

Compiled Past Questions for: GSP 1201/2201 Use of English

1. Language users sometimes place a strong pressure on a particular sound to give emphasis to it. That is called:
A: Syllables
B: Sounds
C: Stress
D: Emphasis
2. Which of the following should be avoided when writing a formal report/letter?
A: Archaisms
B: Slangs
C: Colloquialisms
D: All of the above
3. Which section of the outline presents the findings of the essay, or even a solution, or an approach to the solution of the problem initially stated?
A: Main Body
B: Introduction
C: Conclusion.
D: Opening paragraph
4. Pick out the odd word:
A: Preposition
B: Pronoun
C: Verb
D: Phrase
5. A form of essay that explains a process or gives an information about something is called
A: argumentative essay
B: narrative essay
C: descriptive essay
D: expository essay
6. Which of the following is not among the issues to be indicated in report writing?
A: Terms of reference
B: Method of investigation
C: Findings and conclusions
D: Final submission

7. The following words except one are usually not stressed:
 A: Pronouns
 B: Articles
 C: Prepositions
D: Verbs
8. _____ is use to separate sentences which are closely connected in thought.
 A: Comma
 B: Full stop
C: Semi-colon
 D: Exclamation mark
9. _____ Meaning is the literal meaning of a word as it is in the dictionary.
 A: Computational
B: Denotative
 C: Connotative
 D: All of the above
10. _____ are two word phrases, consisting of a verb and a particle.
 A: Syllables
 B: Idioms
C: Phrasal verbs
 D: Synonyms
11. The sentence 'Muhammad attends the wedding' is an example of
A: Present simple tense
 B: Present perfect
 C: Future perfect
 D: Future Continuous

Indicate the correct stress pattern in the following words from question 16-18

12. Guardroom:
A: GUARDroom
 B: guardROOM
 C: GUardroom
 D: GUARDROOM

13. Plenty:

A: PLenty

B: PLEnty

C: plenTY

D: PLENTY

14. Madam:

A: MAdam

B: maDAM

C: maDam

MADAM

15. The main essence of the use of English is not to train students to be specialists in English but to raise their linguistic and _____ competence.

A. syntactic **B. communicative** C. morphological D. literary

16. As the bricks for language building, words are categorized into _____

A. parts of speech and word classes B. major and minor classes

C. open and minor classes **D. open and closed classes**

17. *Read, write, sleep, do, go* change in their participle forms because they are

A. transitive verbs B. finite verbs **C. irregular verbs** D. regular verbs

18. Elements in sentences determine their _____

A. grammaticality B. objectivity **C. patterns** D. importance

19. The following are the features of adverbial element in sentences or clauses except _____

A. optionality B. mobility C. multiplicity **D. constant nature**

20. In terms of hierarchy, the term clause precedes _____

A. paragraph **B. phrase** C. sentence D. word

21. The following are the aspects of language except _____

A. writing B. reading **C. thinking** D. listening

22. Reading as a skill enhances the following except _____

A. syntactic structure B. retentive memory C. spelling **D. stunted**

23. Which of the following is not a function of controlling ideas in paragraph development?

- A. presenting viewpoints B. exemplifying **C. promoting topic sentence** D. illustrating

