



2023 Academic Challenge

STATE ENGLISH EXAM

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

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----|--|
| 1. | a. Free-lance
b. Freelance
c. Free lance
d. Freedlance | 6. | a. Aquesce
b. Acqueisce
c. Acqueise
d. Acquiesce |
| 2. | a. Onnix
b. Onyx
c. Onysx
d. Onxyc | 7. | a. Fuchsia
b. Fushia
c. Fyuchsia
d. Fuchzia |
| 3. | a. Joyous
b. Joyeus
c. Joyious
d. Joyeous | 8. | a. Orangutang
b. Orangan
c. Orangutane
d. Orangatan |
| 4. | a. Tranceluent
b. Translucint
c. Translucent
d. Translucent | 9. | a. Licquefy
b. Liquefie
c. Liquefy
d. Licquefie |
| 5. | a. Ennervating
b. Inervating
c. Enervating
d. Enerveating | 10. | a. Pharaoh
b. Pharoh
c. Pherohe
d. Pharao |

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

11. Travelers would come from miles away to ask for the advice of the old woman known for her **sagacity**.
- Travelers could come from such distances because the old woman provided excellent hospitality.
 - The old woman didn't always tell advice-seekers what they wanted to hear, but it was always the truth.
 - The old woman's wisdom was so renowned that she drew travelers from great distances just to speak with her.
 - Travelers liked to hear advice from an old woman who could compassionately address their problems.

12. The attempts of the prosecution to mislead the jury makes the entire courtroom just a **farcical** display.
- The prosecution's disrespect for courtroom rules undermines the validity of the judicial process itself.
 - The case will have to be thrown out.
 - The jury is only pretending to understand the details of the case.
 - The prosecution's attempt to tamper with the results of the case was laughed at by the entire courtroom.
13. Danny invites his sister's **ire** whenever he takes her car without permission.
- His sister would be within her legal rights to call the police on him.
 - Danny should not be surprised if his sister becomes angry with him.
 - His sister will inevitably ask for a favor to repay her.
 - Danny must invite his sister along for a ride whenever he needs her car.
14. It's easy to get lost in the **minutiae** while planning a wedding, but remember the most important part is that you're marrying the right person.
- The person you are marrying could be considered the only essential detail of the whole wedding.
 - The financial strain of wedding planning often drives couples apart.
 - It's difficult to sort through all the different vendors available in the wedding industry.
 - If you spend too long planning your wedding, the person you want to marry may lose patience with you.
15. I wish this city provided better services for the **mendicant** who have nowhere to stay.
- The city is not doing enough to support people who must resort to begging in order to survive.
 - If the city provided better services, homelessness would cease to exist.
 - Rowdy teenagers need better programs to occupy themselves after school.
 - For a city that relies on the tourism industry to boost its economy, it doesn't have enough hotels to accommodate all the tourists.
16. Sunshine can not only improve your mood, it's also one of nature's **prophylactics**.
- Sunshine is evidence of the incredible power of nature.
 - Regular sunshine is good for your health.
 - In addition to improving your mood, sunshine will increase your energy throughout the day.
 - Sunshine is exactly the same as an anti-depressant.
17. I hope my engineering internship allows me to focus on gaining technical skills instead of just **tabulating** documents.
- Hopefully my engineering skills will assist me in designing new tabs for documents.
 - Formatting documents is an important, albeit boring, part of an engineering internship.
 - Shredding documents is a waste of my talent.
 - Technical skills will be more useful for my future career than arranging documents, which I could do in any office setting.

18. For days after recovering from food poisoning Madison's face remained **wan**.
- Her face was still green from illness.
 - Madison remained in a bad mood for days after her food poisoning.
 - The food poisoning weakened Madison enough that it could be seen in her face even after recovering.
 - Madison couldn't stop sweating.
19. You would think Martin and Sofia's dog is a king the way they heap **adulation** upon him.
- The dog receives an excessive amount of praise.
 - Martin and Sofia give their dog so many treats that he has come to expect them.
 - The dog has enough bedding piled up to create him a throne.
 - Martin and Sofia are as terrified of their dog's bad behavior as servants are of a king's temper in court.
20. My grandfather was a **stolid** man but my father wishes he had spent more time at home instead of working.
- My grandfather rarely spoke and if he had spent more time at home, my father could have gotten to know him better.
 - My grandfather was an ambitious man who was often promoted at work.
 - My father was afraid of my grandfather because of his temper.
 - My grandfather could always be depended on to provide, but he worked more than he spent time with family.
21. Although the prime minister trusts her advisor, she also worries that his political ambitions will one day lead him to **usurp** her position.
- The advisor would go to great lengths to become prime minister.
 - The advisor tries to do the prime minister's job in addition to his own because he is so power hungry.
 - The prime minister trusts her advisor for now but knows that someday he will try to get her fired.
 - The prime minister worries that her advisor will attempt to cut funding for her position as a political powerplay.
22. The professor's thoughtless comments during his lectures land him in one **mire** after another with his department head.
- The department head chastises the professor on long walks around the campus.
 - The professor is forced to attend numerous meetings about his troubling behavior.
 - The department head takes all the blame for the professor's comments.
 - The department head must reprimand the professor after hearing complaints from offended students.
23. Hana **degusts** the slice of apple pie like it's the first she's ever tasted.
- Hana enjoys the apple pie so much that she must take small, precise bites.
 - The apple pie is disgusting at first only because Hana has never tasted it before.
 - Hana is a harsh apple pie critic.
 - The apple pie is so delicious that Hana forgets about any other apple pies she's ever tasted.

