

# Academic Challenge



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## 2019 Academic Challenge

### ENGLISH TEST – REGIONAL

#### English Test Production Team

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#### GENERAL DIRECTIONS

Please read the following instructions carefully. This is a timed test; any instructions from the test supervisor should be followed promptly.

The test supervisor will give instructions for filling in any necessary information on the answer sheet. Most Academic Challenge sites will ask you to indicate your answer to each question by marking an oval that corresponds to the correct answer for that question. One oval should be marked to answer each question. Multiple ovals will automatically be graded as an incorrect answer.

Be sure ovals are marked as  , not  ,  ,  , etc.

If you wish to change an answer, erase your first mark completely before marking your new choice.

You are advised to use your time effectively and to work as rapidly as you can without losing accuracy. Do not waste your time on questions that seem too difficult for you. Go on to the other questions, and then come back to the difficult ones later if time remains.

**Time: 40 Minutes**

**Number of Questions: 80**

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Academic Challenge  
English Test (Regional) – 2019

In items 1-10, choose the standard spelling for each word.

- |    |   |     |  |
|----|---|-----|--|
| 1. | a. Lothsome<br>b. Loathsome<br>c. Loathsame<br>d. Lothsame                | 6.  | a. Spueme<br>b. Spumm<br>c. Spuem<br>d. Spume                |
| 2. | a. Quagmire<br>b. Quogmire<br>c. Quogmare<br>d. Quagmare                  | 7.  | a. Letharjy<br>b. Lethargy<br>c. Lethargie<br>d. Letharjie   |
| 3. | a. Vasage<br>b. Vassage<br>c. Vissage<br>d. Visage                        | 8.  | a. Sunorus<br>b. Sunnorus<br>c. Sonorous<br>d. Sonourus      |
| 4. | a. Impartinance<br>b. Impertinance<br>c. Impertinence<br>d. Imperttinance | 9.  | a. Redolence<br>b. Redolance<br>c. Redulance<br>d. Redulence |
| 5. | a. Pius<br>b. Pious<br>c. Pieus<br>d. Pieous                              | 10. | a. Ansester<br>b. Ansestor<br>c. Ancester<br>d. Ancestor     |

In items 11-30, find the answer that best develops the meaning of the word in boldface.

11. The library celebrated an **acquisition** of works by a famous author.
- The new collection will drive up interest in the library by fans and researchers.
  - The touring collection will help with the fundraising drive.
  - The long-forgotten texts were recently rediscovered in the library's archives.
  - The author's works perplexed archivists.
12. Beth loves playing the piano, but she's especially **adept** at the violin.
- She learned how to play at an early age.
  - She is a first chair violinist.
  - She enjoys playing violin.
  - She is still learning how to master the violin.

13. Environmental protestors often **advocate** for cleaner energy practices.
- They argue amongst themselves.
  - They promote their policy initiatives with politicians.
  - They conduct research for thinktanks.
  - They enjoy long walks in nature.
14. My boss had an **austere** expression on her face.
- She was depressed.
  - She was glad to see me.
  - She was cold and distant.
  - She was hard to read.
15. If we work together, we should be able to lift and then **bolster** the couch.
- The couch's leather will be polished.
  - The couch's new sturdiness will help it last.
  - The couch's new upholstery will look great.
  - The couch's color really brings the room together.
16. Her **clinical** approach to situations allows her to handle them more effectively.
- Her mathematical mindset allows the company to grow exponentially.
  - Her puzzling decisions confuses the board.
  - Her warmth reminds people of a nurse.
  - Her cool detachment allows her to handle problems with objectivity.
17. Children of rich and famous people often believe they have a lot of **clout**.
- They think they can't do much.
  - They think they can use their connections to influence politics.
  - They think they are cooler than most.
  - They think they can win at sports.
18. After weeks of debating, the panel finally came to a **consensus**.
- They all agreed that the punishment was unjust.
  - Their decision was marred with disagreement.
  - Their decision would be put before the voters.
  - Their statement was indecipherable.
19. The moon is one giant, **desolate** landscape.
- It is difficult to travel there.
  - It is devoid of life.
  - It is beautiful to behold.
  - It is sturdy.
20. The man's claim to the throne were **dubious**.
- His ancestry was questionable.
  - The council was undecided.
  - He was immediately made king.
  - His claim was based on solid evidenc.

