



SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH  
OLYMPIAD 2024-25

CLASS

9

QUESTION  
PAPER SET

C

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL ASKED TO DO SO

Total Questions: 50 | Time: 1 hr.

### Guidelines for the Candidate

You will get additional ten minutes to fill up information about yourself on the OMR Sheet, before the start of the exam.

Write your **Name, School Code, Class, Section, Roll No.** and **Mobile Number** clearly on the **OMR Sheet** and do not forget to sign it. We will share your marks / result and other information related to SOF exams on your mobile number.

The Question Paper comprises four sections:

**Word and Structure Knowledge** (30 Questions), **Reading** (10 Questions), **Spoken and Written Expression** (5 Questions) and **Achievers Section** (5 Questions).

Each question in Achievers Section carries 3 marks, whereas all other questions carry one mark each.

All questions are compulsory. There is no negative marking.

There is only ONE correct answer. Choose only ONE option for an answer.

To mark your choice of answers by darkening the circles on the OMR Sheet, use **HB Pencil** or **Blue / Black ball point pen only**. E.g.

**Q.10: Fill in the blank.**

Please teach my dog \_\_\_\_\_ a ball.

A. to fetch B. learn C. show D. to learn

10. ● ○ ○ ○ ○

As the correct answer is option A, you must darken the circle corresponding to option A on the OMR Sheet.

Return the OMR Sheet to the invigilator at the end of the exam.

Please fill in your personal details in the space provided before attempting the paper.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

SOF Olympiad Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

Contact No. \_\_\_\_\_

# WORD AND STRUCTURE KNOWLEDGE

For questions 1 to 24, choose the correct option to fill in the blank.

1. I have \_\_\_\_\_ screened every participating athlete to make sure they are not at the risk of \_\_\_\_\_ doping.  
A. feverishly, deliberately  
B. slovenly, rigged  
C. meticulously, inadvertent  
D. intently, vigilantly
2. When I initially ventured into the world of business without prior experience, my own family called me a \_\_\_\_\_ in the world of trade.  
A. compadre  
B. vigilante  
C. varlet  
D. naif
3. Regular exercise, eating right, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle are the \_\_\_\_\_ to maintaining overall well-being.  
A. sine qua non  
B. oh la vache  
C. a cappella  
D. avoir la foi
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ while going through the crucial clauses in the legal document that \_\_\_\_\_ others' comprehension.  
A. was being perspicacious, had eluded  
B. am being perspicacity, was eluded  
C. had perspicacious, has been eluding  
D. have been perspicacious, eluding
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ persuade his bosses to support his project proposal, even though it \_\_\_\_\_ cost them millions.  
A. attempted at, must  
B. managed to, would  
C. succeeded in, would have  
D. desired for, might be
6. Even after hearing the news of their business collapse, Ben remained \_\_\_\_\_ and refused to extend help to them.  
A. salutary  
B. careworn
7. While hiking, we discovered a \_\_\_\_\_, which proved to be a \_\_\_\_\_ endeavour if we wanted to ascend to the summit.  
A. gentle, desultory  
B. steep, challenging  
C. flat, facile  
D. dale, smooth
8. China became the regional \_\_\_\_\_, influencing neighbouring countries through political and economic means.  
A. hegemon  
B. hegumen  
C. hegira  
D. hegari
9. \_\_\_\_\_ his inheritance, he lives like a king without doing much.  
A. Due for  
B. Consequently  
C. Owing to  
D. Unlike
10. The moment the controversial bill was introduced, he launched into a \_\_\_\_\_ in an attempt to delay it.  
A. marabunta  
B. gallimaufry  
C. baleboste  
D. filibuster
11. Andy said, "I am going through a rough phase in my life now."  
Andy said that \_\_\_\_\_ through a rough phase in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. I was going, my life now  
B. he went, his life then  
C. he was going, his life then  
D. I had been, my life back then
12. This film is without a doubt a masterpiece despite a minor plot hole in the third act. \_\_\_\_\_, after all.  
A. even a worm will turn  
B. even Homer nods



C. fine words butter no parsnips  
D. for a song

13. They went on \_\_\_\_\_ exciting adventure  
through \_\_\_\_\_ dense forest that was once  
\_\_\_\_\_ pride of \_\_\_\_\_ state.

- A. an, a, a, no article
- B. the, a, a, a
- C. a, the, a, a
- D. an, the, the, the

14. \_\_\_\_\_ the labyrinthine corridors of the castle,  
cryptic inscriptions were found carved \_\_\_\_\_  
the walls.

