

USE OF ENGLISH 2024 MODEL QUESTIONS COMPREHENSION

USE OF ENGLISH, 2024

PASSAGE 1

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Gender equality, a concept that should be self-evident, remains a persistent and pressing issue worldwide. It is not merely a matter of fairness; it is a fundamental human right and a catalyst for societal progress. The pursuit of a world where everyone, regardless of gender, has equal opportunities to thrive is a moral imperative that underpins economic growth, social justice, and global stability.

At the heart of gender inequality lies the *systemic devaluation* of women and girls. This manifests in various forms, including discriminatory laws, limited access to education and healthcare, economic disparities, and violence against women. The consequences of such inequality are far-reaching, affecting not only women but also men, children, and communities as a whole.

Economically, gender equality is a powerful driver of growth. Studies have shown that countries with higher levels of gender equality tend to have stronger economies. When women are empowered to participate fully in the workforce, they contribute to innovation, entrepreneurship, and overall productivity. Moreover, investing in women's education and health leads to higher incomes, reduced poverty rates, and improved child outcomes.

Beyond economic prosperity, gender equality is essential for social progress. It is inextricably linked to issues such as poverty, health, education, and political participation. When women are denied equal opportunities, it perpetuates cycles of poverty and marginalization. Conversely, empowering women leads to stronger families, healthier communities, and more stable societies.

Gender-based violence is a pervasive human rights violation that has devastating consequences for individuals and communities. It hinders women's ability to participate fully in society, undermines their physical and mental health, and perpetuates gender inequality. By challenging harmful gender norms and promoting gender equality, we can create safer environments for all.

Achieving gender equality requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses both underlying causes and immediate challenges. It involves enacting and enforcing laws that protect women's rights, investing in education and healthcare for girls and women, promoting women's leadership, and

challenging harmful gender stereotypes. It also necessitates engaging men and boys as partners in creating a more equitable world. While progress has been made, there is still much work to be done. We must continue to advocate for policies and practices that promote gender equality at all levels of society. This includes ensuring equal pay for equal work, increasing women's representation in leadership positions, and providing access to quality education and healthcare for all.

In conclusion, gender equality is not a luxury but a necessity. It is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of a just, equitable, and sustainable world. By working together to dismantle the barriers that prevent women and girls from reaching their full potential, we can create a brighter future for all.

1. Which of the following titles best reflects the main idea of the passage?

- A. The Global Struggle for Women's Right
- B. Gender Equality: A Foundation for Human Progress
- C. Women and Economic Development
- D. The Impact of Gender-Based Violence

2. How does the author illustrate the far-reaching consequences of gender inequality?

- A. By focusing solely on the economic impact.
- B. By emphasizing the physical and mental health consequences for women.
- C. By highlighting the effects on both women and men, as well as children and communities.
- D. By primarily discussing the issue of gender-based violence.

3. What is the main argument presented about the economic implications of gender equality?

- A. Women are solely responsible for economic growth.
- B. Gender equality is essential for achieving economic prosperity.
- C. Economic disparities between genders are inevitable.
- D. Investing in men's education is more beneficial for the economy.

4. What does the term "systemic devaluation" imply in the context of gender inequality?

- A. Individual acts of discrimination against women.
- B. Widespread and institutionalized undervaluing of women.
- C. The economic consequences of gender inequality.
- D. The psychological impact of gender inequality.

5. How does the word "imperative" emphasize the importance of gender equality?

- A. It suggests that gender equality is optional.
- B. It indicates that gender equality is a matter of urgency and necessity.

C. It implies that gender equality is a personal preference.

D. It emphasizes the economic benefits of gender equality.

PASSAGE 2

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

In the bustling marketplace of ideas and information, the dictionary stands as a silent, yet invaluable companion. More than a mere compendium of words, it is a portal to precision, clarity, and intellectual growth. From the budding scholar to the _____6_____ writer, the dictionary serves as a cornerstone of effective communication and lifelong learning.

