

SMETA ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

Question Paper: Grade 7-8, Set 1

QUESTIONS

25

TIME ALLOWED

60 MIN

MAX MARKS

100

Instructions:

Read each question carefully. Each question has four options (A, B, C, D). Choose only one correct answer. Use a pencil or a blue/black pen. All the best!

★ GOOD LUCK ★ Think Clearly ★ Choose Boldly ★ Shine Proudly ★

SMETA Olympiads ★ Empowering Young Minds Worldwide

1 Choose the word that best completes the analogy.

Verbose : Concise :: Opaque : ____

A Dense

B Transparent

C Murky

D Complex

2 The sentence below is divided into four sections. Identify which section contains a grammatical error.

(A) Neither of the two candidates who applied for the scholarship (B) were awarded the prize, (C) despite submitting (D) highly compelling portfolios.

A Neither of the two candidates who applied for the scholarship

B were awarded the prize

C despite submitting

D highly compelling portfolios

3 Choose the option that correctly rewrites the sentence as a third conditional.

"She did not prepare thoroughly, which is why she underperformed in the assessment."

A If she prepares thoroughly, she would perform better in the assessment.

B Had she prepared thoroughly, she would have performed better in the assessment.

C If she had prepared thoroughly, she will have performed better.

D She would perform better if she prepares more thoroughly next time.

4 Choose the best word to complete the sentence.

The findings of the study were so _____ that even the most experienced researchers struggled to draw a definitive conclusion from the data.

A lucid

B compelling

C ambiguous

D straightforward

5 Choose the correct phrasal verb to complete the sentence.

After months of stalled negotiations, the two parties finally _____ their differences and signed the landmark trade agreement.

A gave up on

B looked into

C put aside

D called off

6 Which single word correctly completes all three expressions?

_____ a decision | _____ a mistake | _____ an effort

- A do
- B make
- C take
- D have

7 Three of the following words share the same semantic field. Identify the word that does NOT belong.

- A Verbose
- B Laconic
- C Eloquent
- D Tenacious

8 Which of the following uses a prefix incorrectly?

- A Misbehave: to behave badly
- B Discomfort: lack of comfort
- C Unlogical: not logical
- D Unprecedented: never done before

9 Identify the tense of the underlined verb form.

"By the time the conference ends tomorrow, the delegates will have been discussing this proposal for over twelve hours."

- A Future perfect
- B Present perfect continuous
- C Future perfect continuous
- D Future continuous

10 Which sentence is written in the most appropriate register for an academic essay?

- A "Lots of people nowadays think that social media is making us less happy, which is kind of concerning."
- B "Social media, it turns out, is actually pretty bad for mental health according to some studies."
- C "A growing body of research suggests a correlative relationship between prolonged social media use and diminished psychological wellbeing."
- D "Everyone knows that too much time on social media can make you feel really bad about yourself."

11 Choose the sentence in which ALL words are used correctly.

- A** "The principle announced that the principal of academic integrity would be strictly enforced."
- B** "The principal announced that the principle of academic integrity would be strictly enforced."
- C** "The principal announced that the principal of academic integrity would be strictly enforced."
- D** "The principle announced that the principle of academic integrity would be strictly enforced."

12 Read the extract and identify the writer's tone.

"One can only admire, in the way one admires a particularly brazen magician, the audacity of a government that has spent a decade underfunding public services and now presents itself as the champion of those it has systematically neglected."

- A** Satirical and contemptuous
- B** Objective and analytical
- C** Earnestly admiring
- D** Sympathetic and supportive

13 Choose the sentence that best fills the gap [___] in the paragraph.

"Globalisation has brought undeniable economic benefits to many parts of the world, lifting millions out of poverty and creating new markets for goods and services. [___] Critics point to growing inequality within nations, the exploitation of labour, and the erosion of local cultures as evidence that the costs have not been equitably distributed."

- A** "Trade agreements between nations have become increasingly complex in recent decades."
- B** "The technological revolution has been largely responsible for driving economic growth."
- C** "However, these gains have not been shared equally, and the process has generated significant social and economic disruption."
- D** "International organisations such as the WTO play a crucial role in regulating global commerce."

14 Arrange the sentences below to form a coherent paragraph.

1. As a result, many students emerge with considerable factual knowledge but limited capacity for independent reasoning. 2. Yet in an era of information overload, the ability to evaluate information critically may be more valuable than memorising it. 3. Educational systems in many countries continue to prioritise knowledge transmission over the development of analytical thinking. 4. A genuine reform of educational philosophy would therefore place critical reasoning at the heart of the curriculum.

- A** 3 → 1 → 2 → 4
- B** 2 → 3 → 1 → 4
- C** 1 → 3 → 4 → 2
- D** 3 → 2 → 1 → 4

15 Which is the most appropriate opening sentence for a formal report on declining biodiversity?

- A** "So basically, loads of animals and plants are disappearing really fast, which is a big problem."
- B** "This report examines the primary causes and projected consequences of accelerating biodiversity loss in tropical ecosystems."
- C** "Everyone knows we're losing species at an alarming rate and something needs to be done urgently."
- D** "Biodiversity loss is, like, one of the most serious things happening in the world right now."

