



MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION AND
SCIENCE



THE XXVIII NATIONAL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD – 2025
SECOND ROUND



GRADE-9 (STANDARD)

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

TIME: 90 min

TASK I. VOCABULARY SECTION:/ 18x1=18 points/

A. Choose the correct item.

1. Da Vinci's Mona Lisa is _____; if it was destroyed no amount of money could ever replace it.
A. priceless B. worthless C. valueless D. invaluable
2. Mike is a _____ at computer games; he's never played one before.
A. novice B. trainee C. newcomer D. learner
3. Upon hearing the comedian's anecdote, the whole audience _____ laughter.
A. broke down B. broke out C. broke up D. broke into
4. Earth's resources are limited. Environmentalists fear the planet cannot _____ current rates of consumption much longer.
A. procure B. actualize C. redeem D. sustain
5. One of Kate's _____ is her writing skill. She writes very clearly and professionally.
A. drawbacks B. assets C. tones D. acquaintances
6. It's incredible that the plague wiped _____ nearly half of London's population.
A. by B. out C. over D. off
7. Heavy _____ of wind have been hitting the west coast.
A. gales B. gusts C. hails D. breezes
8. It was completely _____ to carry out road repairs during the rush hour.
A. impractical B. impractical C. unpractical D. dispractical
9. This article offers new _____ into understanding how stress affects human behaviour.
A. awareness B. conclusions C. ideas D. insights
10. Did you know that kiwi fruit are _____ with vitamin C?
A. packed B. stocked C. crowded D. occupied
11. She was so absorbed _____ her book that she didn't notice me until I sat down beside her.
A. for B. on C. in D. into
12. The Finnish have come _____ an unusual way to de-stress. It's called 'mobile phone throwing'.
A. into B. up with C. by D. on with
13. Choose the correct option to complete the idiom.
The woman has a _____ in her bonnet about starting a new business.
A. fly B. butterfly C. bee D. bug
14. Choose the correct synonym of the underlined word.
I have a cavity that causes me a lot of pain.
A. wound on the arm B. hole in a tooth C. cut on the leg D. injury on the body
15. Choose the correct antonym of the underlined word.
She didn't invite him again because he was obnoxious at the last event.
A. suspicious B. indifferent C. pleasant D. confident
16. Choose the option that cannot fit in the blank.
How have you come _____ such a precious diamond?
A. across B. upon C. by D. aside

17. Choose the correct form of the word to complete the sentence.

The _____ of the painting was confirmed by three independent experts.

- A. authentic B. authenticity C. authentication D. authentication

18. Check the prefix and fill in the blank using a correct option.

We got late for the airport and missed our flight. He _____ the time.

- A. uncalculated B. miscalculated C. discalculated D. decalculated

TASK II. LISTENING SECTION: /8x2=16 points/

A. Listen to people talking in eight different situations, then choose the best answer for each question. You will listen ONLY once.

1. Why did the man join the club?
A. He wanted to meet new people. B. He needed to get fit. C. He wanted to lose weight.
2. What is the woman's job?
A. a nutritionist B. a writer C. a personal trainer
3. How did the exhibition make the boy feel?
A. inspired B. disgusted C. depressed
4. Why is the woman talking to her daughter?
A. to give permission B. to complain C. to give advice
5. What is being described?
A. the modelling industry B. a new way of advertising C. a new type of consumer
6. Why did the woman decide to become an artist?
A. because of her love of art B. to follow a family tradition C. because she had natural talent
7. How does the man feel while he is competing?
A. focused B. scared C. excited
8. How will the traveller cross the desert?
A. by jeep B. by camel C. on foot

TASK III. READING SECTION: (22 points)

You are going to read a page from a brochure with advertisements for four unusual leisure experiences. For questions 1-6, choose from the advertisements (A-D). The advertisements may be chosen more than once or not chosen at all (7x2=14 points)

Do Something Different

A - Indoor Skydiving

If you have always wanted to try skydiving, but are afraid of flying, here is the answer - indoor skydiving. You will feel like you are freefalling from a plane, even though you are only about two feet off the ground, as a giant propeller blasts air at 200 mph, suspending you in the airflow. It is a freefall experience that everyone must try, at the world's biggest skydiving wind tunnel, in Bedfordshire, England. Compared to other similar experiences on the market, you will get more 'flight time' in the wind tunnel and, when you finish, a DVD containing footage of your flight for you to remember the experience. This facility also caters to international skydiving teams, so be assured that you'll be in the safest hands. The tunnel was originally built over fifty years ago to study aerodynamic forces, and later to test the strength of aeroplane parts such as ejector seats. Four decades later, the tunnel was restored. A reasonable level of fitness is required in order to participate. Spectators can watch the dive from the free viewing gallery, but the loud noise makes it unsuitable for very young children.

