



NATIONAL ENGLISH TOURNAMENT

Identifying young global stars

JUNIOR SECONDARY CATEGORY

STUDY GUIDE

Comprehension Passage:

Title: The Mysterious Island

Once upon a time, there was a group of friends named Alex, Ben, Cindy, and David. One sunny afternoon, they decided to go on an adventure to a mysterious island that they had heard rumors about. They packed their backpacks with snacks, water, and a map, and set off on their journey.

As they arrived at the island, they were amazed by its beauty. Tall palm trees swayed in the gentle breeze, and colorful flowers bloomed everywhere. The friends couldn't wait to explore and discover what secrets the island held.

As they ventured deeper into the island, they stumbled upon an old, abandoned hut. Curiosity got the better of them, and they decided to take a peek inside. To their surprise, they found a dusty old chest hidden in the corner. With trembling hands, they opened it, revealing a treasure map!

Excitement filled their hearts as they studied the map. It led them to a hidden cave on the other side of the island. They followed the map carefully, climbing over rocks and wading through streams. Finally, they reached the cave entrance.

Inside the cave, they encountered a series of puzzles and challenges. They worked together, using their wits and problem-solving skills, to overcome each obstacle. It wasn't an easy journey, but their determination pushed them forward.

After what felt like hours, they reached the heart of the cave. And there it was, a chest filled with gold coins, shiny gems, and ancient artifacts. Their eyes widened with amazement as they realized they had found the legendary treasure of the island.

With their backpacks now filled with treasure, the friends made their way back to the hut where they had found the map. They decided to leave a note for other explorers, sharing their incredible adventure and encouraging them to follow their dreams.

The island had taught them the value of teamwork, bravery, and perseverance. As they sailed back home, they knew that this adventure would forever be etched in their memories.

Questions:

- 1. What did the group of friends pack in their backpacks for their adventure? A. Toys and books B. Snacks, water, and a map C. Sports equipment D. Musical instruments*

2. What did the friends find inside the old, abandoned hut? A. A treasure map B. A secret passageway C. A magic potion D. A lost dog
3. Where did the treasure map lead the friends? A. A hidden cave on the other side of the island B. A tall mountain in the center of the island C. An underwater cave D. A haunted house
4. What did the friends learn from their adventure? A. The importance of sharing B. The value of education C. The power of teamwork and perseverance D. The joy of playing video games
5. What did the friends decide to do after finding the treasure? A. Keep it a secret B. Sell it and buy toys C. Share their adventure with others and encourage them to follow their dreams D. Hide it in their backyard

Choose amongst the options, the correct spelling of the word that best fills the gap

6. Despite his _____, John managed to perform exceptionally well in the music competition. A. absence B. absence C. absense D. abscense
7. Sarah made a new _____ while attending a conference on environmental sustainability. A. aquaintance B. acquaintance C. aquainthance D. acquaintence
8. The _____ photographer captured breathtaking images of the sunset. A. amature B. amateur C. amaturee D. amateure
9. The children's laughter was _____ as they played in the park. A. buoyant B. boyant C. bouyant D. bouyantt
10. The old _____ held the memories of generations of families. A. cemetary B. cemetery C. cemategy D. cemeterry
11. Sarah's _____ at work always ensured that tasks were completed with utmost diligence. A. coleague B. colleague C. collague D. colleegue
12. The _____ student always submitted assignments on time and with meticulous attention to detail. A. consciencious B. conscientious C. consciencios D. conscienciouss
13. The magician used sleight of hand to _____ the audience into believing the coin disappeared. A. decieve B. deceive C. deceeve D. deceivve
14. Jane felt _____ when she tripped and dropped her lunch tray in the crowded cafeteria. A. embarassed B. embarrassed C. embarrased D. embarassed
15. The room was brightened by the _____ lights overhead. A. florescent B. fluorescent C. florecent D. fluoresant

Fill in the gap with the best option

16. The _____ photographer captured breathtaking images of the sunset. A. amateur B. professional C. experienced D. skilled
17. The children's laughter was _____ as they played in the park. A. joyful B. silent C. loud D. contagious
18. The old _____ held the memories of generations of families. A. cemetery B. hospital C. school D. library