16 Which word, when placed in the blank, makes the sentence most precise and powerful?

"The young poet's debut collection _____ readers with its raw honesty and unexpected imagery."

- A** captivated
- B** interested
- C** surprised
- D** pleased

Read the passage carefully and answer Questions 17 - 20

To remain silent in the presence of injustice is not neutrality: it is complicity. Yet the calculus of moral courage is rarely so straightforward. The whistleblower who exposes institutional corruption risks professional ruin, social ostracism, and in some cases, physical danger. The witness who speaks against a powerful abuser may find that truth, however well-documented, is no match for wealth and influence. These are not merely abstract dilemmas; they are the lived experiences of countless individuals who have weighed the cost of speaking against the cost of silence.

The romanticised narrative of moral courage, the solitary hero who speaks truth to power and is ultimately vindicated, obscures a far more common reality: that many who speak out are not vindicated, at least not in their lifetimes. History reserves its posthumous applause for those who were right in ways that subsequent generations found convenient to acknowledge. For every activist whose courage is commemorated, there are thousands of unnamed individuals whose acts of defiance changed nothing immediately discernible and left them only diminished.

This is not an argument for silence. It is, rather, a case for honesty about what moral courage actually demands. It demands the willingness to act rightly without the guarantee of a satisfying outcome. It requires what the philosopher Aristotle called *phronesis*, practical wisdom, the capacity to navigate moral complexity without retreating into the false comfort of absolute rules. To speak when speaking matters, to choose battles discerningly, and to sustain the commitment to justice over the long arc rather than the single dramatic gesture: this is the authentic form of courage that difficult times require.

17 What does the author mean by the phrase "posthumous applause" in the second paragraph?

- A** Recognition given to historical figures through public monuments and statues.
- B** The tendency of contemporary society to celebrate living activists above historical ones.
- C** The selective historical memory that celebrates only those whose courage proved convenient to acknowledge retrospectively.
- D** Academic recognition awarded to philosophers who theorised about moral courage.

18 The author's primary purpose in the second paragraph is to:

- A** Argue that moral courage is ultimately futile and should be replaced by pragmatic accommodation.
- B** Challenge the romanticised narrative of courage by honestly acknowledging that right action often goes unrewarded.
- C** Suggest that well-known historical activists were more courageous than unnamed individuals.
- D** Provide historical evidence that societies always eventually recognise and reward moral courage.

19 What does the author mean by phronesis in the final paragraph?

- A** The willingness to sacrifice personal wellbeing for the collective good without reservation.
- B** The philosophical concept of absolute moral rules that guide all ethical decision-making.
- C** Practical wisdom: the capacity to navigate moral complexity with discernment and good judgement.
- D** The Aristotelian virtue of physical courage demonstrated in difficult or dangerous situations.

20 The overall argument of the editorial can best be summarised as:

- A** Speaking out against injustice is always the morally correct choice, regardless of personal consequences.
- B** The historical record proves conclusively that moral courage is always vindicated in the end.
- C** True moral courage involves acting rightly with clear-eyed honesty about the complexity and cost of doing so.
- D** Modern individuals lack the moral courage displayed by historical activists and whistleblowers.

Read the passage carefully and answer Questions 21 - 25

There is a particular species of disorientation that belongs only to the act of returning. I had not been back to the house on Meridian Street for eleven years, and what struck me first, as I turned the key in the lock, was not the familiar smell of old wood and lavender I had rehearsed so many times in memory, but the smallness. The ceilings I had known as vaulted and imposing had contracted. The hallway, down which I once ran with the reckless velocity of childhood, was barely four steps wide.

Memory, I understood then, is not a recording but a construction. We do not store the past; we rebuild it, each time, from fragments, and in rebuilding, we enlarge, distort, and idealise. The rooms I had carried within me were not the rooms I now stood in; they were the rooms I had needed to carry. The garden where I had imagined entire civilisations was a modest rectangle of overgrown grass. The tree I had climbed to the summit of the world was perhaps twelve feet high.

Yet I did not feel deceived. The house had been exactly what I needed it to be when I needed it. If my memory had made it larger, it was because I had been smaller: in age, in experience, in my knowledge of how much world there was. The shrinking of Meridian Street was not a loss; it was a measure of how much I had grown. I closed the door behind me, and felt, for the first time in years, that I was precisely the right size for the life I had been living.

21 What is the primary function of the word "smallness" in the opening paragraph?

- A It establishes a tone of disappointment and regret about the irreversible passage of time.
- B It introduces the central tension between remembered experience and present reality that drives the essay.
- C It emphasises the physical neglect and deterioration of the house during the narrator's long absence.
- D It suggests that the narrator feels personally diminished by the experience of returning.

