

English Language Past Questions

1

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;
In the match against the uplanders team, the sub mariners turned out to be the dark horse

- A. played most brilliantly
- B. played below their usual form
- C. won unexpectedly
- D. lost as expected

2

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;
Only the small fry get punished for such social misdemeanours

- A. small boys
- B. unimportant people
- C. frightened people
- D. frivolous people

3

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;
He spoke with his heart in his mouth

- A. with fright and agitation
- B. with such unusual cowardice
- C. with a lot of confusion in his speech
- D. without being able to make up his mind

4

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;
The leader in today's issue of our popular newspaper focuses on inflation

- A. president
- B. headline
- C. editorial
- D. columnist

5

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;
From the ways my friend talks, you can see he is such a bore

- A. rude
- B. brilliant
- C. uninteresting
- D. overbearing

6

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;
His jail terms were to run concurrently

- A. simultaneously
- B. uniformly
- C. laboriously
- D. consecutively

7

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;
There is some obvious symmetry in the whole presentation

- A. confusion
- B. hesitation
- C. excitement
- D. orderliness

8

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;
The bill has to wait as we are now insolvent

- A. overworked
- B. bankrupt
- C. unsettled

- D. insoluble

9

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

All his plans fell through

- A. failed
- B. were accomplished
- C. had to be reviewed
- D. were rejected

10

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

The balance sheet at the end of the business year shows that we broke even

- A. lost heavily
- B. made profit
- C. neither lost nor gained
- D. had no money to continue business

11

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

He was appointed specifically to put the recruits through

- A. assign them to work
- B. train them
- C. discipline them
- D. assist them at work

12

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

The result of his experiment represents a break through in medical science

- A. an outstanding success
- B. catastrophe
- C. an end to such experiments
- D. breaking point

13

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

Being an optimist, our professor always sees the bright side of most things

- A. cheerful
- B. illumined
- C. brilliant
- D. pleasing

14

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

The state government appointed a commission of inquiry to go into the community's complaints carefully and without prejudice

- A. investigate
- B. search
- C. look for
- D. account for

15

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

The traffic situation in Lagos can lead to disastrous consequences; a man lost a very lucrative job because he was held up by it

- A. confused
- B. delayed
- C. annoyed
- D. intrigued

16

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

Mrs. Dada has been deserted by her husband because he feels she has a heart of stone

- A. she has a heavy heart
- B. she has little warmth of feeling

- C. she has a hard heart
- D. she is hard hearted

17

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

Mr. Jack could be a successful businessman if he paid more attention to the more intricate aspects of his account

- A. Mr Jack will undoubtedly succeed
- B. Mr Jack cannot succeed
- C. Jack will have a very good chance of succeeding
- D. Mr. Jack will find it difficult to succeed

18

If my father had not arrived, I would have starved. This sentence means

- A. My father did arrive and I didn't starve
- B. I had to starve because my father didn't come
- C. my father didn't arrive and I didn't starve
- D. I should have starved but I didn't

19

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

The two sprinters were running neck and neck

- A. exactly level
- B. very slowly
- C. very fast
- D. with their necks together

20

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

He stared at her

- A. glanced
- B. peeped
- C. looked
- D. gazed

21

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;

When the man was caught by police he presented a bold front

- A. he attacked the policemen boldly
- B. he walked up to the policemen
- C. he faced the situation with apparent boldness
- D. he bravely attempted to give them a present

22

Choose the option that best convey the meaning of the underlined portion in each of the following sentence;

I have been able to observe him at close quarters

- A. in government house nearby
- B. within a short space of time
- C. in a small family house
- D. at close range

23

Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in each of the following sentence;

At the site of the ghastly accident the poor woman's hair stood on end

- A. the woman was frightened
- B. the wind blew her hair upwards
- C. the woman was unmoved
- D. the woman disarranged her hair

24

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;

When the beggar was tired he down by the roadside

- A. lied
- B. laid
- C. layed
- D. lay

25

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
He did not like leaving the class early

- A. we
- B. us
- C. our
- D. ourselves

26

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Before the operation, the dentist found that his patient's teeth....

