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## National English Competition 2017



## DIRECTIONS FOR NATIONAL ENGLISH COMPETITION

- You have got 80 minutes to answer 80 questions.
- Each question has only one correct answer.
- For each right answer you will get one point.
- For each wrong answer 0.25 points will be cut from your total score.
- There is no punishment for unanswered questions.
- Once the test starts you are not allowed to leave the test in the first 30 minutes.
- Telephones are not allowed during the test.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ TV when the telephone rang.  
A) watched                      C) are watching  
B) was watching                D) have watched
2. I'm afraid I'm not hungry. I've \_\_\_\_\_ eaten lunch.  
A) yet                              C) already  
B) still                              D) ever
3. Would you like \_\_\_\_\_ chicken?  
A) any                              C) a  
B) some                             D) one
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ lunch by the time we arrived.  
A) had finished                 C) have finished  
B) finished                        D) finishing
5. What shall we do tonight? How about \_\_\_\_\_ a film?  
A) to see                          C) see  
B) seeing                          D) going
6. \_\_\_\_\_ you ever \_\_\_\_\_ to Hollywood?  
A) Did ... go                      C) Have ... gone  
B) Have .... go                    D) Shall .... go
7. Jack is really \_\_\_\_\_ history, especially Japanese history.  
A) interested in                 C) interested at  
B) interesting in                 D) interested for
8. If I \_\_\_\_\_ you, I would wait a while to begin investing.  
A) was                              C) were  
B) am                                D) would be
9. He'll give you a call as soon as he \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) will arrive                    C) is arriving  
B) arrives                          D) is going to arrive
10. I think San Francisco is \_\_\_\_\_ exciting \_\_\_\_\_ New York.  
A) as ... as                        C) as ... than  
B) so ... than                       D) so ... as
11. Do you really want to \_\_\_\_\_ that meeting until tomorrow?  
A) put up                          C) put onto  
B) put off                          D) put away
12. I'm hungry! Just a moment, I \_\_\_\_\_ make you a sandwich.  
A) am going to                    C) am  
B) will                                D) should
13. Jack told her that he \_\_\_\_\_ come the next day.  
A) is going to                      C) wants  
B) will come                        D) was going to
14. Where was Jack yesterday? - I don't know. He \_\_\_\_\_ seeing the doctor.  
A) might has been                C) couldn't have been  
B) might have been               D) mustn't have been
15. Would you like me to \_\_\_\_\_ the children next week?  
A) look to                          C) look after  
B) look at                          D) look into
16. Let me \_\_\_\_\_. I didn't really want to eat all the cookies, I just couldn't help myself.  
A) to say you                      C) explain me  
B) say you                          D) explain
17. Why are your hands so dirty? - Well, I \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden for the last two hours.  
A) have worked                  C) am working  
B) worked                          D) have been working
18. Yes, that is the woman \_\_\_\_\_ horse almost trampled her!  
A) which                          C) who  
B) whose                          D) that
19. \_\_\_\_\_ electricity depends on knowledge of atoms and the subatomic particles of which they are composed.  
A) the understanding              C) understanding  
B) to understand                  D) for understanding
20. There's \_\_\_\_\_ food in the house, so we'll have to go out and buy \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) some / any                      C) no / some  
B) a / none                          D) any / them
21. We must have an \_\_\_\_\_ supply of food before we start our journey.  
A) absolute                        C) abundant  
B) abstract                         D) aboard
22. It is a very strange fact that frogs \_\_\_\_\_ water through their skins.  
A) accelerate                      C) access  
B) balance                         D) absorb
23. Yesterday morning, I found my little bird lying dead inside his \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) cave                                C) cemetery  
B) cage                                D) pavement



Like any good recipe you have to know the main (49) ..... of a successful novel. These are: an original story, strong characters and a memorable setting.