24. All of the following are examples of narrative essay except _____

- A. autobiography B. novel C. biography **D. poetry**

25. Writing as a process emphasizes much on the following except _____

- A. pre-writing **B. linguistic units** C. brainstorming D. editing

26. Which of the following pairs serve as particle(s) in phrasal verb construction?

- A. adjectives and articles B. adverbs and adjectives

27. Prepositions and adjectives **D. adverbs and prepositions**

28. The following are reading strategies except _____

- A. skimming **B. speed** C. intensive reading D. scanning

29. Pick out a word with silent letter in one of its syllables

- A. edition **B. plumber** C. sociology D. mechanical

30. The following are types of conjunction except _____

- A. correlatives **B. coherence** C. coordinatives D. subordinatives

31. Dictionaries equip readers with obvious knowledge of the following areas except _____

- A. pronunciation B. inflection **C. discourse** D. meaning

32. Pick out the optional element in the following

- A. subject B. object **C. adverbial** D. complement

33. Pick out the odd one in the following

- A. may B. am C. have **D. write**

34. Points discussed in essays are summed up in _____

- A. narratives B. summaries **C. conclusions** D. body

35. Voice quality is an important feature of _____

- A. listening B. reading C. thinking **D. speaking**
37. Mode as a variable of register denotes _____
- A. Spoken text B. Written text **C. Medium of the text** D. Field of discourse
38. Particles I in phrasal verbs can be all of the following except _____
- A. Conjunction** B. preposition C. Adverb D. Adverb and Preposition
39. Multi-word verbs can be the following except _____
- A. Separable B. Transitive C. Idiomatic **D. Adverbial**
40. The following are among the traditional word classes except _____
- A. Interjection B. Pronoun **C. Article** D. Conjunction
41. Identify the punctuation mark that is used in introducing a list
- A. Semi-colon B. Comma C. Dash **D. Colon**
42. Sentences according to function can have the following mood except
- A. Declarative B. Imperative **C. Correlative** D. Interrogative
43. _____ is the technique of reading that is used in searching for a specific piece of information.
- A. Scanning** B. Extensive reading C. Skimming D. Intensive reading
44. In summary writing, _____ is the most important item.
- A. Supporting sentences **B. Topic sentence** C. Paragraph D. Unity
45. Letters are written for the following purposes except _____
- A. Reference B. Complaint C. Apology **D. Complimentary close**
46. Decisions in organizations are made and send down from management to other staff through the following channels except _____
- A. Memos B. Circulars C. Letters **D. Curriculum Vitae**
47. The following are the genres of literature except _____
- A. Play B. Prose C. Poetry **D. Personification**
48. The description of consonant sounds observes the following levels except _____
- A. Manner of articulation **B. Articulation of phonemes**

C. State of the glottis D. Place of articulation

49. A phrasal verb whose meaning cannot be derived from the constituent words is known as _____ phrasal verb.

A. Literal **B. Idiomatic** C. Transitive D. Intransitive

50. Sit down, Stand up, Answer back and Wait behind are examples of _____
Phrasal verb.

A. Literal B. Idiomatic C. Transitive D. Intransitive

51. How many addresses are written in a business letter?

A. One **B. Two** C. Three D. Four

52. A writer a descriptive essay uses a lot of _____ and _____ to describe an object as clearly as possible in an attempt to create a clear portrait in the mind of reader.

A. Nouns and Pronouns B. Nouns and Adverbs **C. Adjectives and Adverbs**
D. Adjectives and Conjunctions

53. While Prepositions are used to relate nouns or pronouns with other words in sentences, _____ are used to join items of grammatical equivalence.

A. Interjection B. Preposition C. Demonstratives **D. Conjunctions**

54. Zeal, Seal, Deal, Meal and Heal are examples of _____

A. Phonological elements B. Word segments C. Intervening vowels

D. Minimal pairs

55. When I entered the class, the teacher had started the lecture. This is an example of _____ sentence.

A. Simple B. Compound **C. Complex** D. Compound-complex

56. _____ is a process through which a new word is created by joining two or more words together.

A. Acronymy B. Blending **C. Compounding** D. Reduplication

57. Traditional grammarian classify parts of speech into _____ groups.

A. 7 **B. 8** C. 9 D. 10

58. All the following are impediments to reading except _____

A. Scanning B. Lipping C. Regression D. Finger pointing

59. _____ simply means reading a text very quickly so as to note only the important points.

A. Intensive reading B. Extensive reading **C. Skimming** D. Scanning

60. Which of the following words does not contain a silent letter?

A. Listen **B. Teacher** C. Plumber D. Subtle

61. The pronunciation of **ch** in *character*, *chair* and *charlatan* exemplifies

A: the inconsistency of the English language

B: the consistency of the English language

C: all of the above

D: none of the above

62. I wish she _____ my wife

A: is

B: was

C: are

D: were

63. Ask for repetition of what you do not understand politely by saying

A: come again

B: what?

C: I beg your pardon?

