

2021 Sectional English Exam

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

1.
 - a. Deleterious
 - b. Deletarious
 - c. Delattarius
 - d. Deletaurus

2.
 - a. Luxcuriant
 - b. Lucsuriant
 - c. Lucshuriant
 - d. Luxuriant

3.
 - a. Encumberence
 - b. Encumbrance
 - c. Encumbrence
 - d. Encumberance

4.
 - a. Eczema
 - b. Ezema
 - c. Egzema
 - d. Ecsema

5.
 - a. Pratile
 - b. Prettle
 - c. Prattle
 - d. Pretle

6.
 - a. Dogmattic
 - b. Dogmatic
 - c. Dogmetic
 - d. Dogmettic

7.
 - a. Lugge
 - b. Louge
 - c. Looge
 - d. Luge

8.
 - a. Misspell
 - b. Misspell
 - c. Mispehl
 - d. Misplle

- 9.
- a. Indite
 - b. Indight
 - c. Indaight
 - d. Indict
- 10.
- a. Surfeit
 - b. Surfait
 - c. Surphait
 - d. Surpheit

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

11. Jennifer was **inexorable** when it came to her exercise regimen.
- a. Her inconsistent schedule resulted in few improvements.
 - b. Her overbearing style eventually caused a severe injury.
 - c. She refused to talk about anything else.
 - d. Nothing was going to stop her preparation for the marathon.
12. The **brazen** reporter did not hesitate to ask the politician an uncomfortable question.
- a. Their boldness took the press room by surprise.
 - b. Their aggressive posture made others uneasy.
 - c. Their impolite questioning indicated a lack of decorum.
 - d. Their timid voice was hard to hear.
13. On our camping trip, we roasted marshmallows over a **pyre**.
- a. The gas grill cooked them thoroughly.
 - b. The stove top of our RV was a fine alternative.
 - c. The pile of sticks and leaves made an excellent fire.
 - d. The small camper stove was serviceable.
14. Our Spanish teacher taught us a **mnemonic** for the capitals of South American countries.
- a. The study guide was packed with helpful information.
 - b. The class notes were a boon on the exam.
 - c. The verbal strategy helped the class remember the information for test.
 - d. The educational video was engaging.
15. After the car crash, Douglas needed a **transfusion**.
- a. The amputation likely saved his life.
 - b. The pain medicine eased his suffering.
 - c. The microscopic surgery successfully reconstructed his knee.
 - d. The additional blood kept him stable after the accident.
16. The opposing generals signed their peace **accord** to much fanfare.
- a. The conflict soon flared up again.
 - b. The formal treaty officially ended the war.
 - c. The temporary ceasefire offered a brief respite.
 - d. The trade agreement would bring much prosperity.
17. My neighbors adopted a German Shepherd to be a **sentinel**.
- a. They wanted a guide dog to assist them in their old age.

- b. They wanted a watch dog after a string of robberies in the neighborhood.
 - c. They wanted a well-trained emotional support animal.
 - d. They wanted the additional exercise.
18. The **relic** was discovered after some recent building construction.
- a. It was promptly discarded.
 - b. The manager used it to prop up his desk.
 - c. The ancient artifact now resides in a museum.
 - d. The geological formation was a rare sight.
19. The church was an **edifice** with high stained glass windows.
- a. The ancient building was a shadow of its former self.
 - b. The massive structure attracted pilgrims from miles away.
 - c. The modern chapel was a sign of changing times.
 - d. The architecturally savvy design made it a work of art.
20. There is no **canonical** way to write free verse poetry.
- a. Every poet must follow a strict set of rules for composing.
 - b. The best poets draw on spiritual references.
 - c. Every poet can have their own set of rules for composing.
 - d. The best poets are inspired by nature.
21. Timothy's paper was lengthy but **pedestrian**.
- a. The unremarkable paper received a C.
 - b. The paper lacked intellectual depth.
 - c. The paper included copious footnotes.
 - d. The successful paper helped Timothy pass the class.
22. The dark clouds were **heralds** of a thunderstorm.
- a. The storm was moving in another direction.
 - b. The meteorological forecast was incorrect.
 - c. The storm would soon approach.
 - d. There would be no need for an umbrella.
23. Her sleep was **perturbed** by thoughts of her credit card debt.
- a. Her dreams were vivid.
 - b. She awoke frequently throughout the night.
 - c. Her snoring was extremely loud.
 - d. She slept soundly throughout the night.
24. The new student kept his dorm room **immaculate**.
- a. The smell of the mess was nearly unbearable.
 - b. The windows were always open, even in the winter months.
 - c. There was not a single speck of dust on any of the furniture.
 - d. The room was covered with posters of athletes.
25. My uncle is a **recluse**.
- a. He is a prominent socialite.
 - b. We only see him once a year.
 - c. He has unfortunate issues with alcohol.
 - d. His scholarship is notable.