22 What does the author mean when they write that "memory is not a recording but a construction"?

- A That memories are inherently unreliable and therefore cannot be trusted or acted upon.
- B That we rebuild the past each time we recall it, shaping it according to our emotional needs and desires.
- C That advances in technology have made it possible to record memories with far greater accuracy than before.
- D That the narrator's memory was specifically distorted by the length and circumstances of their absence.

23 The phrase "the reckless velocity of childhood" is an example of which literary device?

- A** A personification, attributing human recklessness to the abstract concept of velocity.
- B** A transferred epithet, where "reckless" describes the child's nature rather than the speed itself.
- C** A metaphor, comparing the experience of childhood directly to a racing vehicle.
- D** An oxymoron, combining two logically contradictory concepts within a single phrase.

24 Which of the following best expresses the central insight of the final paragraph?

- A** Returning home inevitably leads to a profound sense of loss and irreversible disillusionment.
- B** The narrator recognises that the enlarged memory of home was appropriate to who they were then, and their changed perception reflects personal growth.
- C** The narrator decides to accept the smallness of the house pragmatically because it cannot be physically changed.
- D** Memory distortion is ultimately harmful because it generates unrealistic expectations about places and people.

25 The tone of the essay as a whole can best be described as:

- A** Melancholic and despairing, mourning what has been irretrievably lost to the passage of time.
- B** Detached and analytical, examining the mechanisms of memory with scientific precision.
- C** Reflective and accepting, finding meaning and growth in the contrast between memory and present reality.
- D** Nostalgic and sentimental, longing for the simplicity and freedom of an idealised childhood.

Answer Key

SMETA English Olympiad • Grade 7-8 • Set 1

1. B	2. B	3. B	4. C	5. C
6. B	7. D	8. C	9. C	10. C
11. B	12. A	13. C	14. A	15. B
16. A	17. C	18. B	19. C	20. C
21. B	22. B	23. B	24. B	25. C

SMETA ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

Question Paper: Grade 7-8, Set 2

QUESTIONS

25

TIME ALLOWED

60 MIN

MAX MARKS

100

Instructions:

Read each question carefully. Each question has four options (A, B, C, D). Choose only one correct answer. Use a pencil or a blue/black pen. All the best!

★ GOOD LUCK ★ Think Clearly ★ Choose Boldly ★ Shine Proudly ★

SMETA Olympiads ★ Empowering Young Minds Worldwide

1 Choose the sentence that correctly rewrites the following in the passive voice.
"The committee will announce the results next Friday."

- A** The results will be announced by the committee next Friday. **B** The results were announced by the committee next Friday.
- C** The committee is announcing the results next Friday. **D** The results will announce by the committee next Friday.

2 Choose the sentence with the correct question tag.
"Mariana has never missed a deadline, _____?"

- A** isn't she **B** hasn't she
- C** has she **D** doesn't she

3 Which word, formed with a suffix, correctly completes the sentence?
The judges praised the young violinist's remarkable _____ during the final round.

- A** performative **B** performing
- C** performance **D** performer-ship

4 Choose the correct phrasal verb to complete the sentence.
Felipe had to _____ his weekend plans when the science project deadline was moved forward.

- A** give away **B** call for
- C** look up **D** put off

5 Which sentence uses a compound word correctly and appropriately?

- A** The old lighthouse keeper watched the sunrise from the upstairs window. **B** The breakfast-table was covered in a table-cloth made of sun-flower fabric.
- C** She wore a rain coat over her school-uniform to the bus-stop. **D** The grandmother knitted a bed spread for her grand daughter.

6 Rafael's essay was returned with the comment: "Your argument is coherent, but the conclusion feels somewhat abrupt."

What is the teacher most likely suggesting Rafael improve?

- A** The essay's spelling and punctuation.
- B** The way the essay ends, so it flows more smoothly from the argument.
- C** The length of the introduction.
- D** The number of examples used in the body paragraphs.

7 Choose the correctly punctuated sentence.

- A** Camila's project, which took three weeks to complete won first prize.
- B** Camila's project which took three weeks to complete won first prize.
- C** Camila's project, which took three weeks to complete, won first prize.
- D** Camila's project which took three weeks to complete, won first prize.

8 Choose the sentence written in the most appropriate register for a formal email to a teacher.

- A** "Hey, just wondering if I can hand in my essay a bit late lol."
- B** "Yo, essay's not done yet, is that okay?"
- C** "Can't finish the essay in time, sorry, will send when I can."
- D** "I am writing to request a short extension for the submission of my essay, due to unforeseen circumstances."

9 Dr. Souza's lecture began with a startling statistic, then moved methodically through cause, effect, and possible solutions before ending with a call to action.

Which word best describes the overall structure of the lecture?

