

BHAVAN'S OLYMPIAD FOUNDATION (BOF) - 2025

Class 8 — English Paper Solutions & Explanations

Subject: English

Time Allowed: 1 Hour

Total Marks: 50 Marks

Q1–40: 1 Mark Each | Q41–45 (Achiever's Section): 2 Marks Each

SECTION A: FILL IN THE BLANKS & GRAMMAR (Q1 – Q20)

1. The synonym of the word 'conspicuous' is

- a) Frightened
- b) Prominent
- c) Eager
- d) Contaminate

Correct Answer: b) Prominent

Explanation: 'Conspicuous' means clearly visible or attracting attention, which is synonymous with 'prominent'.

2. The antonym of the word 'convalescence' is

- a) Recuperation
- b) Revival
- c) Rehabilitation
- d) Degeneration

Correct Answer: d) Degeneration

Explanation: 'Convalescence' refers to gradual recovery of health after illness. 'Degeneration' (deterioration) is its direct antonym.

3. A collection of wild animals kept in captivity for exhibition is known as

- a) Menagerie
- b) Infirmary
- c) Aviary
- d) Apiary

Correct Answer: a) Menagerie

Explanation: A 'menagerie' is a collection of wild animals kept in captivity for exhibition. (Aviary = birds, Apiary = bees, Infirmary = hospital).

4. If you _____ Rahul to your birthday celebration last week, he _____.

- a) Had invited, may come
- b) Have invited, might have come
- c) Invited, would come
- d) Had invited, might have come

Correct Answer: d) Had invited, might have come

Explanation: Third conditional structure for unreal past situations: *If + past perfect (had invited), would/might + have + past participle (might have come).*

5. It was revealed this week that Ravi faked his own _____ to become viral on social media.

- a) Obstruction
- b) Induction
- c) Conviction
- d) Abduction

Correct Answer: d) Abduction

Explanation: 'Abduction' means kidnapping. Faking one's own kidnapping/abduction is a known publicity stunt trend.

6. Vedansh is extremely _____, always flaunting his new purchases.

- a) Ostentatious
- b) Surreptitious
- c) Pertinacious
- d) Inconspicuous

Correct Answer: a) Ostentatious

Explanation: 'Ostentatious' means characterized by pretentious or showy display designed to impress others.

7. Amita could read very well from such a tender age that she naturally began _____ books.

- a) Contorting
- b) Divulging
- c) Pining
- d) Devouring

Correct Answer: d) Devouring

Explanation: To 'devour' books idiomatically means to read quickly and eagerly. (Note: misprinted as 'Slandering' in original option list, but 'Devouring' is the correct term).

8. Everybody rushed out when the fire alarm _____ because of some technical fault.

- a) Went about
- b) Went out
- c) Went in
- d) Went off

Correct Answer: d) Went off

Explanation: To 'go off' means to sound or ring (for an alarm or siren).

9. The idiom 'blow smoke' means

- a) To exaggerate or boast about oneself
- b) To initiate a conversation
- c) To reveal someone's secret
- d) To engage in a favourite habitual activity

Correct Answer: a) To exaggerate or boast about oneself

Explanation: 'Blow smoke' means to intentionally confuse, exaggerate, boast, or deceive someone.

10. Adi: How did the matter get sorted?

Avi: I just waited for the right time, and finally, I _____ to her and asked straight out.

- a) Simmer down
- b) Sidled up
- c) Skived off
- d) Spewed out

Correct Answer: b) Sidled up

Explanation: 'Sidle up' means to walk up to someone timidly or quietly.

11. The sports teacher has _____ screened every participating athlete to make sure they are not at the risk of doping.

- a) Frenziedly, deliberately
- b) Slatternly, rigged
- c) Scrupulously, coincident
- d) Intently, vigilantly

Correct Answer: d) Intently, vigilantly

Explanation: Screening meticulously requires being intentional/attentive and vigilant. In standard options provided, option (d) correctly fits adverbial context or (c) depending on nuance, but 'intently' best modifies screened.

12. Ravi said, "I was going through a rough phase in my life last year."

Ravi said that _____ through a rough phase in _____.

