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## English Language questions

### OPTION I

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Our planet is at risk. Our environment is under threat. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the seas we fish in, the soils we farm, the forest, animals and plants which surround us are in danger. More and more gases and rubbish escape from our factories. Rubbish, oil spillage and detergents damage our rivers and seas. The loss of forests results in soil erosion and also endangers wildlife.

The richer countries of the world are mainly responsible for industrial pollution. This is where most of the commercial energy is consumed. In developing countries, poverty causes people to overgraze grasslands and to cut down trees for timber building, furniture and fuel. They are also destroyed to provide land on which to graze animals and build new villages and towns.

But trees are needed to protect the land from heavy down pour of rain and their roots help hold the soil together. In our forests, there may be plants and animals which could help in the discovery of new medicines or crops.

To rescue and conserve our beautiful world, we must act cooperatively. Individuals, communities, nations and international associations, all have a responsibility. By learning to protect the natural environment, we can manage the earth's resources for generations to come.

1. The risk referred to in the passage is
  - A. sociologically produced
  - B. environmentally induced
  - C. industrially produced
  - D. man-made.
2. According to the passage, the size of the forest depleted annually is
  - A. minimal
  - B. colossal
  - C. infinitesimal
  - D. infinite.
3. The writer holds the advanced nations responsible for industrial pollution because of their
  - A. technological innovations
  - B. energy requirements
  - C. industrial revolution
  - D. environmental production.
4. The writer's message is that
  - A. developed countries need to assist the poorer ones.
  - B. global warming will increase





- C. researchers should produce medicines from forests  
D.. the natural environment needs to be protected.
5. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase The presence of the principal makes the students *ill at ease*.
- A. easily ill  
B impatient  
C uncomfortable  
D sickly.
6. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. In spite of the harsh realities at home, Tutu treats her studies with considerable *levity*.
- A. lassitude  
A. wastefulness  
C. seriousness  
D. enthusiasm
7. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized word/phrase.. I find *open-ended* questions more challenging in tests.
- A. easy  
B. multiple-choice  
C. essay-type  
D. gap-completion
8. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized word/phrase. Ojo's knowing smile *infuriated* his sister
- A. confused  
B. surprised  
C. annoyed  
D. pleased





9. Which of the following highlighted consonants is pronounced differently from the others?
- A. fife
  - B. off
  - C. laugh
  - D. of
10. Which of these words has a vowel pronounced differently from the others?
- A. steak
  - B. break
  - C. leak
  - D. strange

OPTION II

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Delinquency describes actions that would not be crimes if performed by adults. If a young person performs one of such actions then he or she has committed a crime. Delinquency is one of several status offences – offences that can be committed only by people in particular stations of life as determined by age, profession or a person's role in society. For young people such offences include drinking, driving and smoking under age. Usually they are offences only to the extent that they help preserve some of the good things of life for the exclusive enjoyment of the adult world. Delinquency is therefore a weapon forged in adult minds and directed by adult hands against young people. It is born out of envy, adult pride and intolerance. If the world changed overnight and the responsibility to make and enforce laws fell on juvenile shoulders, the adults should expect a raw deal in return. Delinquency would then certainly refer only to many of the adult actions now freely committed by them.

- 11 The writer of the passage believes that delinquency laws are
- A. only fit for young people
  - B. not relevant to human society
  - C. unfair to the juveniles
  - D. very fair to the adult world.
- 12 In the view of the writer drinking under age is an offence because
- A. adults do not want the juveniles to get drunk





- B. adults have a duty to protect young persons
- C. adults want to have all the drinks to themselves
- D. drunken juveniles can cause disorder in the society.
13. Status offences are
- A. very fair to the adult world.
- B. not relevant to human society
- C. unfair to the young people
- D. only fit for young people.
14. If the world changed overnight
- A. delinquency would no longer be a crime
- C. delinquency would also change in meaning
- C. there would be no more delinquency
- D. delinquency would refer to all adult actions.
15. **Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase** People could not understand why a man of means should live a ***Spartan*** life.
- A. foreign
- B. frugal
- C. extravagant
- D. flamboyant
16. **choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized word/phrase.** My boss is an ***exacting*** taskmaster.
- A. hardworking
- B. easygoing
- C. demanding





