



NATIONAL ENGLISH TOURNAMENT

Identifying young global stars

SENIOR SECONDARY CATEGORY

STUDY GUIDE

Comprehension Passage:

The Enigma of the Lost City

In the heart of the Amazon rainforest, nestled amidst dense foliage and hidden from the prying eyes of the world, lies a mystery waiting to be unraveled - the lost city of El Dorado. El Dorado is a legendary city rumored to be made entirely of gold, a utopian paradise that has captivated explorers and treasure hunters for centuries. For years, adventurers have ventured deep into the unforgiving wilderness in search of this elusive city. Many have lost their lives, while others have returned empty-handed, their dreams shattered. The allure of El Dorado, however, persists, like a flickering flame in the darkness. According to ancient legends, El Dorado is guarded by a mystical creature, half-human and half-jaguar, known as the El Dorado Guardian. The Guardian is said to possess the key to the city's location, but it is fiercely protective and only reveals itself to those deemed worthy. One such adventurer, Amelia Rodriguez, dedicated her life to uncovering the secrets of El Dorado. Armed with knowledge passed down through generations and a burning desire to solve the enigma, she embarked on an expedition deep into the heart of the rainforest. After months of arduous trekking and countless setbacks, Amelia stumbled upon a hidden temple, covered in ivy and vines. As she stepped inside, she felt a surge of anticipation. The walls were adorned with intricate carvings depicting the history of El Dorado - the rise and fall of a magnificent civilization. Lost in the labyrinth of corridors, Amelia finally came face to face with the El Dorado Guardian. The creature's golden eyes glowed with wisdom and power. It spoke in a language long forgotten, revealing the secrets of the city's whereabouts. The Guardian presented Amelia with a choice - to become the keeper of El Dorado's secrets or to leave, forever bound to silence. Amelia made her decision. She chose to honor the legacy of El Dorado, vowing to protect its mysteries from falling into the wrong hands. With newfound knowledge and a heavy heart, she retraced her steps, leaving the lost city behind, forever etching her name in the annals of history.

Questions:

1. What is the setting of the passage? a) Sahara Desert b) Amazon rainforest c) Himalayan Mountains d) Great Barrier Reef
2. What is the lost city rumored to be made of? a) Gold b) Diamonds c) Emeralds d) Rubies
3. Who guards the city of El Dorado? a) El Dorado Guardian b) El Dorado King c) El Dorado Explorer d) El Dorado Guardian
4. What does the El Dorado Guardian possess? a) The key to the city's location b) A treasure map c) The city's secrets d) Ancient artifacts
5. Who is the protagonist of the passage? a) El Dorado Guardian b) Amelia Rodriguez c) El Dorado King d) Ancient explorer
6. What did Amelia discover in the rainforest temple? a) A hidden treasure b) Ancient artifacts c) The El Dorado Guardian d) Intricate carvings

7. *What choice did the El Dorado Guardian present to Amelia? a) To become the guardian of El Dorado's secrets b) To become the ruler of El Dorado c) To give up her expedition d) To find another explorer*
8. *How did Amelia choose to honor the legacy of El Dorado? a) By revealing the city's secrets to the world b) By sharing her findings with other explorers c) By protecting the city's mysteries d) By becoming the ruler of El Dorado*
9. *What did Amelia vow to protect? a) The city's location b) The El Dorado Guardian c) The city's secrets d) The treasures of El Dorado*
10. *What did Amelia do after her encounter with the El Dorado Guardian? a) She left the lost city forever b) She became the ruler of El Dorado c) She brought back ancient artifacts d) She revealed the city's secrets to the world*

