

## WASSCE / WAEC MAY / JUNE 2017 ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAST QUESTION PAPER (MULTIPLE CHOICE)

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Good luck!

### Note:

- This WASSCE English Language past question paper is a little bit different from our standard format but we had to get a copy for our audience ASAP.
- Please ignore the markings on the sheet.
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Each question is followed by four options lettered A to D. Find the correct option for each question and shade in pencil on your answer sheet, the answer space which bears the same letter as the option you have chosen. Give only one answer to each question. An example is given below.

Be sure you understand the instructions at the beginning of each section before you try to answer any of the questions that follow them.

Do not spend too much time on a question. If you find a question difficult, leave it and go on and try it again later.

Use HB pencil throughout. If you wish to change an answer, erase your first answer completely and shade the appropriate space for the new answer.

An example is given below.

- He got into trouble in an attempt to conceal the truth ..... me.
- A. to
  - B. against
  - C. from
  - D. for

The correct answer is from, which is lettered C and therefore answer space C would be shaded.

[A] [B] [C] [D]

Think carefully before you shade the answer spaces; erase completely any answer(s) you wish to change.

Now answer the following questions.

SECTION 1

In each of the following sentences, there is one underlined word and one gap. From the list of words lettered A to D, choose the one that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the underlined word and that will, at the same time, correctly fill the gap in the sentence.

- Michael is stingy but his brother is .....  
  - A. generous
  - B. kind
  - C. humane
  - D. hospitable
- Success is the reward of ....., not indolence.  
  - A. prudence
  - B. attentiveness
  - C. diligence
  - D. sharpness
- I don't know how Yusuf became so proud; his parents have always been .....  
  - A. gentle
  - B. noble
  - C. humble
  - D. simple
- The once unknown musician became ..... in a very short time.  
  - A. popular
  - B. accepted
  - C. respected
  - D. admirable
- Issa is very much interested in education while his sister is .....  
  - A. dull
  - B. indifferent
  - C. uncertain
  - D. serious
- The comment I made at the conference was general; being ..... would have hurt some people.  
  - A. ordinary
  - B. specific
  - C. tactful
  - D. candid

- Buba was purposeful in his search for a job but Bala was rather ..... about his.  
  - A. patient
  - B. slow
  - C. lazy
  - D. casual

- In recent tournaments I have seen amateurs play better than so-called .....  
  - A. experts
  - B. veterans
  - C. specialists
  - D. professionals

- The student appeared ..... but we were all confident in his ability.  
  - A. afraid
  - B. nervous
  - C. unconvinced
  - D. ignorant

- Giraffes are attractive animals but snakes are .....  
  - A. repulsive
  - B. ugly
  - C. poisonous
  - D. offensive

SECTION 2

From the words lettered A to D, choose the word that best completes each of the following sentences.

- Mr. Uche was trying to ..... a list of his debtors.  
  - A. compare
  - B. compose
  - C. compound
  - D. compile

- He tried to ..... the housemistress by entering the hostel through the back door.  
  - A. reject
  - B. repel
  - C. evade
  - D. deflect

- He gives the ..... that he is wealthy but he really isn't.  
  - A. impression
  - B. opinion
  - C. attribute
  - D. indication

- Frank was ..... in the riot because his books were found at the scene.  
  - A. blamed
  - B. caught
  - C. implicated
  - D. grafted

- The insurance company ..... my uncle for the loss of his car.  
  - A. redeemed
  - B. relieved
  - C. compensated
  - D. paid

- Before giving his speech, the chairman ..... copies of it to the members of the council.  
  - A. duplicated
  - B. spread
  - C. circulated
  - D. printed

- We wished to win the tournament but we knew our ..... were slim.  
  - A. skills
  - B. opportunities
  - C. odds
  - D. chances

- When all the members started arguing, the chairman called the meeting to .....  
  - A. silence
  - B. order
  - C. audience
  - D. attention

- The felling of trees contributes to environmental .....  
  - A. pollution
  - B. damage
  - C. degradation
  - D. destruction

- I had to put up my house as ..... for the bank loan.  
  - A. pledge
  - B. agreement
  - C. collateral
  - D. surety

Interpretations is given. Choose the interpretation that most appropriate for each sentence.

