

## English Language Contest: Regional Stage. 25 January 2023

Do not write on this test paper; use the answer sheet (page 6). You have 90 minutes.

### I Choose the best option.

1. Colonel Ortega has fled the country \_\_\_\_\_ he be captured and imprisoned.  
a) whereby                      c) otherwise  
b) lest                            d) unless
2. No one wants to write another long essay, \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
a) doesn't one                  c) do one  
b) do they                        d) don't they
3. Why do you object to \_\_\_\_\_ – she'll be a great asset to the company?  
a) she being taken on        c) her being taken on  
b) her be taken on            d) she be taken on
4. \_\_\_\_\_, I was still able to climb to the top of the mountain.  
a) Unfit as I am                c) Much as I'm unfit  
b) However unfit                d) While ever unfit
5. I take great exception \_\_\_\_\_ the implication that I wasn't telling the truth.  
a) to                                c) against  
b) with                              d) from
6. The whole structure of \_\_\_\_\_ industrial society is rapidly changing.  
a) the                                c) —  
b) a                                    d) an
7. She escaped by \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a) the breadth of a hair        c) a hair's breadth  
b) the hair's breadth            d) a breadth of the hair
8. Ben couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ a moustache to the photo of the President in the newspaper.  
a) refrain adding                c) refrain and add  
b) refrain to add                 d) refrain from adding
9. The Bensons find it hard to manage financially, \_\_\_\_\_ with Mr Benson losing his job and Mrs Benson being too ill to work full time.  
a) for                                c) since  
b) because                         d) what
10. Try as I \_\_\_\_\_, I wasn't able to turn the key.  
a) could                            c) would  
b) should                          d) might
11. You'd better tell the truth now, \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
a) hadn't you                    c) didn't you  
b) wouldn't you                 d) shouldn't you
12. No sooner had the bus arrived at the station \_\_\_\_\_ the passengers rushed towards it.  
a) when                            c) as  
b) then                              d) than
13. In such a plight \_\_\_\_\_ that we had no choice than to radio for help.  
a) we ourselves found        c) did we ourselves find  
b) did we find ourselves      d) we did ourselves find
14. I \_\_\_\_\_ rather you didn't tell my parents about the party yesterday.  
a) would                          c) should  
b) had                                d) could
15. \_\_\_\_\_ her parents' support, Martha would never have graduated from college.  
a) Except for                    c) What for  
b) But for                         d) Only for
16. The salesman demonstrated how a push of the button would cause the aerial to \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a) rebound                        c) recoil  
b) retreat                          d) retract
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ told the students to turn over the examination paper and begin.  
a) invigilator                    c) inspector  
b) assessor                        d) tester
18. She didn't mean to be offensive; it was quite an \_\_\_\_\_ remark.  
a) inaugural                      c) integral  
b) insidious                        d) innocuous

19. He was rudely awakened by a sudden bout of \_\_\_\_\_ turbulence.  
 a) heavy                      c) stern  
 b) sombre                    d) weighty
20. Some of the cattle were placed in quarantine for fear of the disease being \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a) contractual              c) congenital  
 b) contagious              d) contentious
21. *Farewell, My Concubine* was described as a cinematic jewel when it hit the \_\_\_\_\_ screen.  
 a) blue                        c) diamond  
 b) white                      d) silver
22. Three of their players were out injured, but there's still no excuse for such a \_\_\_\_\_ performance.  
 a) walking                    c) strolling  
 b) striding                  d) pedestrian
23. The long-awaited environmental law will finally give us the power to \_\_\_\_\_ change.  
 a) effect                      c) affect  
 b) deflect                    d) protect
24. The \_\_\_\_\_ sentenced the shoplifter to three months' community service.  
 a) magistrate                c) attorney  
 b) solicitor                  d) barrister
25. One of the \_\_\_\_\_ benefits of Rita's job was having access to the university's magnificent library.  
 a) supporting                c) auxiliary  
 b) secondary                d) fringe
26. The Nigerian tanker spilled out tons of \_\_\_\_\_ oil after the collision.  
 a) rude                        c) crude  
 b) rough                      d) coarse
27. Pollution is one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ environmental problems of our time.  
 a) burning                    c) actual  
 b) factual                    d) blazing
28. I still \_\_\_\_\_ in the morning, even though I gave up smoking a month ago.  
 a) whistle                    c) whip  
 b) wheeze                    d) whirl
29. Most people who win the lottery usually \_\_\_\_\_ most of the money on unnecessary things.  
 a) throw                      c) squander  
 b) give                        d) pilfer
30. The post comes with an attractive \_\_\_\_\_ package.  
 a) compensation            c) salary  
 b) profit                      d) remuneration