26. The **lustrous** silverware used in the restaurant denoted its reputation.
- The dirty utensils spoiled the meal.
 - The expensive utensils reflected the high prices of the menu.
 - The utensils were so cleanly polished they reflected light.
 - The cheap Styrofoam utensils were quickly discarded.
27. The jars **prolonged** the food's shelf-life.
- The jars quickly spoiled the food.
 - The airtight seal allowed the food to be enjoyed months later.
 - The fancy glass jars increased the price.
 - The glass allowed in light that would discolor the produce.
28. Her amusement was **fleeting**.
- She could not stop smiling for the rest of the evening.
 - She was indifferent to the news.
 - Her enjoyment was tainted by guilt.
 - She quickly became stressed about the amount of work she needed to do.
29. Vanessa made her money as an **itinerant** speaker.
- Her fervent speeches attracted large crowds.
 - Her tours across universities and college campuses were lucrative.
 - Her podcast had many subscribers.
 - Her motivational videos encouraged many to exercise.
30. Half of the job candidates were **winnowed** from the initial applicant pool.
- They lacked the financial ability to continue.
 - Their excellence on the initial forms was noteworthy.
 - Their poor performance removed them from further interviews.
 - They decided to pursue different careers.

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

- 31.
- Burnout commonly arises from habitual, work stress but it doesn't end there.
 - The effects of burnout can transform your personal life, leaving you feeling unmotivated and dispassionate.
 - How can you deal with burnout once its happened?
 - Learn to gain better control of work stress: and implement positive practices in your life.
- 32.
- Loading up your car, put on some music, and hit all the backroad stops are essential to a successful road trip.
 - Road trips might seem spontaneous, but your better off if you spend some time to plan.
 - For most road trips you'll want to take a route with plenty of stops, and sights to see along the way.
 - While on your journey, you can still move fast and stop for sightseeing.
- 33.

- a. Whether its because you left the lights on, or the battery is old, many people will have to deal with a dead battery.
- b. Open the car's hood; and, locate the battery.
- c. On most cars, the battery will be on the front of the car, but sometimes the battery is located closer to the engine.
- d. If unsure: check the vehicle's manual to get the location.

34.

- a. You can save alot of money by cutting expenditures and finding less expensive alternatives.
- b. Whether you want to change your entire lifestyle—or just make small changes—saving money can benefit you.
- c. Most expenses can be categorized as housing; utilities; entertainment; and food.
- d. Start by reviewing your bank statements for the last few months.

35.

- a. To writing a poem is about observing the environment within, or around you.
- b. A poem can be about anything you like, from love and loss to snow falling on the ground.
- c. Writing a poem for the first time can seem daunting; especially if you don't consider yourself the creative type.
- d. But: with the right inspiration, you can successfully compose a poem.

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. It might seem natural, but figuring out how to fall asleep can sound easier than it feels in practice and young people—especially—can struggle with falling asleep, staying asleep, and getting enough sleep.

- a. It might seem natural, but figuring out how to fall asleep can sound easier than it feels in practice, and young people especially can struggle with falling asleep, staying asleep, and getting enough sleep.
- b. It might seem natural but figuring out how to fall asleep can sound easier than it feels in practice and young people especially can struggle with falling asleep, staying asleep, and getting enough sleep.
- c. It might seem natural, but figuring out how to fall asleep can sound easier than it feels in practice; and, young people especially can struggle with falling asleep, staying asleep, and getting enough sleep.
- d. No change necessary

37. Helping struggling students could involve steps ranging from an expanded school schedule and summer programs, to smaller classes, teacher aids and tutors, and counseling.

- a. Helping struggling students could involve steps ranging from an expanded school schedule, and summer programs, to smaller classes, teacher aids, and tutors, and counseling.
- b. Helping struggling students could involve steps ranging from: an expanded school schedule and summer programs; to smaller classes; teacher aids and tutors; and counseling.

