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# OLYMPIAD EXPLORER



Workbook for

International **ENGLISH** Olympiad & Other  
National/International Olympiads/Talent Search Exams.

Based on CBSE, ICSE, GCSE, State Board Syllabus & NCF (NCERT)

100's of Q's with answers

- Chapterwise Practice Q's
- Revision Q's
- Sample Paper



Class

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## **SYLLABUS GUIDELINES**

**Based on CBSE, ICSE & GCSE Syllabus  
& NCF guidelines devised by NCERT**

The paper will be essentially based on general english but may also contain reading an unseen passage and poem. Writing, Seminar, Text for detailed study, Drama, Fiction, Advanced, Reading Skills. Effective Writing Skills, Applied Grammar, Literature, Conversation Skills (Listening + Speaking)



Choose one alternative which is opposite in meaning to the given word.

- Q.1.** Mortal  
(a) Immortal (b) Divine  
(c) Eternal (d) Spiritual
- Q.2.** Terse  
(a) Expressive (b) Descriptive  
(c) Concise (d) Detailed
- Q.3.** Encourage  
(a) Dampen (b) Disapprove  
(c) Warn (d) Discourage
- Q.4.** Frugal  
(a) Extravagant (b) Charitable  
(c) Gaudy (d) Generous
- Q.5.** Criticise  
(a) Flatter (b) Analyse  
(c) Judge (d) Appreciate
- Q.6.** Chide  
(a) Criticise (b) Flatter  
(c) Praise (d) Fear
- Q.7.** Religious  
(a) Secular (b) Sinful  
(c) Atheistic (d) Immoral
- Q.8.** Friend  
(a) Foe (b) Competitor  
(c) Rival (d) Acquaintance
- Q.9.** Culpable  
(a) Blameless (b) Defendable  
(c) Irresponsible (d) Careless
- Q.10.** Hesitate  
(a) Certain (b) Reluctant  
(c) Proud (d) Confident
- Q.11.** Autonomy  
(a) Subordination (b) Slavery  
(c) Submissiveness (d) Dependence

- Q.12.** Shallow  
 (a) Deep (b) Hollow  
 (c) High (d) Hidden
- Q.13.** Overt  
 (a) Secret (b) Unwritten  
 (c) Deep (d) Shallow
- Q.14.** Accord  
 (a) Dissent (b) Concord  
 (c) Solution (d) Act
- Q.15.** Alive  
 (a) Asleep (b) Drowsy  
 (c) Passive (d) Dead
- Q.16.** Synthetic  
 (a) Affable (b) Natural  
 (c) Cosmetic (d) Plastic
- Q.17.** Precarious  
 (a) Cautious (b) Easy  
 (c) Dangerous (d) Safe
- Q.18.** Deep  
 (a) Shallow (b) Perfunctory  
 (c) Elementary (d) Superficial
- Q.19.** Lend  
 (a) Cheat (b) Borrow  
 (c) Hire (d) Pawn
- Q.20.** Paucity  
 (a) Presence (b) Richness  
 (c) Surplus (d) Scarcity

In each of the following sentences, a word has been printed in bold. Out of the given alternatives, choose the one which is closest to the opposite in meaning of the bold word.

- Q.21.** There is an **obscure** cave on the other side of the hill.  
 (a) Infamous (b) Well-known  
 (c) Admired (d) Notorious
- Q.22.** She **detests** government jobs.  
 (a) Adores (b) Is interested in  
 (c) Approves of (d) Is fond of
- Q.23.** The habit of **squandering** money should not be encouraged.