19. The _____ of the novel left readers in suspense until the very end. A. conclusion
B. climax C. introduction D. resolution
20. Choose the word that is opposite in meaning to the highlighted word given below:
Imagine how barren our lands would be if there were no rivers? A. fertile B. abundant
C. productive D. lush
21. Which of the following is most opposite in meaning to the word per capita? A. average
B. individual C. collective D. personal
22. Choose the word that is opposite in meaning to the highlighted word given below: The
house was **invaded** by the young officers. A. attacked B. defended C. occupied
D. protected
23. Choose the word that is opposite in meaning to the highlighted word given below: The
Ganges is as **deep** in midstream as at the banks. A. shallow B. narrow C. wide
D. deepened
- Best fill in the gaps**
24. I intend to _____ to my boss about my salary. A. talk B. complain C. negotiate D. discuss
25. In questions about degree, we use _____. A. how much B. how many C. how long
D. how often
26. At no time was he aware of what was happening. He was completely _____.
A. oblivious B. conscious C. aware D. knowledgeable
27. They often go fishing instead of going to school. Stella often goes to the movies without
telling her parents. These sentences describe their _____ behavior. A. rebellious
B. obedient C. compliant D. respectful
28. I am interested _____ what she did with that money. A. to find out B. in finding out
C. to finding out D. in find out
29. The team worked _____ to achieve their goal. A. collaboratively B. independently
C. competitively D. reluctantly
30. The road was blocked due to a fallen tree, causing a _____ in traffic. A. delay
B. increase C. decrease D. improvement
31. She has a _____ personality, always making people laugh with her jokes and funny
stories. A. serious B. somber C. cheerful D. gloomy
32. Find the word that has a similar sound to the highlighted sound: Which word sounds
similar to /aɪ/? A. filthy B. light C. brought D. laid
33. Find the word that has a similar sound to the highlighted sound: Which word sounds
similar to /uː/? A. spoon B. book C. foot D. hook
34. What is the opposite in meaning to "done"? a) completed b) finished c) accomplished
d) undone
35. Which word is the exact opposite of "good"? a) bad b) excellent c) great d) wonderful
36. What is the most opposite in meaning to "predicting"? a) guessing b) estimating
c) forecasting d) surprising

37. Which word is the best opposite in meaning to "closed-end"? a) open-ended b) limited c) restricted d) conclusive
38. What is the opposite in meaning to "infer"? a) deduce b) conclude c) assume d) misunderstand
39. Which word is a homonym for "mail"? a) male b) maelstrom c) maul d) maze
40. What is the correct homophone for "knight"? a) night b) nit c) knighted d) knead
41. Which word is a homonym for "pair"? a) pear b) pare c) pail d) peer
42. What is the correct homophone for "cell"? a) sell b) cello c) sail d) cellar
43. Which word is a homonym for "fair"? a) fare b) fayre c) fear d) feral
44. What is the correct homophone for "flower"? a) flour b) floor c) flounder d) flutter
45. I am too careful to _____ my key. a) lose b) loose c) lost d) loss
46. Identify the correct spelling for the missing word: "The _____ of the building is crucial." (a) Maintanance (b) Maintenance (c) Maintainance (d) Maintenance
47. Select the correct spelling for the commonly misspelled word: "The license was issued yesterday." (a) Liscence (b) Lisence (c) Licence (d) license
48. Choose the correct spelling for the missing word: "The _____ of the event surprised everyone." (a) Occurance (b) Occurence (c) Ocurrance (d) Occurrence
49. Identify the correct spelling for the missing word: "The _____ was well-received." (a) Recomendation (b) Recommndation (c) Recomendation (d) Recommendation
50. Select the correct spelling for the commonly misspelled word: "The _____ will attend the meeting." (a) Definately (b) Definetly (c) Definaty (d) Definitely
51. There's a _____ just beside that school. a) Cemetary b) Cemetery c) Cemetry d) Cemmetery
52. You should _____ get your foot checked out by a doctor. a) Definitely b) Definately c) Defenitly d) Definnately
53. There really isn't any more room to _____ the remaining people. a) Accomodate b) Accomoddate c) Acommodate d) Accommodate
54. The cost of the _____ of an exotic vehicle isn't so appealing. a) Maintainance b) Maintenance c) Maintenance d) Maintainance
55. It pays to have a good _____. a) Conscience b) Consceince c) Consciense d) Consceinse
56. It would be _____ to purchase those books since your siblings already have them. a) Unecessary b) Unneccessary c) Unnecessary d) Unecenary
57. A _____ was sent to the students to know of their academic status. a) Questionnaire b) Questionaire c) Questionare d) Questionnare
58. The school _____ is being renovated at the moment. a) Libary b) Library c) Librarie d) Libarie
59. The current _____ is certainly one like no other. a) Government b) Governement c) Goverment d) Government
60. The _____ of disciplinary action is awarding students of exemplary behaviour today. a) Comitee b) Commitee c) Committee d) Comittee
61. Hard work will always _____ good fruit. a) Yield b) Yielld c) Yeild d) Yeilled
62. The auditorium was decorated with numerous _____ bulbs. a) Fluoroscent b) Fluorescent c) Flouresent d) Fluorosent
63. It is quite _____ to be educated if one is to stand a better chance at employment. a) Neccessary b) Necessary c) Neccesary d) Necesarry

