

## Academic Fest 2019 – Middle School, Sample Questions (Vocabulary)

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### Rules and Guidelines:

1. Eligibility: Students entering grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> in school year 2019-2020.
2. The test will consist of a multiple choice exam that will be suitable for the age group, and help prepare students for standardized tests (e.g. SAT)
3. The contestant will have up to 45 minutes to complete the test.
4. Judges may adjust these rules depending on the number of contestants.
5. Do not start the exam until you are given permission!
6. Write your Participant ID on the Answer Sheet
7. Each sentence has one or two blanks. Choose the answer choice that contains the words that best complete the sentence.
8. Only answer sheets will be evaluated. Hence, if contestant is using workbook, he/she must transfer all answers from their workbook to the answer sheet. The contestants are free to write the calculation steps or do rough works on the workbook, but they must write only final answer on the answer sheet. Do not write anything else on the answer sheet except your student id.
9. Again only Answer Sheet will be evaluated. **You must return this Question Paper along with answer sheet to your test coordinator.**
10. Calculators, books or any such supporting materials are not allowed. Although papers and pencils will be provided to each contestant they are free to bring their own pencils and erasers.
11. Contestants should be on time to make use of allocated time for the test. If a contestant is late then he/she will get only the remaining time to finish the test.
12. Raise your hand if you have any questions
13. Parents/visitors will not be allowed in the competition room.

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### Questions:

1. Scrooge, in the famous novel by Dickens, was a \_\_\_\_ ; he hated the rest of mankind.
  - A. misanthrope
  - B. hypochondriac
  - C. philanthropist
  - D. hedonist
  - E. sybarite
2. A businessman must widen his horizons; a \_\_\_\_ attitude will get you nowhere in this age of global communications.
  - A. moderate
  - B. petrified
  - C. parochial
  - D. diversified
  - E. comprehensive
3. Our bookshelves at home display a range of books on wide-ranging subjects and in many languages, reflecting the \_\_\_\_ tastes of our family members.
  - A. anomalous
  - B. limited
  - C. arcane
  - D. furtive
  - E. eclectic
4. Plastic bags are \_\_\_\_ symbols of consumer society; they are found wherever you travel.
  - A. rare
  - B. ephemeral
  - C. ubiquitous
  - D. fleeting
  - E. covert
5. Dr. Stuart needs to \_\_\_\_ his argument with more experimental data; as it stands his thesis is \_\_\_\_ .
  - A. support - profound
  - B. bolster - acceptable
  - C. refine - satisfactory
  - D. buttress - inadequate
  - E. define - succinct
6. After an initially warm reception by most reviewers and continued \_\_\_\_ by conservative thinkers, Bloom's work came under heavy fire.
  - A. criticism

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- B. endorsement
- C. denigration
- D. counterattack
- E. refutation

7. Through the 19th Century, the classics of Western Civilization were considered to be the \_\_\_\_ of wisdom and culture, and an \_\_\_\_ person - by definition- knew them well.
- A. foundation - average
  - B. epitome - uneducated
  - C. cornerstone - obtuse
  - D. font - ecclesiastical
  - E. repository - educated
8. In this biography we are given a glimpse of the young man \_\_\_\_ pursuing the path of the poet despite \_\_\_\_ and rejection slips.
- A. doggedly - disappointment
  - B. tirelessly - encouragement
  - C. sporadically - awards
  - D. successfully - acclaim
  - E. unsuccessfully - failure
9. All European countries are seeking to diminish the check upon individual \_\_\_\_ which state examinations with their \_\_\_\_ growth have bought in their train.
- A. rights - liberating
  - B. liberties - empowering
  - C. spontaneity - tyrannous
  - D. foibles - inevitable
  - E. creativity - soporific
10. In keeping with his own \_\_\_\_ in international diplomacy, Churchill proposed a personal meeting of heads of government, but the effort was doomed to failure, as the temper of the times was \_\_\_\_ .
- A. ideas - pluralistic
  - B. predilections - inimical
  - C. aversions - hostile
  - D. impulses - amicable
  - E. maxims - salacious
11. The wall and floor decorations created by Indian housewives are usually \_\_\_\_ , remaining hours, days, or at most, weeks before being worn off by human activity or weather and replaced by new \_\_\_\_ .
- A. perennial - drawings
  - B. ephemeral - designs
  - C. trivial - purchases