- c. Helping struggling students could involve steps ranging from an expanded school schedule and summer programs, to smaller classes, teacher aids and tutors, and counseling.
 - d. No change necessary
38. No longer transfixed on the race to the moon explorers are moving ahead on a variety of fronts; from satellites in near-earth orbit, to more lunar exploration, to visiting asteroids, to sending probes to Mars, and elsewhere in the solar system.
- a. No longer transfixed on the race to the Moon, explorers are moving ahead on a variety of fronts: from satellites in near-Earth orbit, to more lunar exploration, to visiting asteroids, to sending probes to Mars and elsewhere in the solar system.
 - b. No longer transfixed on the race to the moon, explorers are moving ahead on a variety of fronts, from satellites in near-Earth orbit; to more lunar exploration; to visiting asteroids; to sending probes to Mars; and elsewhere in the solar system.
 - c. No longer transfixed on the race to the moon, explorers are moving ahead on a variety of fronts, from satellites in near-Earth orbit, to more lunar exploration, to visiting asteroids, to sending probes to Mars and elsewhere in the solar system.
 - d. No change necessary
39. With travel restrictions theaters closed parties banned and concerts canceled, amateur Astronomy offers a tantalizing replacement.
- a. With travel restrictions, theaters closed, parties banned, and concerts canceled: amateur astronomy offers a tantalizing replacement.
 - b. With travel restrictions, theaters closed, parties banned, and concerts canceled, amateur astronomy offers a tantalizing replacement.
 - c. With travel restrictions, theaters closed, parties banned, and concerts canceled, amateur Astronomy offers a tantalizing replacement.
 - d. No change necessary
40. This idea about not wasting time, its something I also think about in regard to the creative process.
- a. This idea about not wasting time: its something I also think about in regard to the creative process.
 - b. This idea about not wasting time it's something I also think about in regard to the creative process.
 - c. This idea about not wasting time: it's something I also think about in regard to the creative process.
 - d. No change necessary
41. Many clinicians especially those with critical training feel an obligation to help. And because demand has far outpaced supply, pay for travelling nurses has also skyrocketed.
- a. Many clinicians, especially those with critical training, feel an obligation to help. And because demand has far outpaced supply pay for travelling nurses has also skyrocketed.
 - b. Many clinicians, especially those with critical training, feel an obligation to help, and because demand has far outpaced supply pay for travelling nurses has also skyrocketed.
 - c. Many clinicians, especially those with critical training, feel an obligation to help, and, because demand has far outpaced supply, pay for travelling nurses has also skyrocketed.
 - d. No change necessary

42. The hawaiian volcano observatory said the situation is, "Rapidly evolving."
a. The Hawaiian volcano observatory said the situation is: "rapidly evolving."
b. The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said, the situation is "rapidly evolving."
c. The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said the situation is "rapidly evolving."
d. No change necessary
43. For those living in multigenerational families it takes effort to smooth frictions over household chores or differences in personality traits.
a. For those living in multigenerational families, it takes effort to smooth frictions over household chores, or differences in personality traits.
b. For those living in multigenerational families it takes effort to smooth frictions over household chores, or differences in personality traits.
c. For those living in multigenerational families, it takes effort to smooth frictions over household chores or differences in personality traits.
d. No change necessary
44. Most students know studying a little every day is better than cramming, but they cram for tests anyway.
a. Most students know studying a little every day is better than cramming, but they cram for tests anyway.
b. Most students know studying a little every day is better than cramming, but they cram for tests anyway.
c. Most students know studying a little every day is better than cramming, but they cram for tests anyway.
d. No change necessary
45. When I was learning to drive I had difficulty parallel parking and using my turn signal.
a. When I was learning to drive, I had difficulty parallel parking, and using my turn signal.
b. When I was learning to drive, I had difficulty parallel parking and using my turn signal.
c. When I was learning to drive: I had difficulty parallel parking and using my turn signal.
d. No change necessary

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

46. You can leave now if you have finished your project.
a. Subordinate clause
b. Auxiliary verb phrase
c. Independent clause
d. Dangling modifier
47. Having delivered the package, she moved to the next house.
a. Present participle clause
b. Misplaced modifier
c. Verbal phrase
d. Perfect participle clause

48. The test results were extremely surprising.

- a. Indirect object
- b. Adjective
- c. Superlative
- d. Intensifier

49. Zhang was a firefighter.

- a. Predicate adjective
- b. Appositive
- c. First person
- d. Predicate noun

50. I would like to have dinner now.

- a. Conditional mood
- b. Imperative mood
- c. Indicative mood
- d. Interrogative mood

Claude McKay was a Jamaican poet and novelist who settled in the United States and played a significant role in the Harlem Renaissance. He wrote prolifically about the black experience in the United States and Europe. Read the following poem “America” (1921) and answer questions in items 51-60.