64. The sudden rise in unemployment is _____ in the post-war period. a) Unparalleled b) Unparaelled c) Unparraleled d) Unparralleled
65. The office staff will take their leave _____. a) Tommorow b) Tomorrow c) Tommorrow d) Tomorrow
66. Four sentences are given, out of which three have spelling errors. Choose the sentence with a correct word. a) The cat was purring contentedly. b) The dog was wagging its tail exitedly. c) The bird was chirpping sweetly. d) The flowers were blooming beautifuly.
67. Choose the word that represents the correct word order in the options below: (a) Boy the ate an apple (b) An apple, the boy ate (c) Boy an ate the apple (d) The boy ate an apple
68. Select the word that represents the correct synonym of the underlined word: "The movie was entertaining and enjoyable (a) Stud (b) Tedious (c) Amusing (d) Crude

Read the passage below and answer the question that follows

Once upon a time, in a faraway land, there existed a magical forest where extraordinary creatures lived. In this enchanting place, the trees shimmered with vibrant colours, and the flowers sang sweet melodies.

Deep within the heart of the forest, a group of whimsical animals formed an unlikely friendship. There was Oliver the wise owl, known for his vast knowledge and twinkling eyes. Bella the bunny, with her fluffy white fur and boundless energy, hopped around spreading joy wherever she went. And Milo the mischievous squirrel, with his bushy tail and quick wit, was always up to some playful antics.

One sunny morning, as the forest woke up to the cheerful chirping of birds, Oliver, Bella, and Milo gathered near a sparkling stream for their daily adventure. Little did they know that this day would be filled with magic and wonder.

As they ventured deeper into the forest, a soft breeze whispered through the leaves, carrying with it a faint melody. Curiosity piqued, the friends followed the sound, which led them to a hidden grove bathed in a soft, golden light.

In the centre of the grove stood a majestic tree, its branches reaching towards the sky. Suddenly, the tree came alive with a burst of sparkling colours, transforming into a wise and gentle spirit called Lumina.

Lumina greeted the friends with a warm smile, her voice as gentle as a summer breeze. She explained that they had been chosen to help protect the magical balance of the forest. With a wave of her hand, Lumina bestowed upon each friend a special gift.

Oliver received the gift of wisdom, allowing him to unravel the mysteries of the forest and guide his friends with his knowledge. Bella was granted the gift of boundless energy, enabling her to spread joy and laughter wherever she went. And Milo, with a mischievous grin, was given the gift of transformation, allowing him to shape-shift into any creature he desired.

With their newfound gifts, the friends set off on a series of thrilling adventures, exploring secret caves, encountering friendly sprites, and unravelling mystical riddles. They learned to use their gifts wisely, helping those in need and protecting the forest from any harm.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, casting a warm glow over the magical forest, Lumina appeared once more to bid the friends farewell. She reminded them that the true magic of the forest lay in their friendship and the love they shared for each other and the world around them.

With hearts full of gratitude and wonder, Oliver, Bella, and Milo returned home, knowing that they would forever cherish their adventures in the magical forest and the lifelong bond they had formed.

And so, in that enchanted place, where the trees shimmered with vibrant colours and the flowers sang sweet melodies, the magical forest friends continued to embark on new adventures, spreading joy and wonder wherever they went.

69. What is the main theme of the story? a) The importance of individual strength and overcoming challenges alone.

b) The beauty and wonder of a fantastical world filled with magic. c) The power of friendship and using unique talents for a greater good. d) The importance of following directions and listening to authority figures.

