GRADE 8

NATIONAL ENGLISH COMPETITION

Name Surname: _____

School: _____ Class: _____

City: _____ Tel: _____



DIRECTIONS FOR NATIONAL ENGLISH COMPETITION

- You have got 45 minutes to answer 30 questions.
- Each question has only one correct answer.
- Once the test starts you are not allowed to leave for the first 30 minutes.
- Phones and smart watches are not allowed during the test.

1. These boots should _____ your foot warm and dry.

   A) Catch
   B) Give
   C) Keep
   D) Gave

2. By 11.00 I felt so _____that I went to bed.

   A) Tiring
   B) Tired
   C) Bored
   D) Disappointed

3. I don't _____ the point of spending a lot of money on children's clothes because they only last for a few months and then they are too small.

   A) See
   B) Keep
   C) Give
   D) Get

4. An old man, _____was carrying a suitcase, knocked at the door.

   A) Which
   B) Who
   C) Whose
   D) Whom

5. Mrs. Steele _____ to her boss. I'll tell her you phoned.

   A) talked
   B) talks
   C) talk
   D) is talking

6. I _____ to get up this morning. It _____ and it was cold, and my bed was so warm.

   A) don't want / is raining
   B) am not wanting / rains
   C) wasn't wanting / rained
   D) didn't want / was raining

7. Julie is married _____ Sam.

   A) in
   B) with
   C) to
   D) at

8. A: Did you buy _____ at the shops?
   B: No, _____. I didn't have any money."

   A) something / anything
   B) everything / something
   C) anything / nothing
   D) no one / anybody

9. I'm looking forward _____ more free time.

   A) to having
   B) to have
   C) of having
   D) having

10. You must see my new flat. ____ round and _____ a drink some time.

    A) Go / come
    B) Have / come
    C) Go / have
    D) Come / have

Answer questions 11 to 15 according to the text.

What was life like in Britain in the 1960s? Many would say it was simpler, quieter, and safer. It seems to me that in every generation, people look back and say things were better when they were young. But that's because they felt better because they were younger! Being a 20-something, with all our dreams still possible, is different from being grown up with responsibilities: children, elderly parents, a home to pay for, money to make … in other words, your life changes, as well as the world around you. But what has actually changed in the last 50 years?

The 1960s was the time when the technological wonders we nowadays take for granted started to become more common. By the end of the decade, nearly all homes had a television set. Programmes were still made in black and white, not colour. They started at five in the afternoon on weekdays, and they finished at midnight. People didn't have mp3 players or CDs – they listened to music on the radio. Small, portable transistor radios were starting to replace the huge radio sets of the 1950s – which were bigger than most televisions are today. Nobody had personal computers. In the 1960s, the early computers were enormous, and only scientists with special training could use them.

Shopping was different, too. Many people bought all their groceries in local shops. Supermarkets were a new idea in the 1960s, and although they were becoming popular, less than half of the population used them. A lot of people made their own clothes. There were fashion shops in big cities, of course, but people didn't spend the weekend shopping like

they do now: perhaps they went to a football game or did some gardening.

Travelling abroad on holiday was becoming more popular, but most British families spent their holidays in the UK – in places like Blackpool or the West Country. Fewer people owned cars, but there were still enormous traffic jams on roads, especially during the summer holidays. The government had just started building motorways, so people usually had to use older, narrower roads to travel long distances. But trains were more frequent and a lot cheaper than they are today. British Rail was famous around the world for its service.

So, what do you think – was life better in the 1960s or was it simply different?

11. According to the writer, why do people often think life was better in the past?

A) Because the world was safer
B) Because technology was simpler
C) Because they were younger at that time
D) Because there were fewer responsibilities

12. What was television like in Britain in the 1960s?

A) Most homes had colour TV all day
B) Only a few homes had televisions
C) Programmes were shown all day long
D) Programmes were in black and white and limited to certain hours

13. How did most people listen to music in the 1960s?

A) On the radio
B) On CDs
C) On mp3 players
D) On personal computers

14. Which statement about shopping in the 1960s is TRUE?

A) Most people did all their shopping in supermarkets
B) Many people bought groceries from local shops
C) People spent weekends shopping in big malls
D) Everyone bought fashionable clothes from city shops

15. What does the text say about transport in the 1960s?

A) Most people travelled by car on wide motorways
B) Trains were expensive and unreliable
C) There were no traffic jams
D) Trains were cheaper and more frequent than today

Answer questions 16 to 20 according to the text.

Men on the moon

What is your biggest ambition? For some young men in the 1960s, it was to become an astronaut and walk on the moon. But what do you wish for if you have already walked on the moon? Very few people have ever been able to ask themselves that question.