- A** Logical
- B** Circular
- C** Chaotic
- D** Repetitive

10 Which prefix, when added to "legible", correctly forms a word meaning "not able to be read"?

- A** dis-
- B** in-
- C** il-
- D** un-

11 Choose the sentence that correctly uses a determiner.

- A** Vinicius has fewer homework than his older brother this term.
- B** Vinicius has less assignments than his older brother this term.
- C** Vinicius has fewer assignments than his older brother this term.
- D** Vinicius has much assignments than his older brother this term.

12 Beatriz wanted to decline the invitation politely without hurting her friend's feelings. Which response best achieves this?

- A** "No, I can't come, I'm busy."
- B** "Maybe, I'll see how I feel."
- C** "Why would I want to go to that?"
- D** "I'd love to, but I already have plans that day. Could we meet another time?"

13 Choose the sentence in which the modifier is placed correctly.

- A** Thiago ate only vegetables for dinner, not meat or rice.
- B** Thiago only ate vegetables for dinner, not meat or rice.
- C** Only Thiago ate vegetables for dinner, not meat or rice.
- D** Thiago ate vegetables only for dinner, not meat or rice.

**14 Which word correctly completes both expressions?
_____ attention | _____ heed to a warning**

- A** make
- B** pay
- C** do
- D** give

15 Choose the sentence that correctly uses the present perfect continuous tense.

- A** Isadora was practising the piano for two hours already.
- B** Isadora has practised the piano for two hours already.
- C** Isadora has been practising the piano for two hours already.
- D** Isadora practises the piano for two hours already.

16 Which sentence demonstrates correct subject-verb agreement?

- A** The collection of rare stamps were sold at auction.
- B** The collection of rare stamps are sold at auction.
- C** The collection of rare stamps have been sold at auction.
- D** The collection of rare stamps was sold at auction.

Read the notice carefully and answer Questions 17 - 20

Westfield Academy: Museum Trip Notice

All Year 7 and Year 8 students are warmly invited to join the History Department's guided trip to the National History Museum on Thursday, the 12th of November.

To secure a place, students must submit a signed permission form and pay the full trip fee of \$18 to their homeroom teacher no later than this Friday. A limited number of partial scholarships are available for students who require financial assistance; please speak confidentially with Ms. Andrade in the front office to request one.

The trip includes a guided tour of the natural history wing, a short workshop on ancient artefacts, and free time in the museum cafe. Coaches will depart from the main gate at 8 a.m. sharp and return by 4 p.m. We hope to see as many of you as possible on what promises to be a memorable day.

17 According to the notice, what must students do before Friday to secure a place on the trip?

- A** Pay the full amount and submit a signed permission form.
- B** Only inform their homeroom teacher verbally.
- C** Submit a permission form but payment can wait until the day of the trip.
- D** Email the school office directly with their name.

18 What is the primary purpose of this notice?

- A** To cancel the museum trip due to low interest.
- B** To inform students of the requirements for joining the museum trip.
- C** To advertise museum membership discounts.
- D** To announce a change in the school's assembly schedule.

19 What tone does the notice use to encourage participation?

- A Stern and threatening.
- B Sarcastic and dismissive.
- C Friendly but informative and clear about deadlines.
- D Overly formal and impersonal.

20 Which detail from the notice would matter most to a student with a tight allowance?

- A The trip includes a guided tour of the natural history wing.
- B The trip departs from the main gate at 8 a.m.
- C The museum has a gift shop near the exit.
- D A limited number of partial scholarships are available on request.

Read the passage carefully and answer Questions 21 - 25

For decades, the debate over homework has tended to focus on quantity: how many minutes a student should spend on it each night, and whether more homework produces better results. Yet a growing body of research suggests this framing misses the point entirely. Several studies comparing schools with heavy homework loads to those with lighter, more deliberately designed assignments have found little difference in overall achievement, and in some cases, students given less but more thoughtfully constructed homework performed better.

The issue, it seems, is not how much homework students complete but what that homework asks of them. A worksheet of twenty near-identical maths problems may take an hour to finish, yet teach little beyond what the first five problems already demonstrated. This is busywork in disguise: it occupies time without necessarily deepening understanding. By contrast, a single well-designed task that asks a student to apply a concept to a new situation can achieve more in a fraction of the time.

None of this means homework should disappear. Used well, it reinforces classroom learning and builds independent study habits that serve students long after they leave school. The real task facing schools is not to assign more or less homework, but to ask, of every assignment, whether it is actually worth a student's evening.

21 What is the central argument the writer makes about homework in this passage?

- A The value of homework depends more on its quality and purpose than on its quantity.
- B Homework should be abolished entirely at every grade level.
- C Students who do more homework always achieve higher grades.
- D Teachers assign homework only to keep students occupied after school.

22 What evidence does the writer use to support the main argument?

- A A personal anecdote about the writer's own school days.
- B A reference to studies comparing student outcomes with varied homework loads.
- C A quote from a famous novelist.
- D A list of popular homework apps.

