



BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD

**3RD BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD
SHAPE DISCIPLINES - ENGLISH
CATEGORY 3 (GRADES 7–8)
PRELIMINARY ROUND
SAMPLE 1**



50 questions; 75 minutes; 100 points; no negative marking.

All questions are multiple-choice or multiple-response questions and are automatically marked. The number in square brackets after each question number indicates the point value of the question: [1] Easy, [2] Normal, [3] Difficult.

Part A: Grammar in Context (Questions 1–15) — 30 points

Section A1.

Choose the correct answer.

1. [1] I'm afraid _____ spiders.
a) from b) at c) about d) of

2. [1] She _____ her leg while she was skiing.
a) broke b) broken c) breaks d) breaking

3. [1] This is the _____ building in our city.
a) taller b) tallest c) high d) higher

4. [1] She has lived here _____ 2019.
a) for b) from c) during d) since

5. [2] Have you _____ your homework yet?
a) did b) doing c) done d) do

6. [2] Cheese _____ from milk.
a) is making b) makes c) made d) is made

7. [2] The letter _____ yesterday morning.
a) delivered b) has delivered c) was delivered d) is delivering

8. [3] I'm not very good _____ remembering names.
a) in b) at c) with d) for

9. [3] I wish I _____ more time to finish the project.

- a) have b) will have c) having d) had

Section A2.

Read the text and choose the correct answer for each gap.

Our street market is a place (10) _____ you can find almost everything. Last Sunday I (11) _____ two hours there, looking for a present for my mother. (12) _____ the holidays, the market is even busier than usual. One small shop was (13) _____, so I chose a silk scarf at another one — I picked (14) _____ colour myself. I (15) _____ tell her what I bought — it's a surprise!

10. [2] a) which b) where c) what d) when

11. [2] a) spent b) spend c) have spent d) spending

12. [3] a) While b) Since c) Between d) During

13. [1] a) closed b) close c) closing d) closes

14. [3] a) mine b) my c) me d) myself

15. [3] a) don't b) didn't c) won't d) wasn't

Part B: Vocabulary and Collocation (Questions 16–31) — 32 points

Section B1.

Choose the correct answer.

16. [1] Which word means the same as difficult?

- a) heavy b) soft c) hard d) simple

17. [1] Which of these does not belong in the group?

- a) apple b) plum c) pear d) onion

18. [1] Which word means the same as begin?

- a) stop b) start c) build d) choose

19. [1] Which word means the opposite of ancient?

- a) old b) huge c) quiet d) modern

20. [2] She always _____ a great effort to help new students.

- a) does b) takes c) makes d) gives

21. [2] The concert was _____ because of the storm.

- a) called on b) called in c) called off d) called up

22. [2] Three of these describe a pleasant person. Which one does not?

- a) selfish b) generous c) honest d) cheerful

23. [2] They had to _____ a decision very quickly.

- a) do b) take c) make d) give

24. [3] I couldn't _____ the difference between the two paintings.

- a) tell b) say c) speak d) talk

25. [3] After the accident, it took him several months to _____.

- a) recover b) repair c) return d) rescue

26. [3] The instructions were so _____ that several students understood them differently.

- a) confusing b) uncertain c) puzzled d) careless

Section B2.

Choose the correct meaning of each word.

27. [1] ordinary

- a) normal b) expensive c) unusual d) freezing

28. [2] disappear

- a) to appear b) to vanish c) to arrive d) to grow

29. [2] valuable

- a) important b) ordinary c) useless d) common

30. [3] encourage

- a) to follow b) to warn c) to correct d) to support

31. [3] reluctant

- a) willing b) uncertain c) unwilling d) hopeful

Part C: Reading — Locating Detail (Questions 32–40) — 16 points

Read the text and answer the questions.

Every Thursday between five and six, our local supermarket becomes a different place. The music stops, the lights become softer, and the loudspeaker announcements disappear. This “quiet hour” was introduced for shoppers who find noise and bright lights difficult — for example, some autistic children and elderly people. The idea came from a supermarket worker, Aziza, whose little brother used to cry every time they went shopping. She wrote a letter to the manager, and he agreed to try it for one month. Now, a year later, twelve shops in our city have copied the idea. Some customers say the quiet hour is so relaxing that they choose it even though they don’t need it. The manager laughs about it: “People used to shop as fast as possible. Now on Thursdays they stay longer — and buy more!” Aziza’s brother is happy too: shopping is now his favourite trip of the week.

32. [1] When is the quiet hour?

- a) Thursday 5–6 b) every evening c) Sunday morning d) all day Thursday

33. [1] Who suggested the idea?

- a) Aziza b) a doctor c) the manager d) a customer

34. [1] How many shops in the city have copied the idea?