- A. At, up
- B. On, in
- C. In, on
- D. By, at

15. She was \_\_\_\_\_ once she got paid for the  
divorce settlement.

- A. on the gravy train
- B. green with envy
- C. jumping through hoops
- D. lily-white

16. He made an impassioned appeal \_\_\_\_\_ with  
the government to address the pressing issues  
faced by the minorities.

- A. for pleading
- B. by pleading
- C. pleaded
- D. plea

17. After hours of scrolling social media platforms,  
I ended up with \_\_\_\_\_, unable to focus on  
anything.

- A. a no-brainer
- B. a popcorn brain
- C. a brain-wave
- D. a funny brain

18. Using images from other websites is allowed  
\_\_\_\_\_ you credit the source properly.

- A. in order that
- B. as long as
- C. as much
- D. by way of

19. You \_\_\_\_\_ checked the tickets' availability  
before planning and booking the hotel.

- A. will have
- B. would have
- C. ought have
- D. should have

20. We conducted a series of intricate and complex  
experiments to \_\_\_\_\_ the mysteries of string  
theory.

- A. gravel
- B. harrow
- C. twinge
- D. unravel

21. I \_\_\_\_\_ chosen a different career path had  
I known the importance of working in the IT  
sector.

- A. shall be
- B. must be
- C. would have
- D. should

22. I was \_\_\_\_\_ by my mother when I came home  
late last night.

- A. balled up
- B. bawled out
- C. bogged down
- D. bowed out

23. I was asked to \_\_\_\_\_ the total from the last  
page to finalise the total financial condition for  
the audit session.

- A. carry forward
- B. carry away
- C. carry on at
- D. carry off

24. The crops produced more than enough to last  
a whole year. So, we \_\_\_\_\_ some for the next  
year too.

- A. put behind
- B. put back
- C. put by
- D. put over

For questions 25 and 26, choose the correct synonym of the given word.

25. Cognomen

- A. Toboggan
- B. Dolven
- C. Mannikin
- D. Soubriquet

26. Slake

- A. Siate
- B. Pique
- C. Whet
- D. Slain

For questions 27 and 28, choose the correct antonym of the given word.

27. Parturient

- A. Gravid
- B. Enceinte
- C. Barren
- D. Sylvan

28. Esculent

- A. Toothy
- B. Comestible
- C. Succulent
- D. Unpalatable

For questions 29 and 30, choose the option with correct spelling.

29. How do you spell the word that refers to "embroidery characterised by drawnwork and decorative stitching"?

- A. Hedebo
- B. Hilite
- C. Haybote
- D. Heeld

30. How do you spell the word that refers to "person who steers a ship's boat, racing boat, or other boat"?

- A. Cogswain
- B. Coggsuain
- C. Cogswaner
- D. Coxswain

## READING

For questions 31 to 35, read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, humans killed millions of whales for oil. They stripped their blubber, spinning the iconic creatures in the water and pulling off the fat in a huge spiral like the peel of an apple. The blubber was boiled into oil, then strained into barrels to be used in everything from oil lamps to industrial lubricants. The old whalers delight in it. The fetid smoke is incense to their nostrils, yet it seems to them a glorious representative of prospective dollars and delights.

For over 100 years, the voracious hunger for whale blubber drove blue, humpback, and North Atlantic right whales to the brink of extinction. Now, commercial whaling is all but banned, whale blubber is used in just a handful of products, and whale populations

have rebounded somewhat. A similar sea change is coming for petroleum, though when and how it will play out is still incredibly hazy. We've already transitioned much of our home energy use away from oil. And as climate change pushes us to accelerate that transition, we're developing new technologies that will help the world outgrow its oil dependence ever faster, experts say.

But a post-oil world is coming.

Humans have been using oil for millennia. In fact, around 40,000 years ago, people in what is now Syria used bitumen—a byproduct of crude oil—to stick handles onto their tools. Fast-forward 35,000 years, when they used the same sticky substance to waterproof their boats. In China, people burned crude oil and gas for heat and light as early as 500 B.C. By the fourth century A.D., they were drilling



for these natural resources and transporting them via bamboo pipes. Crude oil, which is composed of simple strings of carbon and hydrogen, forms from the remains of animals and plants that sank to the bottom of swamps, lakes, and oceans. Over millions of years, layers of sand and rock covered them, and intense heat and pressure turned these remains into oil and natural gas. They were then locked away in reservoirs—some close to the surface, others thousands of feet below—with gas sitting atop a lake of oil. For the past 165 years, crude oil has transformed virtually every aspect of society.