23 What does the writer imply by describing some homework as "busywork in disguise"?

- A That teachers deliberately try to trick their students.
- B That homework should always take a long time to complete.
- C That some assignments look purposeful but add little real educational value.
- D That homework is disguised as a game to make it more fun.

24 Which word best describes the writer's overall tone in the passage?

- A Bitter
- B Mocking
- C Indifferent
- D Balanced

25 Which sentence best restates the writer's concluding suggestion?

- A Schools should focus on assigning meaningful homework rather than simply more of it.
- B Homework should be replaced entirely with group projects.
- C Parents should complete homework alongside their children every night.
- D Only students who enjoy a subject should be given homework in it.

Answer Key

SMETA English Olympiad • Grade 7-8 • Set 2

1. A	2. B	3. C	4. D	5. A
6. B	7. C	8. D	9. A	10. B
11. C	12. D	13. A	14. B	15. C
16. D	17. A	18. B	19. C	20. D
21. A	22. B	23. C	24. D	25. A

SMETA ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

Question Paper: Grade 7-8, Set 3

QUESTIONS

25

TIME ALLOWED

60 MIN

MAX MARKS

100

Instructions:

Read each question carefully. Each question has four options (A, B, C, D). Choose only one correct answer. Use a pencil or a blue/black pen. All the best!

★ GOOD LUCK ★ Think Clearly ★ Choose Boldly ★ Shine Proudly ★

SMETA Olympiads ★ Empowering Young Minds Worldwide

1 Choose the sentence that correctly reports the following in indirect speech.
Marcelo said, "I will finish the report by tomorrow."

- A** Marcelo said that he would finish the report by the next day.
- B** Marcelo says that he would finish the report by tomorrow.
- C** Marcelo said that he finishes the report tomorrow.
- D** Marcelo said that he will finish the report by tomorrow.

2 Choose the option that correctly rewrites the sentence as a second conditional.
"I don't have enough time, so I can't volunteer at the shelter this week."

- A** If I had had enough time, I could have volunteered at the shelter.
- B** If I had enough time, I could volunteer at the shelter this week.
- C** Had I enough time, I will volunteer at the shelter this week.
- D** If I have enough time, I can volunteer at the shelter this week.

3 Choose the sentence that uses a determiner correctly.

- A** Julia has visited several countries, but this is her first time in each of them.
- B** Julia has visited several countries, but this is her first time in either of them.
- C** Julia has visited several countries, but this is her first time in any of them.
- D** Julia has visited several countries, but this is her first time in every of them.

4 Choose the correct idiom to complete the sentence.
Henrique knew the exam would be difficult, but he decided to _____ and study every night that week.

- A** beat around the bush
- B** jump on the bandwagon
- C** let the cat out of the bag
- D** bite the bullet

5 Arrange the sentences below to form a coherent paragraph.

1. Within a decade, the technology had become standard equipment in most family cars.
2. Early seatbelt designs were simple lap belts, offering only partial protection in a collision.
3. The invention of the three-point seatbelt in 1959 dramatically improved passenger safety.
4. Engineers had been searching for a better restraint system since the early days of the automobile.

- A** 4 → 2 → 3 → 1
- B** 3 → 4 → 2 → 1
- C** 4 → 3 → 2 → 1
- D** 2 → 4 → 3 → 1

6 Which word correctly completes all three expressions?
 _____ a promise | _____ a habit | _____ the ice

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| A catch | B break |
| C hold | D make |

7 Larissa's coach told the team, "Do not underestimate tomorrow's opponents."
 Choose the sentence that correctly reports this instruction in indirect speech.

- | | |
|--|--|
| A Larissa's coach told the team to not underestimating tomorrow's opponents. | B Larissa's coach told the team that not underestimate tomorrow's opponents. |
| C Larissa's coach told the team not to underestimate the next day's opponents. | D Larissa's coach told the team don't underestimate tomorrow's opponents. |

8 Choose the sentence that correctly uses a relative clause.

- | | |
|---|--|
| A The novel who Bianca borrowed from the library was due back on Monday. | B The novel, whom Bianca borrowed from the library, was due back on Monday. |
| C The novel, that Bianca borrowed from the library, was due back on Monday. | D The novel, which Bianca borrowed from the library, was due back on Monday. |

9 Which word means the OPPOSITE of "meticulous"?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| A careless | B thorough |
| C precise | D diligent |

10 Mr. Costa's directions were so convoluted that even students familiar with the building got lost trying to follow them.

What does "convoluted" mean in this sentence?

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| A brief and clear | B needlessly complicated |
| C loud and confident | D written down carefully |

11 Choose the correct idiom to complete the sentence.
Eduarda didn't want to admit her mistake at first, but eventually she decided to _____ and apologise to her teammates.

- A** spill the beans about someone else
- B** pull someone's leg
- C** come clean
- D** hit the books

12 Choose the option that correctly rewrites the sentence as a third conditional.
"Tiago missed the bus because he overslept, so he arrived late to school."

