest you start educating yourself in the simple parts of sustainability, and even if you save a litre of water a year or have an organic meal at least once every 2 months, you will be on your way to sustainability.

31. What do you understand by the term "sustainable development"?
- A. An aim to work with local environment.
  - B. An organising principle that aims to meet human development goals while saving the environment.
  - C. An objective to develop health industry and maintain environment.
  - D. An organisation to maintain the ecosystem and save health.
- 
32. Read the statements I and II and select the correct option.
- Statement I : Paints and finishes can contain high levels of VOCs (volatile organic compounds), which have been proven to cause serious health issues.
- Statement II : Sick house syndrome can be caused by volatile organic compounds.
- A. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
  - B. Statement II is correct but Statement I is incorrect.
  - C. Both the Statements I and II are correct.
  - D. Both the Statements I and II are incorrect.
- 
33. Select the incorrect statement about the organic farming and products.
- A. For adding support to their immune systems, people are turning to organic products.
  - B. It seems that the organic industry will not come back even after having health issues.
  - C. Cancer causing chemicals entered our food through pesticides, etc.
  - D. For some reason, some people think that only about fifty years ago co-dependent relationships of ecosystems played a role in saving our crops.
- 
34. Example given by the speaker to maintain sustainability is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. if you save a litre of water a month or have an organic meal at least once a month, you will be on your way to sustainability
  - B. if you save a litre of water in a year or have an organic meal at least once every two months, you will be on your way to sustainability
  - C. work with your local environment
  - D. educate yourself on sustainability

35. The chemical used in cabinetry is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. formaldehyde
  - B. VOC
  - C. cellulose
  - D. herbicides

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

Chocolate is one of the most popular and loved sweet treats around the world. It's loved in all sorts of shapes and sizes : bars, candy, spreadable chocolate, chocolate syrup, you name it. Everything that is created from chocolate leaves most of us wanting more. But how did this incredible dessert come to life? Who was the genius who decided to create it? Chocolate has had an incredible journey throughout our history, ending up in modern times where it's still favoured among sweet-toothed aficionados looking for candied satisfaction.

Cacao seeds grow naturally on trees, so it wasn't long until the ancient populations in Mesoamerica, where it all began, discovered the taste and properties of cacao. Chocolate started being consumed as a liquid, a drink made out of cacao seeds where spices and even wine were added, giving it a rather bitter taste and not the sweet one we all know and love. It was believed that this beverage had aphrodisiac properties, a story that still persists today but has yet to be proven. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the primordial chocolate reached Europe, where sugar was added to the mixture. The higher classes consumed it at first, but it soon reached the 'common' people, who enjoyed it as well. The word "chocolate" comes from "chocolatl", which is classical Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs.

Between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the craze for chocolate expanded as Europeans, more precisely the French, English, and Dutch, created colonies and started planting cacao trees to harvest the much-needed beans. But it was during the Industrial Revolution that chocolate started to take on the shape and taste we're now familiar with. In 1815,

Coenraad van Houten, who was a Dutch chemist, decided to incorporate alkaline salts into the composition of chocolate. This process really diminished the initial bitterness. In 1828, the chemist created a special press that managed to remove approximately half of the butter chocolate contained, helping it reach a quality that was more consistent.

From this point on, it was only one more step to the creation of modern chocolate. In 1847, Joseph Fry took the pressed "Dutch cocoa", as it was called, and added the melted cacao butter to it, creating a more malleable form of chocolate. And in 1879, Rodolphe Lindt, the creator of the chocolate with the same name, brought the final touch to modern chocolate with his conching machine, which improved the taste and texture of chocolate by mixing chocolate evenly with cocoa butter. Even so, beverages with chocolate were still popular, with milk being added since the 17<sup>th</sup> century to improve their taste. But it was in 1875 that milk chocolate appeared, with Daniel Peter mixing chocolate liquor with powdered milk, created by Henri Nestlé.