B - The Cathedrals Express Steam Train

Step back into the 19th century as you take a train ride on the Cathedrals Express, which runs from central London to some of England's most beautiful cathedral cities. It's the perfect experience for romantic couples, Harry Potter fans and those who want to relive the good old days. As you travel, you will dine on superb food while sitting at a table with lovely views of the countryside. The train is an exact replica of one that operated during Victorian times, and the carriage interiors are beautifully decorated. It is an unusual sight, so expect people to wave at you as you go by. Of course, you may wish to wave back! When the train pulls into the terminus, you are released from the fantasy for a short spell, as you have the chance to shop or see

the sights. Trains and stations have ramps for wheelchair users. Spectators are welcome to see the train depart and meet it on its return.

C - Traditional Circus Skills

Do you want to learn some new skills? Are you fed up with the usual routine and want to do something a little more exciting than walking around the shopping centre on Saturday mornings? Then roll up, roll up - come and join the circus! During your session at Britain's top circus skills school, you will learn about the physical strength required for the trapeze and acrobatics, practise your coordination skills while juggling and attempt to acrobalance (otherwise known as tightrope walking). All the instructors are professionals with first-hand knowledge of the techniques and equipment used. You'll be learning the basics in no time, so you can impress all your friends with your new skills when you get home. It is recommended that you wear casual clothes that don't restrict your movement - a tracksuit and trainers would be ideal. Participants must be at least 14 years old, and although they don't need to be in absolutely tip-top shape, a reasonable level of fitness is required if you want to get the most from this course. Spectators are welcome throughout. Unfortunately, there is no disabled access at the school.

D - Scuba Diving

Are you having trouble finding things to do with the kids? Here's an idea. At the Aqua Fun Programme, young adventurers are introduced to the thrill of breathing under water. They are first taught the basic procedures for scuba diving, including safety and communication with fellow divers, and familiarised with the equipment before dipping their toes into the water. All the instructors are qualified Diving Instructors. Then, under constant supervision, they get to dive and swim around in a swimming pool, at a maximum depth of only 6m, but still, experience what it would feel like to be in a natural diving environment. Parents are welcome to watch as their children learn to scuba dive and enjoy splashing around making bubbles underwater. Children don't have to be strong swimmers and previous experience is not needed. You must bring your own swimwear, but all other equipment will be provided.

Which of the advertisements mention(s):

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. something participants in the experience must bring with them? | A - B - C - D |
| 2. giving you something to take home with you? | A - B - C - D |
| 3. giving you the chance to take a break from normal life? | A - B - C - D |
| 4. what participants will learn before the start of the activity? | A - B - C - D |
| 5. regret that a specific type of visitor cannot enter the place? | A - B - C - D |
| 6. that the place has been used for more than one purpose? | A - B - C - D |
| 7. something which makes it possible for the disabled to participate? | A - B - C - D |

A - Indoor Skydiving,

B - The Cathedrals Express Steam Train,

C - Traditional Circus Skill,

D - Scuba Diving

Read the text and choose the best answer (8x1=8 points)

The end of life on Earth?

It weighed about 10,000 tons, entered the atmosphere at a speed of 64,000km/h and exploded over a city with a blast of 500 kilotons. But on 15 February 2013, we were lucky. The meteorite that showered pieces of rock over Chelyabinsk, Russia, was relatively small, at only about 17 metres wide. Although many people were injured by falling glass, the damage was nothing compared to what had happened in Siberia nearly one hundred years ago. Another relatively small object (approximately 50 metres in diameter) exploded in mid-air over a forest region, flattening about 80 million trees. If it had exploded over a city such as Moscow or London, millions of people would have been killed.

By a strange coincidence, the same day that the meteorite terrified the people of Chelyabinsk, another 50m-wide asteroid passed relatively close to Earth. Scientists were expecting that visit and know that the asteroid will return to fly close by us in 2046, but the Russian meteorite earlier in the day had been too small for anyone to spot.

Most scientists agree that comets and asteroids pose the biggest natural threat to human existence. It was probably a large asteroid or comet colliding with Earth which wiped out the dinosaurs about 65 million

years ago. An enormous object, 10 to 16km in diameter, struck the Yucatan region of Mexico with the force of 100 megatons. That is the equivalent of one Hiroshima bomb for every person alive on Earth today. Many scientists, including the late Stephen Hawking, say that any comet or asteroid greater than 20km in diameter that hits Earth will result in the complete destruction of complex life, including all animals and most plants. As we have seen, even a much smaller asteroid can cause great damage.