PICK THE CORRECT SPELLINGS

11. *Which word correctly spells the term for the repetition of similar sounds in poetry or music? A) Rhime B) Rhyme C) Ryhme D) Rhymn*
12. *What is the correct spelling for the word that refers to a pattern of beats and accents in music or poetry? A) Rythm B) Rhythm C) Rhythym D) Rythem*
13. *Choose the correct spelling for the term used to describe a triangle with two equal sides. A) Isosceles B) Isosceless C) Isoscelees D) Isoscelles*
14. *Which term is spelled correctly and refers to excessive mucus in the nose and throat? A) Catarrh B) Cattarrh C) Catarr D) Catarh*
15. *Select the correctly spelled word that represents a close working relationship or connection. A) Liasion B) Liaison C) Liasson D) Liason*
16. *What is the correct spelling for a term used to describe a planned military or tactical movement? A) Manoeuver B) Manoever C) Manoeuvre D) Maneuver*
17. *Choose the correct spelling for the term that means to cause a substance to become liquid. A) Embarras B) Embarrass C) Embaras D) Liquefy*
18. *Select the correctly spelled word that represents an individual who starts and manages a business venture. A) Entrepreneur B) Entrepreneure C) Entreprenuer D) Entreprenrer*
19. *What is the correct spelling for a word that refers to a set of questions used for a survey or research? A) Questionaire B) Questionnear C) Questionnaire D) Questionnaire*
20. *Choose the correct spelling for the term that means to convert a substance into a liquid state. A) Liquefy B) Liqueify C) Liqueifie D) Liquefie*
21. *Which word is the opposite in meaning to "quell"? a) ignite b) provoke c) intensify d) suppress*
22. *What is the opposite of "abhor"? a) adore b) loathe c) despise d) detest*
23. *Which word is the antonym of "apprehensive"? a) anxious b) fearful c) confident d) worried*
24. *What is the opposite in meaning to "repel"? a) attract b) reject c) deter d) resist*
25. *Which word is the antonym of "gruesome"? a) horrific b) terrifying c) pleasant d) macabre*
26. *Which word is most opposite in meaning to "unity"? a) division b) harmony c) cooperation d) collaboration*
27. *What is the best opposite in meaning to "redundancy"? a) efficiency b) clarity c) conciseness d) repetition*
28. *Which word is the exact opposite of "tough"? a) tender b) cowardly c) strong d) masculine*
29. *What is the most opposite in meaning to "amused"? a) entertained b) delighted c) bored d) excited*
30. *Which word is the best opposite in meaning to "spread"? a) contain b) expand c) grow d) multiply*

31. Which syllable is stressed in the word "intention"? a) in b) ten c) tion d) none of the above
 32. In the word "homogeneous," which syllable is stressed? a) ho b) mo c) ge d) neous
 33. Which syllable is stressed in the word "pronunciation"? a) pro b) nun c) ci d) ation
 34. In the word "computer," which syllable is stressed? a) com b) pu c) ter d) none of the above
 35. Which syllable is stressed in the word "difficult"? a) dif b) fi c) cult d) none of the above
 36. Which word is a homophone for "flower"? a) flour b) floor c) flounder d) flutter
 37. What is the correct homophone for "peace"? a) piece b) peas c) paws d) pique
 38. Which word is a homonym for "bass"? a) base b) baste c) bassoon d) vase
 39. What is the correct homophone for "write"? a) right b) rite c) wright d) wright
 40. What is the figure of speech used in the sentence "Her smile was as bright as the sun"?
a) simile b) metaphor c) personification d) hyperbole
 41. What is the figure of speech used in the sentence "Time flies when you're having fun"?
a) simile b) metaphor c) personification d) hyperbole
 42. What is the figure of speech used in the sentence "The world is my oyster"? a) simile b) metaphor
c) personification d) hyperbole
 43. What is the figure of speech used in the sentence "The stars danced in the night sky"?
a) simile b) metaphor c) personification d) hyperbole
 44. What is the figure of speech used in the sentence "His words cut like a knife"? a) simile b) metaphor
c) personification d) hyperbole
 45. I am too careful to _____ my money. a) lose b) loose c) lost d) loss
 46. Which word doesn't sound like the others but looks alike? (a) Break (b) Speak (c) Weak (d) Leak
 47. Which word has a different sound from the others but looks similar? (a) Read (b) Lead (c) Dead
(d) Head
 48. Which word looks similar but sounds different from the rest? (a) Piece (b) Peace (c) Please (d) Lease
 49. Which word is formed differently from the others (a) Unhappy (b) Dislike (c) Misunderstand
(d) Nonexistent
 50. Select the word that doesn't follow the same word formation pattern: (a) Beautifully (b) Happily
(c) Quickly (d) Slowly
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51. The _____ aroma of freshly baked bread filled the kitchen. a) inticing b) enticing c) entiticing d) ennticing
 52. The _____ of the play left the audience in awe. a) choreography b) coreography c) koreography
d) chorography
 53. The _____ debate highlighted the deep divisions within society. a) contentious b) contenshous c) contencious
d) contentuous
 54. The company was accused of engaging in unfair _____ practices. a) buisness b) bisness c) business
d) busyness
 55. The _____ of the experiment yielded unexpected results. a) hypothesis b) hypothesys c) hypotesis d) hypothisi
 56. The _____ landscape of the Scottish Highlands is breath-taking. a) mountainous b) mountainious
c) mountaineous d) mountainous
 57. The _____ of the painting was a testament to the artist's skill. a) compostion b) composition c) compastion
d) composission
 58. The detective's meticulous _____ led him to solve the case. a) investigeition b) investagation
c) investegation d) investigation
 59. The athlete's unwavering _____ helped her achieve success. a) persevearance b) perserverance
c) perseverance d) persevearence