1. Our mother always warns us against washing our dirty linen in public. This means that she warns us
  - A. not to discuss private matters in public.
  - B. to fetch enough water for washing.
  - C. not to soil our clothes.
  - D. to keep our mouths shut.
2. Let us draw a veil over this matter. This means that we should
  - A. avoid discussing the matter.
  - B. take the matter to court.
  - C. cover our heads with a veil.
  - D. get the elders to resolve the matter.
3. Children think their parents are behind the times. This means that they think that their parents are
  - A. always late for work.
  - B. not worried about new things.
  - C. old fashioned.
  - D. not duty conscious.
4. Ever since that issue came up, I have been sitting on the fence. This means that I have been
  - A. continuously in trouble.
  - B. sitting alone in the house.
  - C. walking around to find a job.
  - D. avoiding stating my opinion.
25. You must square up to your problems. This means that you have to
  - A. deal with your problems effectively.
  - B. consider your problems from all angles.
  - C. forget your problems.
  - D. arrange your problems.
26. Many of us escaped with the skin of our teeth during the crisis. This means that we
  - A. lost some of our teeth.
  - B. narrowly escaped.
  - C. quickly escaped.
  - D. had marks on our skin.

27. Peter and Paul get along like a house on fire. This means that they
  - A. have a very good relationship.
  - B. are not on speaking terms.
  - C. avoid each other always.
  - D. pretend to like each other.
28. When Victor's father gave him a new car, he was lost for words. This means that Victor
  - A. did not like the car.
  - B. forgot to show his gratitude.
  - C. was overwhelmed.
  - D. was not grateful.
29. This film is a cut above the others. This means that it is
  - A. cut to look like the others.
  - B. much better than the others.
  - C. different from the others.
  - D. inferior to the others.
30. We knew our father was talking tongue-in-cheek when he spoke of a vacation abroad. This means that our father was
  - A. sincere.
  - B. courageous.
  - C. joking.
  - D. reasonable.

SECTION 4

From the words lettered A to D below each of the following sentences, choose the word or group of words that is nearest in meaning to the underlined word as it is used in the sentence.

31. The accused was asked to retract his statement.
  - A. recall
  - B. withdraw
  - C. make
  - D. rewrite
32. On the death of her father, friends went to express their condolences.
  - A. sympathy
  - B. pity
  - C. concerns
  - D. worries

SECTION 5

From the words or group of words lettered A to D, choose the word or group of words that best completes each of the following sentences.

33. The Chumre's house caught fire because their little girl had turned on the gas inadvertently.
  - A. automatically
  - B. hurriedly
  - C. carelessly
  - D. unintentionally
34. A magnificent structure was erected close to our house.
  - A. real
  - B. splendid
  - C. colourful
  - D. fine
35. Medicrity in politics should not be tolerated.
  - A. promoted
  - B. encouraged
  - C. approved
  - D. helped
36. A group of experts was brought in to verify the authenticity of the evidence.
  - A. support
  - B. improve
  - C. correct
  - D. ascertain
37. Due to the pressure of work, the old man had no alternative but to relinquish his post.
  - A. give out
  - B. give in
  - C. give up
  - D. give away
38. The obstinate boy soon met his Waterloo when the war broke out.
  - A. proud
  - B. stubborn
  - C. careless
  - D. rude
39. The prescribed textbooks are difficult to find in the bookshops.
  - A. highlighted
  - B. right
  - C. actual
  - D. recommended
40. Our stationery supplies are exhausted.
  - A. completed
  - B. finished
  - C. consumed
  - D. destroyed
41. My sympathies are ..... the victims of the flood.
  - A. on
  - B. to
  - C. with
  - D. about
42. Your application for employment ..... at this very moment.
  - A. was being considered
  - B. is considered
  - C. is being considered
  - D. was considered
43. .... the court orders, he went ahead to build on that land.
  - A. In spite of
  - B. Besides
  - C. But for
  - D. Although
44. He almost got ..... with the crime.
  - A. up
  - B. off
  - C. over
  - D. away
45. .... an accident, the police should be informed immediately.
  - A. In the event of
  - B. In view of
  - C. In view to
  - D. In place of
46. If you don't get off my property, I'll set the dog ..... you.
  - A. off
  - B. on
  - C. unto
  - D. into
47. The task ..... to them was very difficult.
  - A. giving
  - B. given
  - C. give
  - D. gave