70. Why does Lumina choose Oliver, Bella, and Milo to be the protectors of the forest? a) They represent important qualities like wisdom, joy, and resourcefulness. b) They are the strongest and most powerful creatures in the forest. c) They possess magical abilities that Lumina can enhance. d) They are the only ones who can understand the whispered melody.

71. What is the significance of the magical forest being described as having "shimmering trees" and "singing flowers"? b) It establishes the setting as a dangerous and unpredictable place. b) It emphasizes the importance of respecting nature and its creatures. c) It foreshadows the challenges the friends will face in their adventures. d) It sets the tone for a whimsical and fantastical world filled with wonder.

Fill in the blank spaces with the most suitable option.

72. The _____ of the orchestra filled the concert hall with a symphony of harmonious melodies.

a) conductor b) ensemble c) repertoire d) crescendo

73. The astronaut floated effortlessly in _____ aboard the International Space Station. a) gravity b) orbit c) atmosphere d) weightlessness

74. The veterinarian provided _____ care to ensure the health and well-being of the animals.

a) specialized b) general c) routine d) emergency

75. The photographer captured the _____ moment when the sun dipped below the horizon. a) fleeting b) ordinary c) dull d) repetitive

76. The engineer used advanced _____ software to create a 3D model of the building before construction began. a) CAD b) Photoshop c) Illustrator d) SketchUp

77. The artist used a variety of _____, such as oil paints, watercolours, and charcoal, to create their artwork. a) mediums b) brushes c) canvases d) palettes

78. The teacher used _____ methods to make the lesson accessible and engaging for all students.

a) exclusive b) outdated c) inclusive d) complicated

79. The technologist designed an innovative _____ that revolutionized the way people communicate.

a) infrastructure b) algorithm c) software d) device

80. The young college student designed a _____ structure that could withstand extreme weather conditions. a) fragile b) resilient c) temporary d) outdated

81. The doctor provided _____ care, addressing both the physical and emotional needs of the patient.

a) holistic b) impersonal c) rushed d) negligent

82. The mountain peak offered a breath-taking view of the surrounding landscape. What is the best synonym for breath-taking? a) Astonishing b) Stunning c) Ordinary d) Spectacular

83. The book's plot was captivating and kept the readers hooked until the end. What is the best synonym for captivating? a) Engaging b) Interesting c) Boring d) Dull

84. The magician performed amazing tricks that left the audience in awe. What is the best synonym for amazing?

a) Ordinary b) Mediocre c) Unimpressive d) Bewildering

85. The little girl's voice was whispered as she shared a secret with her friend. What is the best synonym for whispered? a) Spoken b) Muttered c) Shouted d) Yelled

86. The valley was serene, with no signs of life. What is the best synonym for serene? a) Peaceful b) Calm

c) Busy d) Noisy

87. The cat was curious and explored every corner of the house. What is the best synonym for curious?

a) Inquisitive b) Interested c) Nosy d) Indifferent

88. The baby's smile was infectious and spread joy to everyone around. What is the best synonym for infectious? a) Harmful b) Engaging c) Spreading d) Contagious
89. The weather was glorious with clear skies and warm sunshine. What is the best synonym for glorious? a) Beautiful b) Wonderful c) Ordinary d) Magnificent
90. The fireworks display was spectacular and filled the night sky with bursts of colour. What is the best antonym for spectacular? a) Ordinary b) Impressive c) Astonishing d) Extraordinary
91. The athlete displayed graceful movements during her routine. What is the best antonym for graceful? a) Clumsy b) Elegant c) Awkward d) Smooth
92. The weather was miserable with dark clouds and heavy rain. What is the best antonym for miserable? a) Pleasant b) Unhappy c) Gloomy d) Depressed
93. The room was spacious with plenty of room to move around. What is the best antonym for spacious? a) Large b) Cramped c) Expansive d) Roomy
94. The mountain peak offered a magnificent view of the surrounding landscape. What is the best antonym for magnificent? a) Beautiful b) Wonderful c) Ordinary d) Spectacular
95. The cake was delicious with its rich chocolatey flavour. What is the best antonym for delicious? a) Tasty b) Yummy c) Delectable d) Disgusting
96. The magician's tricks were mind-boggling and left the audience in awe. What is the best antonym for mind-boggling? a) Confusing b) Puzzling c) Complicated d) Simple
97. The book's plot was predictable and lacked surprises. What is the best antonym for predictable? a) Unusual b) Expected d) Spontaneous c) Monotonous
98. Which of these is not like the others? a) Depot b) Listen c) Christen d) Attack
99. One word is not supposed to be on this list, which is it? a) Sachet b) Pocket c) Basket d) Locket
100. Choose the odd one out. a) Paradigm b) Gnome c) Comb d) Sign

