

Practice Set 3

A Whole Content Based Test for Class 8th English Olympiad

Directions for Q (1-5) Read the passage carefully and select the option that you consider the most appropriate answer to each question.

Children's playgrounds were at one time exciting places with 'flying foxes' to test their balance, 'monkey bars' from which they could hang precariously while viewing the world upside down and roundabouts that promised mild but thrilling bouts of nausea. Now they are bland places rarely visited by children. This has come about because municipalities are afraid that a child may fall and stub a toe, causing an angry parent to file a lawsuit claiming that the equipment is unsafe.

Recently two teenaged American girls sued a fast food company, claiming that the company was to blame for their obesity. Fortunately common sense prevailed and the case was dismissed. Given the amount of government publicity on the potential dangers of a fast food diet, surely teenagers know that an excessive intake of fats and sugars will result in weight gain. While advertising may be seductive and may present the food in enticing ways, it is the individual who makes the decision to approach the shop, purchase the food and eat it. No one forced these girls to eat these foods.

A culture of blame seems to permeate so many areas of our lives. It goes by many names. A 14-year old boy caught stealing a pair of jeans from a department store claimed that it was not really his fault. His friends made him do it, as they would not accept him as part of their group unless he complied. "Peer pressure is the real problem," explained his lawyer to the magistrate. "He was forced to steal to be accepted. Besides, the store had placed the rack of jeans outside the doorway, so some responsibility also lies with them. They should not have placed temptation in his way." Are we to believe that 14-year olds are unable to differentiate between right and wrong?

Parent lobby groups are calling for a ban on advertising of snack foods during children's TV

programmes. They claim that they are powerless to resist their children's demands for these products. They call it 'pester power'. Whatever happened to saying "No" loudly and firmly? Even better, turn off the TV and send the children out to play. But first check the backyard. Have you put away that garden rake? Is the dog tied up? Have you removed any weak branches from the tree that they could possibly climb onto? Imagine the situation if they decided to sue you for any cuts or bruises resulting from a little healthy play!

Perhaps what we all need is a dose of 'person power': the power to accept personal responsibility for our actions.

Questions

1. According to the writer, the difference between children's playgrounds of the past and present is _____.
 - a municipalities now work with parents to prevent accidents on these playgrounds
 - b the playing equipment has become old-fashioned
 - c parents don't allow their children to play there any more
 - d the playing equipment no longer interests children
2. Which phrase from the first paragraph tells us that the writer thinks the municipalities have overreacted?
 - a file a lawsuit
 - b bouts of nausea
 - c causing an angry parent
 - d a child may fall and stub a toe
3. The writer has little sympathy for the teenaged girls because she feels that _____.
 - a by suing the fast food companies, the girls are being dishonest
 - b the girls were already obese from eating other types of fast food
 - c sufficient information is available to tell that a fast food diet can lead to obesity
 - d fast food companies already receive too much negative media publicity

4. What was the main argument that the lawyer made to defend the boy who stole a pair of jeans?
- The boy was enticed into stealing the jeans because no one was watching the clothing rack.
 - The boy did not know that stealing the jeans was a criminal offence.
 - The boy's friends were undesirable characters who misled the boy.
 - The boy's decision to steal the jeans was influenced by wanting to comply with his friends' wishes.

5. The term 'pester power' is best understood as _____.
- the increasing importance of children in the family
 - the lack of resistance shown by parents to their children's demands
 - the ability of children to manipulate their parents
 - the loss of discipline among children

Directions for Q (6 -7) Fill in the blanks using suitable connectors and accordingly select the best option.

6. Childhood is the period of life _____ the seeds of character are sown.
- | | |
|------|---------|
| a in | b where |
| c if | d when |
7. Passengers are warned _____ it is dangerous to lean out of the window _____ the train is in motion.
- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| a if, after | b that, otherwise |
| c that, when | d on, when |

Directions for Q (8-9) Fill in the blanks with the correct tense of the verbs given in brackets immediately after the blanks and accordingly select the best option.

8. Irfan _____ (undergo) treatment for the past one year for his tumour.
- has been undergoing
 - is been undergoing
 - has already undergone
 - has underwent
9. The doctor who treats Satyendra _____ (say) that he _____ (discharge) tomorrow from the nursing home.
- said, will be discharged
 - has said, would be discharged
 - says, would be discharged
 - says, will be discharged

Directions for Q (10-11) The sentence given below contains an underlined word and a blank space. You have to fill in the blank using a word that is an antonym of the underlined word, and select the best option accordingly.