- A. have long decayed
- B. have long been decayed
- C. have long being decayed
- D. had long decayed

27

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
The employer, not the salesman and his representative responsible for the loss

- A. is
- B. are being
- C. are never
- D. have been

28

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
The boy was born before his parents actually got married and so the court has declared him

- A. illegal
- B. illegitimate
- C. illicit
- D. unlawful

29

As he was still owing me two naira, i was careful not to him any more money

- A. lend
- B. loan
- C. borrow
- D. extend

30

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Last week the at the theater was the longest i had ever seen

- A. assembly
- B. congregation
- C. convention
- D. audience

31

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
If you travel by air you will be given an allowance to cover

- A. a luggage
- B. luggage
- C. luggages
- D. a baggage

32

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Tennyson and Browning lived about the same time and therefore poets

- A. contrary
- B. contractual
- C. contemporaneous
- D. contemporary

33

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
The green snake which lives in the green grass is using a perfect

- A. ambush
- B. under cover
- C. camouflag
- D. shelter

34

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
In order to carry out necessary examination the dead body was

- A. extracted
- B. extradited
- C. exiled
- D. expelled

35

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Remember this matter is strictly

- A. between you and i
- B. among you and me
- C. among you and me
- D. between you and me

36

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
He went abroad with a view a business partner

- A. to find
- B. to be finding
- C. to have found
- D. to finding

37

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
He had just entered the office the telephone rang

- A. as
- B. before
- C. since
- D. when

38

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
They receive visitor on short notice

- A. use to
- B. are used to
- C. used to
- D. are always

39

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
His suggestion are completely the point and cannot be accepted

- A. to
- B. about
- C. beside
- D. on

40

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;

For he is a secretary we shall not have correct minutes

- A. because
- B. as long as
- C. so long
- D. in as much

41

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
He went up quickly and returned

- A. fastest
- B. fastly
- C. as fastly
- D. as fast

42

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Invariably, he ends his letters amicably

- A. you
- B. your's
- C. yours'
- D. yours

43

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
If i went to the cinema i early

- A. shall return
- B. am returning
- C. would return
- D. had return

44

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space; The traditional folktales form
an to the book

- A. appendix
- B. insertion
- C. information
- D. overview

45

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
the frightening explosion in the factory whole wing

- A. washed out
- B. wiped out
- C. rooted out
- D. flushed out

46

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Out plane was scheduled to at 10.00 hrs but it was delayed because of the bad weather

- A. fly out
- B. take off
- C. start out
- D. shoot off

47

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
As luck would have it, the weather brightened almost immediately and after six hours flight we at Heathrow Airport

- A. touched down
- B. dropped
- C. came down
- D. flew down

48

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Before we left the airport, each passenger was made to certain form

- A. fill in
- B. write in
- C. enter in
- D. go through

49

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
My father cannot bear the of the concoction that emanates from my mothers soup pot

- A. sweet
- B. savouring
- C. aroma
- D. smell

50

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
I would not have condescended to appease the traffic policeman but i happened traffic regulation

- A. to have broken
- B. to be breaking
- C. to break
- D. to break in

51

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
The managing director did not pay his staff last month?

- A. didn't he
- B. had he not
- C. is not it
- D. did he

52

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Although he is in all respects a poor student, he has managed to buy a tape recorder to improve his of french

- A. mastery
- B. mastering
- C. speaking
- D. ideas

53

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Granted you are my senior by one year, you cannot me around as if i were your servant

- A. control
- B. dribble
- C. order
- D. ask

54

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
.... mark an important step in the history of industrial revolution

- A. The invention of the locomotive engine
- B. The discovery of locomotion
- C. The discovery of the engine
- D. The process of locomotion

55

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Because the referee was partial and his opponent rough, the loser of the wrestling match received cheers than the winner

- A. thunderous
- B. many more
- C. overwhelming
- D. a little more

56

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;The boxer was highly rated
.... his doggedness and ability to absorb heavy punches

- A. by
- B. through
- C. for
- D. about

57

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Many lives are lost on Nigerian roads lack of consideration for other road users by many crazy drivers

- A. in view of
- B. resulting in
- C. owing totally to
- D. through

58

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
The man no longer feared his opponent after their spokesman had assured him that they were well disposed him

- A. to
- B. toward
- C. around
- D. about

59

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
My little boy is hyper-active and he is therefore prone accidents

- A. with respect to
- B. for
- C. to
- D. about

60

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
His horrible high-pitched laugh on my nerves

- A. jags
- B. jabs
- C. jams
- D. jars

61

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
The train rattled along full speed

- A. in
- B. at
- C. with
- D. by

62

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
If this had happened to you, what?

- A. would you do
- B. have you done
- C. would you have done
- D. will you do

63

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
What a relief that the strike when it did!

- A. would end
- B. was ending
- C. ended
- D. has ended

64

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
We should take care the robbers come back

- A. in case
- B. should in case
- C. perhaps
- D. probably

65

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
By the time the rainy season ended, all the young cocoa trees in size

- A. have double
- B. had doubled
- C. were doubling
- D. doubled

66

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
There were so many children

- A. that she couldn't feed them all
- B. than she could feed
- C. that she couldn't feed
- D. that she could feed them all

67

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
Isn't it high time you your office?

