

## English Language Contest: Regional Stage. 22 January 2025

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

### I Choose the best option.

1. This test paper centres \_\_\_\_\_ English grammar and vocabulary.

- a) on
- b) round
- c) in
- d) at

2. It is so typical \_\_\_\_\_ her to come unprepared for our monthly meetings.

- a) to
- b) for
- c) of
- d) —

3. My mother has always \_\_\_\_\_ the burden of responsibility in our family.

- a) bored
- b) born
- c) borne
- d) bared

4. My house, \_\_\_\_\_ cost about €250,000.

- a) that is in the country,
- b) which is in the country,
- c) which is in the country
- d) that is in the country

5. Anthropologists' interests in tourism have \_\_\_\_\_ been limited to developing countries.

- a) by now
- b) for the moment
- c) so far
- d) yet

6. I have always admired \_\_\_\_\_ Estonian nature, so vibrant in summer and so monochrome in winter.

- a) —
- b) an
- c) the
- d) a

7. What are the \_\_\_\_\_ of this happening four times in such a short period?

- a) opportunities
- b) eventualities
- c) chances
- d) probabilities

8. Dream Caress Shampoo gives you the \_\_\_\_\_ hair ever.

- a) most silky
- b) silkiest
- c) most silkiest
- d) more silky

9. She is much \_\_\_\_\_ to criticise you openly.

- a) very polite a person
- b) too polite a person
- c) so polite a person
- d) such a polite person

10. If I had more time, I \_\_\_\_\_ study Japanese or Chinese.

- a) had to
- b) may
- c) can
- d) could

11. The trolleybus is my favourite \_\_\_\_\_ of transport.

- a) mean
- b) means
- c) device
- d) devise

12. Well, you'd better listen carefully to what I'm saying, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- a) wouldn't you
- b) hadn't you
- c) shouldn't you
- d) didn't you

13. Scarcely had the demonstration begun \_\_\_\_\_ the police started to arrest people.

- a) as
- b) than
- c) when
- d) before

14. Yesterday I bought \_\_\_\_\_ vase.

- a) a nice Italian green
- b) an Italian green nice
- c) a nice green Italian
- d) a green nice Italian

15. These fertilisers are designed to \_\_\_\_\_ the growth of grass weeds.

- a) ascertain
- b) check
- c) control
- d) verify

16. I enjoyed the walk but had to sit down \_\_\_\_\_ myself because my knee started to hurt.

- a) in despite
- b) in spite
- c) despite of
- d) despite

17. The victims were made \_\_\_\_\_ down on the floor and remain silent.

- a) to lie
- b) lay
- c) to lay
- d) lie

18. Eleven master's \_\_\_\_\_ were defended at our department last year.

- a) thesis
- b) theses
- c) thesises
- d) thesis's

19. The footballer was banned from the final game for \_\_\_\_\_ bribes for Brazilian TV rights.

- a) eliciting
- b) soliciting
- c) illiciting
- d) illuminating

20. Out of respect for the late professor, we \_\_\_\_\_ to go to the memorial service.

- a) should
- b) ought
- c) must
- d) 'd better

21. For this party we'll need \_\_\_\_\_ four tables.

- a) others                                      c) another's  
b) another                                    d) other's

22. His \_\_\_\_\_ sister loves looking at her own reflection in the mirror.

- a) three-years-old                      c) three year old  
b) three years old                      d) three-year-old

23. Although Amsterdam is the official capital of the Netherlands, \_\_\_\_\_ is its administrative centre.

- a) The Hague                              c) the Hague  
b) Hague                                    d) Haag

24. Building a society free of addictions is a \_\_\_\_\_ but unrealistic goal.

- a) laudative                              c) laudable  
b) laudatory                              d) laudible

25. \_\_\_\_\_ an outpouring of editorial opinion on either side of this issue, there are no easy answers.

- a) Regardless                              c) However  
b) Notwithstanding                      d) Although

26. I first knew him as \_\_\_\_\_ student living in a cheap and tiny flat.

- a) an impecunious                      c) a pecunious  
b) a pecuniary                              d) an impecuniary

27. Indianapolis deserves to be a livable city, not just a place where developers enjoy free \_\_\_\_\_, routinely decimating our few remaining tree stands.

