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**THE XXVIII NATIONAL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD -2025  
SECOND ROUND**

**FOR TEACHERS (Public schools)**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TIME: 110 min**

**TASK I. LISTENING SECTION: /20 points/**

*Listen to the audios for Part 1 and Part 2. Then, choose the best answer for each question that follows.*

*A. (track 1) Questions 1-6. Complete the form below, using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.*

EXPENSES CLAIM INFORMATION - GB AIRLINES	
Passenger name: Mr 1.....	.
Date of Departure: 2 .....	2016
Flight Number: GB1011	
Flight: From 3 .....	to London Heathrow, UK
Departure Time: 4 .....	p.m.
Expenses Claimed:	
5 .....	Hotel, 73 euros
6 .....	Taxis

*Questions 7-10. Complete the sentences below with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER.*

7. The customer had the ..... option for his previous flight.
8. There are three meal options without meat: vegetarian, vegan, and .....
9. The vegan option doesn't contain any ....., eggs, fowl, or honey.
10. The meal option for the customer's flight to Kiev must be changed ..... before the departure time.

*B. (track 2) Questions 11-14. Listen to a radio interview with a self-publishing expert and choose the four things she says new writers must have before self-publishing.*

- A. an impeccably edited novel
- B. another finished novel
- C. a budget
- D. a solid marketing plan
- E. a new novel in progress
- F. a lot of money on the side
- G. a good understanding of grammar

*Questions 15-17. Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.*

15. Patricia Abaddon's first novel
- a. was a commercial success.
  - b. had mediocre sales.
  - c. performed terribly.

16. For the first year after her novel's publication, Patricia Abaddon
  - a. avoided checking how many copies she sold.
  - b. was depressed about the results.
  - c. was relatively happy with how the novel was doing.
17. Patricia Abaddon subscribed to writing magazines because
  - a. she wanted to find out about writing competitions.
  - b. it was a good way to build a fan base.
  - c. she wanted to read advice from professionals.

Questions 18-20. Complete the sentences below with **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS**.

18. Patricia Abaddon published her second novel under a ..... because she didn't want her readers to know about her first novel.
19. Patricia Abaddon used her website and her pages on ..... to promote her second novel.
20. By the time her second novel was out, Patricia Abaddon wanted her third novel to be .....

**TASK II. VOCABULARY SECTION: /20 points/**

A. Choose the correct answer that best completes each item.

21. Fairy tales, such as "Hansel and Gretel" and "Cinderella," have given stepmothers a reputation for being \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. holistic
  - b. diabolic
  - c. unassuming
  - d. unprecedented
22. Hang-gliding produces a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_ that few other activities can match.
  - a. exhilaration
  - b. decorum
  - c. connotation
  - d. atrophy
23. Superstitious people believe that a cold, clammy wind \_\_\_\_\_ from the "haunted" house on Elm Street.
  - a. synchronizes
  - b. vindicates
  - c. emanates
  - d. mitigates
24. To \_\_\_\_\_ their movements so well, the dancers must practice doing the steps together for hours.
  - a. chide
  - b. extricate
  - c. mitigate
  - d. synchronize
25. Rules of \_\_\_\_\_ change over the years. For instance, my grandmother says that a lady always wears a hat to church, but few young women do so nowadays.
  - a. analogy
  - b. decorum
  - c. panacea
  - d. placebo
26. When my sister's new boyfriend came chugging up in a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ van with no windows, my father offered to pay for a taxi.
  - a. exorbitant
  - b. objective
  - c. dilapidated
  - d. unprecedented
27. In order to find a ring of spies trying to learn military secrets, the government agent pretended to be involved in \_\_\_\_\_ activities.
  - a. indolent
  - b. unilateral
  - c. holistic
  - d. subversive
28. After keeping her angry feelings about her brother bottled up for months, Lana finally exploded with a \_\_\_\_\_ of his irresponsible ways.
  - a. yen
  - b. criterion
  - c. panacea
  - d. denunciation
29. It's amazing how I can \_\_\_\_\_ a thousand mosquitoes with bug spray, and an hour later another thousand appear.
  - a. espouse
  - b. annihilate
  - c. facilitate
  - d. vindicate
30. Neighbors of the chemical company became suspicious that \_\_\_\_\_ fumes were coming from the plant when several of them became mysteriously ill.
  - a. utilitarian
  - b. unassuming
  - c. noxious
  - d. imperative
31. My mother considers baked custard a **panacea**. According to her, it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. is the worst-tasting thing in the world.
  - b. cures everything from flu to a broken heart.
  - c. should be saved for special occasions.
  - d. tastes good, but is not good for us.
32. A truly **unprecedented** event would be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. an eclipse of the sun.
  - b. a musical as good as *West Side Story*.
  - c. the landing of the humans on the moon.
  - d. a TV interview with an alien life form.