D. cooperative

17. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. The *explosive* growth in world population is partly due to improved healthcare.
- A. gradual
  - B. sudden
  - C. combustible
  - D. dangerous
18. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. I would have enjoyed the novel but for its *convoluted* theme.
- A. simple
  - B. complex
  - C. immoral
  - D. D. boring
19. Which of the following highlighted consonants is pronounced differently from the others?
- A. chef
  - B. shoe
  - C. chief
  - D. ocean
20. Which of these words has a vowel pronounced differently from the others?
- A. key
  - B. quay
  - C. steak
  - D. greed





**OPTION III**

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Standard English refers to the authoritative and correct use of the language, the medium of expression for government and education. Its opposite is a dialectal variant of the language, that is, accepted and recognized words, expressions and structures peculiar to a smaller group of language users who are generally set apart from standard usage by cultural group or geographical region. For example, Nigerian, American, Irish and British English differ from one another in many respects and each is identifiable, yet in every case the standard (formal) variety approaches a single and hypothetical classification known as International English. As one moves towards informality and away from the observance of strict rules, emphasis falls on the difference between dialects. In addition to American English being distinguishable from British English, it is also true that British English is not uniform within the United Kingdom. The level of formality is determined by education and aspiration, while dialects vary from region to region.

21. One characteristic of a dialect as mentioned in the passage is its

- A. possession of variants
- B. informality
- C. distinction from British English
- D. restricted area of usage

22. According to the author, Nigerian and American English are

- A. standard varieties
- B. registers
- C. different languages
- D. different styles

23. The author considers International English

- A. an arbitrary classification
- B. an informal standard
- C. an imaginary classification
- D. a recognized formal standard





24. The observance of strict rules is a feature of
- A. variety
  - B. unconventionality
  - C. formality
  - D. languages.
25. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. He was under pressure to retract his statement before the panel.
- A. reiterate
  - B. withdraw
  - C. assert
  - D. repeat
26. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized bold word/phrase His family wishes he would stop his nefarious activities
- A. nocturnal
  - B. respectable
  - C. promiscuous
  - D. degenerate
27. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase.. The nouveau riche tend to be niggardly in their ways.
- A. Stingy
  - B. miserly
  - C. generous
  - D. beggarly







28. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized word/phrase. Mrs Ojodu may be well-heeled but her dressing is often *tasteless*.
- A. vulgar
  - B. garish
  - C sophisticated
  - D. salty
29. Which of the following highlighted consonants is pronounced differently from the others?
- A. tight
  - B. Thames
  - C though
  - D. team
30. Which of these words has a vowel pronounced differently from the others?
- A. gloom
  - B. glum
  - C. glue
  - D. glume

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#### OPTION IV

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Erosion in nature is a beneficent process without which the world would have died long ago. The same process, accelerated by human mismanagement, has become one of the most vicious and destructive forces that have ever been released by man. 'Geological erosion' or 'denudation' is an early and important process in soil formation, whereby the original rock material is continuously broken down and sorted by wind and water until it becomes suitable for colonization by plants. Plants, by the binding effects of their roots, by the protection they afford against rain and wind and by the fertility they impart to the soil, bring denudation almost to a standstill. Nevertheless, some slight denudation is always occurring. As each superficial film of plant-covered soil becomes exhausted it is removed by rain or wind, to be deposited mainly in the rivers and sea, and a corresponding thin layer of soil forms by slow weathering of the





underlying rock. The depth is sometimes only a few inches, occasionally several feet deep, but within it lies the whole capacity of the earth to produce life. Below that thin layer comprising the delicate organism known as soil is a planet as lifeless as the moon.

31 . 'Geological erosion' means the same as

- A. soil erosion
- B. natural erosion
- C. erosion by man
- D. all of the above

32. Denudation

- A. is an important process in soil formation
- B. destroys the surface of the earth
- C. results from man's reduction of soil fertility
- D. will bring national extinction

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33. One important function of plants is to:

- A. denude the soil
- B. bind and fertilize the soil
- C. erode the soil to smoothness
- D. look pretty

34. The layer of soil is generally

- A. between a few inches and a few feet deep.
- B. miles deep
- C. never more than a few inches deep
- D. as lifeless as the moon.





35. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. Practising law is not as lucrative as people *think*.
- A. know
  - B. understand
  - C. assume
  - D. consider
36. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. The family puts up a brave face but their financial situation is *precarious*.
- A. buoyant
  - B. precious
  - C. unjustifiable
  - D. insecure
37. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. As is usually the case when Tanus got involved, the discussion became *animated*.
- A. unruly
  - B. specialized
  - C. lively
  - D. boring
38. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. Gender-sensitivity is part of the new *political correctness*.
- A. inclusiveness
  - B. naiveté
  - C. insensitivity
  - D. ideology





39. Which of the following highlighted consonants is pronounced differently from the others?

- A. world
- B. whore
- C. hoar
- D. whole

40. Which of these words has a vowel pronounced differently from the others?

- A. beast
- B. heft
- C. breast
- A. wealth

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**OPTION V**

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the bands that have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of humanity requires that they declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all human beings are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We affirm also that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organising its power in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to secure their safety and happiness.

Adapted from *The Declaration of Independence*

41. Why does the writer find it necessary to state the reasons that the colonies have for breaking away from their colonial masters ?

- A. because they have had a long relationship with the colonial power





- B. because they were obedient to God's laws
- C in order to show that they respect world opinion
- D. because they have been a colony for a long time.
42. When, according to the author, can people excusably put an end to any form of government?
- A. when that government rigs elections
- B. when the literate citizens no longer respect the government
- C. when the government has stayed too long in power
- D. when the government stops protecting the rights of the people
43. By saying that some truths are 'self-evident', the writer means that those assertions
- A. can be defended
- B. cannot be disputed
- C. need evidence
- D. none of the above
44. The right of a nation to self- governance derives ultimately from
- A. the strength of that nation
- B. a respect for the opinions of human beings
- C the laws of God
- D. the laws of nature
45. **Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase.** The little village became more *enchanting* at dusk.
- A. bewitched
- B accommodating
- C attractive





- D. fascinating
46. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. More students are relying on *virtual* resources for study and entertainment.
- A. fundamental
  - B. righteous
  - C. automated
  - D. computer-generated
47. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. I wonder why her brother is *indifferent to* her financial situation.
- A. Interested in
  - B. troubled by
  - C. discouraged by
  - D. filled with
48. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. I would have enjoyed the novel but for its *convoluted* theme.
- A. simple
  - B. B.complex
  - C. C immoral
  - D. boring
49. Which of the following highlighted consonants is pronounced differently from the others?
- A. hiccough
  - B. poppy
  - C. cup
  - D. tough





50. Which of these words has a vowel pronounced differently from the others?

- A. height
- B. high
- C. heist
- D. eight

### OPTION VI

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

We knew early in life that the atmosphere in our home was different from that in many other homes where husbands and wives quarrel and where there was drunkenness, laziness or indifference – things we never saw in our family. We also knew that our father was an uncommon man. Whenever my mother was away, my father could and did do all the household jobs. We lived in this way in a community in which housework was regarded as being beneath male dignity. In our family, however, boys did girls' work and my father did it with us.

We had to get water at the public tap nearly a kilometre away from our house and make the trek back with water tins balanced on our heads. All the children in the neighbourhood knew we did women's work, and I can still hear their derisive laughter. We did our jobs doggedly because our parents expected it of us. Out of choice, our father did everything we did, including fetching water on occasion, and commanded us by sheer force of his example.

51. By describing his father as *an uncommon man*, the writer means that he is

- A. aristocratic
- B. lazy
- C remarkable
- D. amenable

52. Which of the following was likely to be true of the writer's family when he was young?

- A. his mother was lazy
- B. his father was a drunk
- C the family was happy
- D. the sons were ruffians





53. Which of the following describes the father's role in the family?
- A. serving the wife
  - B. being too hard on the children
  - C. leading by example
  - D. usurping the wife's role
54. Now that the writer is grown up, he
- A. thinks that he had a miserable childhood.
  - B. thinks that his father was a bully
  - C. is grateful for his upbringing
  - D. is sad about his upbringing
55. **Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase.** He was under pressure to ***retract*** his statement before the panel
- A. reiterate
  - B. withdraw
  - C. assert
  - D. repeat
56. **Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase.** He was told to forget the ***niceties*** and go straight to his main point
- A. specifics
  - B. politeness
  - C. greetings
  - D. nice things







57. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. Our visit to the village was *nothing to write home about*.

