

Mindbenz Olympiad of English (MOE)

Sample Paper

Grade- 8

Maximum Marks: 60

Time Allowed – 55 Minutes

Section: A Grammar Basic (10 Questions × 1 mark = 10 marks)

1. Identify the sentence with the correct use of a modal verb:

- a) You must to complete the assignment before Monday.
- b) He might be at the office now.
- c) You should speak to her about it.
- d) They could have called you earlier.

2. Choose the sentence that uses a gerund correctly:

- a) I enjoy to swim during summer.
- b) She avoided to talk to strangers.
- c) Reading helps improve vocabulary.
- d) He suggested us to go there.

3. Which sentence contains an error in tense usage?

- a) I was watching TV when she called.
- b) By the time we arrived, the show had started.
- c) He will finishes his work soon.
- d) They have been living here for five years.

4. Identify the correctly transformed sentence in indirect speech:

- a) He said, "I am watching a movie." → He said that he is watching a movie.
- b) She said, "I have finished my work." → She said that she had finished her work.
- c) They said, "We will come tomorrow." → They said that they will come the next day.
- d) I said, "I can do it." → I said that I could doing it.

5. Choose the correct question tag:

- a) You didn't attend the meeting, isn't it?
- b) He has gone to school, hasn't he?
- c) They weren't angry, were they not?
- d) She can dance, can't she not?

6. Which sentence uses an infinitive incorrectly?

- a) She wants to go abroad for studies.
- b) He made me to repeat the sentence.
- c) It is important to listen carefully.
- d) I hope to meet you again.

7. Choose the most appropriate collocation:

- a) She made a heavy mistake in the test.
- b) He runs fastly in the race.
- c) They had a narrow escape.
- d) I have a strong headache.

8. Find the grammatically correct sentence:

- a) The committee have decided to postpone their meeting.
- b) Hardly had he reached the station when the train had left.
- c) If I was you, I would not ignore the warning.
- d) No sooner had the bell rung than the students settled down.

9. Which option shows the correct use of a homophone?

- a) The principle greeted the students.
- b) She tied the knot with a knew ribbon.
- c) I can't bare this pain any longer.
- d) He knew the answer before anyone else.

10. Identify the sentence that needs improvement:

- a) No sooner he had reached than it started raining.
 - b) The movie was so boring that we left halfway.
 - c) She seldom goes out these days.
 - d) If I were you, I would apologise immediately.
-

Section: B Vocabulary & Usage (10 Questions × 1 mark = 10 marks)

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

"Echoes of the Forgotten Mind"

In a secluded corner of the university library, Aarav often found himself engulfed in dusty tomes and forgotten manuscripts, far removed from the din of modern academia. While his peers rushed to complete assignments with algorithmic precision, Aarav relished the labyrinthine elegance of ancient rhetoric and arcane philosophies. To him, knowledge was not a commodity to be acquired, but a labyrinth to be explored—each turn uncertain, each insight hard-earned.

Aarav's intellectual pursuits were often met with skepticism. Professors lauded his curiosity but doubted the practicality of his methods. Friends found his introspections overwhelming and his metaphors abstruse. Yet, Aarav remained resolute, believing that the soul of scholarship lay not in replication but in interpretation. He often described the educational system as 'a river paved with mirrors'—appearing deep, yet often reflecting only surface brilliance.

During a debate on technological disruption in education, Aarav invoked the idiom 'read between the lines' to critique how most learners consumed knowledge passively, failing to question its origin, intention, or bias. His eloquence was unsettling to some, inspiring to others. He articulated his stance with an unwavering poise, asserting that modern learning, in its race for efficiency, had forsaken the slow, painful but transformative process of internalization.

To Aarav, true wisdom lay in the convergence of curiosity and contemplation. He didn't shun modern tools but abhorred their uncritical adoption. His writings, though esoteric, bore the weight of thought—a rare quality in an age obsessed with brevity. As he once inscribed on a torn page of his notebook: 'Let not the tyranny of urgency dilute the cadence of reflection.'

