GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Attempt all questions.

SECTION - A
(20 Marks)

This Section should be answered only on the Answer Sheet provided.

1. Write an essay choosing any one of the topics given below:
   - The Ideal Politician.
   - Conservation of Forest cover in India
   - Transparency in Administration

SECTION - B
(80 Marks)

All questions carry equal marks of 1 each. Attempt all questions.

This Section should be answered only on the OMR Response Sheet provided.

Direction for Questions 1 - 16 : Choose the correct meaning of the idioms given in italics:

1. We should guard ourselves against our green-eyed friends.
   (a) rich (b) jealous (c) handsome (d) enthusiastic

2. He has been accused of sitting on the fence.
   (a) Confused (b) observing the scene (c) hesitating between two options (d) resting on the fence

3. She rejected his proposal of marriage point blank.
   (a) directly (b) poignantly (c) absurdly (d) briefly

4. Sharon had to look high and low before she could find her house key.
   (a) nowhere (b) always (c) everywhere (d) somewhere
5. Corruption is a *burning question* of the day.
   (a) a dying issue  
   (b) an insignificant problem  
   (c) an irrelevant problem  
   (d) a widely debated issue

6. If you pass this difficult examination, it will be a *feather in your cap*.
   (a) you will get a very good job  
   (b) additional achievement  
   (c) your parents will be very happy  
   (d) You will get a scholarship for higher studies

7. A movement for world unity is *in the offing*.
   (a) at the end  
   (b) about to start  
   (c) on the decline  
   (d) had started

8. Mawia is not *cut out* for this kind of work.
   (a) trained  
   (b) suitable  
   (c) recommended  
   (d) considered

9. The politician was able to sway the mob with his *gift of the gab*.
   (a) fluency of speech  
   (b) flattering words  
   (c) abundance of promise  
   (d) political foresight

10. Discipline is *on the wane* in schools and colleges these days.
    (a) increasing  
    (b) declining  
    (c) spreading  
    (d) spiralling

11. With the existing management, the future of the company is *in doldrums*.
    (a) dull  
    (b) bright  
    (c) uncertain  
    (d) secure

12. It was such a strange affair that I could not make *head or tail of it*.
    (a) face it  
    (b) tolerate it  
    (c) remember  
    (d) understand it

13. After the dinner was over she refused to *foot the bill*.
    (a) to pay  
    (b) to prepare  
    (c) to destroy  
    (d) to play trick

14. I did not know that he was *pulling my leg* all the time.
    (a) befooling me  
    (b) degrading me  
    (c) defaming me  
    (d) complimenting me

15. Harrassed by repeated acts of injustice Peter decided to *put his foot down*.
    (a) resign  
    (b) not to yield  
    (c) withdraw  
    (d) accept the proposal unconditionally

16. When the police came, the thieves *took to their heels*.
    (a) were taken by surprise  
    (b) took to flight  
    (c) took shelter in a tall building  
    (d) unconditionally surrendered
Directions for Questions 17 - 21: Read the given passage carefully and choose the correct answer given below.

In the past, man's worst enemy was nature. He lived under the continual threat of famine and pestilence, a wet summer could bring death to the whole nation and every winter was a menace. Mountains stood like a barrier between people and people, a sea was less a highway than an impassable division. Today Nature, though still an enemy, is an enemy almost completely conquered. Modern agriculture assures us of an ample food supply. Modern transportation has made the resources of the entire planet accessible to all its inhabitants. Modern medicine and sanitation allow dense populations to cover the ground without risk of pestilence. True, we are still at the mercy of the more violent natural convulsions. Against earthquake, flood and hurricane man has as yet, devised no adequate protection. At most times, Nature is no longer formidable, she has subdued.