- a) two b) twelve c) twenty d) fifty

35. [2] What changes during the quiet hour?

- a) Music stops and lights dim. b) The shop closes early. c) More staff arrive. d) Prices become lower.

36. [2] How did the manager respond to Aziza’s letter?

a) He refused the idea. b) He ignored her letter. c) He asked for payment. d) He agreed to a trial.

37. [2] Why did Aziza think of the quiet hour?

- a) She disliked the music when shopping.
- b) Her brother cried when shopping.
- c) The manager wanted ideas.
- d) She wanted fewer hours shopping.

38. [2] What do some customers say about the quiet hour?

- a) It is too dark. b) They avoid Thursdays. c) They want it daily. d) They find it relaxing.

39. [2] What did Aziza do to suggest the idea?

- a) She spoke to customers.
- b) She called a newspaper.
- c) She wrote to the manager.
- d) She arranged a meeting.

40. [3] Why does the manager like the quiet hour for business?

- a) Customers stay and spend more.
- b) Quiet hour costs the shop nothing.
- c) Fewer staff are needed.
- d) It attracts young shoppers.

Part D: Reading — Main Idea and Inference (Questions 41–50) — 22 points

Read the text and answer the questions.

Multiple Response: Select all correct choices. Points are awarded only if all correct answers and no incorrect answers are selected.

When the town of Karasu replaced its street lights three years ago, nobody expected an argument about the sky.

The old orange lamps were expensive to run and rather dim, so the council installed bright white LEDs. Electricity bills fell by almost half. Then the complaints began. Residents said the new light came straight through their curtains; a biology teacher

reported that the moths which once filled her garden had gone; and the town's small astronomy club announced that the Milky Way, visible from the hill above Karasu for as long as anyone could remember, had disappeared.

The council's response was unusual. Instead of removing the lamps, it hired a lighting engineer, who explained that the problem was not brightness but direction: almost a third of the light was escaping upwards, where nobody needed it. Over one winter, workers fitted flat shields to every lamp and set the lights to dim after midnight.

The bills fell again. The astronomy club reports that the Milky Way returned in about eight months. The moths, so far, have not. "We were arguing about how much light," the engineer said afterwards. "The question was where it was going."

41. [1] Which title best fits the text as a whole?

- a) Saving Money b) Getting the Sky Back c) Building Lamps d) Studying Astronomy

42. [1] How much did electricity bills fall when the LEDs were first installed?

- a) by almost half b) by about a tenth c) they did not fall at all d) by three quarters

43. [2] Why did the council install the new LED lamps?

- a) Residents asked for them.
b) The astronomy club requested them.
c) The old lamps were dangerous.
d) The old lamps were costly and dim.

44. [2] Multiple Response — Choose ALL the complaints that were made about the new lamps.

- a) Light came through people's curtains.
b) The electricity bills went up.
c) The moths disappeared.
d) The lamps often broke down.

45. [2] According to the engineer, what was the real problem?

- a) the brightness of the lamps
b) the colour of the lamps
c) the direction of the light
d) the cost of the electricity

46. [2] What did the workers do over the winter?

- a) They removed the LEDs.
- b) They dimmed the lights.
- c) They switched them off.
- d) They planted trees nearby.

47. [3] Which result had NOT been achieved by the time the text was written?

- a) lower bills
- b) the return of the Milky Way
- c) the return of the moths
- d) shielded lamps

48. [3] What does the engineer's final comment suggest?

- a) People asked the wrong question.
- b) The town should use much less light.
- c) Astronomy clubs are too demanding.
- d) LED lamps are always a mistake.

49. [3] Multiple Response — Choose ALL the statements that the text supports.

- a) The new lamps were removed after residents complained.
- b) The council removed the LED lamps.
- c) Light pollution can be reduced by changing where light goes.
- d) The Milky Way came back within a year.
- e) The changes to the lighting saved more electricity.

50. [3] Multiple Response — Choose ALL the actions the council took.

- a) It hired a lighting engineer.
- b) It fitted flat shields to every lamp.
- c) It removed the LED lamps.
- d) It set the lights to dim after midnight.
- e) It replaced the lights with warmer-coloured bulbs.

Answer Key – Preliminary Round

Preliminary Round — Questions 1–50

Questions	Answer	Questions	Answer
1	d	26	A
2	a	27	A
3	b	28	B
4	d	29	A
5	c	30	D
6	d	31	C
7	c	32	A
8	b	33	A
9	d	34	B
10	b	35	A
11	a	36	D
12	d	37	B
13	a	38	D
14	b	39	C
15	c	40	A
16	c	41	B
17	d	42	A
18	b	43	D
19	d	44	a c
20	c	45	C
21	c	46	B
22	a	47	C
23	c	48	A
24	a	49	c d e
25	a	50	a b d