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follows

The bell rang, signaling the end of another school day. Students poured out of classrooms, their backpacks slung over their shoulders. Excitement filled the air as they chatted about their plans for the weekend. Some were heading to sports practices, while others were looking forward to spending time with friends. As they walked home, they passed by the school library, a treasure trove of knowledge waiting to be explored. Inside, shelves lined with books stood tall, inviting students to embark on literary adventures. The librarian, Mrs. Johnson, greeted them with a warm smile, ready to assist in their quest for knowledge.

101. What did the bell signal? (a) The start of the school day (b) The end of the school day (c) Lunchtime (d) Recess
102. How did the students carry their belongings? (a) In their hands (b) In their pockets (c) In their backpacks (d) On their heads
103. What were the students excited about? (a) Going to the movies (b) Playing video games (c) Their plans for the weekend (d) Eating ice cream
104. Where were some students heading after school? (a) The library (b) The park (c) The mall (d) The beach
105. What awaited students inside the school library? (a) Sports equipment (b) Art supplies (c) Musical instruments (d) Books
106. Select the correct spelling for the commonly misspelled word: "The _____ of the matter is important." (a) Principal (b) principle (c) Principle (d) Prinsipal

107. Choose the correct spelling for the missing word: "The _____ sections of the report were well-organized." (a) Seperate (b) Separete (c) Seperete (d) separate

108. Choose the correct spelling for the missing word: "The _____ was evident on her face." (a) Embarrasment (b) Embarassment (c) Embarrasment (d) Embarrassment

109. Identify the correct spelling for the missing word: "The _____ was comfortable and spacious" (a) Acommodation (b) Accomodation (c) Acomodation (d) Accommodation

110. Select the correct spelling for the commonly misspelled word: "The _____ of life on other planets is still a mystery. (a) Existance (b) Existense (c) Existance (d) Existence

111. Select the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word: "The meticulous student double-checked their work for any errors. (a) Careless (b) Sloppy (c) Diligent (d) Hasty

112. Choose the word that is opposite in meaning to the underlined word: "The weather forecast predicted clear skies for the weekend (a) Cloudy (b) Hazy (c) Foggy (d) Overcast

113. Identify the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word: "The politician's integrity was questioned due to allegations of corruption." (a) Applause (b) Deception (c) Inaccuracy (d) Honesty

114. Select the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word: "The vibrant colors of the sunset painted the sky in hues of orange and pink (a) Sweet (b) uphazed (c) Lively (d) Pale

115. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word: "Her performance on the stage was flawless and received a standing ovation. (a) Pure (b) Faulty (c) Meticulous (d) Perfect

116. Identify the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word: "The detective's intuition helped solve the mysterious case. (a) Doubt (b) Suspicion (c) Instinct (d) Rationality

117. Select the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word: "The new employee was enthusiastic about taking on challenging projects (a) Apathetic (b) Indifferent (c) Eager (d) Uninterested

118. Choose the word that is opposite in meaning to the underlined word: "The company's financial situation was precarious after the economic downturn (a) Stable (b) Secure (c) Strong (d) Robust

119. Identify the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word: "The child's inquisitive nature led them to ask numerous questions." (a) Disinterested (b) Uninterested (c) Curious (d) Apathetic

120. Select the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word: "Her resilience helped her overcome the challenges she faced (a) Fragility (b) Vulnerability (c) Strength (d) Weakness

121. Select the word that represents the correct pronunciation of the underlined word: "The phonetics course focuses on the sounds of language (a) Fonetiks (b) Foneetiks (c) Phonettics (d) Phonetics Morphology

122. Identify the word that represents the correct plural form of the underlined word: "I saw two _____ in the kitchen (a) Mouses (b) Mouse (c) Mices (d) Mice

123. Select the word that represents the correct comparative form of the underlined word: "She is taller than her sister (a) Tallest (b) more taller (c) Taller (d) more tall

124. Identify the word that represents the correct politeness strategy in the underlined sentence: "Can you please pass the salt? (a) Command (b) Request (c) Statement (d) Question