- A. are leaving
- B. do leave
- C. leave
- D. left

68

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
In West Africa the of sickle cell is about 25 percent

- A. incident
- B. incidence
- C. accident
- D. accidance

69

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;
We got to the hall after the play

- A. is started
- B. was starting
- C. had started
- D. has started

70

Substitute for the underlined word in the following sentence the word that most closely expresses the **opposite meaning**:
The plaintiff made very cogent submissions to the trial judge

- A. bailiff
- B. prosecutor
- C. lawyer
- D. defendant

71

Choose the option which is **nearest in meaning** to the sentences in each of the following questions:
The dog was limping. It appeared that one of its legs might have been injured

- A. The dog was limping as if it had an injured leg
- B. The dog was limping as it had an injured leg
- C. The dog was limping so it had an injured leg
- D. The dog was limping so as it had an injured leg

72

Choose the option which is **nearest in meaning** to the sentences in each of the following questions:
I can walk that distance and have done so many times

- A. I am used to walk that distance
- B. I used to walk that distance
- C. I used to walking that distance
- D. I am used to walking that distance

73

Choose the option which is **nearest in meaning** to the sentences in each of the following questions:

For all he cared, his parent might have been dead for years

- A. although concern about his parent, he had been unable to find out if they were alive
- B. He cared for no one except his parents, and it was possible that they had died long before
- C. he did not care whether his parents were alive or had died long before
- D. He was concerned about everyone not just his parents, who might have died long before

74

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentence:

...for the team for six years, he decided to join another

- A. When he played
- B. Playing
- C. Having played
- D. In playing

75

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentence:

The bridge connecting the two cities was by the enemy

- A. blown up
- B. blown down
- C. blown off
- D. blown over

76

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentence:

My little boy is suffering jaundice

- A. from
- B. of
- C. for
- D. with

77

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentence:

They went to the market and bought a suitcase and bag

- A. a big leather brown
- B. a leather brown big
- C. a big brown leather
- D. a brown big leather

78

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentence:

By the end of this year, in this town for eleven years

- A. i'm living
- B. i'd be living
- C. i'll live
- D. i'll have lived

79

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentence:

If he had left home earlier, he late

- A. would not have been
- B. would have not be
- C. would not been
- D. would have been not

80

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentence:

I saw you walking in that direction but i did not know exactly

- A. where are you going
- B. where you were going
- C. where were you going to
- D. to where were you going

81

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentence:

The hill behind the town was so steep

- A. that no man could find a foot-hold on
- B. that any man could find a foot-hold on it
- C. for no man to find a foot-hold on
- D. that no man could find a foot-hold on it

82

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentence:

Walking down the street

- A. the boy was knocked down by a car
- B. a car knocked the boy down
- C. the boy was knocked down by car
- D. a car collided with the boy

83

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentence:

The project which seemed very near realization because of lack of funds

- A. fell over
- B. fell through
- C. fell off
- D. fell in

84

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentence:

The chairman of the company was very sympathetic his staff

- A. to
- B. at
- C. for
- D. from

85

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentences:

Jane asked James

- A. whether could she meet him later
- B. could she meet him later
- C. if she could meet him later
- D. she could meet him later

86

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentences:

After our series of quarrels, it would beto pretend that i have any more regard for him

- A. hypothetical
- B. essential
- C. hypocritical
- D. necessary

87

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentences:

If the company had any delay at the customs office, it was their own making

- A. at
- B. of
- C. from
- D. with

88

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentences:

There is an obvious need to ward enemy attacks

- A. off
- B. against
- C. out
- D. apart

89

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentences:

David can only become more mature through to life outside his home

- A. posting
- B. exposure
- C. exposition
- D. exposing

90

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentences:

Many of those who the country's educational policy have taught for many years

- A. formulate
- B. fabricate
- C. organize
- D. scheme

91

Mr. Thomas talked about the successes of his institute in the past year

- A. at a great length
- B. for great length
- C. at great length
- D. for a great length

92

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentences:

The governor commended the society's services to the nation

- A. humanitarian
- B. humanist
- C. humanity
- D. humanistic

93

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentences:

The member of the panel were

- A. discussing about it
- B. discussing on it
- C. discussing upon it
- D. discussing it

94

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentences:

This writer analyses the evil society

- A. so masterly
- B. very masterly
- C. in such a masterly way
- D. in a masterly way

95

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentences:

The Nigerian society of Engineers has set up to study the nation's problems

- A. a task force
- B. a tribunal
- C. an inquiring
- D. an inquest

96

Choose the expression or word which **best complete** each sentences:

It was a long poem but he learnt it

- A. off head
- B. in memory
- C. by heart
- D. at heart

97

Choose the correct option that completes the following sentence:

The young teacher was surprised that is promotion was approved by the old inspector who is generally known to

- A. be generous
- B. be friendly to young people
- C. like young people
- D. be hard to please

98

Complete the following with the **appropriate answer** to the question:

John would you mind lifting this box?