- A** Had Tiago not overslept, he will not miss the bus.
- B** If Tiago hadn't overslept, he wouldn't arrive late to school every day.
- C** If Tiago doesn't oversleep, he won't arrive late to school.
- D** If Tiago had not overslept, he would not have missed the bus.

13 Which sentence is a complex sentence?

- A** Renato finished his homework before he watched a film.
- B** Renato finished his homework quickly.
- C** Renato finished his homework; he then watched a film.
- D** Renato finished his homework, and then he watched a film.

14 Choose the sentence that correctly uses a semicolon.

- A** Valentina studied all week she still felt nervous before the exam.
- B** Valentina studied all week; she still felt nervous before the exam.
- C** Valentina studied all week, she still felt nervous before the exam.
- D** Valentina studied all week; because she still felt nervous before the exam.

15 Which word means the OPPOSITE of "reluctant"?

- A** hesitant
- B** unwilling
- C** eager
- D** cautious

- 16** Paula whispered, "I think we should leave before the storm gets worse."
Choose the sentence that correctly reports this in indirect speech.

- A** Paula whispered that they should leave before the storm gets worse. **B** Paula whispered that we should leave before the storm got worse.
- C** Paula whispered they will leave before the storm got worse. **D** Paula whispered that they should leave before the storm got worse.

Read the news report carefully and answer Questions 17 - 20

Train Delays Disrupt Tuesday Commute

Thousands of commuters faced significant delays on Tuesday morning after a technical fault was discovered on the Riverside Line during a routine inspection before dawn. Engineers identified the issue shortly after 5 a.m., but repairs were not completed until midday, forcing the cancellation of several morning services.

In response, the rail company arranged a fleet of replacement buses to cover the affected route and issued regular updates to passengers through its website and social media accounts. A company spokesperson apologised for the disruption, noting that safety inspections would continue to take priority over punctuality whenever a fault was suspected.

By the evening commute, most services had returned to their usual schedule, and the company confirmed that normal operations were expected to resume fully by Wednesday morning. Passengers affected by the delay have been advised to keep their tickets for a possible refund.

- 17** According to the report, what was the main cause of the delayed train service on Tuesday?

- A** A technical fault discovered during the morning inspection. **B** A scheduled maintenance check that ran longer than planned.
- C** A shortage of qualified drivers across the network. **D** Severe weather that damaged overhead power lines.

- 18** How did the rail company respond to the disruption, according to the report?

- A** It cancelled all services for the remainder of the week. **B** It arranged replacement buses and issued regular updates to passengers.
- C** It refused to comment publicly on the situation. **D** It reduced ticket prices for all future journeys.

19 What is the overall tone of the news report?

- A Sarcastic and dismissive.
- B Overly emotional and personal.
- C Factual and measured.
- D Alarmist and exaggerated.

20 Which detail from the report suggests the company anticipated further delays?

- A The mention of passenger complaints on social media.
- B The reference to the age of the train fleet.
- C The quote from a commuter praising the staff's patience.
- D The statement that services were expected to return to normal by Wednesday morning.

Read the poem carefully and answer Questions 21 - 25

The Sea at Rest

At dawn it wakes in restless silver,
stretching wide beneath the grey,
and rolls its slow, unhurried shoulders
toward the shore, then draws away.

By noon it wears a brighter mood,
flecked with light, and edged with foam,
the tide breathes in, the tide breathes out,
as steady as a heart at home.

And when the evening dims its colour
to a hush of deepening blue,
it does not rest, it only softens,
the way old rhythms always do.

21 What is the poem mainly describing?

- A The changing moods of the sea across a single day.
- B A sailor's final voyage before retirement.
- C A conversation between two fishermen.
- D A storm that destroys a coastal village.

22 What does the phrase "restless silver" most likely describe in the poem?

- A A flock of seabirds.
- B The moonlight reflecting on moving water.
- C A fisherman's boat.
- D The sound of waves crashing on rocks.

23 Which literary device is most evident in the line "the tide breathes in, the tide breathes out"?

- A Hyperbole
- B Simile
- C Personification
- D Alliteration

24 What overall mood does the poem create?

- A Angry and defiant.
- B Tense and fearful.
- C Comic and light-hearted.
- D Calm and meditative.

25 Which theme does the poem most clearly explore?

- A The constant, rhythmic cycles found in nature.
- B The loneliness of life at sea.
- C Humanity's struggle to control the ocean.
- D The danger of ignoring nature's warnings.

Answer Key

SMETA English Olympiad • Grade 7-8 • Set 3

1. A	2. B	3. C	4. D	5. A
6. B	7. C	8. D	9. A	10. B
11. C	12. D	13. A	14. B	15. C
16. D	17. A	18. B	19. C	20. D
21. A	22. B	23. C	24. D	25. A

SMETA ENGLISH OLYMPIAD

Question Paper: Grade 7-8, Set 4

QUESTIONS

25

TIME ALLOWED

60 MIN

MAX MARKS

100

Instructions:

Read each question carefully. Each question has four options (A, B, C, D). Choose only one correct answer. Use a pencil or a blue/black pen. All the best!