21. You need **empirical** evidence to support your claim.
- Your evidence must be based on advice.
  - Your evidence must be based in opinion.
  - Your evidence must be based on feelings.
  - Your evidence must be based on observation and experience.
22. The shoddy corporation **exploited** its workers by paying them extremely low wages.
- The corporation used lobbyists.
  - The corporation's greed led them to take advantage of their workers.
  - The corporation used tax loopholes for corporate benefit.
  - The corporation provided few benefits to workers.
23. A thesis is arguably the most **fundamental** part of an essay.
- It is the hardest part to write
  - It is the most important element.
  - It is the easiest section to write.
  - It is the shortest part of the essay.
24. Tom has a high **threshold** for pain.
- He is abnormally sensitive.
  - He has a quick temper when hurt.
  - He is a skilled chemist.
  - He turns down requests for anesthesia.
25. We volunteer as **mentors** in an afterschool program.
- We hope to be role models for the kids.
  - We enjoy cooking for the children.
  - We write letters for the children.
  - We lead gym activities.
26. To ensure **impartiality**, HR requires everyone to follow specific guidelines.
- Our insurance program demands this occurs.
  - Following the rules is vital.
  - Fairness is a company value.
  - It is a legal requirement.
27. Physics involves the study of **locomotion**.
- You can learn about how things move.
  - You can learn about trains.
  - You can learn about humans.
  - You can learn about biological organisms.
28. Upon entering the abandoned house, Kate experienced a **peculiar** feeling.
- She felt sick.
  - She felt incredibly relaxed.
  - She felt a sudden urge to run.
  - She felt a sudden uneasiness.

29. My brother is not very **savvy** when it comes to using public transportation.

- a. He is rude to bus drivers.
- b. He consistently gets lost.
- c. He advocates against using the subway.
- d. He is quick to find new routes through the city.

30. He had a hostile **temperament**.

- a. He avoided warm climates.
- b. His personality made him intimidating to others.
- c. His personality was warm and inviting.
- d. He avoided fights.

**In items 31-35, select the sentence that has no errors in grammar, punctuation, or mechanics.**

31.

- a. Carbo loading is not a free-for-all diet plan; but, a targeted approach to a maximize your body's potential.
- b. Boosting your carbohydrate intake over the course of three to four days before an endurance activity, like a marathon, provides extra fuel for your body to compete.
- c. Combining this dietary change, and scaling down your activity level may lead to improved performance.
- d. Talk with your doctor before starting: if you have a preexisting condition.

32.

- a. Orange zest is made from the top layer of an oranges' peel.
- b. It contains the fruit's oils and adds a bright, citrus flavor to a dish or recipe.
- c. There are several kitchen utensil you can use to zest an orange, including a grater; peeler; or knife.
- d. Before you zest an orange be sure to wash the fruit thoroughly with water.

33.

- a. Even accomplished public speakers worry about whether their presentation is effective.
- b. Fortunately; improving your effectiveness as a public speaker is very simple.
- c. To be an effective public speaker prepare a well-developed speech that fits your audience, and practice your delivery.
- d. Finally, connect with the audience, articulate your words, and use gestures: as you give your speech.

- 34.
- Whether you have a better offer to work somewhere else or have had a bad experience and want to move on the way you handle a resignation can make or break your career and your professional reputation.
  - Follow your employers formal procedure and work out any required notice to ensure a smooth transition.
  - Once you have made your decision to resign, have a sit-down meeting with your direct supervisor and let her or him know of your intentions.
  - This can be a awkward conversation, but try to keep it brief and to the point.
- 35.
- If you're feeling stuck and uninspired, take comfort, in the fact that it happens to everyone occasionally.
  - Don't worry, you can get out of this slump.
  - Start by setting a clear goal; whether you want to write a story, paint a picture, or work through a problem.
  - Find inspiration from things in your life and learn to be open to that inspiration.

