



# **BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD**

**3RD BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD  
SHAPE DISCIPLINES - ENGLISH  
CATEGORY 3 (GRADES 7–8)  
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] The letter \_\_\_\_\_ last week, but it has not arrived.  
a) was posted   b) posted   c) has posted   d) is posting
  
2. [1] I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ more time to finish the report.  
a) will have   b) have   c) had   d) am having
  
3. [1] The report, \_\_\_\_\_ was written last month, has already been changed.  
a) which   b) who   c) what   d) that
  
4. [1] She let me \_\_\_\_\_ the answer before the test.  
a) to check   b) checking   c) checked   d) check
  
5. [2] He denied \_\_\_\_\_ anything about the missing key.  
a) to know   b) knowing   c) know   d) known
  
6. [2] She \_\_\_\_\_ walk to school when she was younger.  
a) is used to   b) was using to   c) used to   d) uses to
  
7. [2] She said she \_\_\_\_\_ call me the following day.  
a) will   b) can   c) shall   d) would
  
8. [3] The more carefully you plan, \_\_\_\_\_ goes wrong.  
a) the less   b) less   c) the fewer   d) the least

9. [3] Not until the second week \_\_\_\_\_ what the job involved.

- a) I did understand   b) did I understand   c) I understood   d) understood I

#### Section A2.

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

Rustam has driven the number 14 bus for nineteen years. He says he knows more about the town (10) \_\_\_\_\_ anyone in the council offices. He can tell you (11) \_\_\_\_\_ has moved house and which shops (12) \_\_\_\_\_ close before the winter. People simply talk on a bus, particularly in the seat (13) \_\_\_\_\_ the door. Last year the company suggested (14) \_\_\_\_\_ the route. It was Rustam who explained why the change (15) \_\_\_\_\_ empty the market.

10. [1] a) that   b) of   c) as   d) than

11. [2] a) which   b) whom   c) who   d) whose

12. [2] a) are   b) will   c) have   d) would have

13. [3] a) nearly   b) nearest   c) near of   d) the near

14. [3] a) to change   b) changed   c) change   d) changing

15. [3] a) will   b) had   c) would   d) should have

#### 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 sure?

- a) certain   b) curious   c) similar   d) serious

17. [1] Which of these is a piece of kitchen equipment?

- a) syringe   b) stapler   c) spanner   d) saucepan

18. [1] Which word describes somebody who says very little?

- a) restless   b) reliable   c) reserved   d) reasonable

19. [1] Which of these words describes a sound?

- a) damp   b) steep   c) bland   d) faint

**20. [2]** She \_\_\_\_\_ no attention to the warning on the label.

- a) held   b) paid   c) put   d) set

**21. [2]** Which of these belongs to a different group?

- a) hammer   b) envelope   c) spanner   d) screwdriver

**22. [2]** I couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ why she was so angry.

- a) work on   b) work off   c) work out   d) work up

**23. [2]** The match was \_\_\_\_\_ until the following Saturday.

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

**24. [3]** Which two words are nearly interchangeable?

- a) vague – exact   b) frequent – rare   c) urgent – dull   d) annual – yearly

**25. [3]** His excuse was so \_\_\_\_\_ that nobody even argued with it.

- a) feeble   b) fluent   c) fierce   d) faithful

**26. [3]** His explanation was plausible, but it did not \_\_\_\_\_ scrutiny.

- a) stand for   b) stand in for   c) stand up to   d) stand by

Section B2.

Choose the correct meaning of each word.

**27. [1]** generous

- a) willing to give more than is expected  
b) easily made angry by very small things  
c) unable to decide what to do next  
d) careful with money at all times

**28. [2]** postpone

- a) to cancel something entirely

- b) to repeat something twice over
- c) to bring something forward quickly
- d) to move something to a later time

**29. [2] stubborn**

- a) very hard-working and reliable
- b) refusing to change your mind
- c) easily frightened by loud noises
- d) difficult to hear across a room

**30. [3] witness**

- a) somebody who caused an accident
- b) somebody who saw something happen
- c) somebody who writes for a newspaper
- d) somebody who repairs machines

**31. [3] genuine**

- a) real, and not a copy or a pretence
- b) produced in very large numbers
- c) extremely valuable to serious collectors
- d) recently discovered by accident

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

Read the text and answer the questions.

Ines grew up in a small town in the north of Chile, one of the driest places on Earth. She did not think of the sky as unusual until she was fifteen. A visiting teacher told her class that most people in the world can see fewer than a hundred stars. From their playground, he said, you could see several thousand. The following winter she began writing down what she saw, in a notebook that she still keeps. She had no telescope and no camera; she had a chair, a blanket and a pencil. At university she discovered something. Four of her entries recorded a comet that the observatories, closed for maintenance that week, had missed entirely. Her notebook is now in the university library. Ines herself did not become an astronomer. She teaches mathematics in the

town she grew up in, and she takes her students out to the playground on clear nights in June.