- A. not interesting
- B. not a home affair
- C quite pleasant
- D. nobody's business

58. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. Ojo's knowing smile *infuriated* his sister

- A. confused
- B. surprised
- C. annoyed
- D.C pleased

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59. Which of the following highlighted consonants is pronounced differently from the others?

- A. **dung**
- B. **dog**
- C. **dagger**
- D. **agog**

60. Which of these words has a consonant pronounced differently from the others?

- A. tough
- B. Thames
- C though
- D. team





**OPTION VII**

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Creoles, according to the most general account, arise when a pidgin language becomes the native language of a new generation of children. One way this can come about is when a man and woman who speak different languages marry, both know a pidgin, and neither learns the other's language. The pidgin then becomes the shared home language and becomes the mother tongue of the children. A setting in which this has happened occurred during the bleakest days of slavery in the Western hemisphere, when efforts were made to separate African slaves with the same native language in order to forestall insurrections. Only pidgin languages were available as common languages and they became the basis for the mother tongue of new generations.

Once a pidgin language becomes a mother tongue, it must support all the interactive needs of its speakers, since they have no other language to fall back on. A creole becomes simpler (in the sense of more regular) and expands its grammatical machinery, as well as stabilizing and expanding its lexicon. If a creole is in touch with its lexifier language, it may 'decreolize' and develop varieties increasingly like the lexifier language. If the less decreolized varieties fall out of use, the decreolized remnants of the old creole may be seen simply as substandard dialects of the lexifier language. As we will see, this has been proposed as the origin for the US Vernacular Black English.

61 . Creoles may be defined as:

- (A) a pidgin spoken by West African slaves,
- (B) a pidgin that has acquired native speakers,
- (C) a native language of a new generation of children,
- (D) the mother tongue of children born in an inter-ethnic marriage.

62. African slaves who spoke the same language were separated ...

- (A) in order to make them forget their first languages,
- (B) so that there would be no rebellion,
- (C) so that they would learn their master's language,
- (D) to make their days bleaker.

63 The following are characteristics of a creole language except...

- (A) an expanded vocabulary,





- (B) varieties similar to the lexifier language,  
(C) young native speakers,  
(D) a more regular grammatical system.
64. Vernacular Black English is ...  
(A) a pidgin,  
(B) a creole,  
(C) a decreolized variety,  
(D) a less decreolized variety.
65. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized word/phrase.  
He is a *prolific* writer as well as a human rights activist.  
A. well-known  
B. productive  
C. promising  
D. promiscuous
66. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized word/phrase.  
Her *meddlesome* husband ruined her business relationships.  
A. uncaring  
B. detached  
C. prying  
D. intimidating
67. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. The government is making *concerted* efforts at improving the standard of living in the rural areas.  
A. dissipated





- B. unconcerned
- C. uncontrolled
- D. unsuccessful
68. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. The politician's passionate appeal ***doused*** the tension
- A. heightened
- B. smothered
- C. lifted
- D. drowned
69. Which of the following highlighted consonants is pronounced differently from the others?
- A. **d**odge
- B. **d**oge
- C. **d**ogged
- D. **d**rudge
70. Which of these words has a vowel pronounced differently from the others?
- A. **a**stead
- B. **a**stealth
- C. **a**steam
- D. **a**bread

### OPTION VIII

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.





