

Class 8 | English Olympiad

Instructions: Each question has one correct answer. Choose the best option (A/B/C/D). Answer key is provided at the end. This paper is for practice only — not an official exam paper. Recommended time: **45 minutes**.

Q1. 'Apothegm' means ___ .

A. the highest form of praise

B. a concise, witty saying

C. a long epic poem

D. a formal argument

Q2. 'Liminal' describes ___ .

A. very limited

B. relating to lemon

C. a threshold state between two conditions

D. a type of linear argument

Q3. A 'Bildungsroman' ends with the protagonist ___ .

A. dying tragically

B. having matured and gained a place in society

C. returning home unchanged

D. achieving great wealth

Q4. 'Simulacrum' means ___ .

A. a simulation

B. a type of simultaneous event

C. a copy or image that may lack the substance of the original

D. a simultaneous translation

Q5. 'Exegesis' means ___ .

A. an exit strategy

B. a critical explanation of a text

C. exaggerated praise

D. an example or case study

Q6. 'Heterodox' means ___ .

A. opposite to orthodox; unorthodox in belief

B. very orthodox

C. relating to two different languages

D. medically unwell

Q7. Which of these words is a 'retronym' (new term for an existing concept to distinguish it from a newer version)?

A. email

B. analog clock

C. smartphone

D. internet

Q8. 'Contumacious' means ___ .

A. very polite

B. stubbornly disobedient

C. very content

D. continuing indefinitely

Q9. The rhetorical concept of 'kairos' refers to ___ .

A. the content of an argument

B. the speaker's credibility

C. the appropriate moment or timeliness of a message

D. the emotional appeal of an argument

Q10. 'Ekphrasis' is a literary device where ___ .

A. a speech is given by a villain

B. a work of visual art is vividly described in writing

C. the narrator breaks the fourth wall

D. time moves backwards

Q11. 'Apocope' is a linguistic process involving ___ .

A. combining two words

B. adding a sound to the end of a word

C. dropping the final sound or syllable of a word

D. reversing word order

Q12. 'Tendentious' writing promotes a cause; 'tendenz' is German for ___ .

A. text

B. style

C. tendency/direction

D. temptation

Q13. 'Elegy' and 'eulogy' are different: an elegy is ___ .

A. a poem of mourning, often for the dead

B. a speech at a funeral

C. a piece of music

D. a type of comedy

Q14. 'Apotheosis' means ___ .

A. a conclusion

B. a type of antithesis

C. the highest point of achievement; elevation to divine status

D. the introduction of a story

Q15. A 'palimpsest' can be used metaphorically to describe ___ .

A. a brand new beginning

B. something reused or altered but still bearing traces of its earlier form

C. a very long memory

D. a precise record

Q16. 'Disingenuous' means ___ .

A. not genuinely talented

B. not sincere; giving a false impression of candour

C. very ingenious

D. lacking engineering skills

Q17. 'Prosody' in poetry refers to ___ .

A. the study of language in prose

B. the theory of verse forms and metre

C. the use of rhetorical devices

D. the analysis of narrative structure

Q18. Which word denotes a mild or indirect expression replacing a harsh one?

A. dysphemism

B. cacophemism

C. euphemism

D. hyperbole

Q19. 'Anomie' refers to ___ .

A. an anonymous person

B. a lack of usual social or ethical standards

C. a legal anomaly

D. a type of memory disorder

Q20. 'Imbroglia' means ___ .

A. an Italian food

B. a type of musical composition

C. an extremely confused or complicated situation

D. an agreement between parties

Q21. 'Heuristic' describes ___ .

A. a method that is guiding or enabling discovery through trial and experience

B. a strict logical proof

C. a type of historical account

D. a heretical belief

Q22. The term 'sprezzatura' (from Castiglione's *The Book of the Courtier*) means ___ .

A. a type of Italian dessert

B. studied carelessness; making difficult things look effortless

C. a musical style

D. a formal dance step

Q23. 'Enchiridion' means ___ .

A. a type of Mexican food

B. a handbook or manual

C. an ancient musical instrument

D. an encyclopaedia

Q24. 'Mellifluous' describes a sound or voice that is ___ .

A. very loud

B. very deep

C. sweet and pleasant

D. harsh and grating

Q25. Which is NOT a part of Aristotle's three persuasive appeals (rhetoric)?

A. Ethos

B. Pathos

C. Logos

D. Kairos

Q26. 'Parataxis' in writing means ___ .

A. using complex subordinate clauses

B. placing clauses side by side without coordinating or subordinating conjunctions

C. a type of parallel rhyme

D. using only nouns and verbs

Q27. 'Saturnine' describes someone who is ___ .

A. very cheerful

B. relating to Saturn

C. sluggish, gloomy, and cynical

D. very spiritual

Q28. 'The pathetic fallacy' differs from 'personification' in that pathetic fallacy specifically ___ .

A. uses human emotions to describe nature's weather and setting

B. gives non-human objects specific names

C. makes animals speak

D. uses first-person narration

Q29. 'Polemic' means ___ .

A. relating to the North Pole

B. a strong verbal or written attack on a belief or doctrine

C. a type of poem

D. a political alliance

Q30. 'Numinous' describes an experience that is ___ .

A. very loud

B. very precise

C. having a strong religious or spiritual quality

D. very cold

Q31. 'Cathartic' experiences are those that ___ .

A. cause destruction

B. provide strong emotional release and relief

C. are very intellectual

D. relate to food and drink

Q32. A 'proleptic' narrative begins ___ .

A. at the middle

B. at the very end, working backwards

C. with the anticipated future, then returns to the past

D. at a random point

Q33. 'Exordium' is the ___ of a formal speech.

A. conclusion

B. body

C. digression

D. introduction

Q34. The word 'jejune' means ___ .

A. relating to June

B. young and inexperienced

C. naive, simplistic, or lacking in substance

D. full of energy

Q35. 'Periclitation' means ___ .

A. relating to Pericles

B. the act of circling

C. putting at risk; endangering

D. careful preparation

Q36. 'Anagnorisis' in Greek tragedy is the moment ___ .

A. of the climax

B. of recognition — when a character makes a critical discovery

C. of the protagonist's death

D. the chorus speaks

Q37. 'Heteroglossia' (Bakhtin) refers to ___ .

A. a fear of different languages

B. a type of glossary

C. the diversity of social voices and their interactions in a text

D. speaking in multiple languages simultaneously

Q38. 'Auteur theory' in literary/film criticism argues that ___ .

A. all stories are collectively written

B. the director/author is the 'author' and their personal style is the key artistic vision

C. stories have no single author

D. only trained critics can interpret works

Q39. 'Otiose' means ___ .

A. relating to music

B. very busy

C. serving no practical purpose; ineffective

D. full of enthusiasm

Q40. 'Subaltern' in postcolonial theory refers to ___ .

A. a military rank

B. those who are socially, politically, or geographically outside hegemonic power

C. a lower level of reasoning

D. a musical sub-theme

Answer Key

Q1: B Q2: C Q3: B Q4: C Q5: B Q6: A Q7: B Q8: B Q9: C Q10: B
Q11: C Q12: C Q13: A Q14: C Q15: B Q16: B Q17: B Q18: C Q19: B
Q20: C Q21: A Q22: B Q23: B Q24: C Q25: D Q26: B Q27: C Q28: A
Q29: B Q30: C Q31: B Q32: C Q33: D Q34: C Q35: C Q36: B Q37: C
Q38: B Q39: C Q40: B