Questions:

11. What is the synonym of 'labyrinthine' as used in the passage?

- A) Straightforward
- B) Complex
- C) Predictable
- D) Shallow

12. What does the idiom 'read between the lines' mean in context?

- A) Highlight the main point
- B) Understand the hidden meaning
- C) Skim quickly
- D) Follow instructions

13. What is the antonym of 'esoteric'?

- A) Obscure
- B) Commonplace
- C) Arcane
- D) Rare

14. The phrase 'a river paved with mirrors' most likely symbolizes:

- A) A flowing stream of knowledge
- B) A deceptive form of depth
- C) A clear educational path
- D) A place for relaxation

15. What does the word 'abstruse' mean as used in the passage?

- A) Easy to understand
- B) Vague
- C) Difficult to comprehend
- D) Childish

16. Which word is closest in meaning to 'unwavering'?

- A) Hesitant
- B) Doubtful
- C) Steady
- D) Casual

17. The antonym of 'forsaken' is:

- A) Abandoned
- B) Embraced
- C) Forgotten
- D) Misused

18. What does 'tyranny of urgency' imply in the passage?

- A) Freedom through pressure
- B) The oppression caused by constant haste
- C) The value of immediate action
- D) The beauty of last-minute work

19. Aarav's tone throughout the passage can best be described as:

- A) Arrogant and boastful
- B) Reflective and critical
- C) Indifferent and dismissive
- D) Cheerful and informal

20. Which of the following idioms would best reflect Aarav's mindset?

- A) Slow and steady wins the race
 - B) Time waits for no one
 - C) Think outside the box
 - D) Actions speak louder than words
-

Section: C Language & Mastery (2 Questions × 2 mark = 40 marks)

21. Identify the sentence with the incorrect prepositional phrase:

- a) The book on the shelf belongs to me.
- b) She is fond in classical music.
- c) The man with the red hat is my uncle.
- d) We walked along the beach at sunset.

22. Choose the sentence where the modal is used incorrectly:

- a) You must finish your homework before watching TV.
- b) He could plays the piano when he was younger.
- c) You should see a doctor about that cough.
- d) May I borrow your notes?

23. Which of the following contains a correctly used participial phrase?

- a) Barking loudly, the postman ran from the dog.

- b) Tired of waiting, she left the room quietly.
- c) He climbed the ladder, holding a bag in his teeth.
- d) Jumping high, the basket was easily reached.

24. Which sentence contains a homonym used incorrectly?

- a) The wind blew through the trees.
- b) She will lead the team to victory.
- c) The knight rode into the night.
- d) They couldn't bare the heat.

25. Choose the correct collocation:

- a) She did a big accident.
- b) He made a strong decision.
- c) They had a heated argument.
- d) We took a quick sleep.

26. Identify the correctly formed infinitive phrase:

- a) She suggested to go by train.
- b) They planned going early.
- c) We hope to see you soon.
- d) He avoided to answer.

27. Choose the most appropriate one-word substitution for: A person who talks too much:

- a) Taciturn
- b) Orator
- c) Loquacious
- d) Reticent

28. Which of the following is an incorrectly formed sentence tag?

- a) You're coming, aren't you?
- b) He didn't go there, did he?
- c) She can't swim, can she?
- d) You won the prize, didn't you not?

29. Which sentence needs error correction?

- a) The team has been playing well this season.

- b) She do not like going to crowded places.
- c) Neither of the boys was present.
- d) Everyone in the room was silent.

30. Choose the sentence with the correct determiner usage:

- a) There isn't many sugar left.
- b) Few people knows the answer.
- c) Each of the questions was difficult.
- d) Much students failed the exam.

31. Identify the sentence that shifts from a compound to a complex structure:

- a) He studied hard, and he passed the test.
- b) He passed the test because he studied hard.
- c) He studied hard and passed.
- d) He studied hard. He passed the test.

