

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/SSAT UPPER LEVEL /CLASS 12 HOMEWORK/SUMMER 2016

Name: _____

Mark: _____

WORD LIST

1. abdicate (v) to decline or reject a powerful position, such as a kingship
2. affectation (n) an exaggerated or deliberate mannerism
3. arbitrary (adj) done or chosen without a reason; random
4. beseech (v) to beg or plead
5. censorious (adj) finding fault; judging harshly
6. consensus (n) an opinion that is agreed upon by all members of a group of people
7. cudgel (n) a short, thick blunt weapon; a club
8. despite (prep) in spite of
9. effrontery (n) boldness; audacity
10. fealty (n) loyalty; fidelity
11. hesitant (adj) lacking decisiveness; uncertain or unwilling to make a decision
12. inaudible (adj) unable to be heard
13. lithe (adj) moving or bending easily; graceful and fluid in motion
14. metamorphosis (n) a change in form or shape, often from one stage of development to another, as a caterpillar turning into a butterfly
15. nocturnal (adj) belonging to, occurring in, or related to the nighttime
16. opulence (n) riches or affluence, especially as shown by expensive or ostentatious possessions or lifestyle
17. partition (n) something which separates two parts or areas
18. phonetic (adj) of, relating to, or representing the sounds of speech
19. prolong (v) to make something last longer; to extend a period of time
20. reckless (adj) careless or unwise; unheeding of danger
21. rigor (n) a harsh or stern rigidity; unyielding
22. somnolent (adj) drowsy or inclined to sleep
23. tenacious (adj) stubborn; holding fast to a belief or goal
24. umbrage (n) resentment based on a feeling of having been injured
25. veto (n) the action of the president of the United States, according to the provision in the constitution, to reject a law passed by congress

SYNONYMS

Directions: In the space provided, write the word from the list above that means the same or about the same as the word given.

1. offense _____
2. allegiance _____
3. pretension _____
4. divider _____

5. persistent _____
6. judgmental _____
7. sleepy _____
8. accord _____
9. transformation _____
10. implore _____

ANTONYMS

Directions: In the space provided, write the word from the list above that means opposite of the word given.

11. cautious _____
12. wakeful _____
13. timidity _____
14. purposeful _____
15. flexibility _____
16. awkward _____
17. disagreement _____
18. poverty _____
19. shorten _____
20. certain _____

ANALOGIES

Directions: Choose the word from the list that best completes the analogy, creating the same relationship between the second set of words as exists between the first set of words.

21. invisible : see :: _____ : hear
22. resign : job :: _____ : throne
23. molecular : matter :: _____ : speech
24. exclaim : tell :: _____ : ask
25. pistol : shot :: _____ : blow
26. diurnal : sun :: _____ : moon
27. stretch : space :: _____ : time
28. into : out of :: _____ : because of
29. rejection : application :: _____ : law
30. spendthrift : poverty :: _____ : danger

SENTENCE COMPLETION

Directions: In the space provided, write the word from the list above that best completes each given sentence.

31. His _____ of raising one eyebrow to express disdain was pretentious.
32. The committee could not come to a _____ about which offer to choose; there were three members who disagreed with the majority.
33. Because of her _____ in upholding the rules, the students thought she was cruel.
34. The victim was hit over the head with a blunt object, like a _____.
35. Many schools use a _____ method to teach young children to read, by teaching what sounds letters or combinations of letters represent.
36. The president may _____ a bill, but congress can still pass it if there is enough support.
37. In order to _____ their interview, he thought of as many things to talk about as he could.
38. She considered it _____ for the young man to ask her age.
39. The _____ of a caterpillar into a butterfly takes place inside a cocoon.
40. He was _____ in trying to get the street renamed; he just wouldn't give up.
41. The _____ of the palace was amazing to her; she had never seen such wealth before.
42. The little girl continued to _____ her mother to buy her a pony.
43. The _____ dancer could gracefully complete even the most complicated movements.
44. Josh's parents' _____ attitude made him miserable; they were always criticizing him!
45. The music was practically _____ because he had the volume on its lowest setting.
46. I wish my cat wasn't _____; he keeps me up all night!
47. The decision to promote John over me was _____; I'm just as qualified as he is.
48. She was _____ to make a choice because both options had pros and cons.
49. Her _____ attitude and disregard for danger eventually lead to a severe accident.
50. The husband wanted to test his wife's _____ to him; he didn't trust her.
51. She felt he'd insulted her, and her _____ didn't diminish over time.
52. There was a _____ dividing the room into two smaller areas.
53. The movie was engrossing to his companion, but it made him _____.
54. He decided to go to the play _____ the bad reviews.
55. The new king wanted to _____ his power to avoid responsibility.