D: I am lost

64. Strategies for effective reading include:

A. Lipping

B. Underlining and annotation

C. Sub-vocalisation

D. Regression

65. *Buhari is the president of Nigeria.* This sentence is an example of

A: Interrogative sentence

B: Exclamatory sentence

C: Imperative sentence

D: Declarative sentence

66. The following should be avoided in writing a formal letter except

A: contraction

B: coherence

C: colloquialism

D: clichés

67. *Yesterday was a black Friday.* The word “black” is used in this sentence with a:

A: connotative meaning

B: denotative meaning

C: none of the above

D: all of the above

68. Words such as *heel* and *heal*; *knight* and *night* are called

A: Best friends

B: Worst Friends

C: True Friends

D: False Friends

69. He is older than _____

A: I

B: me

C: him

D: her

70. A _____ condenses clearly and accurately what you have read.

A. Comprehension

B. Topic Sentence

C. Summary

D. Memorandum

71. *The police arrested him, and he begged for mercy.* This sentence has

A. Two clauses

B. No clause

C. Three clauses

D. One clause

72. *She cried an ocean of tears.* This sentence is an example of:

A. Simile

B. Hyperbole

C. Personification

D. Metaphor

73. Textual mechanical features may include ----- a) punctuation
b) spelling **c) a and b above d)** none of above
74. Register in grammar refers to a set of professional terminologies peculiar to disciplines, for example, the following set belongs to the register of -----*club, quarter-final, players, trophy, team, tournament, referee, goal kick* a) politics
b) sports c) business c) law
75. Inverted commas can be used in all the following ways except -----
a) to separate direct speech from the rest of the sentence b) to enclose the title of films or books c) to show that a word or phrase is being used in an unusual way
d) to show that some words have been omitted from a direct quotation
76. Which among the following is a feature of a report? A) address b) topic sentence **c) term of reference** d) work experience
77. In writing a curriculum vitae, one is expected to provide all the following except -----
----- **a) signature** b) education and qualification c) skills d) interest
78. Which of the following vowels are formed through the gliding of the articulators from one vowel position to another? A) /æ/ **b) /eI/** c) /3:/ d) /ð/
79. Which of the following compound words have a double stress? **A) vicepresident** b) earthquake c) post-office d) a and c above
80. Which of the following clusters is a verbal group? A) in the morning b) of the writing
c) has come d) Defending champions
81. Both primary and modal auxiliaries are referred to as ----- a) helping verbs
b) operators c) auxiliary verbs **d) all of the above**
82. The expressive use of language in which words are used not just in their literal sense in order to suggest a picture, image or some other special effects is called -----
- a) figures of speech b) parts of speech c) fundamentals of speech d) indirect speech
83. “The Aso Rock has plans for the economy.” In this sentence, the underlined phrase is an example of ----- a) metaphor b) apostrophe **c) synecdoche** d) hyperbole
84. A comparison between two distinctly different things indicated by the word “like” or “as” is called ----- a) metaphor b) personification c) paradox **d) simile**
85. Q: The process of writing involves four distinct but related steps which include prewriting _____ revising and editing.
A: Drafting
B: Pre-drafting

- C: Re-revising
- D: Re-writing

86. Language users sometimes place a strong pressure on a particular sound to give emphasis to it. That is called:
- A: Syllables
 - B: Sounds
 - C: Stress**
 - D: Emphasis
87. _____ is the rendition of the meaning of an author without quoting him directly.
- A: Summary
 - B: Comprehension
 - C: Paraphrase**
 - D: Topic sentence
88. Dictionaries normally show all except one of the following features of a word:
- A: Stress pattern
 - B: Syllable
 - C: Meaning
 - D: Future
89. Which section of the outline presents the findings of the essay, or even a solution, or an approach to the solution of the problem initially stated?
- A: Main Body
 - B: Introduction
 - C: Conclusion.**
 - D: Opening paragraph
90. Pick out the odd word:
- a) Preposition
 - b) Pronoun
 - c) Verb
 - d) Phrase**
91. A form of essay that explains a process or gives an information about something is called
- A: argumentative essay
 - B: narrative essay
 - C: descriptive essay
 - D: expository essay**
92. In learning language speaking skills one should do the following except
- A: avoid first language based interference in pronunciation
 - B: overcome inhibition
 - C: learn to stress properly
 - D: how to use punctuation marks**