60. The scientist conducted a series of controlled _____ to test his theory. a) experiements b) experiments c) expirements d) experament
61. The _____ of the old building was a source of mystery. a) ancestry b) ancestry c) ancestry d) ancestrie
62. The _____ of the internet has revolutionized communication. a) prevalence b) prevalance c) prevelance d) preveilence
63. The _____ of the poem left the reader with a sense of melancholy. a) imagery b) imagry c) imageary d) imagery
64. The company implemented a new _____ strategy to increase sales. a) maketing b) marketting c) marketen d) marketing
65. The _____ of the situation demanded a quick and decisive response. a) phsycology b) psychology c) psychology d) psychology
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 beautifully.
67. In which situation would it be appropriate to use sarcasm? (a) Formal business meeting (b) Job interview (c) Casual conversation with friends (d) Public speaking engagement
68. Which of the following is an example of a speech act? (a) "It's cold in here." (b) "Can you pass the salt, please?" (c) "I'm sorry for your loss." (d) "I think it's going to rain."

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follows

Mildred "Millie" Finchley, a woman whose temperament could curdle milk at a summer picnic, was notorious for getting her nose bent out of joint. The slightest inconvenience – a misplaced teacup, a rogue gust of wind disturbing her perfectly coiffed hair – would send her into a tizzy. One crisp autumn morning, Millie found herself in a particularly prickly mood. Her prize-winning marmalade had inexplicably curdled overnight, and to make matters worse, the milkman had delivered buttermilk instead of her usual creamy whole milk. "A fine kettle of fish this is!" she muttered, her voice laced with vinegar.

Undeterred, Millie decided to whip up a batch of scones anyway. But as luck would have it, her oven decided to play possum just as the scones were about to achieve golden perfection. "Well, I'll be darned!" she exclaimed, throwing her hands up in exasperation. Millie, at her wit's end, stormed out the back door, vowing to take a calming walk in the crisp autumn air.

As she huffed and puffed down the lane, grumbling under her breath, a peculiar sight caught her eye. Perched precariously on a branch of the old oak tree was a rather portly squirrel, its cheeks bulging with what appeared to be acorns the size of walnuts. Now, Millie had a fierce rivalry with the neighbourhood squirrels, who made a habit of pilfering acorns from her prized oak tree. This particular squirrel, however, seemed to be struggling. The branch it clung to was thin and swayed precariously in the breeze.

Just as Millie watched, the inevitable happened. The branch snapped with a crack, and the squirrel tumbled down, landing with a plop at Millie's feet. The acorns scattered in all directions, and the poor creature lay there, dazed and confused. Millie, for a fleeting moment, felt a pang of sympathy. "Looks like you've hit a snag," she muttered, surprised by her own uncharacteristic concern.

The squirrel, seemingly unharmed, scurried around frantically, gathering its precious acorns. Millie, in a move that would have astonished anyone who knew her, knelt down and began helping the creature. Together, they meticulously collected every last acorn, a silent truce forming between the former adversaries.

Once the acorns were gathered, the squirrel chattered its thanks and scampered back up the tree, its cheeks once again bulging with its bounty. Millie watched it go, a strange warmth spreading through her chest. For the first time in a long time, she didn't feel the familiar prickle of annoyance. Instead, she felt a newfound sense of camaraderie, a feeling that perhaps even the most cantankerous curmudgeon could find common ground with a chubby little squirrel.

As Millie walked back home, the crisp autumn air no longer felt like a slap in the face. The world seemed a little brighter, a little less bothersome. The milkman's blunder and the curdled marmalade suddenly seemed insignificant. Millie realized that sometimes, all it takes is a little misfortune and a chance encounter to help you see the world through a different lens. The world, she concluded with a small smile, wasn't such a bad place after all, even if things didn't always go according to plan. And perhaps, just perhaps, there was a little less need to get her nose bent out of joint quite so often. The moral of the story? Sometimes, the biggest blessings come disguised as inconveniences. So, take a deep breath, lend a helping paw or hoof, or wing!), and you might just find that even the grumpiest soul can discover a bit of sunshine on a cloudy day.

69. What is the main conflict Millie faces at the beginning of the story? a) The milkman delivered buttermilk instead of whole milk. b) Her prize-winning marmalade curdled overnight. c) Her perfectly coiffed hair was disturbed by a gust of wind. d) Her oven malfunctioned before the scones could finish baking.