33. Right after his heart attack, Alec's grip on life was so **tenuous** that his doctors \_\_\_\_\_
- did not expect him to live.
  - admired his fighting spirit.
  - were amazed at his quick recovery.
  - realized the heart attack had been mild.
34. When my boyfriend of two years dumped me, I wasn't surprised to hear my **staunch** friend say,
- "He wasn't good enough for you, anyway."
  - "I don't want to hear about it"
  - "Would you mind if I started dating him?"
  - "It was probably your fault."
35. "Under the word '**indolent**' in the dictionary, there should be an illustration of my cat," claimed Ari. "All day long, Tabby \_\_\_\_\_
- hunts and kills mice and insects."
  - lies in the sun. Then she takes a nap."
  - eats as though she were starving."
  - purrs, licks my hand, and begs to be petted."
36. Commenting on **exorbitant** prices in the restaurant, Willy said, \_\_\_\_\_
- "No wonder the restaurant is popular-it's such a bargain!"
  - "The prices don't make sense -why is the lobster less expensive than the spaghetti?"
  - "A cup of soup here costs more than a full meal anywhere else!"
  - "Nothing is cheap, but nothing is very expensive either-the prices are reasonable."
37. Wanting to **assimilate** to life in Mexico, Brenda \_\_\_\_\_
- arranged to return to the United States.
  - enrolled in intensive Spanish classes, ate Mexican food, and made Mexican friends.
  - bought lots of souvenirs to send to her friends in the United States.
  - rented an apartment in an American community where she could speak only English.
38. When Brett asked Rhonda for a date, this was her **nonchalant** response \_\_\_\_\_
- "No, Brett, I don't want to go out with you. Not today, not tomorrow, not ever."
  - "Ok, that sounds good."
  - "I...well...I'm just not sure...I might have other plans...Can I get back to you later?"
  - "Oh, wow, that'd really be great! I'm so excited-I can't wait!"
39. Because Ben and Susan had asked for **utilitarian** wedding gifts, a group of friends bought them \_\_\_\_\_
- A whoopee cushions, rubber chickens, and fake spiders dangling from long threads.
  - Silk bedsheets, French champagne, and Russian caviar.
  - a set of dishes and silverware.
  - dozens of roses to decorate their apartment.
40. After the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, the United States formed a **coalition** of \_\_\_\_\_
- American flags displayed on streets, in front of homes, and in the windows of businesses.
  - photographs of the thousands of people who had been killed.
  - promises to find and punish those who were responsible for the attacks.
  - countries that agreed to join with the United States in its battle against terrorism.

### TASK III. READING SECTION: /20 points/

A. Read the passage below. Then, choose the best answer for each question that follows.

#### Robots and us

*Three leaders in their fields answer questions about our relationships with robots.*

When asked 'Should robots be used to colonise other planets?', cosmology and astrophysics Professor Martin Rees said he believed the solar system would be mapped by robotic craft by the end of the century. 'The next step would be mining of asteroids, enabling fabrication of large structures in space without having to bring all the raw materials from Earth. ... I think this is more realistic and benign than the ... '**terraforming**' of planets.' He maintains that colonised planets 'should be preserved with a status that is analogous to Antarctica here on Earth.'

On the question of using robots to colonise other planets and exploit mineral resources, engineering Professor Daniel Wolpert replied, 'I don't see a pressing need to colonise other planets unless we can bring

[these] resources back to Earth. The vast majority of Earth is currently inaccessible to us. Using robots to gather resources nearer to home would seem to be a better use of our robotic tools.'

Meanwhile, for anthropology Professor Kathleen Richardson, the idea of 'colonisation' of other planets seemed morally dubious: 'I think whether we do something on Earth or on Mars we should always do it in the spirit of a genuine interest in "the Other", not to impose a particular model, but to meet "the Other".'