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- D. impermanent - furnishings  
E. innovative - pictures
12. The subtle shades of meaning, and still subtler echoes of association, make language an instrument which scarcely anything short of genius can wield with \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ .  
A. confidence - aloofness  
B. definiteness - certainty  
C. sincerity - hope  
D. conservatism - alacrity  
E. eloquence - ruthlessness
13. To reach Simonville, the traveller needs to drive with extreme caution along the \_\_\_\_ curves of the mountain road that climbs \_\_\_\_ to the summit.  
A. serpentine - steeply  
B. jagged - steadily  
C. gentle - precipitously  
D. shady - steadily  
E. hair-raising - languidly
14. The cricket match seemed \_\_\_\_ to our guests; they were used to watching sports in which the action is over in a couple of hours at the most.  
A. unintelligible  
B. inconsequential  
C. interminable  
D. implausible  
E. evanescent
15. Our present accountant is most \_\_\_\_ ; unlike the previous \_\_\_\_ incumbent, he has never made a mistake in all the years that he has worked for the firm.  
A. unorthodox - heretical  
B. dependable - assiduous  
C. punctilious - painstaking  
D. asinine - diligent  
E. meticulous - unreliable
16. The refugee's poor grasp of English is hardly an \_\_\_\_ problem; she can attend classes and improve within a matter of months.  
A. implausible  
B. insuperable  
C. inconsequential  
D. evocative  
E. injudicious

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17. We appreciated his \_\_\_\_ summary of the situation; he wasted no words yet delineated his position most \_\_\_\_ .
- A. comprehensive : inadequately
  - B. succinct : direfully
  - C. cogent : persuasively
  - D. verbose : concisely
  - E. grandiloquent : eloquently
18. His musical tastes are certainly \_\_\_\_ ; he has recordings ranging from classical piano performances to rock concerts, jazz and even Chinese opera.
- A. antediluvian
  - B. eclectic
  - C. harmonious
  - D. sonorous
  - E. dazzling
19. I cannot conclude this preface without \_\_\_\_ that an early and untimely death should have prevented Persius from giving a more finished appearance to his works.
- A. rejoicing
  - B. lamenting
  - C. affirming
  - D. commenting
  - E. mentioning
20. Before his marriage the Duke had led an austere existence and now regarded the affectionate, somewhat \_\_\_\_ behavior of his young wife as simply \_\_\_\_ .
- A. restrained - despicable
  - B. childish - elevating
  - C. playful - sublime
  - D. frivolous - puerile
  - E. unpleasant - delightful
21. Wilson \_\_\_\_ that human beings inherit a tendency to feel an affinity and awe for other living things, in the same way that we are \_\_\_\_ to be inquisitive or to protect our young at all costs.
- A. argues - encouraged
  - B. maintains - trained
  - C. contends - predisposed
  - D. fears - taught
  - E. demurs - genetically programmed
22. The pond was a place of reek and corruption, of \_\_\_\_ smells and of oxygen-starved fish breathing through laboring gills.

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- A. fragrant
- B. evocative
- C. dolorous
- D. resonant
- E. fetid

23. There have been great \_\_\_\_\_ since his time, but few others have felt so strongly the \_\_\_\_\_ of human existence.

- A. pessimists - futility
- B. skeptics - exaltation
- C. heretics - sagacity
- D. optimists - tremulousness
- E. cynics - joy

24. While war has never been absent from the \_\_\_\_\_ of man, there have been periods in History which appear remarkably \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. archives - ambivalent
- B. posterity - serene
- C. mind - desultory
- D. annals - pacific
- E. life - belligerent

25. Unwilling to admit that they had been in error, the researchers tried to \_\_\_\_\_ their case with more data obtained from dubious sources.

- A. ascertain
- B. buttress
- C. refute
- D. absolve
- E. dispute

26. Archaeology is a poor profession; only \_\_\_\_\_ sums are available for excavating sites and even more \_\_\_\_\_ amounts for preserving the excavations.

- A. paltry - meager
- B. miniscule - substantial
- C. average - augmented
- D. judicious - penurious
- E. modest - generous

27. The student was extremely foolhardy; he had the \_\_\_\_\_ to question the senior professor's judgment.

- A. wisdom
- B. temerity
- C. interest
- D. trepidation

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E. condescension

28. The formerly \_\_\_\_\_ waters of the lake have been polluted so that the fish are no longer visible from the surface.