WORD-IN-CONTEXT CLUES

Question 3: *The boy's incorrigible behaviour puzzled his sister.*

The word incorrigible in this sentence means: A: appalling B: reformed C: incurable D: frustrated E: none of these

Directions: Read the following paragraphs to answer the next four questions

Between us there was, as I have already said somewhere, the bond of the sea. Besides holding our hearts together through long periods of separation, it had the effect of making us tolerant of each other's yarns-and even convictions. The Lawyer-the best of old fellows-had, because of his many years and many virtues, the only cushion on deck, and was lying on the only rug. The Accountant had brought out already a box of dominoes, and was toying architecturally with the bones. Marlow sat cross-legged right aft, leaning against the mizzen-mast. He had sunken cheeks, a yellow complexion, a straight back, an ascetic aspect, and, with his arms dropped, the palms of hands outwards, resembled an idol. The Director, satisfied the anchor had good hold, made his way aft and sat down amongst us. We exchanged a few words lazily. Afterwards there was silence on board the yacht. For some reason or other we did not begin that game of dominoes. We felt meditative, and fit for nothing but placid staring. The day was ending in a serenity of still and exquisite brilliance. The water shone pacifically; the sky, without a speck, was a benign immensity of unstained light; the very mist on the Essex marshes was like a gauzy and radiant fabric, hung from the wooded rises inland, and draping the low shores in diaphanous folds. Only the gloom to the west, brooding over the upper reaches, became more sombre every minute, as if angered by the approach of the sun. And at last, in its curved and imperceptible fall, the sun sank low, and from glowing white changed to a dull red without rays and without heat, as if about to go out suddenly, stricken to death by the touch of that gloom brooding over a crowd of men. (From 'The Heart of Darkness', by Joseph Conrad.)

Question 1: The narrator of this passage is telling his story from: A: a wharf. B: the deck of a yacht. C: a high vantage point. D: the edge of the Essex marshes. E: None of the above.

Question 2: The mood of the men in this passage is best described as:

A: surly B: resigned C: contemplative D: restless E: ecstatic

Question 3: From the passage, it is clear that the men:

A: do not get along. B: show a quiet understanding. C: cannot be bothered with one another. D: have just had a quarrel. E: are worn out.

Question 4: The word 'diaphanous', used to describe the mist, means:

A: almost transparent B: fragile C: suffocating D: silent E: none of the above

Directions: Read the following paragraphs to answer the next four questions.

Among predatory dinosaurs, few flesh-eaters were bigger, faster and nastier than the "tyrant lizard" of popular imagination, the Tyrannosaurus Rex. At least, that is what we have been led to believe. Now research suggests that, far from being the Ferrari of

dinosaurs, Tyrannosaurus Rex, whose ferocious reputation has fascinated generations of schoolchildren, was in fact a cumbersome creature with a usual running speed of twenty-five kilometres an hour. This is a mere snail's pace compared with modern animals such as the cheetah.

Unlike some of the predators of today's African savannah, which can change direction almost immediately, the dinosaur would have had to turn slowly or risk tumbling over. And while a human can spin forty-five degrees in a twentieth of a second, a Tyrannosaurus would have taken as much as two seconds, as it would have been hampered by its long tail. Thankfully, however, all its prey, such as triceratops, would have been afflicted with the same lack of speed and agility.

The findings were reached after researchers used computer modelling and biomechanical calculations to work out the dinosaur's speed, agility and weight. They based their calculations on measurements taken from a fossil dinosaur representative of an average Tyrannosaurus and concluded the creatures probably weighed between six and eight tonnes.

Calculations of the leg muscles suggest that the animal would have had a top speed of forty kilometres an hour, which is nothing compared to a cheetah's one hundred kilometres an hour. It is sobering to reflect, though, that an Olympic sprinter runs at about thirty-five kilometres an hour, not sufficient to outrun a Tyrannosaurus, should Man have been around at that time!

Question 2: Being known as the 'Ferrari of dinosaurs' means Tyrannosaurus Rex:

A: wore shoes. **B:** was a quick and agile creature. **C:** was a hunting machine. **D:** was the most ferocious of dinosaurs. **E:** None of these.

Question 3: In turning, a Tyrannosaurus would have been hampered by:

A: its weight. **B:** its bulky leg muscles. **C:** its overall size. **D:** its tail length. **E:** All of the above.

Question 4: In calculating the size, speed and agility of Tyrannosaurus Rex, scientists used:

A: examination of fossils. **B:** biomechanical calculations and computer models. **C:** comparisons with modern animals. **D:** A and B together. **E:** B and C together.

Question 5: The overall theme of the passage is:

A: Because it was cumbersome, Tyrannosaurus Rex was lucky to survive. **B:** Tyrannosaurus Rex's speed and agility were still superior to those of other dinosaurs. **C:** Tyrannosaurus Rex's fierce reputation is now laid to rest. **D:** Compared to modern predatory animals, Tyrannosaurus Rex was slow and cumbersome. **E:** None of these