41. A) say      B) tell      C) speak      D) announce  
 42. A) queue    B) list      C) row      D) line  
 43. A) largest    B) greatest    C) highest    D) prime  
 44. A) first      B) initial      C) early      D) original  
 45. A) spot      B) tip      C) point      D) mark  
 46. A) strips     B) sheets     C) layers     D) pieces  
 47. A) complete    B) do      C) fill      D) make  
 48. A) out      B) down      C) off      D) from  
 49. A) parts      B) ingredients    C) pieces      D) sections

Albert Einstein was born in 1879 in the German city of Ulm. He was no prodigy as infant. In fact he was so late to speak that his parents were concerned he was fool. In school, his teachers saw no special talent in him though the signs of his intelligence were there. He taught himself calculus for example, and it is said that his teachers seemed a little afraid of him because he asked questions they could not answer. His gift was no secret. At the age of 16, he asked himself whether a light wave would seem stationary if one ran with it. It may seem like a strange question, but it shows that Einstein was digging deep to the heart of a problem. Ten years later would arise his theory of relativity.

50. Albert Einstein \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) is the most genius scientist of all  
 B) was born in the 18th century  
 C) was spoiled by his teachers in school  
 D) worried his parents of lacking intelligence
51. When he was in school, Einstein \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) showed no signals about his genius  
 B) was afraid of his teachers due to their innocent questions  
 C) asked difficult questions to his teachers  
 D) was understood as genius by public when he was a teenager
52. It's obvious in the passage, Einstein's \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) genius was a gift  
 B) character was perfect to most of his teachers  
 C) life encouraged most of the scientist in the world  
 D) theory of relativity couldn't have been found without him

When the air is clear, the sunset will appear yellow, because the light from the sun has passed a long distance through air and the blue light has been scattered away. If the air is polluted with small particles, natural or otherwise, the sunset will be more red. Sunsets over the sea may also be orange, due to salt particles in the air. The sky around the sun is seen reddened, as well as the light coming directly from the sun. This is because all light is scattered relatively well through small angles, but blue light is then more likely to be scattered twice over the greater distances, leaving the yellow, red and orange colors.

53. As it is pointed out in the passage, the color of the sunset \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) is red if the sky is clear  
 B) owes its blueness to the distance between the sun and the earth  
 C) is a combination of all the colors  
 D) depends on the weather conditions and the location where it takes place
54. One can infer from the passage that the sunset looks yellow because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) scattering does not play an appreciable role in determining the color of the transmitted light  
 B) the blue light is scattered on the long way through the air at that time  
 C) the light coming directly from the sun is blue  
 D) the air is polluted to such a degree that the Earth's climate is actually changing
55. As it is pointed out in the passage, \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) our eyes are more sensitive to light with blue frequencies  
 B) the red light passes easily through the air without scattering at all  
 C) when the sun sets, only the blue light is left  
 D) the sunset is likely to look orange when small particles, such as salt from sea spray, are in the air

The elephants left the shade, crossed an open piece of grass between bushes, and came towards the mud-pool where my truck was parked. One by one, they arrived on the shore, but, just as they seemed to be about to bathe in the inviting muddy liquid, they became aware of the silent truck with its tell-tale smell of man. The leading elephant merely spread her ears and cautiously backed away taking the young elephants with her.

A smaller mother elephant continued to stand next to the pool, however, swinging her long trunk and swaying her head from side to side always keeping an eye on the truck. The baby elephant behind her held up his head, waving his trunk to sample the suspicious smell in the wind. The mother elephant seemed to be uncertain about whether to come on and investigate the truck or to back away with the others. Finally she made up her mind and slowly advanced on the truck. Her ears were half out, and her trunk moved inquiringly towards the vehicle and then back under her stomach in a rhythmic swing.

I was fascinated by this close approach. Never before had I been able to see the hairiness around the jaw, nor smell the warm scent of elephant which now reach me in concentrated waves. The mother elephant's steps were slow but determined, and brought her to within a couple of metres of me.