**In items 36-45, select the sentence group that best revises any grammatical or punctuation errors or improves the style. If you see no error, select “no change necessary.”**

36. The impact theory provided an elegant solution to a prehistoric puzzle, and its steady march from hypothesis to fact offered a heartwarming story about the integrity of the scientific method.
- The impact theory provided an elegant solution to a prehistoric puzzle and its steady march from hypothesis to fact offered a heart-warming story about the integrity of the scientific method.
  - The impact theory provided an elegant solution to a prehistoric puzzle, and it's steady march from hypothesis to fact offered a heart-warming story about the integrity of the scientific method.
  - The impact theory provided an elegant solution to a prehistoric puzzle, and its steady march from hypothesis to fact offered a heart-warming story about the integrity of the scientific method.
  - No change necessary
37. Their case closed confidence belies decades of vicious infighting with the two sides trading accusations of slander, sabotage, threats, discrimination, spurious data, and attempts to torpedo careers.
- Their case-closed confidence belies decades of vicious infighting, with the two sides trading accusations of slander, sabotage, threats, discrimination, spurious data, and attempts to torpedo careers.
  - Their case closed confidence belies decades of vicious infighting, with the two sides trading accusations of slander, sabotage, threats, discrimination, spurious data, and attempts to torpedo careers.
  - Their case-closed confidence belies decades of vicious infighting, with the two sides trading accusations of slander; sabotage; threats; discrimination; spurious data; and attempts to torpedo careers.
  - No change necessary

38. The dark clouds gathering on the prairie horizon gave warning of a storm.
- The dark clouds, gathering on the prairie horizon, gave warning of a storm.
  - The dark clouds, gathering on the prairie horizon gave warning of a storm.
  - The dark clouds gathering on the prairie horizon, gave warning of a storm.
  - No change necessary
39. After the sixth inning of the baseball game I went home, my family stayed to cheer on the Tigers.
- After the sixth inning of the baseball game, I went home, my family stayed to cheer on the Tigers.
  - After the sixth inning of the baseball game, I went home; my family stayed to cheer on the Tigers.
  - After the sixth inning of the baseball game I went home: my family stayed to cheer on the Tigers.
  - No change necessary
40. "I'm almost done working," I said to my friends, "I just need a little more time."
- "I'm almost done working" I said to my friends: "I just need a little more time."
  - "I'm almost done working" I said to my friends. "I just need a little more time."
  - "I'm almost done working," I said to my friends. "I just need a little more time."
  - No change necessary
41. Gary spends a lot of time gardening because he enjoys the flowers and shrubs that help screen his house from the street.
- Gary spends a lot of time gardening, because he enjoys the flowers and shrubs that help screen his house from the street.
  - Gary spends a lot of time gardening, because he enjoys the flowers, and shrubs that help screen his house from the street.
  - Gary spends a lot of time gardening; because, he enjoys the flowers and shrubs that help screen his house from the street.
  - No change necessary
42. With repeated practice my speech will be the best in the class and I will receive an A.
- With repeated practice, my speech will be the best in the class, and I will receive an A.
  - With repeated practice, my speech will be the best in the class and I will receive an A.
  - With repeated practice my speech will be the best in the class, and I will receive an "A".
  - No change necessary
43. When Larry and Joe agree on something they will often high five one another, Larry and Joe love to high five.
- When Larry and Joe agree on something they will often high five one another. Larry and Joe love to high five.
  - When Larry and Joe agree on something, they will often high five one another; Larry and Joe love to high five.
  - When Larry and Joe agree on something they will often high five one another— Larry and Joe love to high five.
  - No change necessary