In response to the second question, 'How soon will machine intelligence outstrip human intelligence?', Rees mentions robots that are advanced enough to beat humans at chess, but then goes on to say, 'Robots are still limited in their ability to sense their environment: they can't yet recognise and move the pieces on a real chessboard as cleverly as a child can. Later this century, however, their more advanced successors may relate to their surroundings, and to people, as adeptly as we do. Moral questions then arise. ... Should we feel guilty about exploiting [sophisticated robots]? Should we fret if they are underemployed, frustrated, or bored?'

Wolpert's response to the question about machine intelligence outstripping human intelligence was this: 'In a limited sense, it already has. Machines can already navigate, remember and search for items with an ability that far outstrips humans. However, there is no machine that can identify visual objects or speech with the reliability and flexibility of humans... Expecting a machine close to the creative intelligence of a human within the next 50 years would be highly ambitious.'

Richardson believes that our fear of machines becoming too advanced has more to do with human nature than anything intrinsic to the machines themselves. In her view, it stems from humans' tendency to personify inanimate objects: we create machines based on representations of ourselves, imagine that machines think and behave as we do, and therefore see them as an autonomous threat. 'One of the consequences of thinking that the problem lies with machines is that ... we tend to imagine **they** are greater and more powerful than they really are and subsequently they become so.'

This led on to the third question, 'Should we be scared by advances in artificial intelligence?' To this question, Rees replied, 'Those who should be worried are the futurologists who believe in the so-called "singularity". ... And another worry is that we are increasingly dependent on computer networks, and that these could behave like a single "brain" with a mind of its own, and with goals that may be contrary to human welfare. I think we should ensure that robots remain as no more than "idiot savants" lacking the capacity to outwit us, even though they may greatly surpass us in the ability to calculate and process information.'

Wolpert's response was to say that we have already seen the damaging effects of artificial intelligence in the form of computer viruses. 'But in this case,' he says, 'the real intelligence is the malicious designer. Critically, the benefits of computers outweigh the damage that computer viruses cause. Similarly, while there may be misuses of robotics in the near future, the benefits that they will bring are likely to outweigh these negative aspects.'

Richardson's response to this question was this: 'We need to ask why fears of artificial intelligence and robots persist; none have in fact risen up and challenged human supremacy.' She believes that as robots have never shown themselves to be a threat to humans, it seems unlikely that they ever will. In fact, she went on, 'Not all fear [robots]; many people welcome machine intelligence.'

In answer to the fourth question, 'What can science fiction tell us about robotics?', Rees replied, 'I sometimes advise students that it's better to read first-rate science fiction than second-rate science – more stimulating, and perhaps no more likely to be wrong.'

As his response, Wolpert commented, 'Science fiction has often been remarkable at predicting the future. ... Science fiction has painted a vivid spectrum of possible futures, from cute and helpful robots to dystopian robotic societies. Interestingly, almost no science fiction envisages a future without robots.'

Finally, on the question of science fiction, Richardson pointed out that in modern society, people tend to think there is reality on the one hand, and fiction and fantasy on the other. She then explained that the division did not always exist, and that scientists and technologists made this separation because they wanted to carve out the sphere of their work. 'But the divide is not so clear cut, and that is why the worlds seem to collide at times,' she said. 'In some cases, we need to bring these different understandings together to get a whole perspective. Perhaps then, we won't be so frightened that something we create as a copy of ourselves will be a [threat] to us.'