24. The two best friends could never sit next to each other in class without **cachinnating** over doodles they drew of the teacher.
- Even best friends can't help fighting over who gets to draw next.
 - The friends would giggle uncontrollably if they sat next to each other.
 - The friends would loudly discuss the accuracy of their drawings if they sat next to each other.
 - Classmates like to purchase the hilarious doodles, which creates too much of a distraction.
25. Once you begin to recognize all the overused melodies, pop music becomes **banal**.
- Hearing the same melodies again and again convinces you that pop music lacks originality.
 - Learning to recognize melodies turns listening to music into a science.
 - Pop music is far more enjoyable when you can recognize common themes and techniques.
 - You will realize how easy it is to produce pop music.
26. Growing up doesn't have to mean **abjuring** everything your parents taught you, but questioning your assumptions is a sign of maturation.
- Don't be pressured to believe the same things your parents do.
 - Investigating everything your parents taught you will only lead to disappointment.
 - Questioning assumptions will help you choose your own path forward, one that can still involve many of your parents' teachings.
 - Questioning your assumptions as you mature doesn't require publicly shaming your parents for their outdated beliefs.
27. Although my resume is impressive, it's really my communication skills that are the **linchpin** to my success.
- Poor communication skills might have hindered my success, but my impressive resume helps me stand out.
 - Employers aren't interested in reading my resume if they've already had a conversation with me.
 - I could not have gotten hired anywhere without my communication skills.
 - Good communication skills can make the difference between two highly qualified candidates.
28. The president needs his advisors to **adumbrate** reports he doesn't have time to read.
- The advisors must create the formal response to the report as if the president wrote it himself.
 - A brief outline of the report's content will save the president time.
 - The advisors "dumb" reports down into simpler language so that they can be read more quickly.
 - The advisors file reports where they be can be easily referenced at the president's convenience.

29. Although your anger at the boss who refused your sick leave is **pellucid**, it doesn't excuse destroying company property.
- Refusing someone's sick leave is an injustice, so it's easy to understand why you were angry.
 - You don't have a solid alibi for the destruction of company property.
 - You are overreacting to the refusal of your sick leave.
 - Your anger was so intense that you didn't realize what you were doing.
30. Teaching is a hard enough job without being **upbraided** by angry parents all day.
- Teachers shouldn't be afraid of angry parents threatening to get them fired.
 - Parents constantly calling and messaging the teachers prevent them from doing their job.
 - Parents find it easy to blame teachers for all the problems in the school system, but they don't realize that teachers are often doing their best.
 - Teaching is a challenging job and angry parents offering misguided suggestions doesn't help.

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

- 31.
- Devoted fans of book series are often irrate when the TV adaption doesn't meet expectations.
 - I've been disapointed by an adaption that doesn't follow the books closely enough, too.
 - However, I think fans should manage their expectations: what works well in a book may not translate onto the screen.
 - The screenwriters need to find new ways to introduce exposition without the ability, to have it all on a page.
- 32.
- Umir's company is implementing an unusual new strategy to improve productivity.
 - Ever since returning to the office after the stay-at-home Umir and his coworkers had struggled to slog through the long day without any of the break they got used to at home.
 - Now the company allows employees to take post-lunch naps in specially-designed sleeping pods from up to thirty minutes.
 - The company recognizes that breaks are good for their employee's health and lead to better work, too.
- 33.
- The county has issued an emergency weather alert, effective immediately.
 - If you're not from the upstate New York area you may be unfamiliar with the premises of snow squalls.
 - Snow squalls can arise suddenly icing over roads with unsafe driving conditions.
 - The emergency weather alert should not be disregarded just because the streets are clear right now, it could change in an instant.