At its core, the dictionary is a repository of language. It codifies the ever-evolving lexicon, preserving the nuances and subtleties of expression. By defining words, providing synonyms and _____7_____, and illustrating usage through examples, it empowers individuals to articulate their thoughts with clarity and precision. A well-chosen word can illuminate an idea, persuade an audience, or evoke a powerful emotion. The dictionary, in this sense, is a tool for _____8_____ language that resonates.

Beyond its role in communication, the dictionary is a key to unlocking knowledge. It is a gateway to diverse fields of study, from science and technology to history and _____9_____. Through its definitions and _____10_____, the dictionary reveals the origins and evolution of words, offering glimpses into the cultural and intellectual heritage of humanity. For instance, the word "_____11_____" traces its roots to the ancient Greek concept of "rule by the people," providing a rich historical context for understanding this fundamental political system.

Moreover, the dictionary fosters critical _____12_____ and problem-solving skills. When encountering an unfamiliar word, the reader is compelled to analyze its components, consider its _____13_____, and deduce its meaning. This process of intellectual _____14_____ engagement enhances _____15_____ abilities and cultivates a lifelong love of learning. By encouraging curiosity and _____15_____, exploration, the dictionary empowers individuals to become independent thinkers and lifelong learners.

8	mendi ng	Formin g	crafti ng	genera ting
9	philos ophy	Psycho logy	politic s	visual art
10	philol ogies	Lexico logies	typolo gies	etimol ogies
11	plutoc racy	theocra cy	demo cracy	aristoc racy
12	readin g	Thinki ng	learni ng	writin g
13	conte nt	Intent	pretex t	context
14	evalu ative	Cogniti ve	emoti ve	intuiti ve
15	intelle ctual	scholas tic	indivi dual	collect ive

Questions 16 to 25 are based on *The Life Changer* by Khadijat Abubakar Jalli

16. "He never raised his voice on anyone. That was how he got the appellation of the quiet one." The expression describes.
A. Ummi B. Lafayette C. Hakimi D. Talle
17. Zaki is _____ in the novel.
A. a drug dealer B. an accomplice C. a customer D. a ringleader
18. Talle and his conspirators are sentenced to some years of imprisonment for _____ and _____
A. murder and drug dealing B. smuggling and stealing C. kidnapping and extortion D. raping and kidnapping
19. _____ is a fair-complexioned girl, tall, slim and rather busty.
A. Salma B. Ngozi C. Teemah D. Tomiwa
20. "Please. God, let this cup pass over me. Please God, let her not talk." Who is thinking here?
A. Dr. Dabo B. Habib C. Dr. Samuel Johnson D. Labaran
21. "'You look beautiful and decent in your attire,' he said and stood up to sit on the sofa near to the visitor's chair, where I was seated." The expression records _____
A. Ummi's experience B. Salma's experience C. Tomiwa's experience D. Ada's experience
22. Who is described as quiet, reticent and generous to a fault?
A. Ngozi B. Ada C. Tomiwa D. Ummi
23. EMEC means _____.
A. Exams Malpractice and Executive Committee B. Executives of Malpractice and Exams Committee C. Examinations Malpractice Executive Chair D. Exams Malpractice and Ethics Committee
24. _____ was the very last paper that got Salma implicated in examination malpractice.

- A. Ethics of Philosophy B. Moral Philosophy C. Philosophy of Religion D. Developmental Psychology
25. How many children does Ummi have? A. 5 B. 3 C. 4 D. 6

LEXIS, STRUCTURE AND ORAL FORMS

In each of questions 26 to 35, choose the option opposite in meaning to the word in italics.