If oil vanished tomorrow, global trade would break down as the shipping and aviation industries grind to a halt. Food security would be precarious, with no petroleum to fuel large-scale agriculture or packaging to keep food fresh. Medical care would be set back generations without the sterile equipment needed in hospitals. Renewable energy projects would be frozen without the components required to make solar panels or wind turbines.

Some experts can't imagine a post-oil future at all. Kevin Book, managing director of ClearView, a research firm that looks at energy trends, said that artificial intelligence and geoengineering will change oil extraction and refining, but that oil won't disappear until a technology that doesn't exist yet, like fusion energy, makes it obsolete. But the push for decarbonization means oil will eventually become a flash in the pan in our history. Like industrial whaling, our taste for it will dissipate until just a few small strongholds remain. Fifty to hundred years from now, oil derricks and drilling fields may start to look like abandoned mine museums and gold-rush ghost towns tourist attractions that paint a picture of a lost way of life, an economy firmly in the past.

**Statement II:** The blubber was first boiled and then filtered into barrels to be used in everything from oil lamps to industrial lubricants.

- A. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.
- C. Both the Statements I and II are correct.
- D. Both the Statements I and II are incorrect.

**32. Choose the incorrect statement.**

- A. Commercial whaling is all but banned, and whale populations have rebounded.
- B. People in what is now Syria used bitumen to waterproof their boats around 35,000 years ago.
- C. Oil extraction and refining will be unaffected by artificial intelligence and geoengineering.
- D. Kevin Book, managing director of ClearView, predicts that oil won't disappear until fusion energy becomes available.

**33. What primary factor led to the near-extinction of blue, humpback, and North Atlantic right whales?**

- A. The intensive and relentless practice of commercial whaling.
- B. The inadvertent effects of climate change on whale habitats.
- C. Overfishing due to the increasing global demand for seafood.
- D. The melting of icebergs on whale breeding grounds.

**34. Which potential consequences of oil disappearance are highlighted in the passage?**

- I. Breakdown of global trade and halt of shipping and aviation industries
- II. Precarious food security because of a lack of petroleum for large-scale agriculture
- III. Setbacks in medical care without sterile equipment in hospitals
- IV. Freezing of renewable energy projects due to lack of components for solar panels and wind turbines

- A. I, II, and III only
- B. I, III, and IV only
- C. II and IV only
- D. I, II, III and IV

**31. Read statements I and II and select the correct**

**Statement I:** Crude oil is formed from complex



35. What is the synonym of "precarious" as used in the passage?

- A. Remedial
- B. Palliative
- C. Unscathed
- D. Detrimental

For questions 36 to 40, read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Hey, it's me. The book at the bottom of your "To Be Read" pile. I thought maybe tonight we could hang out. You can slip me out from under this stack, slide between my pages, and get to know me better. We deserve some quality time, just you and me, away from the eight books you heaped on top of me. And those four next to the lamp. I've been on this bedside table for two years, and, now I'm ready to open up for you.

It feels like just yesterday you were at the bookstore with your friend Ainsley and she was like, "Have you read this? You have to get it!" I was at the cash register, then in your bag, then your bedroom. I figured I'd get picked up in a day or two. But then you put that Sally Rooney novel on top of me and I was like, hmmm. Okay. You're reading other people. That's cool.

Then 'The Nickel Boys' showed up. Then a John Grisham book you bought while stuck at Newark Airport. Then 'Do-It-Yourself Basic Home Repair'. No idea where that one came from. The point is, my diction will thrill you but I need to be on top. I'm beginning to show signs of age. A coffee stain on my cover. Some dust. A smudge from when you used me to kill a spider. I noticed your Toni Morrison book doesn't have a smudge. But let's not talk about that. Let's talk about us. I understand a fine reader such as yourself can't be tied down. I've watched you read many others. But even though we both consented, it doesn't mean I don't get jealous. Once you see my strong character development and grasp my firm plot, you'll be turning my pages faster and faster.

I know you like to see what else is out there. I've watched you scroll through BookTok. I saw you updating your profile on Goodreads. We both know you aren't "currently reading" 103 titles but hey, everyone's playing the same game, right? I can't ignore the nights you get dressed up and go out to the local bookstore. Ainsley will text about some author with a write-up in the Times doing a reading and sure enough, you stumble home with another book, sometimes two. It's a lot for me to bear. Literally. You seem to have a thing for hardcovers. You cherish its weight and feel it in your hands.