- a) reins                                      c) reign  
b) rein                                        d) reigns

28. The ranch has a large corral with a dozen or so \_\_\_\_\_ and mistreated cattle for the tourists' sport.

- a) happy                                    c) elated  
b) fortuitous                              d) hapless

29. People \_\_\_\_\_ dogs often don't like cats.

- a) who like                                  c) , that like,  
b) , who like,                              d) which like

30. The issue has \_\_\_\_\_ dormant, while the council has failed to elect a new president.

- a) laid                                        c) lied  
b) lain                                        d) been laying

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

0. There has been a decline in the number of unemployed people this year.

1. I took a short online course to brush \_\_\_\_\_ my Italian before the trip to Rome.

2. Guess who I bumped \_\_\_\_\_ in town today?

3. Sometimes people find it hard to wind \_\_\_\_\_ after a stressful period at work or at school.

4. Being a bit extravagant, he didn't really blend \_\_\_\_\_ very well with the other students at school.

5. Dan trains so intensively that it is difficult to keep up \_\_\_\_\_ him.

6. Teachers sometimes feel that they don't get through \_\_\_\_\_ some of the kids in the class.

7. Eventually we both fell on the ice because Jeff kept pulling my arm and threw me \_\_\_\_\_ balance.

8. The former president passed \_\_\_\_\_ at the honourable age of 96.

9. You seem to be \_\_\_\_\_ the misapprehension that all the information on the Internet is true.

10. When the bell rang, everyone was keen \_\_\_\_\_ getting out of the classroom.

11. I was invited to join the team, so I jumped \_\_\_\_\_ the chance without much consideration.

12. Perhaps we should look at this problem \_\_\_\_\_ a different perspective.

13. Peter laughed \_\_\_\_\_ my face and said that he didn't believe me.

14. In the current economic situation, most people are opting \_\_\_\_\_ low-risk investments.

15. To start the experiment, heat the water \_\_\_\_\_ a temperature of exactly 50°C.

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

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 0. I have always admired her kind and <u>SENSIBLE</u> personality.                              | SENSE    |
| 1. Due to heavy snow, several villages in the remote regions were totally _____ .               | ACCESS   |
| 2. When Amanda understood that her friend had lied to her, she shook her head _____ .           | APPROVE  |
| 3. Most people are concerned about the _____ of the rainforests.                                | DESTROY  |
| 4. They say that _____ comes through experience.  | WISE     |
| 5. Mike put the book aside, saying that it was _____ boring.                                    | SPEAK    |
| 6. You are supposed to _____ yourself with the safety measures before using the tools.          | FAMILIAR |
| 7. With his specific knowledge and experience, Bob soon became a(n) _____ member of the team.   | PLACE    |
| 8. His working schedule does not allow much _____ .   | FLEX     |
| 9. In her rather _____ speech she severely criticized the local authorities.                    | PROVOKE  |
| 10. Do you know when the latest _____ of the dictionary was published?                          | EDIT     |
| 11. The athlete had to _____ from the competition because of a serious knee injury.             | DRAW     |
| 12. The differences between the two parties were so big that the conflict was _____ .           | AVOID    |
| 13. A professional boxer needs a lot of determination and _____ to reach the top.               | COMPETE  |
| 14. Many politicians are rather _____ at first, but then they often change.                     | IDEAL    |
| 15. A healthy diet and regular exercising are generally believed to attribute to _____ .        | LONG     |
| 16. You should _____ your tone if you do not want to hurt his feelings.                         | SOFT     |
| 17. All the members of the team worked extremely hard and _____ for everyone's benefit.         | SELF     |
| 18. Whether the book is well or badly written is _____ to me – it conveys an important message. | MATERIAL |
| 19. They managed to _____ all the objections and pursue with their plans.                       | MOUNT    |
| 20. The river is five metres in _____ .   | WIDE     |

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

##### Why the Idea That the Maya Civilisation ‘Collapsed’ Is Wrong

Laser scans and other evidence show the Maya persisted in rural areas long after big cities collapsed.

The Maya created great kingdoms that ruled over tens of thousands of people for centuries in Mesoamerica. But as elaborate capitals like Chichén Itzá and Mayapan and the elites that controlled them rose and fell, the surrounding population that lived in the rural areas around them did not (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for centuries.

