



SOF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH  
OLYMPIAD 2024-25

CLASS  
10

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. ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

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. My grandfather made the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ for the climbing plants in our garden.  
A. perdu  
B. perm  
C. pergola  
D. perron
2. I would like to suggest that we \_\_\_\_\_ a step back and reconsider our stance \_\_\_\_\_ the team.  
A. may took, thanks to  
B. should take, on behalf of  
C. shall take, on top of  
D. must took, in view at
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ them about the contract promptly, or our competitors will snatch it.  
A. should be better ask  
B. must have ask better  
C. had better ask  
D. ought to ask better
4. Football fans all over the world will agree that Lionel Messi is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ player.  
A. nonpareil  
B. thespian  
C. yodeler  
D. equilibrist
5. Smithson, a modern-day \_\_\_\_\_, was persecuted by corporate giants for exposing their scams.  
A. paladin  
B. cavil  
C. carper  
D. parodist
6. When I \_\_\_\_\_ the hall, it was empty, but then I saw \_\_\_\_\_ had left her purse and jacket behind.  
A. have entered, anyone  
B. entered, someone  
C. am entering, nobody  
D. enter, no one
7. It wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ that the team failed to secure a spot in the final play-offs.  
A. for lack of trying  
B. putting something off  
C. for what its worth  
D. for want of
8. All candidates are informed to \_\_\_\_\_ the forms \_\_\_\_\_ the requirements.  
A. fill in, in view at  
B. fill out, in line with  
C. fill, in light off  
D. filling in, in place of
9. Truthfully, stating that the young man's inaction \_\_\_\_\_ the gentleman's loss, \_\_\_\_\_ like a valid reason.  
A. did not cause, seems  
B. did cause, seem  
C. was causing, seem  
D. causing, seems
10. The article I \_\_\_\_\_ today stated that the man \_\_\_\_\_ through a transformative process that can frighten others.  
A. read, goes  
B. was reading, went  
C. has read, will go  
D. have been read, go
11. After everything I \_\_\_\_\_ for them, what they did to me was \_\_\_\_\_ betrayal.  
A. have done, bulked out  
B. had done, bordering on  
C. did, building around  
D. do, brought forward
12. \_\_\_\_\_, we are proactively \_\_\_\_\_ in ensuring a successful event, but this time, it's different.  
A. Generally, involving  
B. Genuinely, involves  
C. Usually, involved  
D. Normally, been involving

\_\_\_\_\_ manage monthly expenses, yet  
\_\_\_\_\_ them to pay the maintenance  
\_\_\_\_\_ charge.

- A. enough, expect
- B. barely, expect
- C. barely, accept
- D. occasionally, aspect

\_\_\_\_\_ Whenever it rains, I want to \_\_\_\_\_ work and  
\_\_\_\_\_ stay in bed or enjoy a movie.

- A. sag off
- B. sally forth
- C. scuzz up
- D. sleeve out

\_\_\_\_\_ If the police had assaulted the protesters to  
\_\_\_\_\_ dispense them, the media present on the scene  
\_\_\_\_\_ it on camera.

- A. would definitely catching
- B. must have absolutely catch
- C. would certainly have caught
- D. can obviously caught

\_\_\_\_\_ Surely everyone was aware that they \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the authorities as soon as they realised the kids  
\_\_\_\_\_ were missing.

- A. could have call
- B. ought to have called
- C. might have been called
- D. may be called

\_\_\_\_\_ The party leader warned that democracy could  
\_\_\_\_\_ collapse if it's reduced to \_\_\_\_\_ fabrications  
\_\_\_\_\_ by spin doctors.

- A. meretricious
- B. sclerae
- C. menschy
- D. meritorious

\_\_\_\_\_ When we were down with \_\_\_\_\_ flu, it was  
\_\_\_\_\_ difficult for us to get out of \_\_\_\_\_ bed and we  
\_\_\_\_\_ spent the whole day trying to get \_\_\_\_\_ good  
\_\_\_\_\_ rest.