The Earth has been kept fairly safe for the last 65 million years by good fortune and the massive gravitational field of the planet Jupiter. Our cosmic guardian, with its stable circular orbit far from the sun, sweeps up and scatters away most of the dangerous comets and asteroids which might cross Earth's orbit. After the Chelyabinsk meteorite, scientists are now monitoring potential hazards even more carefully but, as far as they know, there is no danger in the foreseeable future.

Types of space rocks

- Comet – a ball of rock and ice that sends out a tail of gas and dust behind it. Bright comets only appear in our visible night sky about once every ten years.
- Asteroid – a rock a few feet to several kms in diameter. Unlike comets, asteroids have no tail. Most are too small to cause any damage and burn up in the atmosphere. They appear to us as 'shooting stars'.
- Meteoroid – part of an asteroid or comet.
- Meteorite – what a meteoroid is called when it hits Earth.

1. The damage caused by the Russian meteorite _____.
 - A. could have been much worse
 - B. was huge
 - C. was greatly reduced by the early warning system
 - D. was much worse than the one in Siberia one hundred years ago
2. The Siberian meteorite _____.
 - A. hit a forest
 - B. hit a big city
 - C. caused glass to shower over people
 - D. damaged trees when it exploded
3. On the same day as the meteorite exploded over Chelyabinsk, _____.
 - A. there was another, related, asteroid event
 - B. there was another, unrelated, asteroid event
 - C. scientists realised that an even bigger asteroid could hit Earth
 - D. scientists issued a warning for 2046
4. The Russian meteorite _____.
 - A. had been predicted by scientists
 - B. came as a surprise
 - C. was too small to worry about
 - D. will come close to Earth again in the future
5. Experts say that comets and asteroids could _____.
 - A. wipe out all animal life, leaving only plants
 - B. kill a significant proportion of the Earth's human population
 - C. put an end to all plant and animal life on Earth
 - D. cause as much damage as the Hiroshima bomb
6. A small asteroid _____.
 - A. can still cause a lot of damage
 - B. is not a problem if it is spotted early
 - C. cannot cause any significant harm
 - D. is actually more dangerous than a larger one
7. Earth has been relatively safe thanks to _____.
 - A. pure luck
 - B. luck and the protective force of another planet from our solar system
 - C. early warning systems set up by NASA
 - D. luck and our position in relation to the sun

8. Scientists say _____.
- A. it is impossible to monitor all the potential hazards
 - B. we are not in any danger for the moment
 - C. a meteorite is likely to hit Earth sooner or later
 - D. their early warning systems will protect us

TASK IV. GRAMMAR SECTION: / 19 points/

A. Choose the option (A, B, C, or D) that best completes each sentence both grammatically and logically. (5x1=5 points)

1. _____ that the hope for cancer control may lie in the use of a vaccine.
 - A. To believe
 - B. It is believed
 - C. Believing
 - D. The belief
2. A fire in the _____ building could be a problem for firefighters.
 - A. ninety-story-tall
 - B. ninety-tall-story
 - C. ninety-stories-tall
 - D. ninety stories
3. Since the mountains are often covered with clouds, you _____ the peaks right away.
 - A. might have seen
 - B. might not be able to see
 - C. could have seen
 - D. could not be able to see
4. _____ a more experienced climber, I would have joined the expedition.
 - A. I was
 - B. Being
 - C. Were I
 - D. Unless I was
5. Julie and Daniel want _____ by a professional.
 - A. to have their wedding catered
 - B. having their wedding catered
 - C. to have catered their wedding
 - D. to be catering their wedding

B. Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in any part: A, B or C. If you find no error, choose D. (4x1=4 points)

6. News travel very fast today due to advancement in technology.
 - A. News travel
 - B. very fast today
 - C. due to advancement in technology.
 - D. No error
7. The police arrived and discovered a large number of hoarded sugar in his shop.
 - A. The police arrived and discovered
 - B. a large number of hoarded sugar
 - C. in his shop.
 - D. No error
8. He denied that he had not stolen my purse, though I was quite sure that he had.
 - A. He denied that he had not stolen my purse
 - B. though I was quite sure
 - C. that he had.
 - D. No error
9. All the players agreed to divide the cash prize between themselves without any argument.
 - A. All the players agreed to divide
 - B. the cash prize between themselves
 - C. without any argument.
 - D. No error

C. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. You must use TWO to FIVE words, including the word given. (5x2=10 points)

1. The firemen found it difficult to control the fire with such a strong wind blowing. /**UNDER**/
The firemen found it difficult to _____ with such a strong wind blowing.
2. Fiona studied computer science at university. She intends to become a software engineer.
Fiona studied computer science at university _____ a software engineer. (**VIEW**)