She gave the impression of being intensely curious about this metal object which had appeared in her world and behaved as if it were itself an animal. I wondered how far she would accept the situation and, if after all the centuries of men killing elephants, she would ever allow me to approach her on foot. To be able to move freely among the elephants without their minding was an exciting thought, but I certainly did not expect it would ever be possible.

56. It had been the elephants' intention to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) feed on the grass
- B) swim in the pool
- C) lie in the sunshine
- D) avoid the mud

57. The presence of the writer and his vehicle \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) was not noticed by the elephants
- B) made the leading elephant suspicious
- C) made the adult elephants curious
- D) frightened all the elephants away

58. How did the smaller elephant react the truck?

- A) She showed more curiosity than the other elephants.
- B) She kept her baby away from it.
- C) After some hesitation she moved away with the other elephants.
- D) She rushed up to it excitedly.

59. While he watched the mother elephant approaching, the author \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) was worried that the elephants were too close
- B) found the smell very unpleasant
- C) was impressed by the elephant's size
- D) saw details he had not noticed before

60. The author did not expect he would ever be able to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) shoot the elephants
- B) touch the elephants
- C) walk about freely near the elephants
- D) drive his truck close to the elephants

**Questions 61-65. Find the sentence that is closest in meaning to the one given for each question.**

61. Due to the fact that the demand for tea was very high in the 19th century, its price was astronomical.

- A) It was not until the 19th century that the demand for tea started to increase.
- B) The demand for tea was so high in the 19th century that its price was enormous.
- C) In the 19th century the price for tea didn't increase despite the demand.
- D) It was its astronomical price which decreased the demand for tea in the 19th century.

62. French is the only language other than English spoken on five continents.

- A) French and English are the only languages that are spoken on five continents.
- B) Unlike French, English is spoken on five continents.
- C) Before English, French was the only language spoken on five continents.
- D) Worldwide, French is the most widely taught second language after English.

63. Adults laugh less than children, probably because they play less.

- A) unlike adults children laugh more while playing games.
- B) Since adults have less time playing games; they don't laugh as much as children
- C) No matter how much adults play, they can't laugh more than children.
- D) The reason why adults laugh less than children might be that they play less.

64. We must remember what happened in the past so that it will never happen again.

- A) If we could remember the past, it would not happen again.
- B) Since we all tend to forget what happened in the past we do the same mistakes again.
- C) In order not to repeat the past, we should certainly not forget what happened then.
- D) Those who couldn't remember what happened in the past were more likely to repeat it.

65. From time to time there are things we do even though we think they are wrong.

- A) Sometimes we might do things that are considered wrong.
- B) We often do things because we think they are the right things to do at the time.
- C) We can never be sure if all the things we do are right.
- D) Although we feel that the things we sometimes do are not right, we nevertheless do them.

**Questions 66-70. Read the following passages and find the irrelevant sentences in each paragraph.**

66. Garfield

(I) Garfield is a comic strip featuring the cat Garfield, the pet dog Odie, and their socially inept owner Jon Arbuckle.

(II) The main character is Garfield, who is a lazy, overweight, orange cat. (III) He considers himself to be more intelligent than humans or dogs. (IV) He was named Garfield after his grandfather.

- A) I
- B) II
- C) III
- D) IV

67. Alfred Hitchcock

(I) With more than fifty feature films Alfred Hitchcock remains one of the most popular directors of all time. (II) Hitchcock's films draw heavily on both fear and fantasy. (III) He began directing in the United Kingdom. (IV) They often portray innocent people caught up in circumstances beyond their understanding.

- A) I
- B) II
- C) III
- D) IV

68. Doping

(I) Doping is the use of drugs to try to improve sports performance. (II) This practice is banned by sports federations throughout the world. (III) Athletes need to know which substances are banned in sport. (IV) The use of drugs during athletic festivals is evident.