93. Q: The process of writing involves the following except

A: Pre-revising

B: Pre-writing

C: Drafting

D: Editing

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A: avoid first language based interference in pronunciation

B: overcome inhibition

C: learn to stress properly

D: how to use punctuation marks

95. *Give me your book.* This sentence is an example of

A: Interrogative sentence

B: Exclamatory sentence

C: Imperative sentence

D: Declarative sentence

96. Q: Preparing _____ may be necessary in most writing tasks.

A: An outline.

B: A paragraph

C: A sentence

D: An abstract

97. Q: Writing should not be thought of, or treated as a _____ effort which produces a written document at a single sitting.

A: Double shot

B: Triple shot

C: Single shot

D: Quadruple shot

98. Q: An outline may be written in sentence form, or the main points to be in _____.

A: Chronological order.

B: Haphazard order

C: Alphabetical order

D: First come order

99. Q: Writing process is indubitably _____ and therefore largely personalised to the individual writer.

A: Imperative

B: Superlative

C: Decisive

D: Creative.

100. The _____ stage is where grammar, mechanics and spelling, etc are checked.

A: Spelling

B: Revision

C: Drafting

D: Editing.

101. A form of essay that gives an explanation or information about something is called

A: argumentative essay

B: narrative essay

C: descriptive essay

D: expository essay

102. UNESCO, WHO, INEC and AIDS are examples of

A: synonyms

B: acronyms

C: antonyms

D: abbreviation

103. When reading, one should use the dictionary as

A: soon as he comes across an unfamiliar word

B: he feels like doing

C: his last resort

D: none of the above

104. The following should be avoided in writing a formal letter except

A: contraction

B: slang

C: punctuation

D: abbreviation

105. Failure to stress a word correctly may lead to

A: ambiguity

B: misunderstanding

C: vagueness

D: all of the above

106. The following are bad reading habits except

A: regression

B: finger-pointing

C: re-reading

D: sub-vocalization

107. Article, pronoun, preposition, conjunction, interjection are called *closed-system items* because

A: they have no provision for admitting new members

B: they are old parts of speech

C: they are new parts of speech

D: none of the above

108. A _____ summarizes a particular paragraph in which it appears.

A: subject

B: object

C: topic sentence

D: subject sentence

109. The terminal punctuations include:

A: The full stop (.)

B: The question mark (?)

C: The exclamation mark (!)

D: All of the above

110. Reading for academic analysis belongs to _____ kind of reading.

A: extensive

B: intensive

C: skimming

D: scanning

111. In dictionary, readers can get the following except

A: the future of words

B: the etymology of words

C: the meaning of words

D: the pronunciation of words

112. The /f/ sound is found in all the following but

A. Rough

B. Beef

C. Sip

D. cough

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116. Reading for academic analysis belongs to _____ kind of reading.

A: extensive

B: intensive

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D: scanning

117. She visits her sister every two week

A: daily

B: weekly

C: fortnightly

D: forth-rightly

118. The type of sentence that contained two simple sentences joined together by coordinating conjunction is known as:

A: Simple sentence

B: Complex sentence

C: Compound sentence

D: Compound-complex sentence

119. _____ is a word placed before a noun or pronoun to show its relationship with some other words in a sentence.

A: Noun

B: Preposition

C: Verb

D: Conjunction

120. A two-word phrases, consisting of a verb and a particle are called:
A: Particles
B: Phrases
C: Phrasal verbs
D: Verbs
121. In English we have _____ and _____.
A: 26 consonants and 24 vowels
B: 24 consonants and 20 vowels
C: 16 consonants and 17 vowels
D: 20 consonants and 20 vowels
122. All but one of the following form part of the functional classification of a sentence:
A: Interrogative
B: Declarative
C: Generative
D: Imperative
123. _____ are group of words whose meaning is different from the meaning of the individual words.
A: Idioms
B: Dictionary
C: Sentences
D: Phrases
124. The process through which two or more words are joined together to create a new word is called _____.
A: prefix
B: Derivation
C: Inflection
D: Compounding
125. _____ is the most difficult of the four language skills.
A: Writing
B: Reading
C: Listening
D: Speaking
126. Which of the following is an example of terminal punctuation:
A: Comma
B: Hyphen
C: Full stop

