



Keystone National Middle School Language Arts Level 7 Placement Exam

1) Tara forgot to invite her cousin to the party and was sorry for the omission.

In this sentence, what does the word omission mean?

- a) a plan
- b) error; oversight
- c) rude; uncaring
- d) rules

2) Enrique ran further than five miles each day while he was training for the marathon. No error.

A B
C D

Which part of the sentence contains an error?

- a) further
- b) than
- c) marathon
- d) no error

3) What does the prefix re mean in the word rewrite?

- a) do again
- b) not
- c) against
- d) before

4) Mary wanted the galidified dress because of the pretty color and high quality. It would be perfect for the fancy Governor's Dance. Galidified is a made-up word that most likely means:

- a) elegant
- b) gaudy
- c) simple
- d) floor-length

5) Yelena wears a charm on her necklace.

What synonym could replace the underlined word?

- a) charisma
- b) luck
- c) pretty
- d) pendant

6) The class average score on the math test was an 85%.

In this sentence, average means the single value that represents the mean of a set of numbers. Which of the choices is another meaning of the word average?

- a) not out of the ordinary, normal
- b) midway between extremes
- c) both A and B
- d) neither A or B

7) Which of these prefixes, when added to the word moral, means not moral?

- a) un
- b) in
- c) im
- d) anti

8) What kind of figurative language is used in this sentence? Silly Sally never saw the slippery slope.

- a) alliteration
- b) hyperbole
- c) simile
- d) personification

9) Read the passage below and use it to answer questions 9 through 12.

The kids of Blahville need something fun to do and deserve a place to go after school and on weekends. When kids are bored, they tend to look for trouble to keep themselves busy. If the people of this town want to help kids stay out of trouble, building a recreation center is the way to go! A recreation center would give kids in our town a safe place to go to hang out with their friends and find exciting things to do.

Additionally, some of the kids in Blahville have expressed interest in playing sports. I hope the town can see the benefit of building a recreation center and starting sports programs. This would be a great opportunity for teens in our area to learn teamwork while staying physically fit.

I think you will find it hard to argue with the points I have made here. It should be clear to the people of Blahville that a recreation center can only have a positive effect on our town and its young people!

What is the author's purpose in writing this piece?

- a) to entertain the reader
- b) to inform the reader
- a) to persuade the reader
- b) to teach the reader

10) What point of view is this passage written from?

- a) second person
- b) first person
- c) third person omniscient
- d) third person subjective

11) What is one fact that could be used to support the argument?

- a) I think the recreation center will benefit everyone in the community.
- b) The town of Blahville has funds available to support the building of the recreation center.
- c) Blahville is a fantastic place to live and raise a family.
- d) Everyone in town is excited about the prospect of a new place for kids to play sports.

12) Which of these quotes from the text summarizes the author's intended purpose the best?

- a) "Additionally, some of the kids in Blahville have expressed interest in playing sports."
- b) "This would be a great opportunity for teens in our area to learn teamwork while staying physically fit."
- c) "If the people of this town want to help kids stay out of trouble, building a recreation center is the way to go!"
- d) "A recreation center would give kids in our town a safe place to go to hang out with their friends and find exciting things to do."

13) Use the poem, Fog to answer questions 13 through 15.

Fog by Carl Sandburg
The fog comes
on little cat feet.

It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

In this poem, the poet uses what kind of figurative language?

- a) simile
- b) hyperbole
- c) metaphor
- d) alliteration

14) In this poem, the word haunches means

- a) hind legs
- b) arms
- c) sides of an arch
- d) back

15) Based on the poem, one can infer that the mood in the city is of

- a) an exciting and lively evening
- b) a lazy afternoon
- c) a hectic morning
- d) a calm, quiet morning

16) Use the outline below to answer questions 16 through 18.

1) Early Life

- a) Elie Wiesel was born in 1928 in Sighet, Transylvania.
- b) At age 15, he was sent to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp with the rest of his family.
- c) Later transported to Buchenwald and liberated in 1945.

2) Later Life

- a) Wrote a book about his experiences, titled Night.
- b) Works to fight intolerance by teaching others of his experiences.
- c) In 1986, Mr. Wiesel won the Nobel Peace prize for his contributions to humanity.

What is the topic of this outline?

- a) the treatment of people in the concentration camps
- b) the good things Elie Wiesel did
- c) the war and what people did afterwards
- d) the life of Elie Wiesel

17) Where in the outline would be the best place for the fact, "Elie Wiesel established The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity in 1986?"

- a) early Life, after "Later transported to Buchenwald and liberated in 1945"
- b) early Life, before "Elie Wiesel was born in 1928 in Sighet, Transylvania"
- c) later Life, after "In 1986, Mr. Wiesel won the Nobel Peace prize for his contributions to humanity"
- d) later Life, before "Wrote a book about his experiences, titled Night"

18) What purpose could this outline best be used for?

