BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD

3RD BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD

SHAPE DISCIPLINES ENGLISH

CATEGORY 2 (GRADES 5–6)

PRELIMINARY ROUND

SAMPLE 3



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] We _____ in this house since 2019.

a) live b) have lived c) are living d) lived

2. [1] My sister is the _____ girl in our class.

a) taller b) more tall c) tallest d) most tall

3. [1] There isn't _____ milk left in the jug.

a) a b) no any c) any d) some

4. [1] If it rains tomorrow, we _____ at home.

a) will stay b) stay c) would stay d) stayed

5. [2] Look at those clouds — it _____ rain this afternoon.

a) will be b) rains c) is going to d) would

6. [2] The film was _____ boring that we left before the end.

a) so b) too c) such d) very

7. [2] You _____ wear a helmet when you ride a bicycle here.

a) can b) might c) would d) must

8. [3] By the time we arrived, the concert _____.

a) started b) had started c) has started d) was starting

9. [3] If the weather _____ better tomorrow, we will walk to the lake.

a) will be b) would be c) is d) was

Section A2.

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

> Last winter my father (10) _____ me how to cook. At first I only watched, but soon he (11) _____ me hold the knife. We began with soup, (12) _____ it is the easiest thing to make. If you cut the vegetables too big, they (13) _____ take much longer. By March I (14) _____ making dinner twice a week. My mother says my soup is better (15) _____ hers, but I think she is being kind.

10. [1] a) showing b) show c) shows d) showed

11. [2] a) allowed b) let c) said d) wanted

12. [2] a) because b) but c) so d) or

13. [3] a) are b) would have c) did d) will

14. [3] a) was b) have c) were d) am

15. [3] a) as b) than c) from d) that

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

Section B1.

Choose the correct answer.

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

a) quick b) easy c) hard d) heavy

17. [1] Which of these is a musical instrument?

a) envelope b) blanket c) guitar d) mirror

18. [1] Which of these is something you can hear during a storm?

a) bridge b) thunder c) island d) forest

19. [1] Which of these would you find in a kitchen?

a) fridge b) curtain c) wardrobe d) carpet

20. [2] My brother _____ a photograph of the whole class.

a) put b) took c) did d) caught

21. [2] Which of these does not belong with the others?

a) kitchen b) elbow c) shoulder d) knee

22. [2] We had to _____ the match because of the snow.

a) call on b) call off c) call up d) call in

23. [2] She _____ me a favour and lent me her bike.

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

24. [3] Which pair of words means nearly the same thing?

a) quiet – silent b) deep – wide c) rare – common d) brief – slow

25. [3] Her handwriting is so _____ that I cannot read it.

a) unhappy b) unkind c) unfair d) untidy

26. [3] Nobody _____ up for the trip, so it was cancelled.

a) wrote b) took c) signed d) put

Section B2.

Choose the correct meaning of each word.

27. [1] polite

a) arriving before the time you agreed

b) showing good manners to other people

c) knowing many different languages well

d) speaking very quietly to other people

28. [2] exhausted

a) extremely angry b) extremely surprised c) extremely hungry d) extremely tired

29. [2] delay

a) to do something much more quickly

b) to stop something completely

c) to make something happen later

d) to repeat something twice

30. [3] reliable

a) often late for everything you have planned

b) talking more than is really useful

c) costing very little money to buy

d) always doing what you promised to do

31. [3] persuade

a) to make somebody agree with you

b) to force somebody to do it anyway

c) to explain something very clearly

d) to promise something in writing

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

Read the text and answer the questions.

> Mateo is thirteen and he lives in a fishing village on the coast of Portugal. His grandfather has a small blue boat called the Estrela. Every Saturday in summer, Mateo gets up at four o'clock and goes down to the harbour with him. They are back before nine, and Mateo sleeps for the rest of the morning. Last July they caught almost nothing for three weeks. His grandfather did not complain once. Then, on the last Saturday of the month, the nets were so full that two other boats had to help them carry the fish home. Mateo's mother wants him to study in Lisbon next year. He says he will go, but only if he can come back every summer.