26. The lifespan of a mayfly is *ephemeral*.
A. permanent B. fleeting C. momentary D. transitory
27. After winning the lottery, she felt *euphoric* and couldn't stop smiling.
A. ecstatic B. elated C. despondent D. joyful
28. He was a *taciturn* man who rarely spoke.
A. reticent B. loquacious C. reserved D. quiet
29. The politician's *veracity* was questioned after several lies were uncovered.
A. truthfulness B. honesty C. deception D. sincerity
30. The philanthropist was known for her *magnanimous* donations.
A. generous B. benevolent C. petty D. altruistic
31. She maintained her *equanimity* during the crisis.
A. composure B. serenity C. agitation D. calmness
32. The meaning of the ancient text was *obscure* to most scholars.
A. clear B. vague C. hidden D. ambiguous
33. The writer was *prolific*, producing several novels a year.
A. fruitful B. abundant C. sparse D. fertile
34. The soup was *insipid* and lacked flavour.
A. tasteless B. bland C. savoury D. dull
35. The *audacious* thief robbed the bank in broad daylight.
A. bold B. daring C. timid D. courageous
- In each of questions 36 to 45, choose the option nearest in meaning to the word in italics.
36. The politician's *eloquent* speech captivated the audience.
A. articulate B. verbose C. hesitant D. mumbled
37. She was *overwhelmed* by grief after losing her loved one.
A. delighted B. inundated C. indifferent D. calm
38. The detective's *intuition* led him to the culprit. A. ignorance B. certainty C. hunch D. evidence
39. The company's *prosperity* was evident in its new headquarters.
A. failure B. wealth C. poverty D. decline
40. The novel's *complex* plot kept readers engaged. A. simple B. obvious C. intricate D. clear
41. The doctor's *diagnosis* was accurate.

S	A	B	C	D
6	periodic	Seasoned	eloquent	avid
7	homonyms	meronyms	antonyms	eponyms

A. prediction B. treatment C. examination
D. assessment

42. The child's *innocence* was heartwarming.
A. guilt B. purity C. experience D.
knowledge

43. The hiker's *tenacity* helped her reach the
summit. A. weakness B. laziness C.
determination D. doubt

44. The professor's *erudite* lecture fascinated
the students. A. ignorant B. uneducated C.
knowledgeable D. simple

45. The company's *merger* with its competitor
created a larger firm.

A. separation B. division C. combination D.
disagreement

In each of questions 46 to 55, choose the
word(s) or phrase(s) which best fill(s) the
gap(s).

46. The bus was travelling at a high _____
when the accident occurred.

A. acceleration B. speed C. velocity D.
rapidity.

47. Our English teacher taught us _____.

A. Pronunciation B. Pronunciation C.
Pronounceation D. Pronounceation

48. The old man, together with his children,
_____ appreciation for the gift.

A. show B. shows C. showing D. are
showing

49. The police are _____ an investigation into
the robbery.

A. doing B. making C. organising D.
conducting

50. A vote of confidence was passed
_____ the president

A. over B. in C. on D. upon

51. The professor gave an _____ approach
to teaching phonetics.

A. eclectic B. ecletic C. eclektic D. eclectik

52. I would be happy if you _____ attend to
me first.

A. may B. can C. could D. will.

53. If only I *de* _____ what was good
for him he could easily have avoided the
tragedy. A. have known B. had known C. has
known D. knew

54. The boy who stole the mango was
given _____ by an eye witness.

A. out B. in C. away D. up

55. How I wish I _____ my father's advice.
A. had heeded B. have heeded C. heed D. will
heed.

In questions 56 to 57, identify the word that
has the the stress on the second syllable.

56. A. madam B. always C. result D. biscuit

57. A. tomato B. photograph C. yesterday D.
tranquil

In each of questions 58 to 60, select the word
that has the same pattern of stress as the
given word.

58. REFUSE (noun)

A. reform B. intact C. obscure D. phantom

59. APPARENT

A. telephone B. arrested C. paragraph D.
appetite

60. REPRISAL

A. entourage B. attendant C. testify D.
register

ANSWERS

1. B.

Gender Equality: A Foundation for
Human Progress

The passage comprehensively covers the
various aspects of gender equality, from its
economic implications to its impact on
social progress and human rights. It
emphasizes that gender equality is not just
a women's issue but a fundamental
building block for a just and equitable
society. Option B encapsulates this broad
perspective effectively.

2. C.

By highlighting the effects on both women
and men, as well as children and
communities.

The passage explicitly states that the
consequences of gender inequality affect
not only women but also men, children,
and entire communities. It discusses
economic, social, and health impacts,
demonstrating a comprehensive
understanding of the issue's far-reaching
consequences.