- 34.
- Many consumers pore milk down the drain the day after its expiration date.
 - However, milk can remain safe to drink for days' after the expiration date.
 - If the expired milk doesn't smell sour and isn't chunky, you probably don't need to worry about drinking it or at least cooking with it.
 - Expiration dates are the Food and Drug Administrations attempt to provide consumers with the safest products possible.
- 35.
- The well-dressed old woman gripped her cane as she walked over the street.
 - Despite the blare of a dozen waiting headlights: she made no effort to hurry, even lingering in the crosswalk to gaze up at the luminous moon.
 - She knew many of the drivers consider their evening plans of utmost importance, but wasn't everything urgent these days?
 - The warm summer night stretched before her; she had all the time in the world.

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. She loves rain days and reading books.
- She loves rainy days spent reading books.
 - She loves rained out days when she can read books.
 - She loves rainy days that read books.
 - No change necessary
37. I'm conflicted. I want a tattoo to honor my grandpa's life. But my grandpa hated tattoos.
- I want a tattoo to honor my grandpa's life and I'm conflicted. My grandpa hated tattoos.
 - I feel conflicted. My grandpa hated tattoos; but I want a tattoo to honor his life.
 - I feel conflicted because although I want a tattoo that honors my grandpa's life, I also know he hated tattoos.
 - No change necessary
38. St. Brigid is one of the patron saints of Ireland. She is likely connected to the Celtic goddess Brigid whom shares her name.
- St. Brigid, one of the patron saints of Ireland, is likely connected to the Celtic goddess whose name she shares.
 - The Celtic goddess Brigid is likely connected with the saint who shares her name, who is one of the patron saints of Ireland.
 - St. Brigid and the Celtic goddess Brigid are likely connected. They share a name, and St. Brigid is one of the patron saints of Ireland.
 - No change necessary
39. It's a normal part of adolescence to question beliefs previously assumed to be true.
- It's a normal part of adolesense to question beliefs that were previously assumed to be true.
 - Questioning beliefs previously assumed to be true is a normal part of adolescence.
 - It's normal during adolescence questioning beliefs previously assumed true.
 - No change necessary

40. These elaborate lace-up boots are gorgeous, but with my foot pain, I should value comfort over style.
- These illaborate lace-up boots are gorgeous, but with my foot pain, I should value comfort over style.
 - These elaborate lace-up boots are gorgeous, but with my foot pain, I should value comfort over style.
 - These ellaborate lace-up boots are gorgious, but with my foot pain, I should value comfort over style.
 - No change necessary
41. Let me introduce you to my cousin Bianca. She's the cousin who works in construction management.
- Let me introduce you to my cousin, Bianca, who works in construction management.
 - Let me introduce you to the cousin who works in construction management, Bianca.
 - Let me introduce you to Bianca. She's my cousin and she's the one who works in construction management.
 - No change necessary
42. Dry roasted edamame has proved a good alternative to the chips I will crave always.
- Dry roasted edamame is proven to be a good alternative when I always crave chips.
 - Dry roasted edamame proved a good alternative when I was always craving chips.
 - Dry roasted edamame has proven to be a good alternative to the chips I'm always craving.
 - No change necessary
43. Reading Middle English would be a frustrating experience because the words did seem so familiar, but the different spellings and usages made it nearly impossible for the average English listener to understand.
- Reading Middle English is a frustrating experience because the words seem familiar, but the different spellings and usages make it nearly impossible for the average English speaker to understand.
 - Reading Middle English was a frustrating experience because the words are familiar, but the different spellings and usages had made it nearly impossible for the average English speaker to understand.
 - Reading Middle English can be a frustrating experience because the words would be familiar, but the different spellings and usages make it nearly impossible for the average English person to understand.
 - No change necessary
44. Wilma frequently forgets to pay for parking through the pay-to-park mobile application.
- Wilma frequently forgets to use the pay-to-park mobile application when parking.
 - Wilma frecquently forgets to pay for parking using the pay to park mobile application.
 - Wilma frequently forgets to park when using the pay-to-park mobile application.
 - No change necessary

45. When constant tragedies across the world and in my own local community overwhelm me, I need to take a break from reading the news.
- I need a break from reading the news because constantly the tragedies across the world and in my own local community overwhelm me.
 - Constant tragedies across the world but also in my own local community means I need a break from reading the news, which overwhelms me.
 - I need a break from reading the news. Constancy tragedies across the world and in my own local community overwhelms me.
 - No change necessary