- (a) Hoarding (b) Discarding  
 (c) Saving (d) Collecting
- Q.24.** All these measures will **augment** employment opportunities.  
 (a) Diminish (b) Circumscribe  
 (c) Constrain (d) Restrain
- Q.25.** The chairman **rebuked** the accounts officer for not supervising the work of his coordinates.  
 (a) Awarded (b) Invited  
 (c) Praised (d) Received
- Q.26.** We received a **cordial** welcome from our host.  
 (a) Distrustful (b) Indifferent  
 (c) Official (d) Cold
- Q.27.** Every move I make seems to affect him **adversely**.  
 (a) Badly (b) Internally  
 (c) Deeply (d) Favourably
- Q.28.** The director had a **derisive** attitude towards some of the members of the committee.  
 (a) Deprecatory (b) Encouraging  
 (c) Enthusiastic (d) Respectful
- Q.29.** He was the most **eccentric** and difficult patron.  
 (a) Genial (b) Sociable  
 (c) Normal (d) Sober
- Q.30.** The two girls are always together. There is a great **affinity** between them.  
 (a) Antipathy (b) Sympathy  
 (c) Apathy (d) Empathy



## ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (d) 6. (c) 7. (a) 8. (a)  
 9. (a) 10. (a) 11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (a) 14. (a) 15. (d) 16. (b)  
 17. (d) 18. (a) 19. (b) 20. (c) 21. (b) 22. (a) 23. (c) 24. (a)  
 25. (c) 26. (d) 27. (d) 28. (d) 29. (c) 30. (a)



## CHAPTER 2 Synonyms

Pick out the correct synonyms for each of the following words

- Q.1.** Impassioned  
(a) Sympathetic (b) Irresponsible  
(c) Ardent (d) Impressive
- Q.2.** Accentuated  
(a) Sharpened (b) Mitigated  
(c) Projected (d) Exhibited
- Q.3.** Sumptuous  
(a) Meagre (b) Irritable  
(c) Lavish (d) Fancy
- Q.4.** Stupid  
(a) Insane (b) Incapable  
(c) Silly (d) Disobedient
- Q.5.** Console  
(a) Pacify (b) Assist  
(c) Sympathise (d) Share
- Q.6.** Consequence  
(a) Cause (b) Order  
(c) Manner (d) Result
- Q.7.** Inexplicable  
(a) Unaccountable (b) Confusing  
(c) Unconnected (d) Chaotic
- Q.8.** Irk  
(a) Urge (b) Annoy  
(c) Bore (d) Insult
- Q.9.** Industrious  
(a) Clever (b) Reserved  
(c) Intelligent (d) Hard working
- Q.10.** Wary  
(a) Quick (b) Practical  
(c) Cautious (d) Accurate
- Q.11.** Adversity  
(a) Failure (b) Helplessness  
(c) Crisis (d) Misfortune

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- Q.12.** Stubborn  
(a) Willing (b) Pliable  
(c) Easy (d) Obstinate
- Q.13.** Taciturnity  
(a) Changeableness (b) Dumbness  
(c) Reserve (d) Hesitation
- Q.14.** Blithe  
(a) Giddy (b) Other worldly  
(c) Graceful (d) Joyous
- Q.15.** Admit  
(a) Accept (b) Commit  
(c) Decide (d) Realise
- Q.16.** Elicit  
(a) Divulge (b) Instil  
(c) Induce (d) Extract
- Q.17.** Portray  
(a) Express (b) Draw  
(c) Communicate (d) Paint
- Q.18.** Cognoscente  
(a) Critic (b) Preacher  
(c) Speculator (d) Teacher
- Q.19.** Competence  
(a) Ability (b) Compensation  
(c) Efficiency (d) Competition
- Q.20.** Synthetic  
(a) Artificial (b) Superficial  
(c) Scientific (d) Fake
- In each of the following questions, choose the alternative which can replace the word printed in bold without changing the meaning of the sentence.**
- Q.21.** Corruption **stalks** every sphere of national life.  
(a) Pollutes (b) Poisons  
(c) Pervades (d) Penetrates
- Q.22.** He did not succeed in his **endeavour**.  
(a) Trick (b) Plan  
(c) Enterprise (d) Effort
- Q.23.** He gave such a **vivid** description of the house we wanted to rent that we did not have to look at it.  
(a) Clear (b) Confused