- a) I was going, my life now
- b) He had been going, his life the previous year
- c) He was going, his life then
- d) I had been, my life back then

Correct Answer: b) He had been going, his life the previous year

Explanation: In indirect speech: past continuous ('was going') becomes past perfect continuous ('had been going'), 'I' -> 'he', 'my' -> 'his', and 'last year' -> 'the previous year'.

13. In the given sentence, which modal correctly expresses past obligation that was not fulfilled: "You _____ submitted the form yesterday."

- a) should
- b) must
- c) should have
- d) may have

Correct Answer: c) should have

Explanation: 'Should have' indicates a past unfulfilled obligation or expectation.

14. _____ book you just read is one of _____ finest works of Sigmund Freud. You can find more of his works in that section.

- a) A, the, the
- b) The, a, no article
- c) The, the, no article
- d) The, no article, a

Correct Answer: c) The, the, no article

Explanation: "The book you just read" (specific book), "one of the finest works" (superlative degree), "works of Sigmund Freud" (proper name, no article before Freud).

15. Swara said to her mother, "Mom, have you seen my purple skirt? I am unable to find it."

Swara asked her mother _____

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) Whether has she seen her purple skirt. She was unable to find it. | b) That she saw her purple skirt. She was unable to find it. |
| c) If she had seen me purple skirt. She was unable to find it. | d) Whether she had seen her purple skirt and added that she was unable to find it. |

Correct Answer: d) Whether she had seen her...

Explanation: Present perfect ('have you seen') changes to past perfect ('whether/if she had seen'), and 'my' changes to 'her'.

16. The word 'facsimile' is synonymous with

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| a) Original | b) Paradigm |
| c) Replica | d) Archetype |

Correct Answer: c) Replica

Explanation: A 'facsimile' is an exact copy or replica of written or printed material.

17. The proverb 'a flower blooms more than once' means

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) Flowers bring happiness | b) If you miss an occasion, you can avail it at another time |
| c) An occasion that is missed will not come another time | d) Both a) and b) |

Correct Answer: b) If you miss an occasion, you can avail it at another time

Explanation: It signifies hope and that opportunities will present themselves again in the future.

18. Mona had to face a _____ but they were all proved false.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) String of allegations | b) Thread of allegations |
| c) Set of allegations | d) Dime of allegations |

Correct Answer: a) String of allegations

Explanation: The collective noun/collocation commonly used for a series of accusations is a 'string of allegations'.

19. The children were told to _____ their toys by their mother.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| a) Put away | b) Throw away |
| c) Break away | d) Look away |

Correct Answer: a) Put away

Explanation: 'Put away' means to store or return something to its proper place after use.

20. The crop of wheat _____ by the heavy storm.

- a) Will be ruin
- b) Will ruin
- c) Had been ruined
- d) Had been ruining

Correct Answer: c) Had been ruined

Explanation: Passive voice in past perfect tense requires 'had been + past participle' (had been ruined).

SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION (Q21 – Q25)

READING PASSAGE

'He who hesitates is lost' is a well-known proverb. A leader who cannot decide on a plan of action will not be able to accomplish anything worthwhile. Indecision leads to confusion because people don't know what to do. Prompt decision-making is of great use in an emergency. A young doctor once had a patient who complained of intense pain. The doctor consulted two other doctors to find out if an operation should be performed. The other doctors felt that the patient's condition should be observed for a few days. But the young doctor, who felt responsible for the patient, examined him once again and decided to operate immediately. When the operation was performed, the other doctors realised that a delay of even a few hours would have proved fatal to the patient. A prompt decision by the young doctor saved the life of his patient.

We are often faced with difficult problems. It is up to us to take prompt decisions that could make the difference between success and failure. We must be able to say 'yes' or 'no' without delay, and no 'maybe' or 'perhaps' after hours of deliberations. This does not mean we should say 'yes' or 'no' without thinking. We must cultivate the ability to quickly think out all the favourable and unfavourable circumstances of a situation and then decide whether we should say 'yes' or 'no'. To linger over a decision for days and months will get us nowhere. Hence, prompt decision-making is very important, if one wants to achieve success.

21. Choose a suitable title for this passage:

- a) A Doctor and a Patient
- b) Qualities of a Leader
- c) Prompt Decision-making: Tool for Success
- d) Say Yes or No

Correct Answer: c) Prompt Decision-making: Tool for Success

Explanation: The central theme of the entire passage revolves around prompt decision-making and its role in achieving success.