- A. yes, i mind
- B. no, i don't
- C. no, i do
- D. yes, i don't mind

99

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined statement or words:

Had she asked me earlier, i might have been able to employ him

- A. i employed her
- B. i did not employ him
- C. i did not employ her
- D. i employed him

100

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined statement or words:

If he were to apologize i would probably forgive him

- A. i shall not forgive him even if he apologize
- B. he is likely to apologize and be forgiven
- C. i shall definitely forgive him if he apologizes
- D. if he apologize i shall decide whether or not to forgive him

101

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined words : As he was a gullible leader his followers took advantage of him

- A. He was weak and unable to enforce his authority
- B. He was partial and unfair in dispensing justice
- C. He was simple minded to a fault
- D. He was slow to act

102

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined words :

His summary of the meeting was brief and to the point

- A. careful
- B. precise
- C. accurate
- D. exact

103

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined words :

Do you have the same aversion as i do for way film?

- A. bitterness
- B. dislike
- C. criticism
- D. indignation

104

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined words :

I didn't think she could be so easily taken in by his pretences

- A. flattered
- B. deceived
- C. enamoured
- D. overcome

105

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined words :The crux of the matter is that the president has just become aware of the mismanagement

- A. The part of the problem that has just surfaced
- B. The result of the matter
- C. The most important aspect of the problem
- D. The ways to solved the problem

106

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined words :The witness was guilty of swearing to a statement he knew to be false

- A. forgery
- B. perjury
- C. libel
- D. slander

107

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined words :The story told by the suspect was difficult to believe

- A. incredulous
- B. credible
- C. incredible
- D. credulous

108

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined words :Publishers say that newsprint has become more expensive

- A. newspaper
- B. paper for printing
- C. printers' salaries and wages
- D. fines for publishing libels

109

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined words :After completing half of the journey, all the travellers could do was trudge along

- A. walk lazily
- B. run briskly
- C. walk and stop intermittently
- D. walk wearily

110

Choose the option **nearest in meaning** to the underlined words :He got a standing ovation for his speech

- A. He stood up to receive the applause
- B. The audience stood up and applauded as he finished his speech
- C. Both he and the audience stood up at the end of his speech
- D. He stood up to make the speech

ANSWER

- | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. C | 53. C | 105. C |
| 2. B | 54. A | 106. B |
| 3. A | 55. B | 107. C |
| 4. C | 56. C | 108. B |
| 5. C | 57. C | 109. D |
| 6. A | 58. B | 110. B |
| 7. D | 59. C | |
| 8. B | 60. D | |
| 9. A | 61. A | |
| 10. C | 62. C | |
| 11. B | 63. C | |
| 12. A | 64. A | |
| 13. A | 65. B | |
| 14. A | 66. A | |
| 15. B | 67. D | |
| 16. D | 68. B | |
| 17. C | 69. C | |
| 18. A | 70. D | |
| 19. A | 71. A | |
| 20. D | 72. D | |
| 21. C | 73. C | |
| 22. D | 74. C | |
| 23. A | 75. A | |
| 24. D | 76. A | |
| 25. C | 77. C | |
| 26. D | 78. D | |
| 27. A | 79. E | |
| 28. B | 80. B | |
| 29. A | 81. D | |
| 30. D | 82. A | |
| 31. B | 83. B | |
| 32. D | 84. A | |
| 33. C | 85. C | |
| 34. E | 86. C | |
| 35. D | 87. B | |
| 36. D | 88. A | |
| 37. D | 89. B | |
| 38. C | 90. A | |
| 39. C | 91. C | |
| 40. B | 92. A | |
| 41. D | 93. D | |
| 42. D | 94. C | |
| 43. C | 95. A | |
| 44. E | 96. C | |
| 45. B | 97. D | |
| 46. B | 98. B | |
| 47. A | 99. B | |
| 48. A | 100. D | |
| 49. D | 101. A | |
| 50. A | 102. B | |
| 51. D | 103. B | |
| 52. A | 104. B | |