- (c) Simple (d) Detailed
- Q.24.** The Border Security Force **intercepted** yesterday a truck carrying arms and ammunition.  
 (a) Met (b) Interrupted  
 (c) Found (d) Stopped
- Q.25.** Because of a family **feud**, he never spoke to his wife's parents.  
 (a) Crisis (b) Trouble  
 (c) Problem (d) Quarrel
- Q.26.** The attitude of the Western countries towards the Third World countries is rather **callous** to say the least.  
 (a) Unkind (b) Passive  
 (c) Unfeeling (d) Cursed
- Q.27.** He had the **nerve** to suggest that I was cheating.  
 (a) Capacity (b) Strength  
 (c) Courage (d) Audacity
- Q.28.** "I have learnt a great deal working in factories, and for a time I've been a weaver. Here are my **testimonials**. Mr. Davis".  
 (a) Testaments (b) Witnesses  
 (c) Credentials (d) Tokens
- Q.29.** The base of Indian politicians is the group of **sycophants** around them who earn bad name for their leaders.  
 (a) Foppish (b) Jarnor  
 (c) Critics (d) Flatterers
- Q.30.** The Opposition made a **strident** demand for putting the bill to vote.  
 (a) Vociferous (b) Powerful  
 (c) Courageous (d) Brave



## ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (b)  
 9. (d) 10. (c) 11. (d) 12. (d) 13. (c) 14. (d) 15. (a) 16. (d)  
 17. (b) 18. (a) 19. (a) 20. (a) 21. (c) 22. (d) 23. (a) 24. (d)  
 25. (d) 26. (c) 27. (d) 28. (c) 29. (d) 30. (a)



## CHAPTER 3 One Word Substitute

In each of the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/ sentences.

- Q.1.** Animals living on land and in water  
 (a) Amorphous (b) Ambivalent  
 (c) Ambiguous (d) Amphibian
- Q.2.** A light sailing boat built especially for racing  
 (a) Yacht (b) Frigate  
 (c) Dinghy (d) Canoe
- Q.3.** Be the embodiment or perfect example of  
 (a) Personify (b) Masquerade  
 (c) Signify (d) Characterise
- Q.4.** A house for storing grains  
 (a) Godown (b) Granary  
 (c) Cellar (d) Store
- Q.5.** A name adopted by an author in his writings  
 (a) Nickname (b) Pseudonym  
 (c) Title (d) Nomenclature
- Q.6.** Of unknown and unadmitted authorship  
 (a) Unanimous (b) Vexation  
 (c) Gullible (d) Anonymous
- Q.7.** Member of a band of robbers  
 (a) Thief (b) Pirate  
 (c) Dacoit (d) Brigand
- Q.8.** A person who is made to bear the blame due to others  
 (a) Ignoramus (b) Nincompoop  
 (c) Innocent (d) Scapegoat
- Q.9.** A person who brings goods illegally into the country  
 (a) Smuggler (b) Imposter  
 (c) Exporter (d) Importer
- Q.10.** Cutting for stone in the bladder  
 (a) Vasectomy (b) Lithotomy  
 (c) Dichotomy (d) Tubectomy

- Q.11.** One filled with excessive and mistaken enthusiasm in cause  
 (a) Fanatic (b) Patriot  
 (c) Martyr (d) Pedant
- Q.12.** To examine one's own thoughts and feelings  
 (a) Reflection (b) Introspection  
 (c) Meditation (d) Retrospection
- Q.13.** Custom of having many wives  
 (a) Polygamy (b) Matrimony  
 (c) Monogamy (d) Bigamy
- Q.14.** To cause troops etc. to spread out in readiness for battle  
 (a) Deploy (b) Disperse  
 (c) Align (d) Collocate
- Q.15.** Anything written in a letter after it is signed  
 (a) Postscript (b) Corrigendum  
 (c) Posterity (d) Postdiction



## ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (b) 6. (d) 7. (d) 8. (d)  
 9. (a) 10. (b) 11. (a) 12. (b) 13. (a) 14. (a) 15. (a)



## CHAPTER 4 Correct Spelling

In each of the following questions, a word has been written in four different ways out of which only one is correctly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word.