★ GOOD LUCK ★ Think Clearly ★ Choose Boldly ★ Shine Proudly ★

SMETA Olympiads ★ Empowering Young Minds Worldwide

1 Bruna asked her brother to wind the clock before they left for the airport, then had to wind a scarf tightly around her neck against the cold.

Which best explains the two uses of "wind" in this sentence?

- A** The first means to move through air currents; the second means to twist or coil.
- B** The first means to turn a mechanism to set it working; the second means to wrap or coil something around.
- C** Both uses refer to the weather, but with different intensities.
- D** Both uses mean the same thing: to turn something in a circular motion.

2 Choose the sentence that correctly uses the future perfect continuous tense.

- A** By next June, Caio has been studying English for six years.
- B** By next June, Caio will have studied English for six years already now.
- C** By next June, Caio will have been studying English for six years.
- D** By next June, Caio will study English for six years.

3 Dra. Lima's argument rested entirely on a single outdated study, yet she presented it as though the matter were settled beyond question.

Which word best describes this reasoning flaw?

- A** balanced
- B** cautious
- C** thorough
- D** overreaching

4 Which literary device is used in the phrase "the classroom held its breath"?

- A** Personification
- B** Alliteration
- C** Simile
- D** Hyperbole

5 Gustavo wanted to book a table at the restaurant, but every table was already booked; the seats near the window, however, were reserved only until eight o'clock, at which point they became available again.

Based on this, when could Gustavo most likely get a window seat?

- A** Never, the restaurant was fully booked
- B** After eight o'clock
- C** Only if he cancelled his own reservation
- D** Before eight o'clock

6 Which sentence uses the word "content" correctly, matching the meaning implied?
(Meaning: satisfied, not seeking more.)

- A** The box's content spilled out when it tipped over.
- B** The article's content was reviewed twice before publication.
- C** She felt entirely content with the small, quiet life she had built.
- D** The document's content needed to be summarised for the report.

7 Which of the following best expresses a logical conclusion based on the statement: "All of the museum's rare manuscripts are kept in climate-controlled rooms, and this manuscript is not kept in a climate-controlled room"?

- A** All climate-controlled rooms contain rare manuscripts.
- B** The museum has no rare manuscripts at all.
- C** This manuscript is one of the museum's rare manuscripts.
- D** This manuscript is not one of the museum's rare manuscripts.

8 Sr. Farias remarked, "The bridge you're describing sounds like it could use a little TLC," when a student proposed a wildly expensive redesign for a structure that merely needed minor repairs. What does this remark most likely suggest about Sr. Farias's attitude?

- A** He is gently and understatedly suggesting the proposal is excessive for what's needed.
- B** He fully agrees the bridge needs a complete redesign.
- C** He is angry and about to reject the idea outright.
- D** He is being literal and giving detailed engineering instructions.

9 Which literary device is used in the phrase "a silence louder than any scream"?

- A** Metaphor
- B** Oxymoron
- C** Simile
- D** Onomatopoeia

10 Melissa noticed that every time the school's star athlete was late to practice, the coach excused it, but when anyone else arrived late, they ran extra laps. Which word best describes what Melissa observed?

- A** Fairness
- B** Consistency
- C** Favouritism
- D** Discipline

11 Otavio had to book two seats on the train, but only one seat remained available in the quiet carriage. Choose the sentence that correctly uses the past perfect tense to describe what happened before Otavio arrived at the station.

- A** By the time Otavio arrived, the other passengers were taking most of the seats already before.
- B** By the time Otavio arrived, the other passengers have already taken most of the seats.
- C** By the time Otavio arrived, the other passengers took most of the seats.
- D** By the time Otavio arrived, the other passengers had already taken most of the seats.

12 Which word means the SAME as "unprecedented"?

- A** unparalleled
- B** outdated
- C** ordinary
- D** predictable

13 Carolina's essay used the metaphor "a lighthouse in the fog of uncertainty" to describe her mentor. What quality of the mentor does this metaphor most likely emphasise?

- A** Isolation from other people.
- B** Guidance and clarity during confusing times.
- C** Physical height and stature.
- D** A tendency to work only at night.

14 Which sentence correctly uses "affect" and "effect"?

- A** The new policy will affect thousands of students, but its affect won't be clear for years.
- B** The new policy will effect thousands of students, but its effect won't be clear for years.
- C** The new policy will affect thousands of students, but its effect won't be clear for years.
- D** The new policy will effect thousands of students, but its affect won't be clear for years.

15 Ricardo left the meeting early, though he later claimed he had "read the room" and decided his presence was no longer needed. What does "read the room" mean in this context?