1 Although she feeds me bread of bitterness,
2 And sinks into my throat her tiger's tooth,
3 Stealing my breath of life, I will confess
4 I love this cultured hell that tests my youth.
5 Her vigor flows like tides into my blood,
6 Giving me strength erect against her hate,
7 Her bigness sweeps my being like a flood.
8 Yet, as a rebel fronts a king in state,
9 I stand within her walls with not a shred
10 Of terror, malice, not a word of jeer.
11 Darkly I gaze into the days ahead,
12 And see her might and granite wonders there,
13 Beneath the touch of Time's unerring hand,
14 Like priceless treasures sinking in the sand.

51. Who is the “she” of Line 1?

- a. McKay's wife
- b. McKay's mother
- c. The United States of America
- d. Jamaica

52. What is this poem's rhyme scheme?

- a. AABCCDDEEFFGG
- b. ABABCDCDEFEGG
- c. ABCDABCDAABAA
- d. ABABCACADADAAEE

53. What kind of poem is “America”?
- Sonnet
 - Sestina
 - Villanelle
 - Ballad
54. Why does McKay love America, according to Lines 4-7?
- The country is like a heavenly utopia
 - The country is the land of opportunity
 - The country is intense and exciting
 - The country is peaceful
55. What do the “granite wonders” of Line 12 seem to be, in literal and metaphorical terms, respectively?
- The architecture of Paris and wonders of history
 - The architecture of the United States and prominence of the country
 - The boulders of the Rocky Mountains and beauties of nature
 - The cliffs of Dover and the English empire
56. Which statement best describes how McKay seem to feel about America?
- He feels deep gratitude for the opportunities it gives him
 - He hates America and regrets going there
 - He plans to raise his children there, then move back to Jamaica
 - He feels deeply ambivalent about its positive and negative qualities
57. According to Lines 11-14, what does America’s future look like?
- It will fall into ruin
 - It will rise to global dominance
 - It will learn to appreciate immigrants
 - It will learn to appreciate its black citizens
58. In Line 8, what is the most likely reason that McKay compares himself to a “rebel” and America to a “king in state”?
- He dreams of America becoming a constitutional monarchy, like England
 - He rebels against racism and discrimination in America
 - He is planning an attack on the White House
 - He was exiled to America as a rebel and is begging for support
59. In Line 1, the “bread of bitterness” is an example of
- Asyndeton
 - Alliteration
 - Flashback
 - Onomatopoeia
60. Line 7, “Her bigness sweeps my being like a flood”, features
- Metaphor
 - Logical appeal
 - Chiasmus
 - Simile

Anne Locke (c.1533-c. 1590) published the first sonnet sequence in English, paving the way for poets like William Shakespeare and Edmund Spenser. During Mary Tudor's Catholic rule, Locke's Calvinist family was exiled from England. Read the following poem and answer questions in items 61-70.

1 My many sins in number are increased,
2 With weight whereof in sea of deep despair
3 My sinking soul is now so sore oppressed,
4 That now in peril and in present fear
5 I cry: "Sustain me, Lord, and Lord I pray,
6 With endless number of thy mercies take
7 The endless number of my sins away.
8 So by thy mercy, for thy mercy's sake,
9 Rue on me, Lord, relieve me with thy grace.
10 My sin is cause that I so need to have
11 Thy mercy's aid in my so woeful case:
12 My sin is cause that scarce I dare to crave
13 Thy mercy manyfold, which only may
14 Relieve my soul, and take my sins away."

61. What kind of sonnet is this poem?
- Petrarchan
 - Spenserian
 - Shakespearean
 - Miltonic
62. Locke's tone in Line 5 would best be characterized as
- Angry
 - Hortatory
 - Resigned
 - Joyful
63. The poem makes heavy use of the
- First person singular
 - First person plural
 - Third person singular
 - Third person plural
64. The speaker's main source of anxiety in the poem is
- The social pressures of Catholicism
 - Her own sins
 - The sins of her parents
 - The righteousness of her children
65. The rhyme scheme of the poem is
- ABABCDCDEFEEFGG
 - ABABCBCBDBDBEE
 - ABCDABCDABCDEE
 - AABBCCDDEEFFGG