- a) writing a book on World War II
- b) writing an essay about Elie Wiesel's life
- c) writing a speech about the winners of the Nobel Peace Prize
- d) writing a book report on the book Night

19) Use the excerpt below to answer questions 19 through 22.

Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus is a tale warning us about the dangers of knowledge. In 1818, an 18-year-old woman named Mary Shelley wrote one of the greatest science fiction stories ever. In this story, a man named Victor Frankenstein uses technology to bring life to a man created from the parts of dead bodies. The true story is very different from most movie versions of it, but the message is clear. What Frankenstein did was a mistake, and just because scientists can do something does not mean they should do it.

Which of these words used in the excerpt has multiple meanings?

- a) wrote
- b) true
- c) clear
- d) mean

20) Based on this passage, do you think the author is biased or unbiased?

- a) biased
- b) unbiased

21) What is the main idea of the excerpt?

- a) the monster was mistreated by his creator, Victor Frankenstein
- b) Mary Shelley wrote one of the greatest science fiction books
- c) the ability to do something does not mean you should do it
- d) technology has made our lives better

22) Prometheus is the Greek myth about how a god gave the knowledge of fire to man. Prometheus was severely punished for giving away this knowledge. In literature, fire can be both destructive and comforting (sitting by a fire on a cold day). Why do you think Mary Shelley titled her book Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus?

- a) to show how much she really like the story of Prometheus
- b) to show that the monster was comforting despite what everyone said
- c) to show that literature uses the same themes repeatedly
- d) to show how destructive knowledge can be

23) Use the passage below to answer questions 23 through 30.

The Frog Prince

One fine evening a young princess put on her coat, and went out to take a walk by herself in a wood. When she came to a cool pool of water, she sat down to rest. She had her favorite toy with her, a golden ball. She threw it up a few times and caught it, until she threw it up so high that she missed it. The ball bounced away and fell into the pool. The princess looked into the spring after her ball, but it was very deep, so deep that she could not see the bottom of it. She began to cry. "I would give away all the riches I own just to get my golden ball back," she sobbed.

At that, a frog put its head out of the water, and said, "Princess, why do you cry so bitterly?"

"Alas!" said she, "My golden ball has fallen into the pool. But why should you care, you nasty thing."

The frog said, 'I don't want your riches, but if you will love me, and let me live with you and eat from off your golden plate, and sleep on your bed, I will bring you your ball again.'

"What nonsense," thought the princess, "He can't even get out of the pool to visit me, though he may be able to get my ball for me, so I will agree to do what he asks." So she said to the frog, "Well, if you will bring me my ball, I will do all you ask."

The frog put his head down, and dove deep under the water; and after a little while he came up again, with the ball in his mouth, and threw it on the edge of the pool. As soon as the young princess saw her ball, she ran to pick it up; she was so overjoyed to have it, that she never thought of the frog, but ran home with it as fast as she could. The frog called after her, "Wait, princess, take me with you as you said." But she did not stop to hear a word.

The next day, just as the princess had sat down to dinner, she heard a strange noise--tap, tap--plash, plash--as if something was coming up the marble staircase: and soon afterwards there was a gentle knock at the door, and a little voice cried out and said:

"Open the door, my princess dear,
Open the door to your true love here!
Remember the words that you and I said
By the little pool, in the greenwood shade."

Then the princess ran to the door and opened it, and there she saw the frog, whom she had quite forgotten. Frightened, she shut the door as fast as she could. The king, her father, seeing that something had frightened her, asked her what was the matter.

She told him what had happened at the pool, and what she had promised the frog. "And now he is outside that door," she said.

While she was speaking the frog knocked again at the door.

Then the king said to the young princess, "You must keep your promise. Go and let him in."

She did so, and the frog hopped into the room, and then --tap, tap--plash, plash--to the table where the princess sat.

"Please lift me onto a chair," the frog said, "and let me sit next to you." As soon as she did that, he said, "Put your plate close to me so I can eat out of it." Once she did that, he ate until he was full. Then he asked her to carry him upstairs and put him in her bed. She took him up and put him on the pillow of her own bed, where he slept all night long. As soon as it was light he jumped up, hopped downstairs, and went out of the house. "Now, then," thought the princess, "at last he is gone, and I shall be troubled with him no more."

But she was mistaken, for when night came again she heard the same tapping at the door. The frog was back again.

When the princess opened the door the frog came in, and slept upon her pillow as before, till the morning broke. And the third night he did the same. But when the princess awoke on the following morning she was astonished to see, instead of the frog, a handsome prince, gazing on her with the most beautiful eyes she had ever seen, and standing at the head of her bed.