41. What point does Richardson make about the fear of machines?
- It has grown alongside the development of ever more advanced robots.
  - It demonstrates a key difference between human intelligence and machine intelligence.
  - It has its origins in basic misunderstandings about how inanimate objects function.
  - It is the result of our inclination to attribute human characteristics to non-human entities.
42. What potential advance does Rees see as a cause for concern?
- robots outnumbering people
  - robots having abilities which humans do not
  - artificial intelligence developing independent thought
  - artificial intelligence taking over every aspect of our lives
43. What does Wolpert emphasise in his response to the question about science fiction?
- how science fiction influences our attitudes to robots
  - how fundamental robots are to the science fiction genre
  - how the image of robots in science fiction has changed over time
  - how reactions to similar portrayals of robots in science fiction may vary
44. What is Richardson doing in her comment about reality and fantasy?
- warning people not to confuse one with the other
  - outlining ways in which one has impacted on the other
  - recommending a change of approach in how people view them
  - explaining why scientists have a different perspective on them from other people
45. In the passage, the phrase “morally dubious” is used to suggest that the idea of colonising other planets is ...
- legally prohibited under international agreements
  - ethically questionable rather than clearly right or wrong
  - ethically unfeasible with current technology
  - environmentally destructive beyond repair
46. What does the phrase “more realistic and benign” (paragraph 1) most nearly mean as used by Rees?
- technologically simpler but scientifically less ambitious
  - less harmful and more achievable than alternative approaches
  - economically profitable and politically acceptable
  - slower to implement but ethically unquestionable
47. As used by Rees, “terraforming” most nearly means ...
- extracting mineral resources from uninhabited planets
  - preserving planets in their natural state for scientific study
  - constructing artificial habitats in space using non-Earth materials
  - deliberately altering a planet’s environment to make it suitable for human life
48. What is Richardson primarily criticising when she argues that humans “imagine [machines] are greater and more powerful than they really are”?
- the technical exaggeration of machine capabilities by engineers
  - the media’s role in promoting dystopian narratives
  - a psychological tendency that distorts human judgment
  - the lack of ethical regulation in robotics research
49. In the phrase “one of the consequences of thinking that the problem lies with machines is that ... they become so,” what does “they” refer to?
- the problems associated with machines
  - machines themselves
  - humans’ fears about technology
  - representations humans create of machines
50. Which option best paraphrases the following sentence?  
*“But the divide is not so clear cut, and that is why the worlds seem to collide at times.” (Richardson, paragraph 12)*

- a. The distinction between science and fiction is often blurred, which sometimes causes confusion or tension between the two.
- b. Science and fiction are fundamentally separate, but people occasionally mix them intentionally.
- c. Conflicts arise when scientists refuse to acknowledge the influence of fiction on their work.
- d. Fiction frequently contradicts scientific facts, which explains why science and fiction are incompatible.

*B. Questions 51-57. Match the following statements with the correct expert.*

51. For our own safety, humans will need to restrict the abilities of robots.
  - a. Martin Rees
  - b. Daniel Wolpert
  - c. Kathleen Richardson
52. The risk of robots harming us is less serious than humans believe it to be.
  - a. Martin Rees
  - b. Daniel Wolpert
  - c. Kathleen Richardson
53. It will take many decades for robot intelligence to be as imaginative as human intelligence.
  - a. Martin Rees
  - b. Daniel Wolpert
  - c. Kathleen Richardson
54. We may have to start considering whether we are treating robots fairly.
  - a. Martin Rees
  - b. Daniel Wolpert
  - c. Kathleen Richardson
55. Robots are probably of more help to us on Earth than in space.
  - a. Martin Rees
  - b. Daniel Wolpert
  - c. Kathleen Richardson
56. The ideas in high-quality science fiction may prove to be just as accurate as those found in the work of mediocre scientists.
  - a. Martin Rees
  - b. Daniel Wolpert
  - c. Kathleen Richardson
57. There are those who look forward to robots developing greater intelligence.
  - a. Martin Rees
  - b. Daniel Wolpert
  - c. Kathleen Richardson

*C. Questions 58-60. Complete the following sentences with the correct ending, A-D, below.*

- A. robots to explore outer space.
- B. advances made in machine intelligence so far.
- C. changes made to other planets for our own benefit.
- D. the harm already done by artificial intelligence.

58. Richardson and Rees express similar views regarding the ethical aspect of ....
59. Rees and Wolpert share an opinion about the extent of ....
60. Wolpert disagrees with Richardson on the question of ....

**TASK IV. GRAMMAR SECTION: Choose the correct option. /20 points/**

*A. Question 61-75. Choose the one expression that must be changed in order to correct the sentence.*

61. The old ladies were collecting money for people who needed some help at Christmas so, after my wife and I discussed it, we decided to put £20 their collection box.
  - a. were collecting money
  - b. needed some help
  - c. I discussed it
  - d. put £20 their collection box
62. Elaine handed Michael the letter that someone had sent her and told him to read it to me, but I asked him to show it me because I wanted to see the signature.
  - a. handed Michael the letter
  - b. sent her
  - c. read it to me
  - d. show it me
63. His right hand may have been badly injured and he probably won't be able to type, so I thought that I will offer to do some typing for him.
  - a. may have been
  - b. won't
  - c. be able to
  - d. will