17. Modern medicine has helped man
   (a) to live longer everywhere in the world
   (b) to live a healthy life in hygienic conditions
   (c) to live in thickly populated areas without fear of epidemics
   (d) balance population with available resources

18. Man has not yet succeeded in controlling the furies of
   (a) earthquakes  (b) floods
   (c) hurricanes   (d) All the three

19. Which one of the following statement best reflects the underlying conviction of the passage
   (a) Man can do wonders
   (b) Man's knowledge has no end
   (c) Man has been able to control Nature to a great extent
   (d) Man has been able to control nature completely

20. In ancient times, Man had an apprehension of
   (a) famine  (b) epidemics
   (c) wet summer  (d) All the three

21. The modern transport system is a blessing as it
   (a) has helped decrease the distance between towns and villages
   (b) has brought comfort to both towns and villages
   (c) has made all the commodities available to everyone
   (d) has encouraged people to travel for pleasure

Directions for Questions 22 - 24: Choose the words which are closest in meaning to the following words taken from the given passage:

22. menace
   (a) threat  (b) menial
   (c) manage  (d) manual

23. Inhabitants
   (a) habit  (b) inhuman
   (c) inhibit  (d) occupant

24. Convulsions
   (a) conversation  (b) disturbances
   (c) compulsion  (d) convergence
Directions for Questions 25 - 28 : Choose the word which is opposite in meaning to the following words taken from the passage:

25. impassable
   (a) traversable  (b) passing on
   (c) unnavigable  (d) insurmountable

26. assures
   (a) discourages  (b) guarantee
   (c) ensure      (d) promise

27. formidable
   (a) unnerving  (b) powerful
   (c) weak       (d) impressively large

28. adequate
   (a) enough     (b) ample
   (c) appropriate (d) insufficient

Directions for Questions 29 - 36 : Identify the part of speech of the words underlined:

29. His **courage** won him honour and respect.
   (a) Noun  (b) Adjective
   (c) Pronoun  (d) Adverb

30. **After** the storm comes the calm.
    (a) Noun  (b) Preposition
    (c) Conjunction  (d) Adverb

31. They **while** away precious time watching movies.
    (a) Verb  (b) Adverb
    (c) Adjective  (d) Conjunction

32. Mary pronounced the word **quite** correctly.
    (a) Noun  (b) Adjective
    (c) Verb  (d) Adverb

33. I will wash the clothes **while** you cook.
    (a) Verb  (b) Adverb
    (c) Adjective  (d) Conjunction

34. One of the wheels suddenly came **off**.
    (a) Noun  (b) Adjective
    (c) Adverb  (d) Verb

35. There are **several** books on the table.
    (a) Verb  (b) Adverb
    (c) Adjective  (d) Conjunction

36. The **Up** train is usually late on holidays.
    (a) Noun  (b) Adjective
    (c) Interjection  (d) Verb
Directions for Questions 37 - 42: Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verb:

37. It started to rain while we ________ basketball.
   (a) plays  (b) are playing  
   (c) were playing  (d) had played

38. I ________ him for a long time.
   (a) know  (b) have known  
   (c) has known  (d) am knowing

39. When David lived in Chennai, he ________ to the cinema once a week.
   (a) goes  (b) was going  
   (c) has been going  (d) went

40. She ________ unconscious since morning.
   (a) is  (b) was  
   (c) has been  (d) will be

41. When I was in Mizoram, I ________ Mamit, Lunglei and Lawngtlai.
   (a) visited  (b) was visited  
   (c) have visited  (d) have been visiting

42. He used to visit us every week, but he ________ now.
   (a) rarely comes  (b) is rarely coming  
   (c) has rarely come  (d) was rarely come

Directions for Questions 43 - 48: Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions:

43. His professional ability proves that he is cut ________ for this job.
   (a) out  (b) up  
   (c) above  (d) down

44. The problem of communal discord cannot be glossed ________ by the government.
   (a) at  (b) into  
   (c) over  (d) on

45. After all, the hard work has come to tell ________ your health.
   (a) in  (b) upon  
   (c) at  (d) over

46. The Government acted judiciously to stave ________ the crisis.
   (a) of  (b) out  
   (c) upon  (d) off

47. He has great antipathy ________ those who are hypocrites.
   (a) against  (b) to  
   (c) for  (d) between

48. The whole town plunged ________ sorrow after the massacre of the students.
   (a) in  (b) into  
   (c) onto  (d) at
Directions for Questions 49 - 58: Identify whether the following are simple, compound or complex sentences:

49. The horse reared and the rider was thrown off.
   (a) Simple \hspace{2cm} (b) Compound
   (c) Complex

50. He was a mere boy but he offered to fight the giant.
   (a) Simple \hspace{2cm} (b) Compound
   (c) Complex

51. Healthy persons have no need of the physician.
   (a) Simple \hspace{2cm} (b) Compound
   (c) Complex

52. The place where Buddha was cremated has recently been discovered.
   (a) Simple \hspace{2cm} (b) Compound
   (c) Complex