44. I like the fact that it rains so much in Washington; and I think that we wouldn't have such wonderful green scenery if it didn't.
- I like the fact that it rains so much in Washington. And I think that we wouldn't have such wonderful green scenery if it didn't.
  - I like the fact that it rains so much in Washington; and, I think that we wouldn't have such wonderful green scenery if it didn't.
  - I like the fact that it rains so much in Washington, and I think that we wouldn't have such wonderful green scenery if it didn't.
  - No change necessary
45. The band played in Chicago Illinois St. Louis Missouri and Indianapolis Indiana before heading back to the studio.
- The band played in Chicago Illinois, St. Louis Missouri, and Indianapolis Indiana before heading back to the studio.
  - The band played in Chicago, Illinois, St. Louis, Missouri, and Indianapolis, Indiana, before heading back to the studio.
  - The band played in Chicago, Illinois; St. Louis, Missouri; and Indianapolis, Indiana, before heading back to the studio.
  - No change necessary

**In items 46-50, select the phrase that best describes the underlined words.**

46. Ling feeds and walks her dog every day, but the dog is still hyperactive.
- Unclear pronoun reference
  - Conjunctive adverb
  - Coordinating conjunction
  - Limiting modifier
47. Gretta wore her favorite shirt to her job interview, which was unfortunately spotted with bacon grease.
- Misplaced modifier
  - Idiom
  - Dangling modifier
  - Verbal
48. To live in Boston eventually is his main goal in life.
- Passive voice
  - Participial phrase
  - Gerund phrase
  - Infinitive phrase
49. Sit on the sofa.
- Indicative form
  - Subjunctive mood
  - Imperative mood
  - Verbal phrase

50. I have drunk three cups of coffee today.

- a. Passive voice
- b. Present perfect tense
- c. Present perfect progressive
- d. Adjective phrase

**W.E.B. Dubois was a highly influential activist and writer in the history of American literature. After becoming the first African-American to earn a doctorate from Harvard, he went on to co-found the NAACP. Read the following selection from Dubois’s “The Song of the Smoke” and answer questions in items 51-60.**

“The Song of the Smoke”

- 1 I am the Smoke King
- 2 I am black!
- 3 I am swinging in the sky,
- 4 I am wringing worlds awry;
- 5 I am the thought of the throbbing mills,
- 6 I am the soul of the soul-toil kills,
- 7 Wraith of the ripple of trading rills;
- 8 Up I’m curling from the sod,
- 9 I am whirling home to God;
- 10 I am the Smoke King
- 11 I am black.
- .....
- 12 I am the Smoke King,
- 13 I am black!
- 14 I am darkening with song,
- 15 I am hearkening to wrong!
- 16 I will be black as blackness can—
- 17 The blacker the mantle, the mightier the man!
- 18 For blackness was ancient ere whiteness began.

19 I am daubing God in night,  
20 I am swabbing Hell in white:  
21 I am the Smoke King  
22 I am black.

23 I am the Smoke King  
24 I am black!  
25 I am cursing ruddy morn,  
26 I am hearsing hearts unborn:  
27 Souls unto me are as stars in a night,  
28 I whiten my black men — I blacken my white!  
29 What's the hue of a hide to a man in his might?  
30 Hail! great, gritty, grimy hands —  
31 Sweet Christ, pity toiling lands!  
32 I am the Smoke King  
33 I am black.