66. Line 3, “My sinking soul is now so sore oppressed”, makes particularly heavy use of
- Assonance
 - Allusion
 - Consonance
 - Alliteration
67. The “sea of deep despair” in Line 2 is an example of
- Simile
 - Metaphor
 - Metonymy
 - Synecdoche
68. Line 12, “My sin is cause that scarce I dare to crave”, makes particularly heavy use of
- Alliteration
 - Allusion
 - Assonance
 - Consonance
69. In Line 9, “Rue on me” likely means
- “Punish me fairly”
 - “Skip over me”
 - “Rain on me”
 - “Take pity on me”
70. Lines 6-7 feature
- Parallelism
 - Paradox
 - Chiasmus
 - Colloquialism

Jane Austen (1775-1817) was a proto-Realist writer known for her novels about manners among the English gentry of her time. Her 1803 (published 1817) novel *Northanger Abbey* satirized Gothic novels, using the heroine Catherine Morland to critique what she saw as overly imaginative readers, especially women. Read the following selection from the first chapter of *Northanger Abbey* and answer questions in items 61-70.

- 1 It was not very wonderful that Catherine, who had by nature nothing heroic about her,
2 should prefer cricket, baseball, riding on horseback, and running about the country at the
3 age of fourteen to books—or at least books of information—for, provided that nothing like
4 useful knowledge could be gained from them, provided they were all story and no
5 reflection, she had never any objection to books at all. But from fifteen to seventeen she
6 was in training for a heroine; she read all such works as heroines must read to supply their
7 memories with those quotations which are so serviceable and so soothing in the
8 vicissitudes of their eventful lives.
- 9 From Pope, she learnt to censure those who “*bear about the mockery of woe.*”
10 From Gray, that “*Many a flower is born to blush unseen, / And waste its fragrance on the*
11 *desert air.*”
12 From Thompson, that “*It is a delightful task / To teach the young idea how to shoot.*”
13 And from Shakespeare she gained a great store of information—amongst the rest, that
14 “*Trifles light as air / Are, to the jealous, confirmation strong / As proofs of Holy Writ.*”

15 So far her improvement was sufficient. Her greatest deficiency was in the pencil—she had
16 no notion of drawing—not enough even to attempt a sketch of her lover's profile, that she
17 might be detected in the design. There she fell miserably short of the true heroic height.
18 At present she did not know her own poverty, for she had no lover to portray.

71. In Line 1, “wonderful” likely means

- a. Very good
- b. Very bad
- c. Surprising
- d. Superlative

72. This passage is largely about Catherine Morland's

- a. Education from major authors of her time
- b. Deep desire for romantic love
- c. Tragic illiteracy
- d. Tragic illness preventing her from going outdoors

73. Before the age of fifteen, Catherine only likes books that are

- a. Educational
- b. Scientific
- c. Mathematical
- d. Imaginative

74. According to Lines 15-18, what is Catherine's greatest weakness?

- a. She does not know how to ride a horse
- b. She is unable to seduce a man
- c. She is a poor draughtsman
- d. She is unable to pen a letter to her lover

75. In Line 8, “vicissitudes” likely means

- a. Unpredictable events
- b. Vicious enemies
- c. Religious ceremonies
- d. Tragic deaths

76. Catherine's interest in the quotation from Thompson (Line 12) reveals her dedication to

- a. Christianity
- b. Imagination
- c. The aristocracy
- d. The bourgeoisie

77. Select the answer that best describes the tone of Lines 17-18: “There she fell miserably short of the true heroic height. At present she did not know her own poverty, for she had no lover to portray”.

- a. Compassionate
- b. Judgmental
- c. Enthralled
- d. Satirical

78. The quotation from Shakespeare (Line 14) suggests that

- a. The overly devout may mistake irrelevant minutiae for Christian doctrine

- b. Desserts like trifle are delicious but can lead to other temptations
- c. Scholars are often confused in their attempts to translate holy books into English
- d. One should not breach the bounds of holy matrimony

79. According to Line 6, Catherine is in “training for a heroine”. This means that

- a. She is in training to join the English cavalry
- b. She dreams of living the exciting life of a literary heroine
- c. She is learning how to be a figurative soldier of Christ
- d. She is in training to become a lady’s maid

80. Given what we know about her character, Catherine would most likely interpret Gray’s advice in Lines 10-11 as meaning that

- a. Gardening is a lost art in England
- b. Beautiful women may be deceptive
- c. It is only through travel to desert climes that men can appreciate beauty
- d. Not all beautiful or admirable women are properly appreciated