He told her he had been enchanted by a spiteful fairy, who had changed him into a frog, and that he had been fated to stay as a frog until some princess should take him out of the pool, and let him eat from her plate, and sleep upon her bed for three nights. "You," said the prince, "have broken his cruel charm, and now I have nothing to wish for but that you should go with me into my father's kingdom, where I will marry you, and love you as long as you live."

The young princess, you may be sure, was not long in saying "Yes" to all this, and as they spoke a beautiful coach drove up, with eight prancing horses.

They then said good-bye to the king and got into the coach with eight horses, and set out for the prince's kingdom, which they reached safely. There they lived happily a great many years.

What would the main conflict of the story best be described as?

- a) person vs. person
- b) person vs. self
- c) person vs. society
- d) person vs. nature

24) The sentence, "There they lived happily a great many years" is considered what part of the plot?

- a) rising action
- b) conflict
- c) climax
- d) resolution

25) When does the climax occur in the story, The Frog Prince?

- a) when the princess first meets the frog
- b) when the king tells the princess she must keep her promise
- c) when the frog shows up to collect on the princess' promise
- d) when the princess and the frog prince ride away in the coach

26) What point of view is the story told in?

- a) first person
- b) second person
- c) third person
- d) fourth person

27) What is the main theme of the story?

- a) freedom is important
- b) keeping promises is important
- c) beauty is hidden inside
- d) cleverness is more important than strength

28) What is the most likely setting of the story?

- a) in the past, in a make-believe land
- b) in the future, in a big city
- c) in present time, in a small town in Pennsylvania
- d) in the past, at the top of a frozen mountain range

29) What was the motivation for the frog to get the princess' ball?

- a) the frog wanted to marry the princess
- b) the frog wanted to break the curse
- c) the frog wanted to meet the king
- d) the frog wanted to hurt the princess

30) Which part of the story best helps to support the theme?

- a) the personalities of the princess and the servants
- b) the princess walking away from the frog after he got her ball
- c) the frog prince asking the princess to marry him
- d) the frog diving into the pond to bring up the golden ball

31) What kind of figurative language is used in this sentence? Sparkling with joy, her eyes shone like diamonds.

- a) assonance
- b) simile
- c) metaphor
- d) personification

32) Debonair means well-groomed and sophisticated. What are two antonyms for the word debonair?

- a) elegant and suave
- b) awkward and bumbling
- c) lanky and wealthy
- d) plentiful and sweet

33) Use the article to answer the questions 33 and 34.

The Great Crested Tern

The great crested tern is a tropical and subtropical bird that thrives from South Africa around the Indian Ocean to Australia and the Pacific. The populations are dispersed over enormous areas.

These birds live in coastal colonies on islands where they nest and lay eggs in sandy and rocky soils. They live in large colonies to help protect their group from predators. Like many sea birds, they dive for fish and thrive in saltwater environments. The males will offer fish to the females as a gift in their courtship.

Which sentence best summarizes the major points of this nonfiction article?

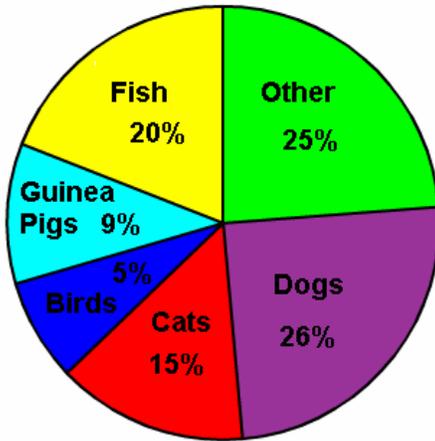
- a) The great crested tern is a bird that lives in warm places and they enjoy living near the water because that is where they find their food. They are friendly and are often found in zoos.
- b) The great crested tern is a bird that lives in large colonies, in the tropics. The tern lays its eggs in sandy and rocky soil. They are like most sea birds and will dive for fish which male birds will offer to the females during courtship.
- c) The great crested tern mates only in the summer and the males perform a special mating dance in order to attract females. They will then offer them as much fish as possible.
- d) The great crested tern only lays their eggs in the sandy or rocky soil because it offers the best protection from predators. Some predators include larger birds and carnivorous mammals.

34) Where would be the best place to insert a sentence about how the great crested tern cares for its young?

- a) after the section on population
- b) after the section on the males offering fish as a gift during courtship
- c) after the section where it says they live in large colonies
- d) after the section where it says they lay their eggs in rocky or sandy soil

35) Use the graph to answer questions 35 through 39.