So, civilization has been fascinated by chocolate since the beginning of time, working hard and using innovation to improve the properties of this amazing dessert. Today, there are so many assortments of chocolates available that we can indulge in any we like!

36. Read the statements I and II and select the correct option.

Statement I : Initially, only the common people consumed chocolate, but eventually it reached the upper classes as well.

Statement II : The craze for chocolate expanded between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries as Europeans wanted to plant more and more cacao trees to get cacao beans.

- 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.

37. Select the incorrect fact about the history of chocolate.

- A. It was initially consumed as a liquid; a drink made out of cacao seeds with spices.  
 B. In 17<sup>th</sup> century, the primordial chocolate reached Europe, where sugar was added to the mixture.  
 C. The word "chocolate" comes from "chocolatl", which is classical Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs.  
 D. Rodolphe Lindt brought the final touch to the modern chocolate.

38. Who decided to incorporate salts into the composition of chocolate?

- A. Joseph Fry  
 B. Rodolphe Lindt  
 C. Coenraad van Houten  
 D. Daniel Peter

39. What was done by a Dutch chemist to improve the quality of chocolate?

- A. He pressed Dutch cocoa and added melted butter to it making it more malleable.  
 B. He removed half of the butter that the chocolate contained and it reached the quality that was more consistent.  
 C. He added some alkaline salts into the composition of chocolate.  
 D. Both B and C

40. Match the columns based on the passage.

- | Column-A                 | Column-B                                      |
|--------------------------|---|
| i. Joseph Fry            | a. the language of Aztecs                     |
| ii. Daniel Peter         | b. a Dutch chemist                            |
| iii. Coenraad van Houten | c. mixed chocolate liquor with powdered milk  |
| iv. Nahuatl              | d. added the melted cacao butter to the mixer |
- A. i-d, ii-c, iii-b, iv-a  
 B. i-a, ii-b, iii-c, iv-d  
 C. i-b, ii-c, iii-a, iv-d  
 D. i-c, ii-b, iii-d, iv-a

### SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

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

41. Susan: Jack was the perfect example of \_\_\_\_\_ when he opened the door for his wife.

- A. chivalry  
 B. chivalrous  
 C. chivalrously  
 D. chivalrian

42. Teacher: What \_\_\_\_\_ be the perfect way to end the academic year?

- A. dare  
 B. ought  
 C. would  
 D. need

43. Judge: Due to the \_\_\_\_\_ investigation, you are forbidden from talking to the press.

- A. ongoing  
 B. foreboding  
 C. forbidding  
 D. destructive

44. Employee: He seems quite \_\_\_\_\_ with his daily work. Little did he know, the manager had been trying to fire him.

- A. complicit  
 B. complacent  
 C. complicate  
 D. construed

45. Sam: The medical degree will be conferred \_\_\_\_\_ the graduating students next week.

- A. in  
 B. at  
 C. of  
 D. on

## ACHIEVERS SECTION

FOR QUESTIONS 46 AND 47, CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION TO FILL IN THE BLANK.

46. After almost a year of protests and rallies, the government took \_\_\_\_\_ of the grievances of the people.

- A. cognizance
- B. acceptance
- C. regret
- D. judgement

47. I heard \_\_\_\_\_ that the Prime Minister will be visiting the families of the flood victims.

- A. with the blossom
- B. through the vineyard
- C. through the grapevine
- D. by the creepers

48. CHOOSE THE CORRECT SYNONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

Enervate

- A. Invigorate

- B. Empower
- C. Debilitate
- D. Liven

49. CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANTONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

Obsequious

- A. Abject
- B. Presumptuous
- C. Compliant
- D. Slavish

50. CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION TO COMPLETE THE CONVERSATION.

Police officer : The recent robberies have a specific \_\_\_\_\_ that involved a pre-dug underground tunnel leading straight to the vault.

- A. ace in the hole
- B. tongue-in-cheek
- C. modus operandi
- D. skeletons in the closet



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