10. Praveen showed no sympathy towards the poor, as his attitude was full of _____.
- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| a apathy | b hostility |
| c unresponsive | d enthusiasm |
11. Mr Chawla became a spendthrift in his old age, but when he was young he was a _____.
- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| a profligate | b waster |
| c miser | d spender |

Directions for Q (12-13) Change the sentence given to passive voice so that it expresses the same idea and accordingly select the best option.

12. The History teacher punished the students who had not done their homework.
- The students who had not done their homework punished by the History teacher.
 - The students who had not done their homework had been punished by the History teacher.
 - The students who had not done their homework were punished by the History teacher.
 - The students who did not do their homework were being punished by the History teacher.
13. Our pet cat has drunk all the milk.
- All the milk has been drunk by our pet cat
 - All the milk is drunk by our pet, the cat.
 - All the milk had been drunk by the pet cat.
 - All the milk is being drunk by our pet cat.

Directions for Q (14-15) Change the sentence given below into direct speech and accordingly select the best option.

14. Ravinder asked me if I could solve that problem.
- I asked Ravinder, "Can you solve this problem?"
 - "Can you solve this problem?", Ravinder asked me.
 - I asked Ravinder, "Could you solve this problem?"
 - "Could you solve this problem?", Ravinder asked me.

15. Ulysses asked the little bird whether it had anything to tell him.

- a "Can you tell me something, little bird?" asked Ulysses.
- b Ulysses asked the little bird, "What do you have to tell me?"
- c Ulysses asked, "Little bird, have you something to tell me?"
- d "Have you anything to tell me, little bird?" asked Ulysses.

Directions for Q (16-17) Change the sentence given below into a simple sentence and accordingly select the best option.

16. As the weather was rough, the sailors cancelled the voyage across the channel.
- a The sailors cancelled the voyage across the channel because the weather was rough.
 - b The weather being rough, the sailors cancelled the voyage across the channel.
 - c The sailors cancelled the voyage across the channel because of the weather being rough.
 - d The weather was rough and so the sailors cancelled the voyage across the channel.
17. Although Beena worked very hard, she failed her exam.
- a Beena failed the exam in spite of working very hard.
 - b Beena failed the exam although she worked very hard.
 - c Beena failed the exam despite of working very hard.
 - d Although Beena failed the exam, but she had worked very hard.

18. In the passage below, the first and last sentences are identified as A and Z. The remaining four sentences are labelled as P, Q, R and S. Find the correct sequence of these four sentences and select the correct option accordingly.

- A The tribal settlement is called 'Podu'.
- P The huts have entrances as low as three to four feet.
- Q It is located in a safe place, sheltered from wild animals.
- R Bamboo is used along with sticks and twigs to make the walls, which are then plastered with mud to a height of about three feet.
- S It usually consists of a group of ten to fifty huts.
- Z The roof is made of bamboo mesh, dried grass and tree bark.

- a PQRS
- b QPSR
- c SPQR
- d QSPR

19. Find the option which is different from the others in any respect in the four options given. This means that one of the four options given does not belong to the group of the other three.

- a Cock
- b Drake
- c Doe
- d Bull

20. Select the option having the meaning nearest to the idiom underlined in the given sentence.

Damayanti crossed her fingers, wishing it would not rain on her wedding day.

