

10. Agustin Rodriguez was disliked by the crowd because his bullfighting skills were quite poor for a man.

- A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

Directions: *You will hear a text about a man who wanted to benefit from an insurance company twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have 4 minutes to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B, C or D. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers.*

11. The man sued the insurance company because

- A) the premium payment was too high.
B) he was disappointed with its services.
C) he wanted to avoid payment.
D) the company had cheated him.

12. The man won the first case because

- A) his precious cigars had been lost.
B) there was a weakness in the insurance contract.
C) the cigars had caused serious fire.
D) he was a friend with the judge.

13. The insurance company

- A) refused to accept the court's decision.
B) did what the judge had ruled.
C) appealed the verdict immediately.
D) paid the man \$1,500.

14. The second trial

- A) sentenced the man to 24-month imprisonment.
B) was longer and more expensive.
C) was less fair.
D) ended with a 24-year prison sentence.

15. The moral of this story is :

- A) Don't get involved with insurance agents.
B) Don't try to cheat your insurance company.
C) Don't play with fire.
D) Don't delay policy payment.

PART TWO: READING COMPREHENSION

Directions: *Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among A, B or C, marking your answers on your answer sheet.*

Early footprints

Laetoli in Tanzania, Eastern Africa, is home to one of the most famous archaeological sites. There is no gold, no treasure, no human skeletal remains, not even one stone tool or a

single piece of pottery. The site has become famous for the footprints left behind by people way back in antiquity. The distinctly human footprints have been fossilised in the earth, buried by sands and soils, and only discovered in 1978 by British anthropologist and archaeologist, Mary Leakey.

Mary Leakey began excavating the Laetoli site in 1974. It was her belief that early humans inhabited this region and it was a likely location where human remains could be found. There was little fossil evidence from the period when archaic Homo sapiens transitioned to an upright walking posture and Mary Leakey, who was searching for evidence of such evolution, strongly believed it would be found in Tanzania – the primary source of African man.

After almost five years of excavations Mary Leakey's efforts were rewarded: she discovered three sets of well-fossilised human footprint trails, preserved in the sun-dried Tanzanian ground, which she thought were made by two adults and one child. In total there were as many as 70 individual footprints in two clean parallel lines about 30 metres long. It is believed that these footprints were left in the soft volcanic ash ground about 3.6 million years ago, which makes them the oldest ever discovered.

Curiously, the find also lends support to the claim that humans could actually have lived at the same time as dinosaurs. Could then St. George's slain dragon be a dinosaur? What about the dragons in Chinese and other cultures – could they too be recreations of the dinosaurs from the past?

16. The Laetoli site is well-known for the archaic human body remains discovered there.

- A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

17. Mary Leakey didn't expect to find the fossils there when she started excavating in Tanzania.

- A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

18. Mary Leakey's archeological work in Africa was supported by a team of experts.

- A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

19. The fossilized footprints discovered by Mary Leaky were left by 70 different individuals.

- A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

20. Mary Leakey's remarkable discovery leads to the conclusion that men and dinosaurs could have co-existed.

- A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

Directions: *Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question correspondingly among A, B, C or D, marking your answers on your answer sheet.*

All her life, Mrs Foster had had an almost pathological fear of missing a train, a plane, a boat, or even a theatre curtain. In other respects, she was not a particularly nervous woman, but the mere thought of being late on occasions like these would throw her into such a state of nerves that she would begin to twitch. It was nothing much - just a tiny twitching muscle in the corner of the left eye, like a secret wink - but the annoying thing was that it refused to disappear until an hour or so after the train or plane or whatever it was had been safely caught.

It was really extraordinary how in certain people a simple fear of a thing like catching a train can grow into a serious obsession.

At least half an hour before it was time to leave the house for the station, Mrs. Foster would step out of the elevator all ready to go, with hat and coat and gloves, and then, being quite unable to sit down, she would flutter and fidget about from room to room until her husband, who must have been well aware of her state, finally emerged from his privacy and suggested in a cool dry voice that perhaps they had better be going now, had they not?

Mr. Foster may possibly have had a right to be irritated by this foolishness of his wife's, but he could have had no excuse for increasing her misery by keeping her waiting unnecessarily. Mind you, it is by no means certain that this is what he did, yet whenever they were to go somewhere, his timing was so accurate - just a minute or two late, you understand - and his manner so ordinary that it was hard to believe he wasn't purposely inflicting a nasty private little torture of his own on the unhappy lady. And one thing he must have known - that she would never dare to call out and tell him to hurry. He had disciplined her too well for that. He must also have known that if he was prepared to wait even beyond the last moment of safety, he could drive her nearly into hysterics.

On one or two special occasions in the later years of their married life, it seemed almost as though he had wanted to miss the train simply in order to intensify the poor woman's suffering.