Underlying any relationship between Haiti and Africa is the fact that the population of that country originated from Africa to a far greater extent than on other Caribbean Islands; 90% of the Haitians are full-blooded Negroes, the rest mulattoes. The total eradication of the white element was the consequence of a particular political and economic situation of the island Saint-Domingue, which was the name of Haiti under French colonization. Other than on the other Caribbean islands where the early arrival of European settlers resulted in a development of a white indigenous population, Saint-Domingue remained untouched until 1697, when the peace treaty of Riswyck ended the dispute between France and Spain over the ownership of this island. At that time it had already been proved that the production of sugar was the most profitable industry in this area particularly if the estates were large enough and labour costs could be kept low by extensive use of slave labour, which was brought over from Africa. So the new settlers of Saint-Domingue belonged to two groups greatly contrasted in social condition and number. On the one side, there was a small group of French noblemen, owners of immense sugar estates maintaining in Saint-Domingue the privileges which they had lost in France under Louis XIV, on the other side there were the African slaves living in miserable conditions but conscious that they outnumbered their masters by hundreds of thousands. These contradictions within the society led to the outbreak of the slave revolt in 1792, which differed from other revolts in that area in that it was successful, and in 1804 after many ups and downs the victorious slaves of Saint-Domingue proclaimed a new state, named Haiti. Most of the white landlords had fled the island during the hostilities and the few remaining ones were killed after independence.

71. The population of Haiti
- A. is made up predominantly of mulattoes
  - B. originated from Spain and France
  - C. originated predominantly from Africa
  - D. came from other Caribbean Islands
72. Haiti did not develop a white indigenous population as early as other Caribbean Islands because
- A. it was less suited for sugar cultivation
  - B. there was a controversy over the ownership of the island
  - C. the indigenous Negro population was very hostile
  - D. the island was not discovered early enough
73. The French settlers preferred to live in Saint-Domingue because
- A. Louis XIV allowed them their usual privileges there





- B. the African slaves there lived in miserable conditions
- C. they could enjoy the rights they had lost in France
- D. they were not patriotic
74. The clause, 'which differed from other revolts in that area in that it was successful,' suggests that
- A. there were many successful slave revolts
- B. slave revolts were not unusual then in the Caribbean
- C. the islands of the Caribbean are ruled by rebel slaves
- D. the slaves in Saint-Domingue differed with slaves on other islands
75. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase.
- A. The young groom is quite an *astute* businessman.
- A. acute
- B. shrewd
- C. honest
- D. considerate
76. Choose the most appropriate option nearest in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase.
- The family puts up a brave face but their financial situation is *precarious*.
- A. buoyant
- B. precious
- C. unjustifiable
- D. insecure





77. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized of bold word/phrase.

The volume contains the *complete* works of Shakespeare.

- A. reprinted
- B. abridged
- C. edited
- D. selected

78. Choose the most appropriate option opposite in meaning to the italicized or bold word/phrase. I find *open-ended* questions more challenging in tests.

- A. easy
- B. multiple-choice
- C. essay-type
- D. gap-completion

79. Which of the following highlighted consonants is pronounced differently from the others?

- A. chalet
- B. champion
- C. chagrin
- D. chaise

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80. Which of these words has a vowel pronounced differently from the others?

- A. steak
- B. break
- C. leak
- D. strange



## APPRECIATION

If you found these past questions **helpful**, here are some ways you can **contribute** to the exam success of other students:

- **Correct an error** in this past question
- **Update** this past question
- **Submit a past question** for another school

**Are you interested in contributing?**

Yes, I am!







# THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, AKURE

*Technology for Self Reliance*

## English language Answers

1	D	21	D	41	C	61	B	11	C	31	B	51	D	71	C
2	B	22	A	42	D	62	B	12	C	32	A	52	C	72	B
3	B	23	C	43	B	63	B	13	C	33	B	53	C	73	C
4	D	24	C	44	C	64	C	14	B	34	A	54	C	74	C
5	C	25	B	45	D	65	B	15	B	35	C	55	B	75	B
6	C	26	D	46	D	66	C	16	C	36	D	56	A	76	D
7	B	27	C	47	A	67	A	17	A	37	D	57	C	77	D
8	C	28	C	48	A	68	A	18	B	38	C	58	D	78	B
9	D	29	C	49	D	69	C	19	C	39	A	59	A	79	B
10	C	30	D	50	D	70	C	20	C	40	A	60	C	80	C