48. Two boys in the art class were doing self-portraits by looking at ..... in the mirror.  
 A. oneself  
 B. each other  
 C. one another  
 D. themselves
49. Hardly a day passes by ..... his thinking of her.  
 A. that  
 B. without  
 C. while  
 D. when
50. Each time he opens his mouth, he ..... something foolish.  
 A. says  
 B. said  
 C. saying  
 D. say
51. The spectators had to endure the heat .....  
 A. as they could  
 B. as best as they could  
 C. as best they could  
 D. as they could best
52. .... I would love to be at your party, I really can't.  
 A. In as much as  
 B. As much as  
 C. Much as  
 D. As much
53. The sick man was ..... emaciated that I could hardly recognize him.  
 A. too  
 B. very  
 C. quite  
 D. so
54. One of the muggers who snatched the handbag ..... been arrested by the police.  
 A. have  
 B. was  
 C. is  
 D. has
55. She is not the right candidate for the job, .....?  
 A. is she  
 B. is it  
 C. was she  
 D. isn't it
56. She ..... to excuse herself ten minutes ago.  
 A. has had  
 B. had  
 C. have had  
 D. has
57. Many a man ..... to endure hardship in life.  
 A. have had  
 B. are  
 C. were  
 D. has had
58. She ..... as a very intelligent person.  
 A. comes in  
 B. comes about  
 C. comes up  
 D. comes across
59. You have to be in school early, .....?  
 A. shouldn't you  
 B. shall you  
 C. haven't you  
 D. aren't you
60. Either he or you ..... to clean up the mess right now.  
 A. has  
 B. was  
 C. have  
 D. were
61. He would rather resign ..... part in such a dishonest deal.  
 A. instead of taking  
 B. than taking  
 C. than takes  
 D. than take
62. The farmer, with his sons, ..... millet.  
 A. grows  
 B. grow  
 C. were growing  
 D. have been growing

SECTION 6

In the following passage, the numbered gaps indicate missing words. Against each number in the list below the passage, four options are given in columns lettered A to D. Choose the word that is the most suitable to fill the numbered gaps in the passage.

The farmer — 71 — the nation and can be said to be the most important professional. But how many people would make farming their first choice of profession? The arduous task of turning a virgin rain forest into a farmland, of battling the land until — 72 — are carved out and crops are — 73 —, of fighting off the weeds and — 74 — the tender crops from pests, and of preparing the harvested crops in — 75 — for long months, could scare off the hilly livered. Farming is really not for the faint hearted who are easily defeated by the — 76 — of the weather and the uncertainties of the soil.

But the fruits of farming are sweet. Farmers are assured of the — 77 — yields of their farms. A farmer worth his salt can never go hungry, never mind that the dishes may not be — 78 — in a palatial mansion. Besides, the physical rigours demanded of him ensure that he is constantly kept — 79 —, that his muscles are forever well shaped. The clean air surrounding him ensures that his eyes remain sharp, that his breath is pure, and that his immunity level is always high. Finally, good and — 80 — harvests, especially in these days of mechanised farming, do ensure that a good farmer is immune to poverty.

- |                 |           |             |           |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| A               | B         | C           | D         |
| 71. feeds       | tends     | nourishes   | develops  |
| 72. hedges      | crests    | ridges      | folds     |
| 73. deposited   | planted   | lodged      | buried    |
| 74. defending   | screening | covering    | shielding |
| 75. barns       | huts      | pits        | shelters  |
| 76. ways        | fancies   | adjustments | varieties |
| 77. newest      | freshest  | brightest   | latest    |
| 78. provided    | supplied  | taken       | served    |
| 79. healthy     | huge      | alert       | stout     |
| 80. overflowing | generous  | bountiful   | great     |