## II Fill in the gaps with a suitable preposition.

- There has been a decline \_\_\_\_\_ the number of unemployed people this year.
- I'd love to drive over to see you, but my car has been acting \_\_\_\_\_ recently.
- \_\_\_\_\_ your request, we can provide further details.
- He's about to be demoted, but that's strictly \_\_\_\_\_ the record.
- I have committed myself \_\_\_\_\_ taking a four-day holiday next week.
- We were making \_\_\_\_\_ Manchester, but we turned off at Roxbury by mistake.
- They ran \_\_\_\_\_ economic problems about halfway through the season.
- In her naivety, Greta failed to see \_\_\_\_\_ the con man's congenial expression and good humour.
- To arrest the onset of boredom, Phil decided to take \_\_\_\_\_ a new hobby.
- Mark is thinking about turning his business \_\_\_\_\_ to his brother.
- Until negotiations broke \_\_\_\_\_, a ceasefire had seemed likely.
- Change came \_\_\_\_\_ very slowly in women's rights.
- \_\_\_\_\_ sheer coincidence, I bought exactly the same jacket as Rob.
- Due to the recent equipment failure, we have fallen \_\_\_\_\_ with our tasks.
- I can't make \_\_\_\_\_ what the sign says from this far out.

### III Modify the words on the right to fill in the gaps. Mind the spelling.

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 0. I have always admired her patient and <u>SENSIBLE</u> personality.   | SENSE      |
| 1. The features people appreciate most in him are his creativity and _____ .                                      | GENEROUS   |
| 2. The weather is really _____ : you never know what the next day will be like.                                   | PREDICT    |
| 3. Humanity should try to make an effort to save the _____ species of plants and animals from extinction.         | DANGER     |
| 4. Millions of _____ join the World Cleanup Day every year.   | VOLUNTARY  |
| 5. Andy Warhol was _____ an outstanding artist and a celebrity in his own time.                                   | DOUBT      |
| 6. This movie is meant for children and adults _____ .  | LIKE       |
| 7. It was impossible to read his essay since his handwriting is absolutely _____ .                                | LEGIBILITY |
| 8. Parents should be fully aware of the _____ of the Internet and social media in shaping their children's ideas. | SIGNIFY    |
| 9. Make sure the berries you picked are _____ .   | EAT        |
| 10. Due to slippery roads and high speed there was a _____ between a coach and a lorry last night.                | COLLIDE    |
| 11. This journalist is well-informed and his commentaries are always _____ expressed.                             | ELOQUENCE  |
| 12. Animal activists can no longer be ignored or treated with _____ .   | RESPECT    |
| 13. Some people have a _____ to speak too quickly when they are nervous.  | TEND       |
| 14. The President is rather popular with the crowds, and the media also portray him in a _____ light.             | FAVOUR     |
| 15. At the end of the 19th century, Estonian people were no longer _____ .  | LITERACY   |
| 16. The investigation into the scandal will _____ compromise some public figures.                                 | AVOID      |
| 17. Do they have any _____ that it was the accountant who falsified the bank records?                             | PROVE      |
| 18. The new tax system was too complicated, so now they are _____ it.   | SIMPLE     |
| 19. He _____ claims to despise scandal, but he still buys tabloids.   | HYPOCRITE  |
| 20. The school has decided to _____ the swimming pool, and the local authorities have agreed to finance it.       | LARGE      |

#### IV Read the text below and decide which answer best fits each gap.

##### The Forgotten Mediaeval Habit of ‘Two Sleeps’

For millennia, people slept in two (1) \_\_\_\_\_ – once in the evening and once in the morning. But why? And how did it work?

It was around 23:00 on 13 April 1699, in a small village in the north of England. Nine-year-old Jane Rowth blinked her eyes open and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ out into the moody evening shadows. She and her mother had just awoken from a short sleep. Mrs Rowth got up and went over to the fireside of their modest home, where she began smoking a pipe. Just then, two men appeared by the window. They called out and instructed her to get ready to go with them. As Jane later explained to a courtroom, her mother had (3) \_\_\_\_\_ been expecting the visitors. She went with them freely – but first whispered to her daughter to ‘lye still, and shee would come againe in the morning’. Perhaps Mrs Rowth had some (4) \_\_\_\_\_ task to complete. Or maybe she was in trouble and knew that leaving the house was a risk. Either way, Jane’s mother didn’t get to keep her promise – she never returned home. That night, Mrs Rowth was brutally murdered, and her body was discovered in the following days. The crime was never solved.

Nearly 300 years later, in the early 1990s, the historian Roger Ekirch walked through the arched entranceway to the Public Record Office in London – (5) \_\_\_\_\_ gothic building that housed the UK’s National Archives from 1838 until 2003. There, among the endless rows of ancient vellum papers and manuscripts, he found Jane’s testimony. And something about it struck him as odd. Originally, Ekirch had been researching a book about the history of night-time, and at the time he had been looking through records that (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the era between the early Middle Ages and the Industrial Revolution. He was dreading writing the chapter on sleep, thinking that it was not only a universal necessity – but a biological constant. He was sceptical that he’d find anything new. So far, he had found court depositions particularly (7) \_\_\_\_\_. ‘They’re a wonderful source for social historians,’ says Ekirch, a professor at Virginia Tech, US. ‘They comment upon activity that’s oftentimes unrelated to the crime itself.’ But as he read through Jane’s criminal deposition, two words seemed to carry an echo of a particularly (8) \_\_\_\_\_ detail of life in the 17th century, which he had never encountered before – ‘first sleep’. ‘I can cite the original document almost verbatim,’ says Ekirch, whose exhilaration at his discovery is palpable even decades later.