- Q.1.** (a) Lackadaisicle (b) Lackdaisical  
 (c) Lackadaisical (d) Lackadisical
- Q.2.** (a) Foreign (b) Fariegn  
 (c) Forein (d) Fariegn
- Q.3.** (a) Geraff (b) Giraffe  
 (c) Giraf (d) Gerraffe
- Q.4.** (a) Sacriligious (b) Sacreligious  
 (c) Sacrilegeous (d) Sacrilegious
- Q.5.** (a) Benefitted (b) Benifitted  
 (c) Benefeted (d) Benifited
- Q.6.** (a) Necessary (b) Neccessary  
 (c) Necessary (d) Necessery
- Q.7.** (a) Overleped (b) Overelaped  
 (c) Overlapped (d) Overlaped
- Q.8.** (a) Efflorescance (b) Eflorescence  
 (c) Efflorascence (d) Efflorescence
- Q.9.** (a) Omineous (b) Ommineous  
 (c) Omenous (d) Ominous
- Q.10.** (a) Fulfill (b) Fullfill  
 (c) Fullfil (d) Fulfil
- Q.11.** (a) Acurate (b) Accuratte  
 (c) Acurrate (d) Accurate
- Q.12.** (a) Exaggerate (b) Exeggerate  
 (c) Exagerate (d) Exadgerate
- Q.13.** (a) Foriegnor (b) Foreiner  
 (c) Foreigner (d) Forienor
- Q.14.** (a) Boquet (b) Bouquette  
 (c) Bouquete (d) Bouquet
- Q.15.** (a) Achievement (b) Acheivement  
 (c) Achievemant (d) Acheivement



In each question below, some words are given, one of which may be wrongly spelt. Find out that word where the spelling is wrong. If all the words are spelt correctly, your answer is (e) *i.e.* All correct.

- Q.16.** (a) Survey (b) Sureptitious  
(c) Surround (d) Surveillance
- Q.17.** (a) Pilgrimage (b) Enormous  
(c) Temperament (d) Spontaneous
- Q.18.** (a) Terrible (b) Heritage  
(c) Boast (d) Catalogue
- Q.19.** (a) Occasion (b) Ocean  
(c) Ocupation (d) Obvious
- Q.20.** (a) Couragous (b) Garbage  
(c) Regular (d) Criminal
- Q.21.** (a) Infinite (b) Clarify  
(c) Soldier (d) Beautiful
- Q.22.** (a) Emporium (b) Medium  
(c) Curriculum (d) Museum
- Q.23.** (a) Borne (b) Begining  
(c) Barrister (d) Besiege
- Q.24.** (a) Wisdom (b) Creativity  
(c) Negligence (d) Affinity
- Q.25.** (a) Gaudy (b) Gauze  
(c) Gorilla (d) Guarantee



## ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (a) 6. (c) 7. (c) 8. (d)  
9. (d) 10. (d) 11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (c) 14. (d) 15. (a) 16. (b)  
17. (c) 18. (e) 19. (c) 20. (a) 21. (b) 22. (c) 23. (b) 24. (a)  
25. (b)



# International English Olympiad Sample Paper

Time : 1 Hour

Question : 50

**Directions (1 to 5) :** In the following passage there are blanks each of which has been numbered. Fill up the blank spaces choosing the appropriate word from the given alternatives.

Food is the most vital needs of all living beings. It is essential 1 survival. It is only 2 the physical 3 of a man are taken care 4 that he can turn to other activities. A man dying 5 starvation can not think of anything other than food.

1. (a) with (b) on (c) for (d) to
2. (a) with (b) when (c) as (d) while
3. (a) expectations (b) desires  
(c) wants (d) needs
4. (a) on (b) by (c) of (d) to
5. (a) with (b) by (c) on (d) of

**Directions (6 to 10) :** Choose the correct form of verb from the given choices.

6. The Governor with his aside-de-camp, \_\_\_\_\_ arrived.  
(a) have (b) has (c) were (d) are
7. I shall \_\_\_\_\_ you tomorrow.  
(a) see (b) seeing (c) saw (d) seen
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ taken my camera.  
(a) will (b) were (c) shall (d) have
9. Srishti and Hrithika \_\_\_\_\_ here.  
(a) is (b) were (c) are (d) was
10. Each of the daughters \_\_\_\_\_ clever :  
(a) were (b) has (c) are (d) is

**Directions (11 to 15) :** Choose the most appropriate preposition in the following sentences.

11. The valley was \_\_\_\_\_ the hill.  
(a) below (b) between (c) under (d) along
12. Vineet jumped \_\_\_\_\_ the well.  
(a) onto (b) to (c) into (d) down
13. Navneet is better in study \_\_\_\_\_ his friend.  
(a) than (b) from (c) along with (d) with
14. Students are laughing \_\_\_\_\_ monkeys.

