

DISTINCTION SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENT TEST

STANDARD EIGHT - 2020



ENGLISH: LANGUAGE

Time: 1hr 40 mins

Fill in the blank spaces numbered 1 to 15 with the best alternative from the choices given.

The 1 marker of sporting 2 is participation in the Olympic Games. Qualifying 3 the games in any 4 bestows upon 5 competitor the 6 of being among the 7 of the 8. When 9 started the Games almost 2,800 years ago, the 10 Greeks had 11 their guiding Philosophy 12 it was not 13 much the winning that 14 but taking part 15 discovering the best in oneself.

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|------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. A. ultimate | B. penultimate | C. coloured | D. only |
| 2. A. activity | B. power | C. event | D. achievement |
| 3. A. at | B. in | C. for | D. of |
| 4. A. discipline | B. race | C. sports | D. item |
| 5. A. one | B. a | C. the | D. these |
| 6. A. statement | B. status | C. state | D. stating |
| 7. A. topmost | B. elite | C. world | D. event |
| 8. A. region | B. county | C. world | D. event |
| 9. A. we | B. it | C. this | D. they |
| 10. A. ancient | B. modern | C. local | D. barbaric |
| 11. A. as | B. on | C. in | D. of |
| 12. A. and | B. but | C. that | D. thought |
| 13. A. too | B. quite | C. so | D. rather |
| 14. A. wished | B. mattered | C. muttered | D. cared |
| 15. A. or | B. in | C. with | D. and |

For questions 16 to 18, choose the word that fits in the blank space.

16. The young boy _____ the watch as he set the time.
A. winded B. turned
C. wound D. wounded
17. I could see him in a corner _____ the room was dark.
A. because B. if
C. since D. although
18. He was _____ late for school but also rude to the teacher.
A. either B. not only
C. neither D. both

Choose the best form of adjective to complete the following.

19. This is the _____ of the two boys.
A. funnier B. more funny
C. funniest D. most funny
20. Of the triplets, Joan is the _____
A. cleverer B. most cleverest
C. cleverest D. clever.

In questions 21 and 22, choose the best option to fill in the blanks.

21. With a nail, the lion _____ at the zebra.
A. spring B. sprung
C. sprang D. spranged

22. It only I had known, I _____ have come to see you.
 A. would B. could
 C. should D. may
23. The tittle girl look scared, _____?
 A. doesn't she B. does she
 C. is it D. isn't it
24. Few of my friends are coming, _____?
 A. aren't they B. will they
 C. are they D. won't they
- Choose the correctly spelt word.**
25. A. Mispell
 B. Enmity
 C. Definate
 D. Occassion

Read the passage below and then and answer questions 26 to 38.

The bullets got fired into the crowd severally soon after the governor, my father, a witty short plump man, arrived. I saw him slump on the ground as his security detail swung into action. Great pandemonium broke out. All and sundry ran helter-skelter in a bid to escape.

As I was running, I bumped into a gigantic man clad in a nut-brown suit boarding a flashy slate grey Toyota Avensis. "Hop in as you are in mortal danger," the man called out amid the hue and cry at the chaotic scene. Thanking him from the bottom of my heart, I joined two other passengers in the backseat. We exchanged pleasantries and afterwards, the driver ignited the engine and drove away.

Soon, the two muscular men in raven black apparels, sandwiched me between them. What was going on? Who were these men? Such and many other questions caused turmoil in my brain. My heart pounded my chest and I broke into a cold sweat.

A mirthless laughter designed to annoy me left the mouth of the one who seemed to be the ring-leader. "Although our mission failed, we have the governor's son".

It then dawned on me like clouds opening to reveal the sun that I had been abducted after father's assassination bid failed. I tried to scream but before I could do it, I was dealt a hefty blow on my head. Several coloured stars danced before my eyes then I passed out.

On coming to I found myself in an ornately furnished room. I had been bound hand and foot and one of my abductors was closely watching me. His phone then rang. "The coast is clear, bring him in," said a voice on the other end. I was frogmarched to an even bigger house and thrown into a dark room. As helpless as a babe, I sat at a corner of the room, a vortex of emotions swirling in my mind. Knowing bell-clear that regrets come after deeds, I remembered what my father had told me earlier on, "Stay at home, do not worry about my career because most people are after my soul, politics is a dirty game."

The door knob turned presumably two hours later. A man walked in, training a gun on me. "Your time to die is now," the man snarled. On hearing that my stomach churned. I closed my eyes to wait for the worst to happen. 'Boom! Boom! Boom!' The report of rifles rent the air. I opened my eyes to the utter shock of seeing the assassin lying on the floor. Beside them stood five men in blue each training a gun on the bullet riddled body as if expecting it to come back to life and run.

It was then that I truly understood why they say that politics is a dirty game.

26. According to paragraph one, it is true to say that
 A. the governor was shot and killed.
 B. the governor's security detail shot the crowd
 C. several shots were fired indiscriminately
 D. the governor was safe.
27. All the following describe the governor, except
 A. muscled B. clever
 C. lean D. short.
28. All and sundry ran 'helter skelter' suggests that
 A. people were running to save the writer
 B. there was a lot of fighting and violence
 C. people were running in all directions.
 D. people were running in two directions only.
29. Mortal danger suggests that the writer was
 A. at risk of drying
 B. at risk of getting injured
 C. at risk of suffering a gunshot wound
 D. at risk of getting wounded.