22. How is indecision harmful?

- a) It leads to pain
- b) It leads to confusion
- c) It does not work in hospital
- d) It leads to success

Correct Answer: b) It leads to confusion

Explanation: Paragraph 1 explicitly states: "Indecision leads to confusion because people don't know what to do."

23. The young doctor saved the life of his patient by

- a) Giving him medicine
- b) Operating on him immediately
- c) Consulting with other doctors and waiting
- d) Deciding 'yes' or 'no' without thinking

Correct Answer: b) Operating on him immediately

Explanation: The passage states that the young doctor decided to "operate immediately", which saved the patient's life.

24. How should we decide 'yes' or 'no' in an emergency?

- a) Promptly, without thinking
- b) By consulting others
- c) By pondering over it again and again
- d) By thinking out all the favourable and unfavourable results, but promptly, of course

Correct Answer: d) By thinking out all the favourable and unfavourable results, but promptly, of course

Explanation: Paragraph 3 emphasizes cultivating the ability to quickly analyze favourable and unfavourable circumstances before deciding promptly.

25. Which word in the passage means 'to achieve'?

- a) Prompt
- b) Accomplish
- c) To linger over
- d) To perform

Correct Answer: b) Accomplish

Explanation: 'Accomplish' means to complete or achieve successfully.

SECTION C: CLOZE TEST (Q26 – Q30)

Passage: The **26** of Bengal tigers left in the world has **27** from 100,000 to 4000 over the last century. The main threats are **28** of habitat, poaching and the trade in tiger parts for Eastern medicines. Most Bengal tigers live in protected areas of India. Anti-poaching task-forces have been **29** up and there is also a trade **30** on tiger products in many countries, as a measure to save this rare species.

26. Blank (26): [a] Form | b) Kind | c) Glory | d) Number]

Correct Answer: d) Number

Explanation: Refers to numerical quantity of tigers ("The number of Bengal tigers...").

27. Blank (27): [a] Limited | b) Shrunk | c) Abolished | d) Eliminated]

Correct Answer: b) Shrunk

Explanation: 'Shrunk' means reduced in size/number (from 100,000 to 4,000).

28. Blank (28): [a) Prevention | b) Encroaching | c) Condition | d) Loss]

Correct Answer: d) Loss

Explanation: 'Loss of habitat' is the standard phrase for wildlife endangerment.

29. Blank (29): [a) Set | b) Brought | c) Swept | d) Deployed]

Correct Answer: a) Set

Explanation: The phrasal verb 'set up' means established or organized.

30. Blank (30): [a) Agreement | b) Contract | c) Ban | d) Link]

Correct Answer: c) Ban

Explanation: A 'trade ban' prohibits buying/selling tiger products to protect them.

SECTION D: LANGUAGE & VOCABULARY (Q31 – Q40)

31. Choose one word for the underlined phrase: "They organized a house party for Sarah's birthday but she does not get excited easily even if we put in a lot of effort and emotion."

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| a) Gregarious | b) Placid |
| c) Inclement | d) Frenzied |

Correct Answer: b) Placid

Explanation: 'Placid' describes a person who is calm, even-tempered, and not easily excited or upset.

32. Change into passive voice: "People have referred to the jellyfish, the starfish, the cuttlefish and the crayfish as fish though they are not."

- a) The jellyfish, the starfish, the cuttlefish and the crayfish are being referred to as fish though they are not.
- b) The jellyfish, the starfish, the cuttlefish and the crayfish have been referred to as fish though they are not.
- c) The jellyfish, the starfish, the cuttlefish and the crayfish will be referred to as fish though they are not.
- d) The jellyfish, the starfish, the cuttlefish and the crayfish had been said to be as fish though they are not.

Correct Answer: b) The jellyfish, the starfish, the cuttlefish and the crayfish have been referred to as fish...

Explanation: Present perfect 'have referred' converts to 'have been referred to' in passive voice.

33. How do you spell the word that means 'courtliness'?

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| a) Courtoise | b) Courtiosis |
| c) Courtoisie | d) Courtiosce |

Correct Answer: c) Courtoisie

Explanation: 'Courtoisie' (derived from French) is an archaic/literary term for courtliness or politeness.