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- (a) of (b) at (c) for (d) in

15. Golcha Tanti was the class monitor \_\_\_\_\_ IX to X.

- (a) in (b) from (c) to (d) between

**Directions: (16 to 20) :** Each of the following items consists of a word in capital letters followed by four words or group of words. Select the word or group of words that is most similar in meaning to the word in capital letters.

16. SYCOPHANT :

- (a) flatterer (b) follower (c) suppliant (d) admirer

17. RANCOUR :

- (a) fatigue (b) energy (c) bitterness (d) sweetness

18. SULLEN :

- (a) resentful (b) dirty (c) oppressive (d) smooth

19. TYRANNY :

- (a) strength (b) cruelty (c) madness (d) miserly

20. FACADE :

- (a) basement (b) floor (c) top (d) front

**Directions (21 to 25) :** In each of the following questions, out of the given alternatives, choose the word with opposite meaning to the given word.

21. PALTRY :

- (a) plentiful (b) random (c) cautious (d) obsolete

22. BIZARRE :

- (a) gentle (b) same (c) usual (d) strange

23. APATHY :

- (a) hostility (b) tactfulness  
(c) passion (d) cruelty

24. SLOVENLY :

- (a) correct (b) proper  
(c) decent (d) neat

25. DEARTH :

- (a) sufficiency (b) scarcity  
(c) extravagance (d) abundance

**Directions (26 to 30) :** In the following questions, the first and the last parts of the sentence are numbered 1 and 6. The rest of the sentence is split into four parts and named P, Q, R and S. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Find out the correct combinations.

26. 1. There is, as every school boy knows in this scientific age, a very close chemical relation between coal and diamonds.  
 P : Both these commodities represent wealth, but coal is a much less portable form of property.  
 Q : It is the reason, Anamika believes, why some people refer to coal as "black diamonds".  
 R : There is, from that point of view, a deplorable lack to concentration in coal.  
 S : Now, if a coal-mine could be put into one's pocket, but it is not possible.
6. At the same time, there is a fascination in coal.  
 (a) RSQP (b) QPSR (c) QSPR (d) PSRQ
27. 1. While I was walking along the road the other day I happened to see a small brown leather purse on the pavement.  
 P : There was nothing inside it except some small change and a photograph.  
 Q : I picked it up and opened it to see if I could find out the owner's name.  
 R : I handed it to the inspector incharge.  
 S : I put the photograph back and took the purse to the police station.
6. Before I left, the inspector made a note of my name and address.  
 (a) QPRS (b) QPSR (c) SQRP (d) PSQR
28. 1. The ravine was about ten yards wide  
 P : and as I stepped down into it  
 Q : and four or five feet deep  
 R : on which I had  
 S : a bird flew off a rock  
 6. put my hand  
 (a) RSQP (b) SRQP (c) QPSR (d) PSRQ
29. 1. In ancient times the  
 P : enjoying many comforts  
 Q : of the population which did  
 R : most of the work without  
 S : vast majority  
 6. had scarcely any political power.  
 (a) RPSQ (b) PQRS (c) SQRP (d) QRPS
30. 1. When the President is  
 P : either from external aggression  
 Q : to the security of India  
 R : or armed rebellion

S : satisfied that there is a grave danger

6. he may declare, emergency

(a) RPQS (b) QPSR (c) SQPR (d) PSRQ

**Directions (31 to 35) :** In each of the following questions choose the word from the given options, which is wrongly spelt.