53. I have no advice to offer you.
   (a) Simple \hspace{2cm} (b) Compound
   (c) Complex

54. We came upon a hut where a peasant lived.
   (a) Simple \hspace{2cm} (b) Compound
   (c) Complex

55. Man proposes, but God disposes.
   (a) Simple \hspace{2cm} (b) Compound
   (c) Complex

56. Except that he hurt his hand, he was lucky.
   (a) Simple \hspace{2cm} (b) Compound
   (c) Complex

57. They serve God well who serves His creatures.
   (a) Simple \hspace{2cm} (b) Compound
   (c) Complex

58. His courage won him honour.
   (a) Simple \hspace{2cm} (b) Compound
   (c) Complex

Directions for Questions 59 - 64: Choose the correct sentence type.

59. None but a coward would say so.
   (a) Affirmative \hspace{2cm} (b) Negative
   (c) Interrogative \hspace{2cm} (d) Assertive

60. I was doubtful whether it was you.
   (a) Affirmative \hspace{2cm} (b) Negative
   (c) Interrogative \hspace{2cm} (d) Imperative
61. Oh that I had wings!
   (a) Affirmative 
   (c) Interrogative 
   (b) Exclamatory 
   (d) Imperative

62. Get out of the room quickly.
   (a) Affirmative 
   (c) Interrogative 
   (b) Exclamatory 
   (d) Imperative

63. Who lives if the country dies?
   (a) Affirmative 
   (c) Interrogative 
   (b) Negative 
   (d) Assertive

64. Their glory can never fade.
   (a) Imperative 
   (c) Interrogative 
   (b) Negative 
   (d) Assertive

Directions for Questions 65 - 74: Choose the most suitable alternative to fill in the blanks:

65. The volcanic _________ was the cause of great devastation.
   (a) outburst 
   (c) erosion 
   (b) eruption 
   (d) movement

66. Although they are not rich, they always wear _________ clothes.
   (a) respectful 
   (c) respectable 
   (b) respective 
   (d) respected

67. Even a _________ glance will reveal the mystery.
   (a) crude 
   (c) cursory 
   (b) critical 
   (d) curious

68. Like any other country India has its _________ share of superstitions.
   (a) Peculiar 
   (c) proper 
   (b) fair 
   (d) abundant

69. We _________ trouble on our borders.
   (a) comprehend 
   (c) complement 
   (b) supplement 
   (d) apprehend

70. If you drink too much, it will _________ your judgement.
   (a) impede 
   (c) impose 
   (b) impair 
   (d) impose

71. Robert was _________ with a natural talent for music.
   (a) given 
   (c) endowed 
   (b) found 
   (d) entrusted

72. There was a serious _________ between the two brothers.
   (a) altercation 
   (c) aberration 
   (b) alteration 
   (d) assimilation

73. The committee’s appeal to the people for money _________ little response.
   (a) evoked 
   (c) promoted 
   (b) provoked 
   (d) provided
74. The photographs in the papers bore no _________ at all to the original.
   (a) nearness                                  (b) resemblance
   (c) identity                                 (d) comparison

**Directions for Questions 75 - 80**: Choose the alternative that best expresses the meaning of the given idiomatic phrase.

75. Get cold feet
   (a) to run for life                            (b) to get cold
   (c) to be afraid                               (d) to become discourteous

76. An apple of discord
   (a) the cause of a contention                  (b) sour apple
   (c) a quarrel                                 (d) a fight for an apple

77. A skeleton in one’s cupboard
   (a) a skeleton in a closet                    (b) a secret murder
   (c) something embarrassing kept as a secret  (d) a hidden skeleton

78. Sail in the same boat
   (a) in similar circumstances                  (b) sail in one boat
   (c) a boat with sails                         (d) enjoy boating

79. A red-letter day
   (a) a colourful day                           (b) fatal day
   (c) happy and significant day                 (d) hapless day

80. At beck and call
   (a) at rest                                   (b) at disposal
   (c) at work                                   (d) at their desk

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