32. [1] How old is Mateo?

a) twelve b) four c) thirteen d) nine

33. [1] What is the name of the boat?

a) the Estrela b) the Lisbon c) the Harbour d) the Mateo

34. [1] What time does Mateo get up on Saturdays in summer?

a) four o'clock b) seven o'clock c) nine o'clock d) five o'clock

35. [2] What does Mateo do after they come back?

a) He cleans the boat. b) He goes to school. c) He sells the fish. d) He sleeps.

36. [2] What happened for three weeks last July?

a) His grandfather was ill. b) They caught almost nothing. c) The boat was broken. d) They did not go out at all.

37. [2] How did his grandfather behave in those weeks?

a) He stopped going out early. b) He sold the boat. c) He blamed the weather. d) He never complained.

38. [2] Why did two other boats have to help them?

a) A storm was coming.

b) There were too many fish for one boat.

c) Their boat had a hole in it.

d) They had lost their nets.

39. [2] What does Mateo's mother want him to do?

a) work in the harbour b) buy a bigger boat c) study in Lisbon d) leave Portugal for good

40. [3] What does Mateo's answer to his mother show?

a) He plans never to come back to the village.

b) He does not want to study in a big city.

c) He is afraid of living far from the sea.

d) He will go, but wants to keep his summers.

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.

> On the wall of our bus station there is a row of twenty hooks. Above them somebody has painted these words: If You Need a Coat, Take One. Underneath, in smaller letters: If You Have One You Do Not Need, Leave It.
> Nobody knows who painted the wall. It appeared one night in November, four years ago, and by the end of that week there were eleven coats on the hooks. The station manager thought about taking them down. He decided to wait a month and see what happened. What happened was that the coats kept moving. Some hung there for an hour, some for a week. In the coldest months the hooks are empty by evening and full again by the next morning. Nobody has ever counted how many coats have come and gone.
> The same idea is now used in four other towns, and last winter a newspaper wrote about it. The writer asked a simple question: why does this work when so many bigger plans do not? The station manager, who is now proud of his wall, gave the shortest answer. Nobody has to ask, and nobody has to say thank you.

41. [1] How many hooks are there on the wall?

a) twenty b) eleven c) six d) four

42. [1] Where is the wall?

a) in a town library b) in a small shop c) in a school hall d) in the bus station

43. [2] What do the painted words tell people to do?

a) Take a coat, or leave one you do not need.

b) Give money to the station manager.

c) Buy a coat cheaply at the bus station.

d) Ask the station manager before you take one.

44. [2] What did the station manager decide to do at first?

a) take all the coats down at once

b) wait a month and see what happened

c) write to the local newspaper about it

d) paint over the painted words

45. [2] Multiple Response — Choose ALL the things the writer says about the coats.

a) In the coldest months the hooks are empty by evening.

b) The manager counts the coats every week.

c) Every coat is left by the same person.

d) Some hang on the wall for only an hour.

46. [2] How many other towns now have a wall like this one?

a) one b) twenty c) four d) eleven

47. [3] Why does the writer tell us that nobody knows who painted the wall?

a) To make us think the painter did something wrong.

b) To show that the idea worked with no organisation behind it.

c) To show that the town does not look after its bus station.

d) To explain why the manager was angry.

48. [3] Multiple Response — Choose ALL the things the writer tells us about how the wall began.

a) Nobody knows who painted it.

b) The station manager painted it himself.

c) The bus company paid for the paint.

d) Within a week there were eleven coats on it.

e) It appeared one night in November.

49. [3] What does the manager's short answer mean?

a) The station is easier to reach than an office.

b) Bigger plans do not have enough money to work.

c) The wall works because nobody has to ask.

d) People would rather have coats than money.

50. [3] Multiple Response — Choose ALL the things that are true about the wall.

a) The station manager wants it taken down.

b) A newspaper wrote about it last winter.

c) The same idea is used in four other towns.

d) The station manager is proud of it.

e) The hooks have been taken off the wall.

Answer Key – Preliminary Round

Preliminary Round — Questions 1–50

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