3. B.

Gender equality is essential for achieving
economic prosperity.

The passage clearly states that countries
with higher levels of gender equality tend
to have stronger economies. It emphasizes
the contributions of women to innovation,
entrepreneurship, and overall productivity,
supporting the argument that gender
equality is a driver of economic growth.

4. B.

Widespread and institutionalized
undervaluing of women.

The term "systemic" suggests that the
devaluation of women is embedded within
societal structures and institutions. This
implies a broader and more pervasive issue
than individual acts of discrimination.

5. B.

It indicates that gender equality is a matter
of urgency and necessity.

The word "imperative" conveys a sense of
urgency and compulsion. In this context, it
highlights the critical importance of
gender equality for societal progress and
human rights.

6. B. seasoned

The context suggests someone with
experience in writing. A "seasoned" writer

implies someone who has been writing for
a while and has developed their skills.

7. C. antonyms

Synonyms are words with similar
meanings, so the opposite would be
antonyms, which are words with opposite
meanings.

8. C. crafting

Crafting implies skillfully constructing or
creating something. In this context, it
suggests carefully choosing and using
words to create effective language.

9. A. philosophy

The passage discusses diverse fields of
study, and philosophy aligns with the
intellectual and conceptual nature of the
text. Philosophy is about asking big
questions about life, the universe, and
everything. Philosophers think deeply
about concepts like truth, beauty, and
morality.

10. D. etimologies

Etymologies refer to the study of word
origins, which aligns with the idea of
revealing the origins and evolution of
words. Etymology is like tracing a word
back to its roots to understand how it came
to mean what it means today. For example,
the word "knight" comes from the Old
English word "cniht", meaning "boy" or
"servant."

11. C. democracy

The definition provided matches the
concept of democracy, which is "rule by
the people." Democracy is a form of
government where the power to make
decisions rests with the people. People can
either vote directly on issues or elect
representatives to make decisions on their
behalf.

12. B. thinking

Critical thinking involves analyzing
information and making logical
conclusions, which aligns with the process
of deducing word meanings.

13. D. Context

Context refers to the circumstances that
form the setting for an event, statement, or
idea, and in terms of which it can be fully
understood and assessed. In simpler
terms, context is the background
information or environment that helps one
understand something better. For instance,
the meaning of a word can change based
on the context it's used in.

14. B. cognitive

Cognitive abilities refer to mental
processes such as thinking, understanding,
and reasoning. The word "cognitive"
refers to how your mind works, including
things like thinking, learning,

remembering, and problem-solving. For instance, cognitive skills help you understand and respond to information.

15. A. intellectual

Intellectual exploration implies seeking knowledge and understanding through thinking and reasoning. The word "Intellectual" refers to one's ability to think critically, analyze information, and solve problems. An intellectual person is someone who enjoys learning and thinking deeply about things.

16. D

Talle is described as the quiet one in the text. He gets the name "Talle" on account that shortly after his birth, his mother died. His father remarries but later dies in a car accident with his stepmother. Talle is reticent and quiet, a kind of self-reclusivity which makes him unsuspected when he secretly engages in criminal activities (p21)

17. B

Zarki is Talle's accomplice or fellow conspirator in the text. He and Talle engage in extortion and kidnap (p25).

18. C

Talle and Zaki are sentenced to years of imprisonment for kidnapping and extortion. (p25)

19. A

Salma is a fair-complexioned girl, tall, slim and rather busty. Salma is attractive and this gets Dr. Dabo and other men swooned. She is pretty and at the same time saucy. (p12)

20. A

The expression is made by Dr. Dabo. Dr. Dabo is a lecturer who is known for frowning against immorality and being too serious and strict. However, he almost falls for Salma's beauty and when he finds out that he has been given out, he fears that the secret will not be divulged by Salma (p30).