- A. muddy
- B. tranquil
- C. stagnant
- D. pellucid
- E. rancid

29. After the accident, the nerves to her arm were damaged and so the muscles \_\_\_\_\_ through disuse.

- A. atrophied
- B. contracted
- C. elongated
- D. invigorated
- E. dwindled

30. Some critics maintain that Tennyson's poetry is uneven, ranging from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. sublime - elevated
- B. trite - inspired
- C. vacuous - inane
- D. succinct - laconic
- E. sonorous - voluble

31. After grafting there is a \_\_\_\_\_ of lymphocytes in the lymph glands; the newly produced lymphocytes then move in to attack the foreign tissue.

- A. diminution
- B. proliferation
- C. obliteration
- D. paucity
- E. attraction

32. One \_\_\_\_\_ the new scheme is that it might actually \_\_\_\_\_ just those applicants that it was intended to encourage.

- A. highlight of - stimulate
- B. feature of - attract
- C. problem with - induce
- D. attraction of - intimidate
- E. drawback of - daunt

33. Corruption is \_\_\_\_\_ in our society; the integrity of even senior officials is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. growing - unquestioned
- B. endangered - disputed
- C. pervasive - intact
- D. rare - corrupted



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E. rife - suspect

34. In their day to day decision making, many senior managers do not follow the rational model favored by orthodox management experts, but rather rely on intuitive processes that often appear \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_.

- A. cerebral - considered
- B. heretical - judgmental
- C. conscientious - logical
- D. irrational - iconoclastic
- E. capricious - deliberate

35. His characteristically \_\_\_\_ views on examination methods at university level have aroused \_\_\_\_ in those who want to introduce innovative and flexible patterns of assessment.

- A. hidebound - antagonism
- B. moderate - anger
- C. reactionary - admiration
- D. rigid - support
- E. accommodating - annoyance

36. Our grandfather was an entertaining \_\_\_\_; he used to \_\_\_\_ us with marvelous anecdotes that we, in our childlike simplicity, accepted unquestioningly.

- A. rascal - bore
- B. orator - intimidate
- C. raconteur - regale
- D. curmudgeon - surprise
- E. tyrant - stupefy

37. The success of the business venture \_\_\_\_ his expectations; he never thought that the firm would prosper.

- A. confirmed
- B. belied
- C. nullified
- D. fulfilled
- E. ratified

38. For centuries there was no \_\_\_\_ between their descendents; infact \_\_\_\_ strife continued until modern times.

- A. peace - internecine
- B. hostility - intermittent
- C. malevolence - intense
- D. amity - contrived
- E. difference - feudal

39. The journalist \_\_\_\_ the efforts of the drug squad to control drug peddling, claiming that they had actually \_\_\_\_ the problem.



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- A. commended - increased
- B. lauded - intensified
- C. decried - solved
- D. deprecated - exacerbated
- E. noted - caused

40. Since the Romans failed to \_\_\_\_\_ the tribes in Northern Britain, they built a wall to \_\_\_\_\_ the tribes.

- A. conquer - alienate
- B. impress - intimidate
- C. subjugate - exclude
- D. pacify - enrage
- E. neutralize - barricade

41. Which of the following are SYNONYMS for the word EMBODY ?

- A. ad-libbed, unrehearsed, improvised, impromptu
- B. defector, traitor, turncoat, rebel
- C. symbolize, represent, epitomize, personify
- D. frightening, unpleasant, scary, macabre
- E. scruffy, unkempt, messy, untidy

42. Which of the following are ANTONYMS for the word AGHAST?

- A. amenity, nonessential, frill, superfluity
- B. unsurprised, poised, undisturbed, composed
- C. dull, blacken, sully, tarnish
- D. welcoming, admittance, inclusion, entrance
- E. adherence, observance, obedience, upholding

43. The Word LIBEL means:

- A. Hard and constant work in any menial or dull occupation
- B. Big and strongly built; Muscular
- C. Something that confines or restrains, like a handcuff
- D. A written statement unfairly or falsely harms the reputation of the person about whom it is made

**Directions: Each sentence below has one or two blanks, each blank including that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words or set of words labeled as multiple choices A through E. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as whole.**

44. The explorer was unable to \_\_\_\_\_ his thirst at the stream since an enraged Grizzly bear barred the way.

- A. assuage
- B. parch**
- C. savor
- D. describe

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E. attenuate

45. Iodine deficiency is \_\_\_\_\_ in these remote mountain regions; however, it is no longer \_\_\_\_\_ in the urban areas where iodized salt is available.

A. recorded - unusual

B. rare - sporadic

C. eradicated - common

**D. endemic - prevalent**

E. diagnosed – controlled