In her testimony, Jane describes how just before the men arrived at their home, she and her mother had arisen from their first sleep of the evening. There was no further explanation – the interrupted sleep was just stated matter-of-factly, as if it were entirely unremarkable. ‘She referred to it as though it was utterly normal,’ says Ekirch. A first sleep implies a second sleep – a night divided into two halves. Was this just a familial (9) \_\_\_\_\_ or something more?

Over the coming months, Ekirch scoured the archives and found many more references to this mysterious phenomenon of double sleeping, or ‘biphasic sleep’ as he later called it. When Ekirch expanded his search to include online databases of other written records, it soon became clear the phenomenon was more widespread and normalised than he had ever imagined. Ekirch found casual references to the system of twice-sleeping in every (10) \_\_\_\_\_ form, with hundreds in letters, diaries, medical textbooks, philosophical writings, newspaper articles, and plays.

Biphasic sleep was not unique to England, either – Ekirch found evidence of the habit in locations as distant as Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Australia, South America, and the Middle East. One colonial (11) \_\_\_\_\_ from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1555 described how the Tupinambá people would eat dinner after their first sleep, while another – from 19th-century Muscat, Oman – explained that the local people would retire

for their first sleep before 22:00. And far from being a peculiarity of the Middle Ages, Ekirch began to suspect that the method had been the dominant way of sleeping for millennia – an ancient (12) \_\_\_\_\_ that we inherited from our prehistoric ancestors. The first record Ekirch found was from the 8th century BC, in the 12,109-line Greek epic *The Odyssey*, while the last hints of its existence dated to the early 20th century, before it somehow slipped into oblivion.

So how did it work? From as early as 21:00 to 23:00, those fortunate enough to afford them would begin (13) \_\_\_\_\_ onto mattresses stuffed with straw or rags – alternatively it might have contained feathers, if they were wealthy – ready to sleep for a couple of hours. Two hours later, people would begin (14) \_\_\_\_\_ from this initial slumber. The night-time wakefulness usually lasted from around 23:00 to about 01:00, depending on what time they went to bed. Under the weak glow of the Moon, people would (15) \_\_\_\_\_ to ordinary tasks, such as adding wood to the fire or taking remedies. Once people had been awake for a couple of hours, they'd usually head back to bed. This next step was considered a 'morning' sleep and might last until dawn, or later. Just as today, when people finally woke up for good depended on what time they went to bed.

1.	a. turns	b. shifts	c. spells	d. periods
2.	a. ogled	b. sighted	c. gazed	d. squinted
3.	a. evidently	b. implausibly	c. prudently	d. plainly
4.	a. epidermal	b. diurnal	c. nocturnal	d. vernal
5.	a. a modest	b. a formidable	c. an imposing	d. an overwhelming
6.	a. spanned	b. traversed	c. bridged	d. crossed
7.	a. brightening	b. irradiating	c. fluorescent	d. illuminating
8.	a. off-putting	b. tantalising	c. seductive	d. bewitching
9.	a. discrepancy	b. whim	c. quirk	d. impulse
10.	a. concise	b. conceited	c. conceivable	d. concealed
11.	a. account	b. tab	c. check	d. receipt
12.	a. default	b. frailty	c. deficiency	d. setting
13.	a. dangling	b. tossing	c. tumbling	d. flopping
14.	a. razing	b. dozing	c. rousing	d. raising
15.	a. care	b. tend	c. manage	d. mind

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Name:

Form:

School:

Region:

Answer Sheet

I

- 1. a b c d
- 2. a b c d
- 3. a b c d
- 4. a b c d
- 5. a b c d
- 6. a b c d
- 7. a b c d
- 8. a b c d
- 9. a b c d
- 10. a b c d

- 11. a b c d
- 12. a b c d
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- 16. a b c d
- 17. a b c d
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- 20. a b c d

- 21. a b c d
- 22. a b c d
- 23. a b c d
- 24. a b c d
- 25. a b c d
- 26. a b c d
- 27. a b c d
- 28. a b c d
- 29. a b c d
- 30. a b c d

II

- 1. ....
- 2. ....
- 3. ....
- 4. ....
- 5. ....

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- 7. ....
- 8. ....
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- 10. ....

- 11. ....
- 12. ....
- 13. ....
- 14. ....
- 15. ....

III

- 1. ....
- 2. ....
- 3. ....
- 4. ....
- 5. ....
- 6. ....
- 7. ....

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- 16. ....
- 17. ....
- 18. ....
- 19. ....
- 20. ....

IV

- 1. a b c d
- 2. a b c d
- 3. a b c d
- 4. a b c d
- 5. a b c d

- 6. a b c d
- 7. a b c d
- 8. a b c d
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- 10. a b c d

- 11. a b c d
- 12. a b c d
- 13. a b c d
- 14. a b c d
- 15. a b c d