**32. [1]** Where did Ines grow up?

- a) near an observatory   b) in the north of Chile   c) in a large city   d) in the south of Chile

**33. [1]** How old was she when the visiting teacher spoke to her class?

- a) nineteen   b) four   c) a hundred   d) fifteen

**34. [1]** What did she use to record what she saw?

- a) a notebook and a pencil   b) a mobile telephone   c) a telescope and a camera   d) a school computer

**35. [2]** What did the visiting teacher tell the class?

- a) that the school badly needed a telescope
- b) that the town was much too bright at night
- c) that they should all become astronomers
- d) that their sky showed unusually many stars

**36. [2]** What did Ines discover at university?

- a) The teacher had been wrong about the stars.
- b) Her notebook had been copied by somebody.
- c) Four of her entries recorded a missed comet.
- d) Her town was famous among astronomers.

**37. [2]** Why had the observatories missed it?

- a) Their records were lost.
- b) The comet was too faint.
- c) They were closed for maintenance.
- d) They were looking the wrong way.

**38. [2]** Where is the notebook now?

a) in an observatory   b) in a university library   c) in her classroom   d) in her own house

**39. [2]** What is Ines's job now?

a) She teaches mathematics.   b) She is an astronomer.   c) She runs an observatory.   d) She writes for a newspaper.

**40. [3]** What does the last sentence suggest about her?

- a) She no longer looks at the sky herself.
- b) She regrets not becoming an astronomer.
- c) She teaches astronomy instead of mathematics.
- d) She kept the habit and passes it on.

**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.

Three years ago the head teacher of a school in England made a decision her colleagues thought would fail. From September, every student would lock their telephone in a pouch at the gate and collect it at four o'clock. Not silenced, not in a bag — locked away, for six and a half hours.

The school was not the first to try it, and the arguments against were well rehearsed. Parents would object that they could not reach their children. Students would find ways around it. Staff would spend their time policing pouches. All three predictions came true, and none lasted the first term.

What the school reports is not dramatic. Examination results moved a little. Reports of bullying fell by about a third. The change that surprised everybody was the noise: break times became so loud that the school had to move its quiet rooms.

It is worth being careful here. One school is not evidence, the head teacher chose which figures to publish, and the students who left before the policy began are not in the comparison. What the story does show is smaller than a proof: a rule everybody expected to be unenforceable turned out to be enforceable, and the thing it changed most was not the thing anyone was measuring.

**41. [1]** What did the head teacher require students to do?

- a) lock their telephones away for the school day
- b) leave their telephones at home
- c) hand their telephones to a teacher
- d) switch their telephones to silent

**42. [1]** For how long were the telephones locked away each day?

- a) the whole school week   b) six and a half hours   c) roughly four hours   d) about one hour

**43. [2]** What does the writer say about the arguments against the policy?

- a) None of them proved true in the end.
- b) All three of them proved permanent.
- c) All three came true, but none lasted.
- d) They were never seriously made at all.

**44. [2]** Multiple Response — Choose ALL the results the school reports.

- a) Staff numbers were reduced.
- b) Attendance doubled.
- c) Reports of bullying fell by about a third.
- d) Examination results moved a little.

**45. [2]** Which result surprised everybody most?

- a) how much noisier break times became
- b) how quickly the parents accepted it
- c) how few telephones were brought in
- d) how much the examination results rose

**46. [2]** What does the writer tell us about the head teacher's colleagues?

- a) They helped her design the policy.
- b) They asked for the policy themselves.
- c) They expected the policy to fail.
- d) They refused to enforce the policy.

**47. [3]** What is the writer's attitude to the school's figures?

- a) convinced that the policy should be copied everywhere soon
- b) interested, but unwilling to treat one school as proof

- c) indifferent to whether the policy worked
- d) certain that the figures have been invented

**48. [3]** Why does the writer mention the students who left before the policy began?

- a) Because they returned the following year.
- b) Because they objected strongly to the policy.
- c) Because the school did not record their results.
- d) Because they are missing from the comparison.

**49. [3]** Multiple Response — Choose ALL the statements the writer accepts as fact.

- a) The policy raised examination results sharply.
- b) Break times became louder.
- c) The school was not the first to try the idea.
- d) The head teacher chose which figures to publish.
- e) Bullying disappeared from the school.

**50. [3]** Multiple Response — Choose ALL the points the final paragraph makes.

- a) The rule turned out to be enforceable after all.
- b) Every school should now copy the policy.
- c) One school's figures are not proof of anything general.
- d) The head teacher published every figure she had.
- e) The biggest change was not the one being measured.

## Answer Key – Preliminary Round

### Preliminary Round — Questions 1–50

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