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

19. We should have disclosed that she had \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_\_ four prior arrests.

- A. both, for
- B. neither, or
- C. rather, than
- D. not, but

20. The whole valley \_\_\_\_\_ flowers of different  
\_\_\_\_\_ varieties.

- A. is overgrowth by
- B. was overgrown for
- C. is overgrown with
- D. was overgrowth with

21. A scholarship \_\_\_\_\_ my academic performance  
\_\_\_\_\_ was offered \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ the principal.

- A. of, upon, by
- B. for, to, by
- C. for, upon, from
- D. on, for, from

22. Ben said to his brother, "Who was the first  
\_\_\_\_\_ president of the country?"

- Ben \_\_\_\_\_
- A. asked his brother who the first president of the country is
  - B. asked his brother who were the first president of the country
  - C. told his brother who had known the first president of the country
  - D. asked his brother who the first president of the country had been

23. After a tough year, I didn't expect much this new  
\_\_\_\_\_ year, but as my mother said, '\_\_\_\_\_.'

- A. Maybees don't fly in June
- B. April showers bring May flowers
- C. It'll be a long day in January
- D. May-December romance

24. The phrase "basket case" means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a person suffering from a mental disability
- B. someone who is full of ideas and plans
- C. someone extremely nervous, therefore unable to organise their life
- D. something that disrupts people's lives easily

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

25. Pleonasm

- A. Brevity
- B. Pithiness
- C. Curtness
- D. Periphrasis

26. Bathos

- A. Mush
- B. Epigram
- C. Nuance
- D. Cynic

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

27. Legerity

- A. Scurry
- B. Cadence
- C. Torpor
- D. Lilt

28. Glottal

- A. Mellow
- B. Velar
- C. Gravel
- D. Raspy

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

29. How do you spell the word that means "a situation in which a player is forced to make a disadvantageous move"?

- A. Zuzim
- B. Zucchetto
- C. Zugzwang
- D. Zeugma

30. How do you spell the word that means "a shop that sells cooked or prepared foods ready to eat or served"?

- A. Delicatessen
- B. Delicataessence
- C. Delicatesense
- D. Delicataccen

## READING

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

Literature has a vital role to play in framing our responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is worth turning to some of these texts to better understand our reactions and how we might mitigate racism, xenophobia, and ableism (discrimination against anyone with disabilities) in the narratives that surround the spread of the coronavirus in the contemporary world. Ling Ma's 'Severance' is one such example.

Homer's 'Iliad', as the Cambridge classicist Mary Beard has reminded us, opens with a plague and deals with its impact, visited upon the Greek camp at Troy to punish the Greeks for Agamemnon's enslavement of Chryseis. US academic, Daniel R. Blickman, has argued that the drama of Agamemnon and Achilles' quarrel "should not blind us to the role of the plague in setting the tone for what follows,

and more importantly, in providing an ethical pattern that lies near the heart of the story."

COVID-19 is certain to shake up economic systems and entrenched institutional processes, as we've seen with the shift towards remote learning in universities around the world, to give just one example. These texts give us an opportunity to think through how similar crises have been managed previously, as well as ideas about how we might structure our societies more equitably in their aftermath.

'The Decameron' (1353) by Giovanni Boccaccio, set during the Black Death, reveals the vital role of storytelling in a time of disaster. Ten people self-isolated in a villa outside Florence for two weeks during the Black Death. In the course of their isolation, the characters take turns telling stories of morality, love, politics, trade,

The normality of everyday life is also the focus of Mary Shelley's apocalypse novel 'The Last Man' (1826). Set in a futuristic Britain between the years 2070 and 2100, the novel details the life of Lionel Verney, who becomes the 'last man' following a devastating global plague. The novel is particularly scathing on the topic of institutional responses to the plague.

