



BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD

**3RD BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD
SHAPE DISCIPLINES - ENGLISH
CATEGORY 3 (GRADES 7–8)
PRELIMINARY ROUND
SAMPLE 2**



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] By the time we arrived, the film _____.
a) has already started b) already started c) already starts d) had already started

2. [1] I don't enjoy _____ in front of a large group.
a) to speak b) spoke c) speaking d) speak

3. [1] This is the museum _____ my mother works.
a) where b) who c) that d) which

4. [1] If I _____ more time, I would learn another language.
a) will have b) have c) had d) would have

5. [2] The bridge _____ in 1902 and is still in use.
a) built b) was built c) has built d) is building

6. [2] She's been working here _____ she left university.
a) while b) since c) for d) during

7. [2] You _____ to bring your passport tomorrow — a bank card is enough.
a) mustn't b) needn't c) didn't have d) don't have

8. [3] Hardly _____ the door when the telephone rang.
a) I had opened b) did I open c) had I opened d) I opened

9. [3] He speaks English so well that he is often taken _____ a native speaker.

- a) for b) by c) as d) like

Section A2.

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

There is a shop in our street (10) _____ window has not changed since 1994. It sells watches, and the same three clocks (11) _____ in the display for years. The owner, Mr Demir, (12) _____ there every morning at nine. If you take him a stopped watch, he will look at it for a long time (13) _____ saying anything. Last winter he mended my grandfather's watch and (14) _____ me nothing. He said he (15) _____ the same watch fifty years ago.

10. [1] a) whose b) who c) that d) which
11. [2] a) stood b) are standing c) stand d) have stood
12. [2] a) is arriving b) arrived c) arrives d) arrive
13. [3] a) although b) instead c) except for d) without
14. [3] a) charged b) spent c) cost d) paid
15. [3] a) repairs b) had repaired c) was repairing d) has repaired

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

Section B1.

Choose the correct answer.

16. [1] What is the opposite of temporary?
a) regular b) frequent c) permanent d) possible
17. [1] Which word describes someone who is unwilling to spend money?
a) mean b) careless c) generous d) polite
18. [1] Which of these is a piece of furniture?
a) corridor b) wardrobe c) saucepan d) envelope
19. [1] Which of these people examines your teeth?
a) dentist b) engineer c) surgeon d) chemist

20. [2] The team _____ a serious effort to reach the final.

- a) took b) did c) made d) gave

21. [2] Which word does not fit with the others?

- a) drizzle b) hail c) thunder d) cupboard

22. [2] I couldn't _____ up with the others on the hill.

- a) make b) take c) hold d) keep

23. [2] The meeting has been _____ until next Thursday.

- a) cancelled b) postponed c) delivered d) refused

24. [3] Nobody was hurt, _____ the damage to the building was severe.

- a) although b) despite c) however d) in spite

25. [3] Which two words are closest in meaning?

- a) ancient – recent b) furious – angry c) brief – detailed d) obvious – hidden

26. [3] Her explanation was so _____ that nobody asked a single question.

- a) thoughtful b) thoughtless c) thorough d) thankful

Section B2.

Choose the correct meaning of each word.

27. [1] curious

- a) unable to make a decision
b) feeling very tired after a long day at work
c) certain that you are right
d) wanting to know or learn about something

28. [2] cautious

- a) careful to avoid danger or mistakes

- b) able to work without any help
- c) easily upset by criticism
- d) certain that a plan will succeed in the end

29. [2] gradual

- a) happening once at the same time each year
- b) happening slowly over a long time
- c) happening only in the middle of the night
- d) happening completely by accident

30. [3] inherit

- a) to lend something valuable to a friend
- b) to lose something you needed badly
- c) to divide something between several people
- d) to receive something from an earlier owner

31. [3] predictable

- a) surprising to almost everybody
- b) difficult to explain clearly to other people
- c) easy to know about before it happens
- d) impossible to prove to anybody

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

Read the text and answer the questions.

Ravi is fifteen and he lives on the edge of a small town in the north of England. Two years ago his geography teacher mentioned that the nearest official weather station was thirty kilometres away. Nobody really knew what the weather did in their own valley. Ravi borrowed a book about instruments from the school library and built a rain gauge out of a plastic bottle. It was not accurate, and he knew it. Over the following winter he saved for a proper gauge, a thermometer and a small wind meter. His uncle helped him set them up on a post in the school field. Since March last year, Ravi has sent a reading every morning to a national project that collects data from ordinary people. He has missed four days in eighteen months. The valley now appears on the map, and last June a research student wrote to him asking for his figures.