70. What can we infer about Millie's relationship with nature from the passage? a) She enjoys spending time outdoors and appreciates the beauty of the natural world. b) She sees nature as a source of annoyance, particularly the squirrels. c) She has a deep respect for all living creatures, big or small. d) She views nature as something to be controlled and managed.

71. How does the encounter with the squirrel change Millie? a) She becomes more accepting of minor inconveniences. b) She decides to bake a new batch of scones with buttermilk. c) She develops a newfound appreciation for squirrels and the natural world. d) She resolves to fix her broken oven as soon as possible.

Fill in the blank spaces with the most suitable option.

72. The athlete demonstrated incredible _____, breaking multiple records in their sport. a) liteness b) candor c) conundrum d) perniciousity

73. The chef prepared a _____ meal that showcased the flavours of the local cuisine. a) tasteless b) generic c) unhealthy d) delectable

74. The designer presented a _____ collection that pushed the boundaries of fashion. a) conventional b) avant-garde c) outdated d) feasible

75. The artist created a _____ sculpture that challenged traditional notions of art. a) provocative b) conformist c) unremarkable d) uninspired

76. The teacher provided _____ feedback to help students improve their writing skills. a) vague b) harsh c) constructive d) dismissive

77. The architect designed a _____ building that incorporated sustainable features. a) eco-friendly b) conventional c) dilapidated d) inefficient

78. The researcher analysed a large _____ of data to identify trends and patterns. a) set b) sample c) observation d) conclusion

79. The athlete demonstrated incredible _____, breaking a long-standing record in their sport. a) strength b) agility c) speed d) endurance

80. The actor delivered a powerful _____, bringing the character to life on stage. a) dialogue b) performance c) monologue d) soliloquy

81. The doctor carefully examined the patient's _____ to determine the cause of their symptoms. a) blood pressure b) breathing c) temperature d) heart rate

82. The artist's painting was expressive and conveyed deep emotions. What is the best synonym for expressive? a) Artistic b) Evocative c) Mundane d) Plain

83. The movie's ending was satisfying and left the audience feeling content. What is the best synonym for satisfying? a) Gratifying b) Pleasing c) Unfulfilling d) Dissatisfying

84. The room was spacious with plenty of room to move around. What is the best synonym for spacious? a) Large b) Roomy c) Cramped d) Expansive

85. The dog was loyal and always stayed by its owner's side. What word can be used to replace loyal?
a) Faithful b) Devoted c) Disloyal d) Trustworthy
86. The mountain peak offered a majestic view of the surrounding landscape. What word could be used instead of majestic? a) Beautiful b) Grand c) Ordinary d) Splendid
87. The forest was peaceful with the sound of birds chirping and leaves rustling in the breeze. What synonym of peaceful could be used here? a) Serene b) Tranquil c) Chaotic d) Calm
88. The car ride was smooth as they glided along the highway. What is the best synonym for smooth?
a) Bumpy b) Rough c) Even d) Seamless
89. The little boy was restless and couldn't sit still for more than a minute. What is the best synonym for restless?
a) Active b) Calm c) Fidgety d) Energetic
90. The magician's tricks were mind-blowing and left the audience in awe. What is the best synonym for mind-blowing? a) Astounding b) Amazing c) Simple d) Complicated
91. The little girl's eyes were gleaming with excitement as she opened her birthday presents. What is the best synonym for gleaming? a) Shining b) Dull c) Sparkling d) Glittering
92. The valley was desolate, with no signs of life. What is the best antonym for desolate? a) Empty b) Lonely c) Populated d) Barren
93. The baby's smile was contagious and spread joy to everyone around. What is the best antonym for contagious? a) Infectious b) Isolated c) Spreading d) Transmitting
94. The artist's painting was abstract and open to interpretation. What is the best antonym for abstract?
a) Concrete b) Realistic c) Surreal d) Symbolic
95. The little boy showed generosity by sharing his toys with his friends. What is the best antonym for generosity? a) Kindness b) Altruism c) Selflessness d) Selfishness
96. The movie's ending was unsatisfying and left the audience disappointed. What is the best antonym for unsatisfying? a) Dissatisfying b) Unfulfilling c) Gratifying d) Displeasing
97. The teacher delivered the lesson with enthusiasm and passion. What is the best antonym for enthusiasm?
a) Apathy b) Excitement c) Energy d) Eagerness
98. Pick the odd word out a) Southern b) South c) Love d) Mother
99. What does not belong here? a) Mortgage b) Quarter c) Hermetic d) Hiatus
100. Choose the odd one out. a) Massage b. Passage c. Fabricate d) Facade