The textbook timeline of the Maya civilization goes like this: the culture reached its height, known as the Classic period, between A.D. 200 and 900. Over the next century, urban centres fell apart. By some accounts, the Maya (2) \_\_\_\_\_, and scientists have implicated climate, overpopulation, and political unrest in their mysterious demise. While the Maya bounced back during the Postclassic period from A.D. 900 until the arrival of Spanish colonisers around 1540, it supposedly never (3) \_\_\_\_\_ its previous strength. But a new population analysis of the upper Yucatan Peninsula adds to evidence that the Classic Maya never truly collapsed and (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

‘Definitely, the idea of the collapse of the Maya in the Postclassic era is very (5) \_\_\_\_\_,’ says Pedro Delgado Kú, an archaeologist at the Autonomous University of the Yucatan and coauthor of the new study.

##### Mayapan vs. Chichén Itzá

In some cases, Postclassic cities rose from the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of their predecessors. Delgado Kú and his colleagues have studied the Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula for some time – particularly Mayapan, one of the last large-scale capital cities built in the area before Spanish colonisation. This Postclassic city was founded initially by the 12th century as a coalition of local governments, including some of the family clans that (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the rulers of the large capital that preceded it in the area – Chichén Itzá.

After the fall of Chichén Itzá by A.D. 1050, drought hit the area hard. But once the rain came back by A.D. 1180, Mayapan had become a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ city. Aside from large pyramids like the Temple of Kukulcan, the urban area was surrounded by a 5.5-mile-long wall that could barely contain the urban population: some neighbourhoods (9) \_\_\_\_\_ outside the protective feature, says Marilyn Masson, a coauthor and archaeologist at State University of New York at Albany.

##### Tracking the Postclassic Maya Population

To Masson, Delgado Kú, and their colleagues, Mayapan’s story contradicts the idea that the Maya disappeared, or even that the Postclassic Maya of the northern Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico were somehow (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to earlier Classic Maya cities in the southern lowlands like Tikal in Guatemala.

‘You’ll hear that Maya civilization ended in 1000 A.D. It didn’t,’ Masson says. ‘The Postclassic period is a success story of (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and recovery in the north for late Maya statehood.’

To better understand what happened in the region, the team wanted to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ a handle on the population of the region and how it may have changed through time. In a study published in the *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, their team examined prior attempts to map the population of the region, focusing on the decades spanning the collapse of Chichén Itzá and the rise of Mayapan.

They also conducted their own surveys on 15 square miles around Mayapan using lidar (short for ‘light detection and ranging’), a remote sensing technology that can (13) \_\_\_\_\_ through dense jungle and reveal the locations of ancient towns and cities. Next, they surveyed 30 percent of this area on the ground in search of ceramics they could use to (14) \_\_\_\_\_ homes and villages – driving up ranch roads and hiking into the wilderness guided by the local knowledge of Delgado Kú and other Maya archaeologists on their team.

‘It was the most (15) \_\_\_\_\_ experience I’ve ever had, following up lidar,’ Masson says.

1	A. endure	B. change	C. recover	D. thrive
2	A. prospered	B. vanished	C. recovered	D. decimated
3	A. extended	B. sustained	C. reached	D. maintained
4	A. disappeared	B. withdrew	C. persisted	D. stagnated
5	A. celebrated	B. debated	C. resolved	D. ignored
6	A. rubble	B. ruins	C. ashes	D. damage
7	A. overthrew	B. neglected	C. ignored	D. preserved
8	A. stately	B. stirring	C. vulnerable	D. diminished
9	A. spilled	B. thrived	C. avoided	D. collapsed
10	A. superior	B. inferior	C. similar	D. irrelevant
11	A. creativity	B. resilience	C. fragility	D. vulnerability
12	A. gain	B. lose	C. get	D. maintain
13	A. cut	B. penetrate	C. scan	D. see
14	A. estimate	B. date	C. rebuild	D. destroy
15	A. fearsome	B. tedious	C. gripping	D. formidable

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Code:

Region:

Score:

### 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
13. a b c d
14. a b c d
15. a b c d
16. a b c d
17. a b c d
18. a b c d
19. a b c d
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. ....
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#### III

1. ....
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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
9. a b c d
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