D: Semi-colon

127. Identify the odd one out of the following:

A: /i/

B: /e/

C: /p/

D: /o/

128. Which of the following verbs takes addition of –ed in its past form?

A: Regular

B: Auxiliary

C: Transitive

D: Event

129. A topic sentence appears in all of the following positions in a sentence except:

A: End

B: Middle

C: Beginning

D: Bracket

130. Which of the following grammarians recognise nine (9) parts of speech?

A: Rodney Huddleston (1996)

B: Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaun (2006)

C: Noam Chomsky (2012)

D: Karl Levis (1990)

131. The parts of speech are broadly divided in to two groups as follows:

A: Closed system and open-class system

B: Regular and irregular

C: Countable and Uncountable

D: Transitive and intransitive

132 All of the following are examples of sentence elements except:

- A: Subject
- B: Complement
- C: Phrase**
- D: Verb

133. In the academic context, continuous writing involves writing a composition which can be in any of the following forms except

- A. Essay
- B. Passage**
- C. Letter
- D. Report

134. Paragraph simply means a collection of _____ which discuss a particular idea.

- A. Sentences**
- B. Clauses
- C. Phrases
- D. Words

135. _____ summarizes a particular paragraph in which it appears.

- A. A sentence
- B. A phrase
- C. A topic sentence**
- D. A topic phrase

136. A kind of essay which persuades or convinces the reader to believe in a particular point of view is known as

- A. Narrative essay
- B. Descriptive essay
- C. Expository essay
- D. Argumentative essay**

137. A topic sentence appears at which position of the paragraph?

- A. Beginning of the paragraph
- B. Middle of the paragraph
- C. End of the paragraph
- D. Any position of the paragraph**

138. _____ essay requires the writer to narrate or recall an event or experience that has happened.

- A. Narrative**
- B. Descriptive
- C. Expository
- D. Argumentative

139. The purpose, structure and scope of a formal report are contained in which of the following?

- A. Terms of reference**
- B. Method of investigation
- C. Findings and conclusions
- D. Recommendation

140. Application letters, letters of enquiry and government/official letters are examples of which type of letter?

- A. Formal letter** B. Informal letter C. Semi-formal letter D. Semi-informal letter
141. The language of _____ is relaxed and friendly.
- A. Formal letter **B. Informal letter** C. Semi-formal letter D. Semi-informal letter
142. Formal letters contain how many address(es)?
- A. One **B. Two** C. Three D. Four
143. In letter writing, a complimentary is otherwise known as _____
- A. Substitution **B. Subscription** C. Substantiation D. Subsection
144. All but one of the following should be avoided when writing a formal letter.
- A. Slangs B. Clichés **C. Clauses** D. Archaism
145. All but one of the following punctuation marks indicate pause in speech.
- A. The full stop B. The colon **C. The apostrophe** D. The comma
146. All but one of the following end in full stops.
- A. Direct statements B. Indirect questions C. Polite request **D. Interrogative sentences**
147. UNESCO, ECOWAS, NITEL, JAMB and NEPA are example of _____
- A. Acronyms** B. Homonyms C. Antonyms D. Abbreviations
148. Which of the following punctuation marks is represented by three dots?
- A. The full stop B. The colon C. The semi-colon **D. The**
149. _____ is a sentence that lacks a finite verb or an obvious subject, and therefore not strictly allowed as a sentence.
- A. Defective sentence** B. Declarative sentence C. Imperative sentence
D. Exclamatory sentence
150. Which of the following punctuation marks is used to separate items in a list?
- A. The full stop **B. The comma** C. The question mark D. The apostrophe
151. Which of the following pair are receptive skills of language?
- A. Reading/Writing B. Speaking/Writing **C. Reading/Listening** D. Listening/Speaking

152. Which of the following is not a closed class item?

- A. Noun** B. Preposition C Conjunction D. Interjection

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