I don't mean to pressure you. I don't want to be like your Book Club books. You get halfway through and then start rushing because you're afraid you won't finish in time. We'll take it slow. First, we'll start with an epigraph. Then, Part One. It might take a while to get immersed in my smooth rhythm, but by Part Six, my plot will have touched you. I promise my climax will make you cry.

Sometimes I wonder if you're just a tease, gathering up books but not going any further. There's a word for that: *tsundoku*, the art of buying books and never reading them. Is that all I am, an object to be collected then ignored? I know you. The real you. I remember the poetry phase. The World War II historical novel phase. The "I should learn more about philosophy" phase. And now the latest Pulitzer and Booker winners. No disrespect, but I was out in paperback before they were glints in a publisher's eye. I'm in medias res but if you're not ready, I'll wait. Just don't forget that I'm here and drunkenly order another one of me on Amazon. I'm pretty sure that's how we got two copies of 'Atomic Habits'.

Wait, what's happening? You're moving things around. Taking books off me one by one. Is this my moment? Get ready for my unconventional narrative structure to rock your world. Oh, whoops. Okay, sure, just put that wine glass on top of me. No worries! Maybe some other time.



36. Choose the incorrect statement regarding the book's physical condition.

- A. The book has a coffee stain on its cover.
- B. There are signs of aging and some dust on the book.
- C. The protagonist used the book to kill a spider, leaving a noticeable splotch.
- D. The protagonist's Toni Morrison book has similar stains and marks as the book in question.

37. The synonym for "diction" as used in the passage is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. enunciation
- B. repetition
- C. tabulation
- D. annexation

38. Read statements I and II and select the correct option.

Statement I: The book expresses a desire for quality time with the reader away from the other books piled on top.

Statement II: The book acknowledges the reader's diverse reading habits.

- A. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
- B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.
- C. Both the Statements I and II are correct.
- D. Both the Statement I and II are incorrect.

39. \_\_\_\_\_ prompted the protagonist to purchase the John Grisham book.

- A. A bookstore sale
- B. A recommendation from Ainsley
- C. Being stuck at Newark Airport
- D. A sudden interest in legal thrillers

40. What observation does the book make about the protagonist's preference for hardcover books?

- A. Hardcover books are aesthetically pleasing
- B. Hardcover books are sturdier and last longer
- C. Hardcover books' editions tend to have better cover art
- D. The weight and feel of hardcover books are cherishable

## SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

For questions 41 to 45, choose the correct option to complete each conversation.

41. Sophia: Why does Alex always seem so defensive and confrontational?

Emma: I think he \_\_\_\_\_, which makes him easily offended.

- A. has a chip on his shoulder
- B. carries a bag of chips
- C. wears his heart on his sleeve
- D. carries a torch

42. Nellie: The irony is that some writers use \_\_\_\_\_ to conceal their identity yet crave public recognition.

- A. nom de dieu
- B. nom de plume
- C. non de non
- D. et non de

- A. has to administer
- B. have to administered
- C. had to administer
- D. will have administer

44. Ritik: I am going to be the class president. I am pleased \_\_\_\_\_, mom.

Mother: I am stoked to hear this, dear.

- A. by hunch
- B. at crunch
- C. as punch
- D. in bunch

45. Olivia: Why does Matthew always seem so irked?

Ethan: I'm not sure, but he \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. throws caution to the wind
- B. flies off the handle
- C. kicks the bucket
- D. throws in the towel

## ACHIEVERS SECTION

For questions 46 and 47, choose the correct option to fill in the blank.

46. \_\_\_\_\_ is a type of metafiction in which the story is about the creation process, sometimes the creation of the story itself.

A. Prolegomenon  
B. Noumenon  
C. Postumenon  
D. Peripomenon

47. The artist's final masterpiece appeared to possess a \_\_\_\_\_ texture and seemingly soft surface.

A. flippant  
B. flocculent  
C. flukish  
D. flump

Choose the correct antonym of the given word.

48. Crapulous

A. Soused

B. Bibulous  
C. Abstemious  
D. Sottish

Choose the correct synonym of the given word.

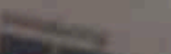
49. Refulgent

A. Conscant  
B. Uniment  
C. Adjuvant  
D. Appurtenant

Choose the correct option to complete the conversation.

50. Nitin: Chamomile tea has been said to induce sleep as it has \_\_\_\_\_ properties and is often used to treat sleep-related issues.

A. somnifacient  
B. sorbefacient  
C. tollvugant  
D. aculeisand



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