- A** He misunderstood the purpose of the meeting entirely.
- B** He asked someone else to summarise the meeting for him.
- C** He literally read a document in the meeting room.
- D** He accurately sensed the mood or feeling of the group.

16 Which sentence demonstrates the correct use of a dangling modifier being avoided?

- A** Walking through the museum, Luiza was struck by the beauty of the ancient vases.
- B** The ancient vases, walking through the museum, caught Luiza's attention.
- C** Walking through the museum, the ancient vases caught Luiza's attention.
- D** Walking through the museum, Luiza's attention was caught by the ancient vases.

Read the passage carefully and answer Questions 17 - 20

When a section of the Larkspur River Bridge collapsed during routine traffic in the early hours of a spring morning, causing no injuries but widespread alarm, the investigation was handed to a structural engineer only three years into her career. Many of her senior colleagues privately doubted that someone so young, and so new to major infrastructure work, was equipped to lead an inquiry of this scale.

Rather than accepting the preliminary report, which blamed the collapse on age and general wear, she insisted on personally testing samples of the original steel herself, a process that took weeks longer than the review board had anticipated and drew considerable criticism for the delay. Her persistence, however, uncovered something the initial report had missed entirely: a manufacturing flaw in a batch of steel beams produced decades earlier, a flaw that had gone undetected in several other bridges built during the same period.

Her findings prompted a nationwide review of similar structures and led to new manufacturing safety standards still in use today. She would later say that the hardest part of the investigation was not the technical work itself, but convincing others to take her seriously long enough to let her finish it.

17 According to the passage, what was unusual about the young engineer's approach to the bridge collapse investigation?

- A** She relied solely on secondhand reports from other engineers.
- B** She insisted on testing the original materials herself rather than accepting the initial report.
- C** She recommended abandoning the investigation entirely.
- D** She refused to visit the collapse site in person.

18 What obstacle did the engineer face early in her career, according to the passage?

- A** An inability to understand the technical reports.
- B** A lack of interest in engineering as a child.
- C** Colleagues who doubted a young woman could lead a major investigation.
- D** A shortage of funding for her university studies.

19 What can be inferred about the engineer's personality from the passage?

- A She preferred to follow established procedures without question.
- B She was easily discouraged by setbacks.
- C She avoided responsibility whenever possible.
- D She was persistent and confident in her own methods.

20 What was the ultimate outcome of the engineer's investigation, according to the passage?

- A She discovered a manufacturing flaw that changed safety regulations nationwide.
- B She resigned from the project before completing it.
- C Her findings were dismissed by the review board.
- D The investigation was inconclusive and later abandoned.

Read the passage carefully and answer Questions 21 - 25

The clock on the mantelpiece ticked with what felt, to Naomi, like an unreasonable urgency. In an hour, Priya would board a train that would carry her three time zones away, and Naomi still had not said the thing she had spent the entire visit avoiding.

It would have been easier to let the silence stand. Priya was leaving regardless of what Naomi said or didn't say, and there was a certain comfort in imagining that unspoken things simply dissolved once the person carrying them was far enough away. But Naomi had never been able to convince herself that silence was the same as peace.

"I should have told you sooner," she finally said, "but I was the one who mentioned the flat to the landlord before you did. I didn't think you'd actually get it, and then you did, and I didn't know how to say I'd applied too."

Priya was quiet for a long moment. Then, unexpectedly, she laughed, not unkindly. "That's it? That's the thing you've been dancing around all week?" The clock kept ticking, but its urgency, for the first time all afternoon, seemed to loosen its grip on the room.

21 What is the main source of tension in the passage?

- A A storm approaching a coastal town during a festival.
- B Naomi's uncertainty about whether to reveal a secret before her friend leaves.
- C A competition between rival bakeries.
- D A disagreement between two sisters about a family recipe.

22 What does the description of the clock's ticking most likely suggest in the passage?

- A A minor detail with no connection to the story's mood.
- B That the characters are indifferent to time passing.
- C The mounting pressure of a decision that cannot be delayed much longer.
- D That the story takes place in an antique shop.

23 How does Naomi's decision at the end of the passage reflect her character?

- A It shows she is indifferent to her friend's feelings.
- B It shows she regrets her friendship entirely.
- C It shows she is easily persuaded by others' opinions.
- D It shows she values honesty over comfort, even when it is difficult.

24 Which word best describes the overall tone of the passage's final paragraph?

- A Relieved
- B Sarcastic
- C Indifferent
- D Resigned

25 Which theme is most clearly present in this passage?

- A The value of following family traditions without question.
- B The importance of choosing honesty even when silence would be easier.
- C The unpredictability of the weather along the coast.
- D The rivalry between two competing businesses.

Answer Key

SMETA English Olympiad • Grade 7-8 • Set 4

1. B	2. C	3. D	4. A	5. B
6. C	7. D	8. A	9. B	10. C
11. D	12. A	13. B	14. C	15. D
16. A	17. B	18. C	19. D	20. A
21. B	22. C	23. D	24. A	25. B