Assuming (though one cannot be sure) that the husband was guilty, what made his attitude doubly unreasonable was the fact that, with the exception of this one small shortcoming, Mrs. Foster was and always had been a good and loving wife. For over thirty years, she had served him loyally and well. There was no doubt about this. Even she, a very modest woman, was aware of it, and although she had for years refused to let herself believe that Mr. Foster would ever consciously torment her, there had been times recently when she had caught herself beginning to wonder.

21. Mrs. Foster was

- A) frightened of travelling anywhere.
- B) afraid of planes and trains.
- C) obsessed with her twitching eye.
- D) nervous about being late.

22. Mrs. Foster was unable to sit down before an appointment because

- A) she would already be fully dressed.
- B) there was work to be done in each room.
- C) her husband would expect her to keep busy.
- D) she was anxious to leave on time.

23. Mr. Foster

- A) was angry at his wife's behaviour.
- B) always left home in a rush.
- C) always left home at the last minute.
- D) was unaware of his wife's anxieties.

24. Mrs. Foster

- A) feared telling her husband to hurry.
- B) often told her husband to hurry.
- C) had been punished for calling out.
- D) never needed to tell her husband to hurry.

25. Mrs. Foster had

- A) never doubted her husband's intentions.
- B) recently stopped being a good and loving wife.
- C) always known that her husband tormented her.
- D) started to doubt her husband's intentions.

Directions: Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question correspondingly among A, B, C or D, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

Simon Reeve meets the real life Robinson Crusoe

The Indian Ocean presenter makes contact with a Brit who had lived alone for 39 years on a desert island

I spent six months filming in the Indian Ocean for my new BBC series, trying to capture how the life of the ocean affects the people who live there. I met many extraordinary people, none more so than Brendon Grimshaw, an elderly and somewhat eccentric Yorkshireman who has turned an island in the Seychelles into the smallest national park in the world.

Brendon bought Moyenne for £8,000 in the 1960s. He was a journalist by profession and had edited newspapers in Africa. But by 1973 he had grown tired of that life and so moved onto the island – and he's lived there ever since. He's now in his 80s, but has no intention of leaving his home.

I'm sure that's where he will die and be buried. Brendon has completely transformed Moyenne. He brought in 16,000 trees and planted them by hand. He laid paths around the island and built a wooden house that he still lives in to this day. He has also introduced birds to the island and breeds the unique giant tortoises he found there on his arrival – I think there are more than 100 of them roaming the island now.

You've got to be eccentric to care for giant tortoises on a remote island like this. And you've got to be a bit stubborn to be willing and able to survive in a place like Moyenne. But I think what marks him out as a true British eccentric, or perhaps as a typical Yorkshireman abroad, is his resourcefulness and determination to make the island his own private paradise.

Brendon has been offered phenomenal sums of money to sell it, but all he has ever wanted to do is to preserve it as it is. He got his wish in 2008 when Seychelles officials agreed to classify Moyenne as a national park, which means there can be no commercial development on it. He is a real-life Robinson Crusoe – the difference is that he himself chose to live in isolation and has no wish to leave the island.

26. Simon Reeve's task as a journalist was

- A) to find and get an interview from the new Robinson Crusoe.
- B) to write an article on the smallest national park in the world.
- C) to prepare a documentary about the Indian Ocean and the people there.
- D) to look for some inspiration to become the focus of his new BBC series.

27. Brendon Grimshaw

- A) inherited Moyenne from a rich relative in the 1960s.
- B) lived and worked in Yorkshire before moving to Moyenne.
- C) was 39 years old when he went to live on the island.
- D) didn't initially make much use of his island investment.

28. Which of the following did Brendon NOT do when he moved to Moyenne?

- A) Build a house for himself.
- B) Plant a lot of new trees.
- C) Bring some giant tortoises.
- D) Construct new pathways.

29. Simon Reeve believes that Brendon's most stereotypical national feature is his

- A) concern for the preservation of rare animal species.
- B) choice to live in isolation from the rest of world.
- C) conscious imitation of Robinson Crusoe's life.
- D) willpower and creativity in transforming Moyenne.

30. Brendon did not sell Moyenne because

- A) he was never offered the price he expected for it.
- B) it was declared a national park by Seychelles officials.
- C) he wanted to preserve its natural beauty unspoiled.
- D) he was too old to change his life-style and leave the island.

PART THREE: USE OF ENGLISH

Section One: Cloze Test

Directions: Read the text below and for each numbered gap choose the letter (A, B, C or D) of the word or phrase that best suits the gap, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

History of the OED

The *Oxford English Dictionary* has been the last (31) on the English lexicon for over a century. But, as with a respected professor or admired parent, we count on its wisdom and (32) without thinking much about how it came to be.

When the members of the Philological Society of London decided, in 1857, that the existing English language dictionaries were incomplete and deficient, and (33) a complete re-examination of the language from Anglo-Saxon times to the 19th century, they knew they were (34) on an ambitious project. However, even they didn't realize the full (35) of the work they initiated, or how long it would take to achieve the final result.