31. (a) Defficient (b) Intaglio  
 (c) Cryptic (d) Compliant
32. (a) Zeal (b) Complement  
 (c) Sericulture (d) Spinster
33. (a) Exogenous (b) Boisterous  
 (c) Dialectical (d) For bidding
34. (a) Guile (b) Domicil  
 (c) Laxity (d) Prolix
35. (a) Advercity (b) Satiated  
 (c) Benefactor (d) Abridge

**Directions (36 to 40) :** Some of the sentences are grammatically incorrect and some are correct. Find out which part of a sentence has an error and mark that part. If there is no error mark (e) as your answer.

36. Raghav is collected assembled on the ground and are writing for  
 a b c  
 the principal to come No error.  
 d e
37. We wanted to purchase something but all the three stores  
 a b  
in that area were closed on that day. No error.  
 c d e
38. No sooner had the jeep arrives the station than ayoung police  
 a b c  
 officer jumped out of it. No error.  
 d e
39. Alter toiling very had over a long period he found he had hardly  
 a b c  
made no profit at all. No error.  
 d e
40. Whatever works that which you undertake put your  
 a b c  
best efforts in it. No error.  
 d e

## INTERACTIVE SECTION

## Q. 41 to 50



Check out an obituary given below that (never, I assure you) appeared in a local paper. Whenever you encounter a misused word, correct it. You should find ten mistakes.

Lloyd Demos Dies at 81: Specialized in Ancient Egypt Lloyd Demos died yesterday as he was pursuing farther study in ancient Egyptian culture. Demos, who effected the lives of many residents of our town, had alot of varied interests. By the time he died he had all ready learned 12 languages, including ancient Egyptian, and spent some time everyday studying Egyptian grammar so that his writing would be alright. Demos had just set down to supper when the Grim Reaper appeared at his door. Irregardless, Demos insisted on finishing his mashed potatoes, though he was heard to say, "I would like to lay down for a while." Demos, who wrote over 50 books, will be fondly remembered.

## ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (c) 5. (d) 6. (b) 7. (a) 8. (d)  
9. (c) 10. (d) 11. (a) 12. (c) 13. (a) 14. (b) 15. (b) 16. (a)  
17. (c) 18. (a) 19. (b) 20. (d) 21. (a) 22. (c) 23. (c) 24. (d)  
25. (d) 26. (b) 27. (b) 28. (a) 29. (c) 30. (c) 31. (a) 32. (d)  
33. (d) 34. (b) 35. (a) 36. (a) 37. (c) 38. (b) 39. (d) 40. (b)

Lloyd Demos Dies at 81: Specialized in Ancient Egypt Lloyd Demos died yesterday as he was pursuing **farther further** study in ancient Egyptian culture. **41**

Demos, who **effected affected** the lives of many residents of our town, had **alot a lot** of varied interests. **42**

**43** By the time he died he had **all ready already** learned 12 languages, including ancient Egyptian, and spent some time **everyday every day** studying Egyptian grammar so that his writing would be **alright all right**. **45**

**44** Demos had just **set sat** down to supper when the Grim Reaper appeared at his door. **Irregardless Regardless**, Demos insisted on finishing his mashed potatoes, though he was heard to say, "I would like to **lay lie** down for a while." Demos, who wrote **over more than** 50 books, will be fondly remembered. **46**

**47**

**48**

**49**

**50**

41. *Farther* refers to distance; *further* is for time, intensity, or duration.
42. *Effected* can be a verb, but as such it means "to be the sole agent of change." In this sentence "influenced" is the more likely meaning, so *affected* is the one you want.
43. *A lot* is always written as two words.

44. *All ready* as two words means “completely prepared,” but in this sentence you want “by this time,” which is the definition of *already*.
45. *Everyday* as one word means “ordinary.” As two words, it means “daily,” the one you want here.
46. *All right* is always two words, never one.
47. *Sat* is the past tense of *sit*, which is the verb you want for plopping your body in a chair. *Set* is to place something else somewhere else.
48. *Irregardless* doesn’t exist, but *regardless* expresses the same idea.
49. *Lie* is to rest or recline; *lay* (in the present tense) is to put something down somewhere. Demos wants to rest, so *lie* is appropriate.
50. *Fifty books* is plural, so *more than* comes into play. *Over* is for singular terms.