32. [1] How far away was the nearest official weather station?

- a) eighty kilometres b) fifteen kilometres c) thirty kilometres d) three kilometres

33. [1] Where did Ravi learn about instruments?

- a) from a library book b) from his uncle c) from a website d) from a research student

34. [1] What did Ravi make his first rain gauge from?

- a) a glass jar b) a kitchen bowl c) a metal tube d) a plastic bottle

35. [2] What did Ravi think about his first rain gauge?

- a) He believed his teacher would like it.
b) He knew it was not accurate.
c) He thought it was better than a bought one.
d) He was proud of how exact it was.

36. [2] Who helped him set the instruments up?

- a) a school friend b) his uncle c) his teacher d) his classmates

37. [2] How often does Ravi send a reading?

- a) twice a day b) once a week c) every morning d) every March

38. [2] How many days has he missed in eighteen months?

- a) eighteen b) four c) none d) thirty

39. [2] Why did a research student write to him?

- a) to ask for his figures
b) to offer him a place at university
c) to correct one of his readings
d) to send him a better thermometer

40. [3] What does the last sentence suggest about Ravi's work?

- a) It costs more than he expected.
- b) It has been taken over by the university.
- c) It is no longer necessary now that the map exists.
- d) It has become useful to people outside his valley.

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.

For eighty years a railway line ran along the edge of a town, carrying coal to the power station and passengers to the city. The last train left in 1998. For fifteen years the line sat behind a fence, growing weeds.

What changed was not money but a map. A retired engineer, Feruza Yusupova, walked the whole eleven kilometres one autumn and mapped what she found: three good bridges, one collapsed tunnel, and a surface almost flat from end to end. Flat, she told the council, is expensive to build and free to inherit.

The council was not convinced. The objections were predictable: who would pay for the surface, and who would light it. There was also the land, if the railway were ever needed again. So the path was laid on top of the track bed, and the rails are still there, under the new gravel surface.

The path opened four years ago. About nine hundred people use it on a summer Sunday and roughly eighty on a wet Sunday in February. Two cafés have opened at the northern end. Feruza Yusupova, who is now seventy-one, cycles it most mornings. She is proudest not of the surface but of the tunnel nobody repaired: walkers climb the hill instead, for a better view.

41. [1] Which of these is the most suitable title?

- a) The Line That Became a Path
- b) How to Build a Railway Tunnel
- c) Eighty Years of Coal and Passengers
- d) Cycling in February

42. [1] When did the last train run?

- a) in 2012 b) in 1902 c) in 1985 d) in 1998

43. [2] What did Feruza Yusupova do first?

- a) She walked the line and mapped it.
- b) She repaired one of the three bridges.

- c) She asked the town council for money.
- d) She wrote to the power station about it.

44. [2] Multiple Response — Choose ALL the objections the council raised.

- a) Whether the town needed more cafés.
- b) Who would provide lighting.
- c) Whether the path would be too steep.
- d) Who would pay for the surface.

45. [2] What did she mean by “free to inherit”?

- a) The council would not have to pay any workers at all.
- b) The land had been given to the town in a will.
- c) The flat surface was already there and cost nothing.
- d) The railway company owed the town money.

46. [2] Why are the rails still in place?

- a) They hold the gravel together.
- b) The line might be needed again one day.
- c) Removing them would have been too expensive.
- d) The trains may return next year.

47. [3] What does the difference between nine hundred users and eighty users tell us?

- a) The path is losing more visitors each year.
- b) Use of the path depends on the weather.
- c) The path is too narrow on busy days.
- d) Most users come from outside the town.

48. [3] Why is she proudest of the unrepaired tunnel?

- a) It shows visitors what the railway line used to look like.
- b) It saved the council the largest part of the cost.
- c) Leaving it forces people onto a route with a better view.

d) It keeps the number of walkers low.

49. [3] Multiple Response — Choose ALL the things the text tells us about Feruza Yusupova.

- a) She uses the path most mornings.
- b) She was paid by the council for her map.
- c) She is over seventy years old.
- d) She still works for the power station.
- e) She used to work as an engineer.

50. [3] Multiple Response — Choose ALL the things that changed when the old line became a path.

- a) People began using the old line regularly.
- b) The power station reopened.
- c) Businesses opened at one end of the path.
- d) The old rails were covered with gravel.
- e) The council removed the fence and sold the land.

Answer Key – Preliminary Round

Preliminary Round — Questions 1–50

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