Edgar Allan Poe's short story 'The Masque of the Red Death' (1842) also depicts the failures of authority figures to adequately and humanely respond to such a disaster. The Red Death causes fatal bleeding from the pores. Poe details the sumptuous festivities, concluding with the incorporeal arrival of the Red Death as a human-like guest at the ball.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Albert Camus' 'The Plague' (1942) and Stephen King's 'The Stand' (1978) brought readers' attention to the social implications of fictional plague-like pandemics, particularly isolation and the failures of the state to either contain the disease or moderate the ensuing panic. Consider also that "indigenous futurism", a term coined by First Nations cultural and race studies theorist Grace L. Dillon to refer to speculative fictions by indigenous peoples and writers of colour such as NK Jemisin's Broken Earth series, Claire G. Coleman's 'Terra Nullius', and Carmen Maria Machado's short story 'Inventory', has long since treated colonialism and the diseases spread by the colonisers as the source of what is currently experienced as an ongoing apocalypse. The catharsis that these texts offer is troubled by the realities of pandemic and apocalypse conditions, but if we used our own likely forthcoming periods of self-isolation to theorise alternative social structures and tell one another stories about how we live, we might be able to recreate a good story.

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

Statement I: The Red Death in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death" causes its victims to suffer from fever and chills.

- 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. Which of the following statements accurately describes the aspect of pandemic literature?

- A. Homer's "Iliad" primarily focuses on the economic consequences of the Trojan War rather than the plague.
- B. Stephen King's "The Stand" offers a non-fictional account of a real-life pandemic.
- C. Ling Ma's "Severance" explores themes of racism, xenophobia, and ableism within the context of a contemporary pandemic.
- D. Boccaccio's "Decameron" presents a vision of a utopian society free from the constraints of any disaster.

33. The term "catharsis" as used in the passage means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. tragic flaw in the protagonist
- B. tragic flaw in the antagonist
- C. purgation of emotion through pity and fear
- D. a Greek tragic character

34. What themes are common in both Albert Camus' "The Plague" and Stephen King's "The Stand"?

- A. Colonialism and resistance
- B. Isolation and state failure
- C. Pandemic and futurism
- D. Technological advancement and dystopia

35. According to the passage, how has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted higher education?

- A. It has led to increased enrollment in universities.
- B. It has necessitated a shift towards remote learning.
- C. It has resulted in decreased funding for educational institutions.
- D. It has caused a reduction in the number of universities worldwide.

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

The first written records of the ancient Olympic Games date to 776 B.C., when a cook named Coroebus won the only event—a 192-meter footrace called the *Stade* (the origin of the modern “stadium”)—to become the first Olympic champion. However, it is generally believed that the Olympic Games had been going on for many years by that time.

The ancient Olympics were held every four years between August 6 and September 19, during a religious festival honouring Zeus. After 13 Olympiads, two races joined the sole event the *stade* as Olympic events: the *diaulos* (roughly equal to today’s 400-meter race) and the *dolichos* (a longer-distance race, possibly comparable to the 1,500-meter or 5,000-meter event). The pentathlon (consisting of five events: a foot race, a long jump, discus and javelin throws, and a wrestling match) was introduced in 708 B.C., boxing in 688 B.C., and chariot racing in 680 B.C. In 648 B.C., pankration, a combination of boxing and wrestling with virtually no rules, debuted as an Olympic event. Participation in the ancient Olympic Games was initially limited to freeborn male citizens of Greece; there were no women’s events, and married women were prohibited from attending the competition.

In one notorious example from A.D. 67, the decadent Emperor Nero entered an Olympic chariot race, only to disgrace himself by declaring himself the winner even after he fell off his chariot during the event. In A.D. 393, Emperor Theodosius I, a Christian, called for a ban on all “pagan” festivals, ending the ancient Olympic tradition after nearly 12 centuries.

It would be another 1,500 years before the Games would rise again, largely thanks to the efforts of Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863–1937) of France. Dedicated to the promotion of physical education, the young baron became inspired by the idea of creating

a modern Olympic Games after visiting the ancient Olympic site. In November 1892, at a meeting of the Union des Sports Athlétiques in Paris, Coubertin proposed the idea of reviving the Olympics as an international athletic competition held every four years. Two years later, he got the approval he needed to form the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which would become the governing body of the modern Olympic Games.

The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896. In the opening ceremony, King Georgios I and a crowd of 60,000 spectators welcomed 280 participants from 12 nations (all male) who would compete in 43 events, including track and field, gymnastics, swimming, wrestling, cycling, tennis, weightlifting, shooting, and fencing. The official symbol of the modern Games is five interlocking-coloured rings, representing the continents of North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe, and Australia. The Olympic flag, featuring this symbol on a white background, flew for the first time at the Antwerp Games in 1920.