30. How many people were in the Toyota Avensis?
 A. At least three. B. At least four.
 C. At most six D. At least five.
31. When did the writer realize that he was in danger?
 A. Before they drove off.
 B. After they exchange pleasantness.
 C. Just as the were driving off.
 D. Soon after they drove off.
32. It is evident in paragraph four that
 A. the men did not know the writer
 B. the writer knew who the ring leader was
 C. the writer was captured as ransom
 D. the men's mission was to kill the governor.
33. The writer was dealt a heavy blow on his head
 A. before he could scream
 B. after he screamed
 C. when his kidnappers realized who he was
 D. after his father's assassination bid failed.
34. The phrase 'pass out' is underlined. Its antonym is
 A. pass on B. come to
 C. pass off D. come into.
35. It then '**dawned on me**' this means that
 A. it became strange to the writer
 B. it became hotter for the writer
 C. it became sudden to the writer
 D. it became obvious to the writer.
36. Which one of the following is not true about the writer's predicament?
 A. He knew not where he had been taken.
 B. He had taken his father's warning with a pinch of salt.
 C. He did not know of the danger that lurked.
 D. He had been warned to stay away.
37. The kidnappers' intention at the end was to
 A. trick the governor and kill him
 B. kill the governor's son
 C. ask for ransom
 D. send the writer home with a message.
38. Which one of the following would be the **best** title for the passage?
 A. Elections.
 B. The assassins.
 C. Look before you leap.
 D. Ransom.

Read the passage below and then answer questions 39 to 50.

When mature, the coconut palm stands anything from fifty to a hundred feet high. Its slender, graceful trunk is crowned by a feathery plume of green leaves.

It has a fragile look but it is well equipped to withstand strong wind. The flexible trunk of the coconut palm bows before the wind. As the wind drops, it straightens itself up to tower proudly over the coast.

High out of reach, in the middle of clusters of foliage, grow the coconuts, about fifty on each tree. They take a year to ripen. A hard fibrous shell surrounds the kernel of the fruit. Inside is a white, fleshy material which is the food which feeds the plant-seed when it starts to grow. The centre of the coconut is filled with 'milk' which serves to nourish the germinating plant. Coconuts are often blown from the trees, and washed out to sea. The nuts float easily on water, and can be carried to far places. If they settle on dry lands near the coast, the nuts grow into coconut palm trees. It is in this way that it has become so widely spread along the coasts of many countries and islands. The people who live at the coast are always ready to climb the trees when the crop is ripe, cutting away the nuts and letting them fall to the ground to be collected together.

The coconut tree has always grown fairly close to the sea, and the rough brown fibre that covers the nuts has acquired a great resistance to salt water. The fibre, called coir, is used for making ropes, brushes and brooms. The hard part of the shell, which is smooth and watertight, makes excellent drinking vessels. The leaves are woven, while still green, into mats and baskets and in many parts of the coast, are used for thatching.

The most valuable part of the tree is the copra, the nutty part of the fruit, which is dried and squeezed for its high oil content. Copra may be dried in the sun, or by machines in factories. Coconut oil is a very important raw material which is bought and sold throughout the world. It provides us with soap, detergents, glycerine, synthetic rubber and even brake

fluids. In refined form, it is very nourishing, and it is used for cooking. Coconut oil contains an acid which prevents food from going bad. For this reason, the oil is used in cakes and bread as food preservative, to give food a longer shelf-life. But the greater demand for coconut oil comes from the manufacturers of margarine, who use it in large quantities.

The people who live at the coast make a drink from the sap or juice, which is obtained by making a cut on the flower stalk. This liquid may be drunk fresh or it may be fermented into a highly alcoholic palm wine, which when distilled makes a very strong drink.

The same buds that produce this drink develop into cabbage-like growths which are eaten as a salad. If the buds are left to ripen, they eventually form a type of a coconut whose oils, extracted from the copra, provide a livelihood for many people. When the tree has reached a ripe old age it is felled and used for building houses. For the people who live at the coast and know its many uses, the coconut palm is a queen among trees.

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39. All the following are true about a mature coconut palm except
- A. It is fifty and a hundred feet high
 - B. It is slim
 - C. It has a graceful trunk
 - D. It has green leaves.
40. The trunk of the coconut palm
- A. is fragile
 - B. is quite sturdy
 - C. is quite proud
 - D. bows after the wind.
41. The part of a coconut fruit which helps to feed the growing plant is
- A. the clusters of foliage
 - B. the white fleshy material and the milk
 - C. the hard fibrous shell
 - D. the kernel of the fruit.
42. How many fruits does a tree bear?
- A. At most fifty.
 - B. At least fifty.
 - C. Exactly fifty.
 - D. Approximately fifty.
43. Coconut palm trees have spread along Coastline and Island mainly because
- A. of being planted by locals
 - B. of the climate
 - C. of their method of dispersal
 - D. of the ocean water.
44. The most valuable part of a coconut palm tree is the
- A. copra
 - B. coir
 - C. leaves
 - D. smooth shell used as vessels
45. The hard part of the shell is water light, suggesting
- A. it is excellent
 - B. has a lot of water
 - C. allows no water to sip through
 - D. allows no air to come in.
46. Coconut oil in its refined form
- A. is used for cooking
 - B. prevents food from going bad
 - C. makes brake fluid
 - D. is used in cakes.
47. Coconut oil is used in cakes and bread as a food preservative because it contains
- A. sugar
 - B. salt
 - C. an acid
 - D. nutrients.
48. The sap from the flower stalk can be used in all the following ways except
- A. as a fresh drink
 - B. as a fermented drink
 - C. as a distilled drink
 - D. as a raw material for margarine.
49. When the coconut palm tree is old enough
- A. it is cut down and used for construction
 - B. it is brought down by the wind
 - C. it produces more fruits
 - D. it is carried off in the ocean.
50. A suitable title for this passage would be
- A. The coconut palm - a queen among trees.
 - B. The coconut palm and the people of the coast.
 - C. The fruits of the coconut palm tree.
 - D. Coconut oil and its many uses.
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