

Class 9 | 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. 'Defeasible' arguments are those that ___ .

A. cannot be overridden

B. can be overturned by new evidence or counter-arguments

C. are based on emotion

D. prove themselves

Q2. 'Apophenia' is the tendency to ___ .

A. speak very quickly

B. forget important words

C. perceive meaningful connections in unrelated things

D. write poetry

Q3. 'Labile' means ___ .

A. stable and fixed

B. easily changed; readily undergoing change

C. very lazy

D. relating to lips

Q4. The 'hermeneutic circle' describes ___ .

A. a type of punctuation

B. the process of interpreting a circular text

C. the need to understand the whole to understand parts, and parts to understand the whole

D. a cyclical narrative structure

Q5. 'Agglutinative' languages form words by ___ .

A. using only simple root words

B. combining root words with affixes, each carrying a single meaning

C. using tones to change meaning

D. using word order as the primary grammar

Q6. 'Aporia' in rhetoric is ___ .

A. a type of analogy

B. an expression of doubt or the genuine inability to decide

C. the concluding argument

D. a form of evidence

Q7. A 'hapax legomenon' is a word ___ .

A. used excessively in a text

B. coined by a single author

C. occurring only once in a corpus

D. borrowed from another language

Q8. 'Kenosis' in religious or literary theory refers to ___ .

A. a type of Greek verse

B. the emptying of self; self-abasement

C. the building of knowledge

D. a form of prayer

Q9. 'Defamiliarisation' (Russian Formalism) means making ___ .

A. familiar things strange to renew perception

B. strange ideas familiar

C. formal writing informal

D. simple ideas complex

Q10. 'Prolepsis' as a narrative technique means ___ .

A. moving backwards to an earlier event

B. a flash-forward or anticipation of future events

C. repeating earlier events with new details

D. beginning from the middle

Q11. 'Mimesis' in literary theory is the ___ of reality.

A. rejection

B. representation or imitation

C. inversion

D. transformation

Q12. A 'leitmotif' is ___ .

A. a recurring theme or symbol associated with a character or idea

B. a type of light verse

C. the moral of the story

D. a secondary plot

Q13. 'Discourse' in Foucault's sense refers to ___ .

A. a long speech

B. a system of knowledge, language, and practices that shapes how we understand the world

C. a type of dialogue

D. written documents only

Q14. 'Apocryphal' texts are those ___ .

A. of unknown or doubtful authorship, not part of the recognised canon

B. very old

C. written in Latin

D. containing prophecies

Q15. Which is the most precise definition of 'irredentism'?

A. a type of literary irony

B. claiming territory based on ethnic or historical connection

C. refusing to accept new evidence

D. a type of irreversible action

Q16. 'Parrhesia' (Greek) means ___ .

A. speaking truth boldly, even at personal risk

B. a type of elaborate praise

C. speaking in parables

D. a parallel argument

Q17. 'Intercalation' in a narrative is the technique of ___ .

A. interpolating one story within another

B. summarising the plot

C. ending a story abruptly

D. using a different narrator for each chapter

Q18. 'Liminality' in anthropology (Turner) describes ___ .

A. a language border

B. the transitional period in a rite of passage — neither one thing nor another

C. limited knowledge

D. a type of physical border

Q19. A 'gloss' in textual studies is ___ .

A. a smooth surface

B. a brief explanation of a difficult word or passage in the margin

C. a type of binding

D. a final summary

Q20. 'Paratextual' elements include ___ .

A. parallel texts

B. titles, prefaces, footnotes, and other elements outside the main text

C. the plot summary

D. the central argument

Q21. 'Lexical density' in stylistics measures the ___ .

A. number of words per page

B. proportion of content words (nouns, verbs) vs function words

C. syllable count per word

D. sentence length

Q22. 'Enantiodromia' (Jung) means ___ .

A. a type of mirror writing

B. the tendency of things to transform into their opposite over time

C. an etymology exercise

D. a rhetorical reversal

Q23. 'Catachresis' versus 'metaphor': catachresis specifically applies to ___ .

A. a fresh and striking comparison

B. a comparison between two similar things

C. an overextended or misused metaphor, often filling a gap in language

D. personification of nature

Q24. 'Apogee' means ___ .

A. the point furthest from Earth in an orbit; the highest point

B. the lowest point

C. the beginning of something

D. the end of a cycle

Q25. 'Logocentric' thinking (Derrida) privileges ___ .

A. visual media over text

B. spoken language and presence over writing

C. mathematical logic

D. narrative over argument

Q26. 'Fabula' versus 'syuzhet' (Russian Formalism): the fabula is ___ .

A. the story as presented in the text

B. the author's perspective

C. the raw events in chronological order

D. the plot summary

Q27. 'Ergodic' literature requires ___ .

A. a very attentive reading

B. non-trivial effort from the reader to traverse the text (e.g. hypertext)

C. knowledge of ergonomics

D. a second reading

Q28. 'Adumbrate' means to ___ .

A. fully explain

B. represent in outline; foreshadow

C. oppose strongly

D. admire openly

Q29. 'Shibboleth' originally referred to ___ .

A. a type of weapon

B. a word used to identify members of a group — those who can't say it betray their origin

C. a sacred text

D. a type of prayer

Q30. 'Diaspora' refers to ___ .

A. a disease affecting communities

B. the dispersion of a people from their original homeland

C. a type of ancient text

D. a geographical region

Q31. 'Aphorism' : 'concise saying' :: 'adage' : ___ .

A. a long story

B. a traditional saying reflecting common experience

C. a formal argument

D. a type of metaphor

Q32. 'Syncretic' beliefs ___ .

A. reject all tradition

B. combine elements from different religious or cultural traditions

C. follow strict orthodoxy

D. focus on logic alone

Q33. 'Interpolation' in a text means ___ .

A. careful interpretation

B. inserting words or passages not in the original

C. removing words from the text

D. printing between the lines

Q34. 'Lexeme' is the basic unit of ___ .

A. sound in a language

B. meaning in a language (the abstract form of a word)

C. syntax

D. punctuation

Q35. 'Deixis' in linguistics refers to ___ .

A. leaving words out

B. words whose meaning depends on context (e.g. 'here', 'now', 'I', 'this')

C. words with opposite meanings

D. words borrowed from other languages

Q36. 'Epizeuxis' is the figure of speech where ___ .

A. a word is repeated immediately for emphasis ('Never, never, never!')

B. a word is placed at the end of successive clauses

C. two opposites are placed together

D. a sentence is left incomplete

Q37. 'Contrapuntal reading' (Said) means ___ .

A. reading against the grain

B. reading the main narrative alongside the marginalised perspectives silenced by it

C. reading two texts simultaneously

D. a musical approach to reading rhythm

Q38. 'Heteroglossia' versus 'monoglossia': a monoglossic text ___ .

A. uses only one language

B. presents a single, authoritative voice or language

C. has only one chapter

D. contains no dialogue

Q39. 'Periphrasis' means ___ .

A. using very few words

B. using more words than necessary to express an idea

C. omitting key information

D. reversing word order

Q40. 'Metatextual' commentary refers to ___ .

A. a text about its own text-ness, acknowledging its constructed nature

B. a text that follows another text

C. a very long footnote

D. a text written in code

Answer Key

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