32. Choose the most contextually accurate phrasal verb to complete the sentence:

Despite multiple warnings, the company refused to _____ its unsafe practices.

- a) iron out
- b) own up
- c) back down
- d) fall through

33. Which sentence demonstrates the correct voice change from active to passive?

- a) She sings a song. → A song is sung by her.
- b) He is watching the movie. → The movie is being watched by him.
- c) They play cricket. → Cricket is being played by them.
- d) I have cleaned the room. → The room was cleaned by me.

34. Which sentence contains the correct use of gerund?

- a) She enjoys to dance on weekends.
- b) I avoided to talk to him.
- c) Walking is a good exercise.
- d) He insisted me to leaving.

35. Choose the correctly jumbled sentence order:

- a) Was / worried / about / very / she / results / her
- b) The / river / by / stood / we / watching / quietly
- c) Books / always / interesting / finds / she
- d) Late / arrived / train / the / station / at / the

36. Identify the spelling error in the sentence:

- a) The argument was unnecessary and childish.
- b) She recieved the award with grace.
- c) The artist painted a magnificent portrait.
- d) They celebrated their anniversary in Goa.

37. Choose the sentence that needs sentence improvement:

- a) No sooner had he arrived than the show began.
- b) He is more faster than his brother.
- c) I prefer tea to coffee.
- d) If I were you, I'd tell the truth.

38. Identify the sentence that demonstrates a subtle misuse of participial phrase resulting in ambiguity:

- a) While driving to work, a deer suddenly crossed my path.
- b) The boy, frightened by the thunder, hid under the bed.
- c) Laughing loudly, she entered the room.
- d) Exhausted from the trip, he fell asleep quickly.

39. Choose the best opening for a notice about a lost item:

- a) Please everyone look here!
- b) Lost! A black leather wallet in the school cafeteria.
- c) I lost something yesterday.
- d) Can someone return my wallet?

40. Choose the sentence that contains a subtle error in tense consistency or usage:

- a) I would have called you if I had known you were home.
 - b) She told me she has finished her work.
 - c) He had been practicing the piano before the concert began.
 - d) By next year, they will have completed the renovation.
-

Answer key:

Section A

1. c) You should speak to her about it.
2. c) Reading helps improve vocabulary.
3. c) He will finishes his work soon.
4. b) She said, "I have finished my work." → She said that she had finished her work.
5. b) He has gone to school, hasn't he?
6. b) He made me to repeat the sentence.
7. c) They had a narrow escape.
8. d) No sooner had the bell rung than the students settled down.
9. d) He knew the answer before anyone else.
10. a) No sooner he had reached than it started raining.

Section B

11. B) Complex
12. B) Understand the hidden meaning
13. B) Commonplace
14. B) A deceptive form of depth
15. C) Difficult to comprehend
16. C) Steady
17. B) Embraced
18. B) The oppression caused by constant haste
19. B) Reflective and critical
20. A) Slow and steady wins the race

Section C

21. b) She is fond in classical music.
22. b) He could plays the piano when he was younger.
23. b) Tired of waiting, she left the room quietly.
24. d) They couldn't bare the heat.
25. c) They had a heated argument.
26. c) We hope to see you soon.
27. c) Loquacious
28. d) You won the prize, didn't you not?
29. b) She do not like going to crowded places.
30. c) Each of the questions was difficult.
31. b) He passed the test because he studied hard.
32. c) back down
33. b) He is watching the movie. → The movie is being watched by him.

34. c) Walking is a good exercise.
35. b) The / river / by / stood / we / watching / quietly
36. b) She recieved the award with grace.
37. b) He is more faster than his brother.
38. a) While driving to work, a deer suddenly crossed my path.
39. b) Lost! A black leather wallet in the school cafeteria.
40. b) She told me she has finished her work.

MIND BENE