51. The poem mainly uses the
- First person singular
  - Second person singular
  - Third person singular
  - Third person plural
52. Anaphora is present in lines
- 1-5
  - 5-7
  - 11, 22, and 33
  - 3, 14, and 25

53. Which is the most probable interpretation of lines 19-20?
- The speaker has become an atheist
  - The speaker creates paintings of Biblical scenes in order to express his hatred of racism
  - The speaker realizes he must return to church and worship
  - The speaker wants to change the idea that blackness is bad and whiteness is goodness
54. Which literary device is present in line 29?
- Personification
  - Alliteration
  - Onomatopoeia
  - Simile
55. The tone of the poem is mainly
- Celebratory
  - Mournful
  - Guilty
  - Pious
56. Lines 3-4, 14-15, and 25-26 make use of
- Spondee
  - Clichés
  - Internal rhyme
  - Litotes
57. The repetition of “I am the smoke king / I am black” suggests that
- The speaker wishes he were white
  - The speaker wishes he were king of a better kingdom
  - The speaker has supernatural powers
  - The speaker is glad to be black
58. Lines 30-31 allude to
- The Garden of Eden
  - The manual labor of enslaved Africans
  - The Declaration of Independence
  - The White House

59. What is the most plausible reason that Dubois focuses on smoke?
- He advocates arson as a reaction to segregation
  - Smoke is black and ethereal, untethered to the ground
  - Smoke indicates the presence of fires
  - Dubois associates smoke with comforting domestic scenes of the hearth
60. What is a synonym for the word “wraith” in line 7?
- Spirit
  - Farmer
  - Farm animal
  - Prayer

**Andrew Marvell was a poet during the early modern period, contributing to the output of love poetry in Renaissance England. Read the following poem and answer questions in items 61-70.**

“The Definition of Love”

- My love is of a birth as rare
- As 'tis for object strange and high;
- It was begotten by Despair
- Upon Impossibility.
  
- Magnanimous Despair alone
- Could show me so divine a thing
- Where feeble Hope could ne'er have flown,
- But vainly flapp'd its tinsel wing.
  
- And yet I quickly might arrive
- Where my extended soul is fixt,
- But Fate does iron wedges drive,
- And always crowds itself betwixt.
  
- For Fate with jealous eye does see

14 Two perfect loves, nor lets them close;  
 15 Their union would her ruin be,  
 16 And her tyrannic pow'r depose.

17 And therefore her decrees of steel  
 18 Us as the distant poles have plac'd,  
 19 (Though love's whole world on us doth wheel)  
 20 Not by themselves to be embrac'd;

21 Unless the giddy heaven fall,  
 22 And earth some new convulsion tear;  
 23 And, us to join, the world should all  
 24 Be cramp'd into a planisphere.

.....

61. What is the end rhyme scheme of the second stanza?
- A B B A
  - A B A B
  - A B C B
  - A B C D
62. According to the speaker, Fate is a
- Companion of Cupid
  - An angel of God
  - A tyrant
  - A faithful servant of lovers
63. The second stanza portrays Hope as
- A frail bird
  - A day laborer
  - A stingy patron
  - A cruel mistress
64. What is the tone of the poem?
- Hopeful
  - Callous
  - Angry
  - Mournful

65. What is a synonym for magnanimous in line 5?
- Evil
  - Mellifluous
  - Merry
  - Generous
66. The fifth stanza focuses on the image of a
- Maypole
  - Globe
  - Theatrical stage
  - A wheel
67. What would need to happen for the lovers to be together, according to the speaker?
- The world would need to end
  - God would need to allow it
  - The speaker would need to get out of his depression
  - The speaker's beloved would have to leave her husband
68. According to the first stanza, who are the father and mother of the speaker's love, respectively?
- Despair and Fate
  - Impossibility and Fate
  - Despair and Impossibility
  - Despair and Hope
69. The "planisphere" in line 24 is most likely
- A compass
  - A map of celestial bodies on a sphere
  - An architectural blueprint of a city
  - An earthquake
70. The first two stanzas suggest that the speaker's love is
- A regrettable mistake
  - Heavenly and beautiful
  - Fiery and lustful
  - Lukewarm but secure

**George Eliot was one of the most influential of Victorian writers, innovating conventions of the realism genre. Her novel *Middlemarch, A Study of Provincial Life*, was published circa 1870 and depicts the lives of rural English people living in the fictitious town of Middlemarch circa 1830. This passage opens the novel and introduces the main character, Miss Dorothea Brooke, and her sister Celia. Read the passage and answer questions in items 71-80.**