21. A

This expression describes Umami's experience on her visit to Dr. Samuel Johnson's office. (p16)

22. A

Ngozi, a friend of Salma is described as quiet and reticent and generous to fault. She is also described as a good cook. She comes from the eastern part of Nigeria. The three friends are Salma, Ngozi, Tomiwa and Ada. Salma is from the North, Tomiwa is from the West, Ngozi is from the East and Ada is from Benue or Middle Belt (31, 32).

23. D

EMEC means Exam Malpractice and Ethics Committee. This committee sees to the proper punishment of culprits in examination malpractice as can be seen in the case of Salma (p55).

24. B

The very last paper that Salma sits which gets her implicated in examination malpractice is Moral Philosophy. According to Umami, Moral Philosophy is such a very easy course but Salma finds it easy because she doesn't go to class (p46).

25. C

Umami has four children namely Omar, Bint, Jamila and Teemah. Omar has just got admission to study Law. He is congratulated by his sisters. The admission is celebrated merely with five bottles of zobo which are to be shared by Umami (their mother) and the remaining four children (p7).

26. A. permanent

Ephemeral means lasting for a very short time. Its opposite is **permanent**, which means lasting indefinitely or for a long time.

27. C. despondent

Euphoric means feeling intense excitement and happiness. Its opposite is **despondent**, which means feeling very sad and without hope. Options a, b, and d are synonyms for euphoric.

28. B. loquacious

Taciturn means reserved or reluctant to speak. Its opposite is **loquacious**, which means tending to talk a great deal. Options a, c, and d are synonyms for taciturn.

29. C. deception

Veracity means truthfulness or accuracy. It implies honesty and reliability. **Deception** is the opposite of **veracity**. It involves misleading or deceiving others intentionally. In the sentence, the politician's veracity is questioned, suggesting that their truthfulness is doubted. This is because several lies were uncovered, which is a form of deception. Therefore, deception is the word that is opposite in meaning to veracity in this context.

30. C. petty

Magnanimous means very generous or forgiving. Its opposite is ***petty***, which means of little importance; trivial. Options a, b, and d are synonyms for magnanimous.

31. C. agitation

Equanimity means mental calmness, composure, and evenness of temper. Its opposite is **agitation**, which means a state

of anxiety or nervous excitement. Options a, b, and d are synonyms for equanimity.

32. A. clear

Obscure means not clearly understood or expressed. Its opposite is **clear**, which means easy to perceive, understand, or define. Options b, c, and d are synonyms or related to obscure.

33. C. sparse

Prolific means producing a large amount of something. Its opposite is **sparse**, which means thinly scattered or distributed. Options a, b, and d are related to producing something, but not necessarily in a small quantity.

34. C. savoury

Insipid means lacking flavor or interest. Its opposite is **savoury**, which means having a pleasant taste or smell. Options a, b, and d are related to lack of interest or excitement, not taste.

35. C. timid

Audacious means showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks. Its opposite is **timid**, which means showing lack of courage or confidence. Options a, b, and d are synonyms or related to audacious.

36. A. eloquent

Eloquent is the most similar synonym to **articulate** because they both focus on the clarity and effectiveness of communication.

Eloquent: the speaker is able to express themselves clearly and effectively.

Verbose: Using or containing more words than necessary.

Hesitant: Pausing or stopping in uncertainty, typically while speaking.

Mumbled: To speak in a low, indistinct voice.

37. C.

Overwhelmed means to be burdened with so much that you cannot cope. **Indifferent** is the most similar choice because it means not having any particular interest or sympathy for something.

38. C.

Intuition is a feeling that something is true without knowing why. **Hunch** is the most similar choice because it also refers to a feeling or suspicion without proof.

Intuition: It was a feeling or suspicion without proof.

Ignorance: A lack of knowledge or information.

Certainty: A strong belief that something is true.

Evidence: Information that shows something exists or is true.

39. B.

Prosperity is the state of being successful, especially financially. **Wealth** is the most similar choice because it refers to having a lot of money or possessions.

40. C.

Complex means having many different parts that are connected in a complicated way. **Intricate** is the most similar choice because it also refers to something that is complex and difficult to understand.

41. D.

Diagnosis is the identification of the nature and cause of a disease. **Assessment** is the most similar choice because it refers to the process of making a judgment about something.