Kinds of pets by student



What kind of graph is this?

- a) bar
- b) Venn diagram
- c) line
- d) pie

36) Which pet is represented the least?

- a) dogs
- b) guinea pigs
- c) birds
- d) fish

37) Which two animals represent over half of the graph?

- a) dogs and others
- b) dogs and fish
- c) cats and fish
- d) fish and others

38) Which pet is represented the most?

- a) fish
- b) other
- c) cats
- d) dogs

39) Based on this graph, what could a possible purpose for this information be?

- a) percentages of the kind of pets owned by students
- b) percentages of the kind of stores at the mall
- c) percentage of students who have pets
- d) percentage of students who shop at the pet store

40) Barbara left her son this note:

Hi Honey,

Please remember to get the trash ready to be put outside but don't forget to make a snack for your sister first. After getting the trash around, please make sure to write a letter to your grandmother saying thank you for sending you a card on your birthday. Finally, start dinner by boiling water on the stovetop.

Thanks!

Love, Mom

What did Barbara want her son to do first?

- a) make a snack for his sister
- b) gather up the trash
- c) boil water
- d) write a thank you letter to his grandmother

41) Use the poem to answer the questions 41 through 44.

Leaves blow in the wind,
dance and spin across the earth.
Tiny tornado.

This is an example of a(n) _____ poem.

- a) acrostic
- b) haiku
- c) limerick
- d) ballad

42) What is the author's purpose with this poem?

- a) to inform
- b) to teach
- c) to persuade
- d) to entertain

43) What two forms of figurative language are used in the poem?

- a) simile and personification
- b) simile and hyperbole
- c) personification and alliteration
- d) alliteration and simile

44) What is the rhyme scheme in the poem?

- a) ABAB
- b) ABBA
- c) ABCA
- d) there isn't one

45) How many suffixes does the following sentence contain?

Chandra happily realized that she was the fastest in the class.

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 4

46) Use the passage to answer questions 46 and 47.

When he came into the main room, he stopped for a moment and shivered. He looked over at the flickering flames in the fireplace, and then saw that there was no more wood next to the chimney. He would have to go out to the shed and get some more. He took a long look out the window and watched the light rain falling on the few sad, yellow leaves still clinging to the oak trees. It almost looked like it was going to turn to snow. "Well," he thought, "that wood is not going to get in here by itself." He lifted the latch on the front door and had almost opened it when he remembered. He reached over toward the corner and picked up his musket, checking to make sure it was ready to fire before opening the door.

What is the best evidence from the passage that supports this generalization:

The setting of the story is during the winter in the 1700s.

- a) there is a wood fire place in use and the character has a musket, a type of gun that wasn't used after the 1800s
- b) there is a woodshed and there is a light rain falling on the roof
- c) there is a latch on the front door and the leaves are falling off the trees. there are flickering flames in the fireplace
- d) there is a man talking to his hunting dog and he is excited to go outside and go hunting

47) Based on the passage, make an inference about the location of the passage.

- a) Florida
- b) South America
- c) Iran
- d) New England

48) Use the text below to answer the questions 48 through 51.

THE BEGGAR: (outside) Bread. Bread. Bread. Give me some bread.

THE KING: (annoyed) Who is that crying in the street for bread?

THE SERVANT: (fanning) O King, it is a beggar.

THE KING: Why does he cry for bread?

THE SERVANT: O King, he cries for bread in order that he may fill his belly.

THE KING: I do not like the sound of his voice. It annoys me very much. Send him away.

This text most likely comes from a

- a) poem
- b) short story
- c) Play
- d) nonfiction article

49) The words in the parenthesis are stage directions. What is the purpose of stage directions?

- a) they tell the actors how to say the lines
- b) they are directions for the director of the play
- c) the author liked the way they sounded
- d) there is no purpose for the stage directions

50) Based on the dialogue, the character of the king could be described as:

- a) happy and helpful
- b) lazy and useless
- c) spiteful and angry
- d) cruel and unsympathetic

51) The king languidly stated that he did not want to feed the beggar. The king had more important things to worry about.

Based on the context clues, languidly most likely means:

- a) happily
- b) not caring
- c) lazily
- d) furiously

52) **Essay question:** Your town wants to set a curfew for all the kids in town. All children under fifteen would have to be inside by 8:00 PM every weeknight. Do you feel that this is reasonable? What are some advantages or disadvantages in the town's plan? At the next town meeting, the mayor will make a decision. Pick a side and explain why you agree/disagree with the town curfew. Make sure to use concrete examples to help persuade your audience into agreeing with your point of view. Make sure to utilize proper organizational strategies, include a strong thesis, and have good topic sentences. After completing your essay make sure to proofread for spelling and grammar errors.