- A) I
- B) II
- C) III
- D) IV

69. Renaissance Women

(I) During the Renaissance period, all of the women wore a corset. (II) Moreover, a woman was put to shame if she was found absent of a corset. (III) Corsets resembled a cone, as they were small at the waist and uplifting at the bosom. (IV) They have been with us for many centuries.

- A) I
- B) II
- C) III
- D) IV

70. Rainforests

(I) Rainforests are extremely important in the ecology of the Earth. (II) They cover about 7% of the Earth's surface and are havens for millions of plants and animals. (III) The plants of the rainforests generate much of the Earth's oxygen and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. (IV) There are many types of tropical rainforests in the world.

- A) I
- B) II
- C) III
- D) IV

**Questions 61-75. Read the dialogues and choose the most appropriate options to complete the dialogues.**

71.

Doctor: Take this medicine for a week and you'll start to feel better.

Patient: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: Are you sure? It's the best on the market.

Patient: Yes I am. Can you please prescribe another one?

- A) What shall I do if unexpected side effects arise?
- B) What is the ideal dosage for my weight?
- C) No, it's too early to prescribe another medicine.
- D) But I've used it before and it did not help at all.

72.

Jake: How did you like the movie you saw last night?

Karen: I can't say it was the best I've ever seen.

Jake: \_\_\_\_\_

Karen: Certainly not. Do not waste your time.

- A) Did you go alone or with a friend from work?
- B) Hadn't you read the reviews before you went to see it?
- C) Then you wouldn't recommend it, would you?
- D) I knew I could always count on you.

73.

Father: What? You crashed the car again?

Son: \_\_\_\_\_

Father: I'm sure it wasn't. This is the third accident you have had this year.

Son: You're very angry now, dad. We had better talk about this later on.

- A) I do apologize. I promise it won't happen again.
- B) Was the car in good condition?
- C) But it wasn't my fault. You've got to believe me.
- D) Was it worth the money and time you had wasted?

74.

Chuck: \_\_\_\_\_

Sue: Why do you think so?

Chuck: Whenever we meet, she pretends not to see me.

Sue: I don't think it's because she hasn't got over her anger. She's having a bad time at work nowadays.

- A) It seems that Martha is still angry with me.
- B) Martha will never make a good manager.
- C) I have never seen a smarter woman than Martha.
- D) One thing that I especially like about Martha is her sincerity.

75.

Tom: \_\_\_\_\_

Mary: Are you kidding? We are in June.

Tom: So what? What's wrong with June?

Mary: The right time to trim your roses is the beginning of winter, when they lose their flowers.

- A) Are you going to plant those roses in your garden in June or July?
- B) Can you help me prune the roses in the garden at the weekend?
- C) Have you got any idea what the right time is to shorten rose plants?
- D) Are we supposed to do anything special to keep the roses fresh?

**Questions 76-80. Complete the sentences with the most appropriate options.**

76. You had better take your mobile phone with you \_\_\_\_.

- A) so that you can lose it
- B) because I will not be at home during the whole day
- C) If you had wanted to go abroad
- D) in case you may not find one when you are in need of it

77. The moment I saw the sad face of my girlfriend, \_\_\_\_.

- A) I begin to feel depressed
- B) I had decided to leave the house
- C) I found out that something was wrong
- D) she has gone out to have a walk

78. Students who have missed exams \_\_\_\_.

- A) although they had studied for them a lot
- B) will have to take it again unfortunately
- C) were allowed to take a comprehensive makeup
- D) have to hand in a document confirming their excuses

79. By the time the doctor came in to examine my daughter, \_\_\_\_.

- A) she has been suffering from headache for three hours
- B) I will try to keep her calm as she is afraid of dentists
- C) the nurse has already injected her the vaccine
- D) her temperature had risen to 40 centigrade

80. The earlier one gets the treatment, \_\_\_\_.

- A) the sooner he recovered from his illness
- B) since he or she may be in need of it
- C) the more effective it is likely to be
- D) he gets rid of his problems