- a prayed
- b hoped for good luck
- c became cheerful
- d daydreamed

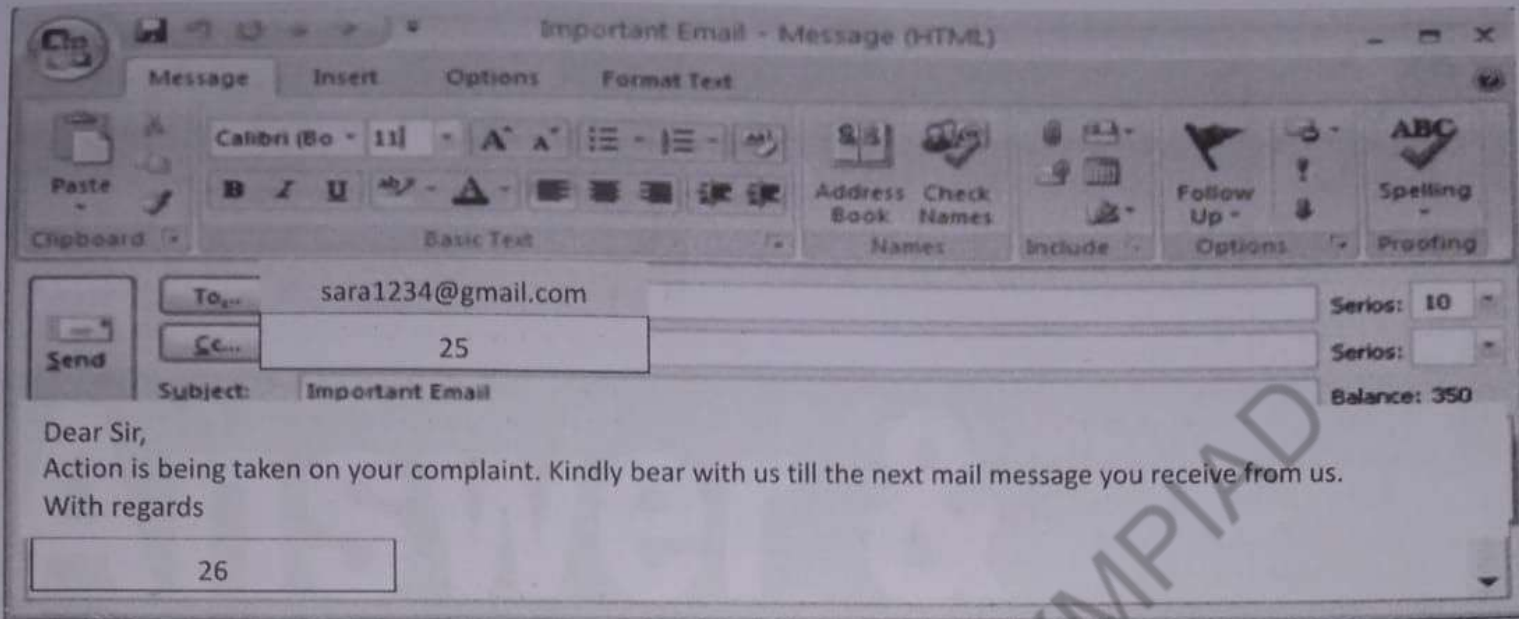
Directions for Q (21-22) Identify the grammatically correct sentence from the given options

- 21.
- a Harleen met Mohit on the first time last month.
 - b Although the money was missing, Sarita had not take it.
 - c Lata is good at playing instruments as the guitar.
 - d Please don't use your nail as a screwdriver.
- 22.
- a You may cultivate your hobbies as long as they do not interfere with your studies.
 - b Kailash has being informed of the gravity of the situation.
 - c I was indignant at the way Ashok was treated his servants.
 - d Vishwas has been hostile against me right from the beginning.

Directions for Q (23-24) Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate modal and accordingly select the best option.

23. I was worried that if I asked him again, he _____ refuse.
- a should
 - b might
 - c can
 - d may
24. If you _____ see him, give him my regards.
- a will
 - b would
 - c should
 - d shall

Directions for Q (25-26) An e-mail is given below with some parts missing, but substituted by rectangles with numbers 25 and 26. Identify the text which the numbers may be substituted by from the options given below.



25. a Sarvesh Ahuja
 b Marketing Manager
 c kalia234@gmail.com
 d pravesh*4321
26. a See you soon
 b Thanking you
 c Saurabh Educational Publishers
 d Sarvesh Ahuja, Service Department
27. Punctuate the given sentence to make it meaningful and accordingly select the best option.
- when the teacher commented that her spelling was poor karuna replied all the members of my family are poor spellers why not me
- a When the teacher commented that her spelling was poor, Karuna replied, "All the members of my family are poor spellers. Why not me?"
 b When the teacher commented, that her spelling was poor Karuna replied "all the members of my family are poor spellers. Why not me?"
 c When the teacher commented that her spelling was poor Karuna replied that all the members of her family are poor spellers. Why not me?

- d When the teacher commented that her spelling was poor Karuna replied "all the members of my family are poor spellers. Why not me?"

Directions for Q (28-29) Fill in the blanks using appropriate articles or determiners and accordingly select the best option.

28. Talib Hussain said that _____ safest place in India was _____ Sleeper compartment in _____ express train.
- a a, the, a b the, the, an
 c the, some, any d any, the, an
29. It is _____ responsibility of _____ government to protect _____ private property.
- a the, the, (no article / determiner)
 b the, any, some
 c (no article / determiner), the, any
 d a, the, any
30. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate conjunctions and accordingly select the best option.
- Sujata _____ phoned _____ wrote any message after she left home.
- a either, or b while, and
 c though, or d neither, nor

Answers

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. d | 2. a | 3. c | 4. d | 5. b | 6. d | 7. c | 8. a | 9. d | 10. b |
| 11. c | 12. c | 13. a | 14. b | 15. d | 16. b | 17. a | 18. d | 19. c | 20. b |
| 21. d | 22. a | 23. b | 24. c | 25. c | 26. d | 27. a | 28. b | 29. a | 30. d |