34. Choose the appropriate adjective for the underlined phrase: "When Subbu was young, he looked very handsome, but now with growing age, his face shows signs of tiredness and age."

- a) Fresh
b) Robust
c) Haggard
d) Vigorous

Correct Answer: c) Haggard

Explanation: 'Haggard' means looking exhausted and unwell, especially from fatigue, worry, or suffering/aging.

35. Rearrange the given phrases to make a meaningful sentence:

M. as expected, but | N. our manufacturing division | O. all in all, | P. we had a good year | Q. didn't do as well

- a) MNOPQ
b) MNQOP
c) POMNQ
d) NQMOP

Correct Answer: d) NQMOP

Explanation: "Our manufacturing division (N) didn't do as well (Q) as expected, but (M) all in all, (O) we had a good year (P)."

36. Shobha: I can't sit with you. Your voice _____.

Srijita: I am really sorry for that. I will keep that in mind.

- a) Stuck my neck out
b) Get on my nerves
c) Keep a level
d) Make a mark head

Correct Answer: b) Get on my nerves

Explanation: To 'get on someone's nerves' means to irritate or annoy someone.

37. Choose the option that is closest to the meaning of the given phrase: "Although Nancy has studied Italian in her school, she knows it after a fashion."

- a) Thorough knowledge
b) To a certain extent but not perfectly
c) In depth information
d) A talent for knowledge

Correct Answer: b) To a certain extent but not perfectly

Explanation: 'After a fashion' means to a limited degree, or not very well.

38. Choose the word with the correct spelling:

- a) Hamorrage
- b) Haemorrhage
- c) Hammerage
- d) Hammorage

Correct Answer: b) Haemorrhage

Explanation: 'Haemorrhage' (British spelling) / 'Hemorrhage' (American spelling) is correct. Option (b) is the correct British spelling.

39. Kartik: It's been a wonderful time. Thank you for being with us.

Aryan: _____

- a) I always oblige my friends
- b) Oh! But the pleasure is mine
- c) So you like my company
- d) I don't know about a good time.

Correct Answer: b) Oh! But the pleasure is mine

Explanation: A polite social response to someone expressing gratitude for spent time.

40. 'All his plans are built upon sand' means

- a) It is based on experience
- b) It is resting on immature ideas / weak foundations
- c) It is resting on cheap materials
- d) It is established on secure foundations

Correct Answer: b) It is resting on immature ideas

Explanation: 'Built upon sand' signifies having an unstable, insecure, or poorly thought-out foundation.

ACHIEVER'S SECTION (Q41 – Q45) 2 Marks Each

41. In a moment of _____, Malti praised her most competent opponent and wanted to befriend her. It was very unusual of her.

- a) Corpulence
- b) Regularity
- c) Abjure
- d) Aberration

Correct Answer: d) Aberration

Explanation: An 'aberration' is a departure from what is normal, usual, or expected.

42. Choose the correct antonym of the word 'boisterous':

- a) Exuberant
- b) Turbulent
- c) Capricious
- d) Restrained

Correct Answer: d) Restrained

Explanation: 'Boisterous' means noisy, energetic, and rowdy. Its antonym is 'restrained' (quiet/controlled).

43. Jamini: Why isn't their channel broadcast in other states?

Shashi: Obviously, as they only deal with _____ matters, which cannot gain wide attention.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| a) Thwart | b) Parochial |
| c) Convivial | d) Plenary |

Correct Answer: b) Parochial

Explanation: 'Parochial' means having a limited or narrow outlook/scope, relating to a local area.

44. Choose the word with the correct spelling:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| a) Obscurrentist | b) Obscurantist |
| c) Obscurantest | d) Obscurantist |

Correct Answer: d) Obscurantist

Explanation: The correct spelling is 'Obscurantist' (one who deliberately prevents full details of something from becoming known).

45. Chamomile tea has been said to induce sleep as it has _____ properties and is often used to treat sleep-related issues.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a) Somnifacient | b) Sorbefacient |
| c) Solivagant | d) Acaulescent |

Correct Answer: a) Somnifacient

Explanation: 'Somnifacient' means tending to produce or induce sleep (a hypnotic/sleep aid).