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

46. The fly landed on the wall.
- Conjunction
 - Preposition
 - Interjection
 - Gerund
47. If I were to win a million dollars, I would buy a boat.
- Compounded past tense
 - Imperative mood
 - Conditional mood
 - Indicative mood
48. By the time she reached me, I had already made her lunch.
- Subjunctive mood
 - Simple past tense
 - Complex sentence
 - Past perfect tense
49. Well, what are you planning to do about this?
- Preposition
 - Exclamation
 - Adverb
 - Interjection
50. The entire department went out for ice cream.
- Predicate
 - Simple past
 - Prepositional phrase
 - Adverbial phrase

Edmund Spenser (1552-1599) was one of the greatest poets of the Tudor period in England. Like William Shakespeare, he was a special favorite of Queen Elizabeth I, and benefited from high-profile patronage. He is known for his development of the Spenserian sonnet, and for his sonnet cycle *Amoretti* (1595), which memorializes his love for his wife, Elizabeth Boyle. Read Sonnet 70 and answer the following questions.

- Fresh spring the herald of love's mighty king,
- In whose coat of arms richly are displayed

3 All sorts of flowers the which on earth do spring
4 In goodly colors gloriously arrayed:
5 Go to my love, where she is careless laid,
6 Yet in her winter's bower not well awake:
7 Tell her the joyous time will not be stayed
8 Unless she do him by the forelock take.
9 Bid her therefore herself soon ready make,
10 To wait on Love amongst his lovely crew:
11 Where every one that misseth then her make,
12 Shall be by him amearst with penance dew.
13 Make haste therefore sweet love, whilst it is prime,
14 For none can call again the passed time.

51. The rhyme scheme of this sonnet is

- a. AABB CCDD EEFF EF
- b. ABAB BCBC CDCD EE
- c. ACAB BDBE CECF GG
- d. ABAB CDCD EFEF GG

52. This Spenserian sonnet is composed in

- a. iambic pentameter
- b. iambic hexameter
- c. iambic tetrameter
- d. iambic trimeter

53. The tone of this sonnet is

- a. Despondent
- b. Vengeful
- c. Exhilarated
- d. Ceremonial

54. The poem portrays love as

- a. Dangerous
- b. Unpredictable
- c. Natural
- d. Frightening

55. The poem aligns human love with

- a. Biblical commandments
- b. The seasons
- c. Political intrigue
- d. The stage of a theater

56. The most likely modern meaning of the early modern word "careless" in Line 5 is

- a. Care-free and innocent
- b. Lazy and uninformed
- c. Ill and bed-ridden
- d. Irresponsible and chaotic

57. What is the main conceit of the poem?
- That lovers are as foolish as songbirds
 - That lovers are as wise as philosophers
 - That spring is the cruelest month
 - That spring is the harbinger of love
58. What is the main meaning of Lines 13-14?
- That one should not love until they are wise
 - That one should love while they can
 - That men should be very cautious when choosing a lover
 - That women should be very cautious when choosing a lover
59. What is the closest meaning of taking Love by the “forelock” in Line 8?
- Violently grabbing the hair above Love’s forehead
 - Breaking into the locked doors of Love’s castle
 - Caressing Love’s hair with affection
 - Locking away Love’s heart
60. In Line 10, “to wait on Love” means
- To wait until one’s unrequited love is returned
 - To avoid premarital sex
 - To become pregnant and give birth
 - To serve in the court of Love

Allen Ginsberg (1926-1997) was a politically radical poet and a founding figure for the Beat Generation. He wrote the following poem, “Kaddish”, in memory of his mother Naomi Goldberg (1894-1956). The Kaddish is a traditional Jewish prayer of mourning. Read this selection from “Kaddish” and answer the following questions.

1 Strange now to think of you, gone without corsets &
 2 eyes, while I walk on the sunny pavements of
 3 Greenwich Village.
 4 downtown Manhattan, clear winter noon, and I’ve
 5 Been up all night, talking, talking, reading the
 6 Kaddish aloud, listening to Ray Charles blues shout
 7 blind on the phonograph
 8 the rhythm the rhythm—and your memory in my
 9 head three years after—And read Adonais’ last
 10 triumphant stanzas aloud—wept, realizing how we
 11 suffer—
 12 And how Death is that remedy all singers dream of,
 13 sing, remember, prophesy as in the Hebrew
 14 Anthem, or the Buddhist Book of Answers—and
 15 my own imagination of a withered leaf—at dawn—
 16 Dreaming back thru life, Your time—and mine
 17 accelerating toward Apocalypse,

18 the final moment—the flower burning in the Day—
19 and what comes after. . .
20 Now I've got to cut through—to talk to you—as I didn't when you had
21 a mouth.
22 Forever. And we're bound for that, Forever—like Emily Dickinson's
23 horses—headed to the End.
24 They know the way—These Steeds—run faster than we think—it's our own life
25 they cross—and take with them.