- Miss Brooke had that kind of beauty which seems to be thrown into relief by poor dress. Her
- hand and wrist were so finely formed that she could wear sleeves not less bare of style than
- those in which the Blessed Virgin appeared to Italian painters; and her profile as well as her

4 stature and bearing seemed to gain the more dignity from her plain garments, which by the  
 5 side of provincial fashion gave her the impressiveness of a fine quotation from the Bible,—or  
 6 from one of our elder poets,—in a paragraph of to-day's newspaper. She was usually spoken  
 7 of as being remarkably clever, but with the addition that her sister Celia had more common-  
 8 sense. Nevertheless, Celia wore scarcely more trimmings; and it was only to close observers  
 9 that her dress differed from her sister's, and had a shade of coquetry in its arrangements; for  
 10 Miss Brooke's plain dressing was due to mixed conditions, in most of which her sister shared.  
 11 The pride of being ladies had something to do with it: the Brooke connections, though not  
 12 exactly aristocratic, were unquestionably "good:" if you inquired backward for a generation or  
 13 two, you would not find any yard-measuring or parcel-tying forefathers—anything lower than  
 14 an admiral or a clergyman; and there was even an ancestor discernible as a Puritan  
 15 gentleman who served under Cromwell, but afterwards conformed, and managed to come out  
 16 of all political troubles as the proprietor of a respectable family estate. Young women of such  
 17 birth, living in a quiet country-house, and attending a village church hardly larger than a parlor,  
 18 naturally regarded frippery as the ambition of a huckster's daughter. Then there was well-bred  
 19 economy, which in those days made show in dress the first item to be deducted from, when  
 20 any margin was required for expenses more distinctive of rank. Such reasons would have been  
 21 enough to account for plain dress, quite apart from religious feeling; but in Miss Brooke's case,  
 22 religion alone would have determined it; and Celia mildly acquiesced in all her sister's  
 23 sentiments, only infusing them with that common-sense which is able to accept momentous  
 24 doctrines without any eccentric agitation.

71. The phrase “thrown into relief” in line 1 means
- Exaggerated by wealth
  - Shown to be a façade
  - Indicating former poverty
  - Made more apparent
72. Which sister is thought of as having more common sense?
- Miss Dorothea Brooke
  - Celia
  - Neither woman is considered to have common sense
  - Both women are admired for their common sense
73. According to lines 20-22, Miss Dorothea Brooke
- Resents the confines of religion
  - Gives in to the religion of her community
  - Desires to become a nun
  - Adheres fervently to her religion
74. How does the speaker think Miss Dorothea Brooke compares to the Blessed Virgin, according to lines 1-3?
- Both women are beautiful even without elaborate fashions
  - Miss Dorothea Brooke should learn to be more humble, like the Virgin
  - Miss Dorothea Brooke idolizes the Virgin
  - Neither women have any place in the world of the aristocracy



75. Miss Dorothea Brooke might best be described as
- Conceited
  - Alluring
  - Austere
  - Popular
76. According to lines 8-9, Celia's clothing is usually
- Identical to her sister's
  - Opposite from her sister's
  - Slightly more decorated than her sister's
  - Too scandalous for her rural village
77. Judging from this passage, we can infer that *Middlemarch* is most likely
- Concerned with social class
  - Concerned with the American Civil War
  - A work of epic fantasy
  - A bildungsroman
78. According to line 14, what kind of family do the Brooke sisters come from?
- A highly aristocratic one
  - Poor traveling salesmen
  - A respectable one
  - A long line of military generals
79. The term "frillery" in line 18 most likely means
- A good bargain
  - Ostentatious clothing
  - Expensive, rich foods
  - Respectable levels of wealth
80. In lines 5-6, the speaker compares Miss Dorothea Brooke to
- A country bumpkin
  - An embarrassing newspaper headline
  - Authoritative literary works
  - Fusty old poets