Prediction: A statement about what will happen in the future.

Treatment: The act of treating a disease or illness.

Examination: A close look at someone or something.

42. B.

Innocence means freedom from guilt or wrong. **Purity** is the most similar choice because it refers to the state of being free from anything that is bad or harmful.

43. C.

Tenacity means the quality of persisting in difficult situations. **Determination** is the most similar choice because it refers to the quality of being determined to do something.

44. C.

Erudite means having or showing great knowledge or learning. Therefore, the professor is described as being **knowledgeable**. Options A, B, and D are opposites of erudite.

45. C.

A **merger** is the combination of two or more companies into a single entity. Therefore, the result of a merger is a **combination** of the two companies. Options A, B, and D are opposites of the concept of merger.

46. B. speed

Speed refers to how fast something is moving, without considering its direction. **Acceleration** is the rate at which an object changes its velocity with respect to time.

Velocity is similar to speed, but it also includes the direction of movement.

Rapidity is a general term that means quickness or speed, but it's not as specific as speed in this context.

In this sentence, we are simply describing how fast the bus was moving without mentioning its direction, so "speed" is the correct choice.

47. A. Pronunciation

Pronunciation is the correct spelling of the word.

48. B. shows

The subject of the sentence is "the old man," which is singular. Although "together with his children" is added, it does not change the fact that the main subject is singular. Therefore, the verb should also be singular, which is "shows."

Example: The teacher, along with her students, **appreciates** the school's efforts.

49. D. conducting

"**Conducting an investigation**" is a common phrase that means carrying out or performing an investigation.

Example: The detectives are conducting a thorough investigation into the murder case.

50. C on

The phrase "**passed on**" is used to indicate that something is given or transferred to someone. In this case, the vote of confidence is being given to the president.

Example: The award was passed on to the deserving student.

51. A. eclectic

The word "eclectic" means deriving ideas from a variety of sources. The other options are incorrect spellings of the word.

Example:

A professor who uses an **eclectic** approach to teaching phonetics might incorporate elements from different methods, such as auditory training, articulatory phonetics, and acoustic phonetics, to cater to different learning styles and enhance students' understanding.

52. C. could

The word "could" is used to express a polite request or possibility in the past or present. The sentence implies a desire for something that might happen in the future, but the polite tone is conveyed by using "could". **Example:**

The speaker is expressing a wish for preferential treatment and is being polite by using "could" instead of a more direct form like "will". **Other options:**

May is used to express permission or possibility.

Can is used to express ability or possibility.

Will is used to express future tense or determination.

None of these options fits the context of a polite request.

53. B. had known

This sentence uses the past perfect tense to express a hypothetical situation in the past.

"Had known" is the correct form for this tense.

54. C. away

The phrase "given away" means to reveal information about someone, which is what an eyewitness does when they identify a person.

55. had heeded

This sentence expresses a wish about something that did not happen in the past. We use the past perfect tense to express such wishes, so "had heeded" is the correct choice.

56. C. result

The word "result" has stress on the second syllable: re-SULT

The other options have stress on the first syllable: MAD-am, AL-ways, BIS-cuit

57. A. tomato

The word "tomato" has stress on the second syllable: to-MA-to.

The other options have stress on the first syllable: PHO-to-graph, YES-ter-day, TRAN-quit

58. D. phantom

The word "refuse" has stress on the first syllable: RE-fuse.

The word "phantom" also has stress on the first syllable: PHAN-tom.

The other options have stress on the second syllable: re-FORM, in-TACT. ob-SCURE.

59. B. arrested

The word "apparent" has stress on the second syllable: ap-PA-ment

The word "arrested" also has stress on the second syllable: ar-REST-ed

The other options have stress on the first syllable: TE-le-phone, PA-ra-graph, AP-pe-tite

60. B. attendant

The word "reprisal" has stress on the second syllable: re-PRIS-al

The word "attendant" also has stress on the second syllable: at-TEND-ant

The other options have stress on the first syllable: EN-tou-rage, TEST-i-fy, RE-gist-er

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PASSAGE

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