61. Select the best phrase to fill in the blank: The poem's setting _____ the poem's subject matter.

- a. Aligns with
- b. Contrasts with
- c. Ruins
- d. Supports

62. The poem is set in

- a. Los Angeles
- b. Jerusalem
- c. New York City
- d. Boston

63. The tone of the poem is

- a. Celebratory
- b. Churlish
- c. Apathetic
- d. Anguished

64. Lines 1-2 suggest that Ginsberg's mother has been

- a. Killed in a tragic accident
- b. Separated from corporeal existence
- c. Blinded then murdered
- d. Exhumed from her original burial place

65. Why does Ginsberg compare his mother to the blues musician Ray Charles?

- a. Both occupy Ginsberg's mind and neither have the power of sight
- b. Both are icons of Death
- c. Ginsberg's mother hated blues music, but can no longer criticize it
- d. Ginsberg hated both while they were alive

66. The poem contemplates the mystery of

- a. Atheism
- b. Numerology
- c. Temporality
- d. Conversion

67. What technique does the poem NOT make use of?
- Allusion
 - Alliteration
 - Repetition
 - End rhyme
68. Lines 22-23 refer to Emily Dickinson's poem
- "Because I could not stop for Death"
 - "It was not Death, for I stood up"
 - "Before I got my eye put out"
 - "After a great pain, a formal feeling comes"
69. Lines 22-25 imagines that horses are
- Pulling the speaker and his mother back together
 - Pulling the speaker and his mother apart
 - Pulling the speaker faster and faster toward eternal life
 - Pulling the speaker faster and faster toward Death
70. What is the speaker's attitude toward the deceased?
- He is relieved she is dead
 - He feels there is too much unsaid between them
 - He feels that people put too much faith in religion after a bereavement
 - He is eager to die so that he might be reunited with her

Emily Dickinson (1830-86) was a prolific and ambitious American poet. Although she privately circulated her poetry during her life, Dickinson's first volume of poetry was not published until after her death. During her lifetime, she rejected standards of behavior expected of young women and was notably witty, rebellious, and eccentric. Read Dickinson's poem "Because I Could Not Stop for Death" and answer the following questions.

"Because I Could Not Stop for Death"

- Because I could not stop for Death—
 - He kindly stopped for me—
 - The Carriage held but just ourselves—
 - And Immortality.
-
- We slowly drove—He knew no haste—
 - And I had put away
 - My labor and my leisure too
 - For his Civility—
-
- We paused before a House that seemed
 - A Swelling in the Ground—
 - The Roof was scarcely visible—
 - The Cornice—in the Ground.

- 13 Since then—'tis Centuries—and yet
14 Feels shorter than the Day
15 I first surmised the Horses Heads'
16 Were toward Eternity—

71. Line 1 features an example of

- a. The first person plural
- b. Metonymy
- c. Allusion
- d. Personification

72. The poem is composed in

- a. Common meter
- b. Iambic pentameter
- c. Dactylic hexameter
- d. Dactylic pentameter

73. This poem makes creative, non-conventional use of

- a. Allusion and collaboration
- b. Biblical quotations
- c. Punctuation and capitalization
- d. Meter and rhyme

74. The phrase “labor and leisure” in Line 7 is an example of

- a. Allusion
- b. Alliteration
- c. Anaphora
- d. Anaphylaxis

75. The first stanza features what rhyme scheme?

- a. ABCB
- b. ABAB
- c. ABAC
- d. ABBA

76. The “swelling in the ground” in Line 10 is likely

- a. An earthquake
- b. A volcano
- c. A grave
- d. A flood

77. The poem imagines the process of dying as

- a. A race toward the finish line
- b. A comfortable ride in a carriage
- c. Being kidnapped by Death
- d. Being trapped in a cage

78. The best meaning of “cornice” in Line 12 is

- a. A cornucopia
- b. A trumpet
- c. Column
- d. Crown molding

79. The tone of this poem is best described as

- a. Calm
- b. Rapturous
- c. Fearful
- d. Embittered

80. Lines 13-16 are mainly about

- a. Mourning
- b. Temporality
- c. Gender
- d. Slavery