The project proceeded slowly after the Society's first grand statement of purpose. (36), in 1879, the Society made an agreement with Oxford University Press and James A. H. Murray to begin work on a *New English Dictionary* (as the *Oxford English Dictionary* was then known).

Initially the new dictionary was planned as a four-volume, 6,400-page work that would include all English language vocabulary from the Early Middle English period (1150 AD) (37), plus some earlier words if they had continued to be used into Middle English.

It was estimated that the project would be finished in approximately ten years. Five years down the (38), when Murray and his colleagues had only reached as far as the word 'ant', they realized it was time to reconsider their schedule. It was not surprising that the project was taking longer than anticipated. Not only are the (39) of the English language formidable, but it also never stops evolving. Murray and his Dictionary colleagues had to keep (40) of new words and new meanings of existing words at the same time that they were trying to examine the previous seven centuries of the language's development.

Murray and his team did manage to publish the first part (or 'fascicle', to use the technical term) in 1884, but it was clear by this point that a much more (41) work was required than had been imagined by the Philological Society almost thirty years earlier.

Over the next four decades work on the Dictionary continued and new editors joined the project. These men and women worked steadily, producing fascicle after fascicle until finally, in April, 1928, the last volume was published. (42) 6,400 pages in four volumes, the Dictionary - published (43) the imposing name *A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles* - contained well over 100,000 pages in ten volumes. Sadly, Murray did not live to see the completion of his great work; he died in 1915. The work to which he had (44) his life represented an achievement (45) in the history of publishing anywhere in the world.

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| 31. | A) call | B) phrase | C) say | D) word |
| 32. | A) authority | B) authenticity | C) authorship | D) authorization |
| 33. | A) called about | B) called in | C) called for | D) called up |
| 34. | A) launching | B) embarking | C) undertaking | D) going |
| 35. | A) span | B) expanse | C) degree | D) extent |
| 36. | A) Eventually | B) Possibly | C) Later | D) Lately |
| 37. | A) afterward | B) upward | C) onward | D) forward |
| 38. | A) route | B) road | C) job | D) work |
| 39. | A) compilations | B) complicities | C) complexes | D) complexities |
| 40. | A) control | B) an eye | C) track | D) pace |
| 41. | A) comprehensive | B) comprehending | C) apprehensive | D) apprehending |
| 42. | A) In spite of | B) Except for | C) But for | D) Instead of |
| 43. | A) through | B) under | C) by | D) after |
| 44. | A) attributed | B) delivered | C) devoted | D) donated |
| 45. | A) unprecedented | B) unprepared | C) unfamiliar | D) unhopod |

Section Two: Sentence Completion

Directions: For each of the sentences below, choose the letter A, B, C or D of the word or phrase that best completes its meaning, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

46. I don't mind _____ with us but I won't have him make passes at my girlfriend.
 A) him to come B) his coming C) him come D) to him coming
47. My father is a surgeon and _____ are GPs.
 A) Mike and Jane's B) Mike's C) Mike's and Jane's D) their
48. Parents always say that they know _____ what is good for their children.
 A) best B) the best C) most D) the most
49. You don't have to propose to her with a _____ diamond ring, I hope?
 A) twenty-karats B) twenty karat's C) twenty-karats' D) twenty-karat
50. Eat your soup before it _____ cold.
 A) got B) has got C) will get D) will have got

Section Three: Sentence Transformations

Directions: *On your sheet for open-ended answers complete the second sentence so that it is as close as possible in meaning to the first one.*

51. The last time I saw Helen was before she left for Australia.

I _____ since she left for Australia.

52. Let's go to the cinema tonight.

How about _____

53. The pianist played so badly that the audience walked out.

The pianist gave _____ performance that the audience walked out.

54. I don't want Ann to come to the meeting.

I'd rather Ann _____

55. We took the wrong turning and as a result of that we arrived late.

If _____, we would have arrived on time.

56. 'Can I have some more pocket money?'

The boy asked _____

57. The Government is now building a lot of new schools in the country.

A lot of new schools _____ in the country.

58. It is possible that she didn't hear what I said.

She _____ what I said. (*use a modal verb*)

59. They say the country is on the verge of civil war.

The country is _____ on the verge of civil war.

60. Although I got up late, I still managed to catch the train.

Despite _____, I still managed to catch the train.

PART FOUR: WRITING

Directions: *On your sheet for open-ended answers write a composition in standard English of about 160-170 words on ONE of the following topics, marking the topic you have chosen on the sheet:*

1. Should man research space rather than ocean depths? Why?

2. Write about a song or a poem that reminds you of a particular experience. What is it about? What makes your experience special?

Mind that in case of indecent language, plagiarism, identical texts or if your composition is under 80 words or totally irrelevant to the chosen topic it will get 0 points.