Reaching the moon was perhaps humankind's greatest achievement. On 20 July 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first person in recorded history to set foot on another planet. Many believed at the time that many similar successes were just around the corner. They turned out to be wrong. Altogether, 24 astronauts have travelled to the moon, and only half of them have had a chance to step outside. All of them were American. All of them were men. And they all visited the moon in a brief interval from 1969 to 1972. Since then, nobody has travelled there. Some engineers claim today it would take us another ten to fifteen years to ever do that again. Now ask yourself this: how many moonwalkers could you name? People remember the names of pop stars, presidents, even racing car drivers long after they disappeared from the public eye. But very few of us could name a handful of people that walked on the moon.

What kind of people were they? One of them, Jack Swigert, whose only trip to the moon was the near-disaster of Apollo 13, once said it was not surprising astronauts never said anything interesting about the most momentous experience in their lives. For example, when Pete Conrad, commander of Apollo 12, stepped on the moon, he didn't make a speech. He only said, 'Whoopee!'

Astronauts were strong people: psychologically as well as physically. They were selected by NASA for their ability to survive in extreme conditions. They were usually patient, focused and very calm. They were not poets or artists, they were Air Force pilots. But they could never have achieved what they did if they had been less determined. They all knew that if they made just one mistake, they could die at any moment. They all came home safely. And now, when the era of the space shuttle ends with the return of the Atlantis on the 42nd anniversary of the first moon landing, we can all remember their achievement, which was just one small step for them, but one giant step for humankind.

16. What does the writer suggest about expectations after the first moon landing?

A) Many believed further space achievements would soon follow
B) People correctly predicted that moon travel would quickly become routine
C) Some expected immediate missions to other planets
D) Scientists warned that progress would slow down

17. Which statement about astronauts who travelled to the moon is TRUE according to the text?

A) Most of them walked on the moon
B) Some of them were not American
C) Both men and women took part in the missions
D) All of them travelled there between 1969 and 1972

18. Why does the writer mention pop stars, presidents, and racing car drivers?

A) To show that astronauts were less talented than celebrities
B) To compare the dangers of different professions
C) To emphasize how little remembered moonwalkers are
D) To explain why astronauts avoided public attention

19. What does Jack Swigert's comment suggest about astronauts?

A) They exaggerated their experiences for the media
B) They struggled to describe extraordinary experiences in words
C) They enjoyed making dramatic speeches
D) They believed the moon landing was unimportant

20. What quality does the writer imply was MOST essential for astronauts' success?

A) Artistic creativity
B) Physical strength alone
C) Fame and public recognition
D) Determination under extreme risk

For questions 21-25, find the sentence that is closest in meaning to the one given for each question.

21. The internet has changed the way people communicate across the world.

A) People no longer communicate with each other.
B) Communication methods have remained the same worldwide.
C) Global communication has been influenced by the internet.
D) The internet prevents people from communicating globally.

22. Very few students managed to pass the exam on their first attempt.

A) Most students failed the exam the first time.
B) All students passed the exam easily.
C) Many students passed the exam on their first attempt.
D) Students were not allowed to take the exam again.

23. The concert was cancelled because of the heavy rain.

A) The concert continued despite the bad weather.
B) Heavy rain caused the concert to be cancelled.
C) The concert was postponed due to a lack of rain.
D) The weather improved after the concert was cancelled.

24. She is too tired to finish the report tonight.

A) She will finish the report even though she is tired.
B) She is not tired enough to finish the report.
C) She cannot finish the report tonight because she is very tired.
D) She finished the report before getting tired.

25. This is the most interesting book I have ever read.

A) I have read many books that are more interesting than this one.
B) No book I have read has been more interesting than this one.
C) This book is interesting, but not very memorable.
D) I will read this book again in the future.

For questions 26-30, What does the underlined word mean?

26. His comments during the meeting were **ambiguous**, leaving everyone unsure of his real opinion.

    A) honest and direct
    B) deliberately unclear or open to interpretation
    C) extremely negative
    D) overly emotional

27. The manager was **reluctant** to approve the plan without further evidence.

    A) eager and enthusiastic
    B) forced by others
    C) unwilling or hesitant
    D) completely unaware

28. Her explanation was **concise** yet informative.

    A) too short to be useful
    B) detailed and confusing
    C) brief but clear
    D) spoken very quickly

29. The novel offers a **compelling** portrayal of life in the 19th century.

    A) boring and outdated
    B) emotionally moving and convincing
    C) historically inaccurate
    D) difficult to understand

30. Despite initial criticism, the policy proved to be **effective** in the long term.

    A) popular with everyone
    B) expensive to maintain
    C) successful in achieving its purpose
    D) quickly forgotten

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