The Olympics truly took off as an international sporting event after 1924, when the VIII Games were held in Paris. Some 3,000 athletes (with more than 100 women among them) from 44 nations competed that year, and for the first time, the Games featured a closing ceremony. The Winter Olympics also debuted that year, including such events as figure skating, ice hockey, bobsledding, and the biathlon. Eighty years later, when the 2004 Summer Olympics returned to Athens for the first time in more than a century, nearly 11,000 athletes from a record 201 countries competed.

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

Statement I: Theodosius I called for a ban on all pagan festivals, including the Olympics, in A.D. 393.

Statement II: The ancient Olympic Games were initially open only to aristocrats and nobles.

A. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

38. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.  
 A. Both the Statements I and II are correct.  
 B. Both the Statement I and II are incorrect.

Choose the incorrect statement.

- A. The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896.  
 B. The opening ceremony of the 1896 Olympics was attended by Queen Victoria.  
 C. The modern Olympics feature five interlocking-coloured rings as their official symbol.  
 D. The Winter Olympics debuted in 1924, featuring events like figure skating and ice hockey.

39. Which word from the passage means same as "equivalent"?

- A. Virtually  
 B. Decadent  
 C. Comparable  
 D. Approval

39. What prompted Baron Pierre de Coubertin to revive the Olympics as an international athletic competition?

- A. Baron Pierre de Coubertin was inspired by the ancient Olympic site.  
 B. Baron Pierre de Coubertin was dedicated to physical education.  
 C. Baron Pierre de Coubertin wanted to increase the standards and decline quality of the Olympics.  
 D. Both A and B

40. Match the following based on the passage.

Column-I	Column-II
(I) 708 B.C.	(a) boxing
(II) 680 B.C.	(b) pankration
(III) 688 B.C.	(c) chariot racing
(IV) 648 B.C.	(d) pentathlon

- A. I-(d), II-(c), III-(a), IV-(b)  
 B. I-(d), II-(b), III-(c), IV-(a)  
 C. I-(c), II-(d), III-(a), IV-(b)  
 D. I-(d), II-(a), III-(c), IV-(b)

## SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

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

41. Shama : Siya \_\_\_\_\_ reporting, at a small-town newspaper before moving to the city.

- A. cut to the quick  
 B. cut her teeth on  
 C. cut corners  
 D. cut both ways

42. Vinnie: Jewish folklores believe in the \_\_\_\_\_ of golems which are clay figures that come to life.

- A. exist  
 B. existence  
 C. exiting  
 D. existed

43. Emily: The cerulean sky \_\_\_\_\_ to a velvety purple, adorned \_\_\_\_\_ the jewels of heaven.

- A. deepen, on

- B. deepened, of  
 C. deepened, with  
 D. deepens, in

44. Claire: Kids are asked to practise \_\_\_\_\_ and save money if they want new toys.

- A. scrimping  
 B. disbursing  
 C. grouching  
 D. mafficking

45. Joy: Today's headline \_\_\_\_\_, 'Scientists documented flying mammals in mining caves; conservationists \_\_\_\_\_ protect them.'

- A. read, are strived  
 B. read, strove up  
 C. will read, strived for  
 D. reads, are striving to

## ACHIEVERS SECTION

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

46. Science \_\_\_\_\_ that hunger affects our tongue's taste receptors and how the brain perceives \_\_\_\_\_ information.

A. proving, gustation  
B. proved, guilelessness  
C. has proven, gustatory  
D. could prove, gusseting

47. One interesting aspect of this sports event is creating our own \_\_\_\_\_ for the team.

A. guidon  
B. peridium  
C. gunsel  
D. scarab

Choose the correct synonym of the given word.

48. Jim-dandy

A. Grotesque

B. Insalubrious  
C. Nugatory  
D. Humdinger

Choose the correct antonym of the given word.

49. Miasma

A. Pongy  
B. Fusty  
C. Olid  
D. Ambrosial

Choose the correct option to complete the conversation.

50. Janice: I won't go shopping with them because they have a habit of using \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Monday-morning quarterback  
B. rack and ruin  
C. sling mud  
D. five-finger discounts