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follows

In the heart of the African savannah, nestled between towering acacia trees, lay a forgotten treasure—a hidden cave rumored to be filled with unimaginable riches. Legend had it that only the bravest and cleverest of adventurers could unravel the mysteries that guarded the treasure within. One fateful day, a renowned explorer named Dr. Amelia Rivers arrived in the nearby village. With her trusty sidekick, a mischievous but loyal monkey named Kwame, by her side, she embarked on a quest to find the legendary cave. As Dr. Rivers and Kwame ventured deeper into the wilderness, they encountered various challenges and obstacles. They had to decipher ancient riddles, navigate treacherous terrain, and outsmart cunning traps set by the guardians of the treasure. With each step, the suspense grew, and the intrigue thickened. Dr. Rivers relied on her sharp wit and extensive knowledge of African folklore to guide her through the labyrinthine paths of the savannah. Kwame, always ready with a witty remark or a playful trick, offered both comic relief and valuable assistance along the way. Finally, after days of arduous exploration, they stood before the entrance of the hidden cave. The air was heavy with anticipation as Dr. Rivers reached out to push open the massive stone doors. What awaited them inside? Would they encounter unimaginable riches or face a treacherous trial?

101. What is the name of the explorer in the story? (a) Dr. Amelia Rivers (b) Dr. Samantha Woods (c) Dr. Benjamin Thompson (d) Dr. Michael Johnson

102. Who is Dr. Amelia Rivers' loyal companion? (a) A mischievous monkey named Kwame (b) A wise owl named Hoot (c) A brave lion named Simba (d) A clever snake named Slither
103. What is rumored to be hidden in the cave? (a) Unimaginable riches (b) Ancient artifacts (c) Magical creatures (d) Forgotten books
104. How did Dr. Rivers navigate through the savannah? (a) By following a map (b) By asking villagers for directions (c) By relying on her wit and knowledge (d) By using a compass
105. What helped Dr. Rivers unravel the mysteries of the cave? (a) Ancient riddles (b) A treasure map (c) Kwame's tricks (d) A magical amulet
106. Which of the following is the correct spelling (a) Accomodate (b) Accommodate (c) Accommodate (d) Acomodate
107. Which of the following is the correct spelling (a) Embarras (b) Embarrass (c) Embarass (d) Embaras
108. Which of the following is the correct spelling (a) Definately (b) Definetely (c) Definitely (d) Definaty
109. Which of the following is the correct spelling (a) Recieve (b) Receive (c) Recive (d) Recieve
110. Which of the following is the correct spelling (a) Seperate (b) Separate (c) Seperate (d) Separete
111. Which of the following is the correct spelling (a) Occurence (b) Occurrence (c) Occurance (d) Occurance
112. Which of the following is the correct spelling (a) Priviledge (b) Privilege (c) Priviladge (d) Privelege
113. Which of the following is the correct spelling (a) Rhythm (b) Rythm (c) Rhythem (d) Rhythym
114. Which of the following is the correct spelling (a) Conscientious (b) Conscientous (c) Conscienctious (d) Conscienctous

Choose the word that is nearly similar in meaning:

115. The magician performed an astonishing trick that left the audience in awe. (a) Unimpressive (b) Spectacular (c) Boring (d) Mediocre

Choose the word that is nearly similar in meaning:

116. The detective carefully examined the elusive clues to solve the mystery (a) Obvious (b) Slippery (c) Transparent (d) Evident

Choose the word that is nearly similar in meaning:

117. The sunset painted the sky with a vibrant array of colors. (a) Dull (b) Lively (c) Faded (d) Muted

Choose the word that is nearly similar in meaning:

118. The students were asked to write a concise summary of the lengthy article. (a) Elaborate (b) Brief (c) Wordy (d) Lengthy
119. The chef added a _____ amount of spices to enhance the flavor of the dish. (a) Limited (b) Scant (c) Moderate (d) Generous
120. The comedian's jokes were met with _____ laughter from the audience (a) Silent (b) Uproarious (c) Subdued (d) Gloomy
121. The news of the unexpected promotion brought _____ joy to the employee (a) Indifferent (b) Miserable (c) Ecstatic (d) Depressed
122. The marathon runner displayed _____ as she pushed through the last few miles (a) Weakness (b) Endurance (c) Fatigue (d) Exhaustion
123. The artist used a subtle brushstroke to create a delicate effect in the painting (a) Bold (b) Obvious (c) Dramatic (d) Subtle