

NATIONAL LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE 10 - GRADE 11 - GRADE 12 CONTEST

PART I: VOCABULARY

DIRECTIONS: In each of the sentences below there is a blank space indicating that a word has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are four choices. From these four words you are to choose the one word that when inserted in the blank space best fits in with the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. The praise for the sculpture was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. exuberant                      B. deleterious  
C. lethargic                        D. crass
2. During the night the \_\_\_\_\_ thunder was violent.  
A. gleeful                          B. rotund  
C. shimmering                    D. sporadic
3. The group attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ the speaker over his intemperate comments.  
A. laud                                B. harass  
C. contemporize                 D. monopolize
4. The lawyer tried to decipher what was \_\_\_\_\_ to his client's case.  
A. pertinent                         B. angular  
C. introspective                 D. diligent
5. The professor continued to \_\_\_\_\_ the writing style of the student.  
A. hyphenate                        B. morass  
C. deprecate                        D. substratum
6. He had a \_\_\_\_\_ feeling that the experiment would be successful.  
A. conjunctive                    B. visceral  
C. laminated                        D. perimeter
7. The actor's inexperience gave a \_\_\_\_\_ meaning to the scene.  
A. resourceful                      B. filial  
C. convoluted                      D. bohemian
8. The clouds were so \_\_\_\_\_ that you could see the sun through them.  
A. nettled                            B. obdurate  
C. convulsive                       D. nebulous

DIRECTIONS: Each underlined word is followed by four words lettered A to D. Choose the lettered word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word underlined.

9. augment  
A. improve  
B. establish  
C. diminish  
D. reevaluate
10. virtuoso  
A. accomplished  
B. amateur  
C. client  
D. professional
11. charlatan  
A. heroine  
B. neurotic  
C. imposter  
D. megalomaniac
12. bogus  
A. fraudulent  
B. dandy  
C. sinister  
D. authentic
13. unobtrusive  
A. cloudy  
B. visible  
C. back  
D. fertile
14. circumlocutory  
A. indecisive  
B. postulant  
C. spherical  
D. direct

## PART II: PUNCTUATION, CAPITALIZATION, AND GRAMMAR

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence. Decide what if any correction in punctuation, capitalization, or grammar the sentence needs. Write the correct letter on the answer sheet.

15. "I'm sorry" the teacher said, "but the class started twenty minutes ago."  
A. add comma after sorry  
B. remove comma after said  
C. remove quotation mark before but  
D. no error
16. My next year's classes will depend on what my major is going to be.  
A. change small m in major to capital M  
B. place comma after classes  
C. remove apostrophe from year's  
D. no error

17. If you want to write out the directions it would really help me.
- A. add comma after want
  - B. change me to I
  - C. add comma after directions
  - D. no error
18. I think that I could make a cake; but I can't promise you that it will be large enough for the group.
- A. change semicolon to comma after cake
  - B. change small g in group to capital G
  - C. add comma after but
  - D. no error
19. My friend said that the cat is a more intelligent animal than the cow.
- A. change more to most
  - B. change than to then
  - C. add comma after animal
  - D. no error
20. As long as the audience was watching, Frank and me sang the loudest in the group.
- A. remove comma after watching
  - B. change small a in audience to capital A
  - C. change me to I
  - D. no error

PART III: READING COMPREHENSION

DIRECTIONS: Read each paragraph. Answer each question by writing the letter of the correct answer in the space provided on the answer sheet.

Paragraph A:

Glimpses of white through  
The barren trees  
Give a mystery to the landscape  
I know so well--  
Now, I see hills that were  
Once flatlands--  
Huts that cover squirrels  
Look like little villages  
Sprouted in my backyard--

Strange footprints pattern  
 the ground and give  
 the impression of massive crowds  
 strolling by my house--  
 This strange, new landscape  
 Arrived overnight  
 Oh, what a 10-inch snowstorm  
 can do to create a  
 new environment based on  
 imagination and a blanket  
 of white--

21. The persona (speaker in the poem) sees a landscape that looks \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. ugly
  - B. mysterious
  - C. familiar
  - D. unchanged
  
22. It looks like the squirrels built \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. blankets
  - B. holes
  - C. huts
  - D. houses
  
23. It seems as though there were crowds because of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. footprints
  - B. hills
  - C. villages
  - D. blankets
  
24. The new land was created by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. builders
  - B. weather
  - C. snow and imagination
  - D. barren trees
  
25. The best title for this selection is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. "The Ground"
  - B. "A Mind Looking at a Blanket of White"
  - C. "Animals Travel"
  - D. "My Backyard"

Paragraph B:

In British history the Battle of Waterloo 1815 is a date as well known as 1066. It marked the end of an immense effort by Britain to defeat Napoleon. Britain alone of the powers of Europe never compromised herself, much less allied herself, as did at times Austria, Russia, and Prussia, with the Emperor. It was British sea power which attacked him in the Mediterranean and in the Baltic and which had made possible the landing of the British army in Spain. Since he could not invade England, he had been forced to try to master all Europe. It was really because of England that Napoleon had embarked on

his disastrous invasion of Russia in 1812. The Battle of Waterloo itself was one of the most glorious ever won by a British army. It was not on as large a scale as some of the other battles of the Napoleonic Wars, but it was one of the most savagely fought and certainly the most decisive.

Waterloo ended the cycle of wars which had begun with the victory of the French Revolution's army at Valmy in 1793. It meant the triumph of the autocracies and of conservative England. Germany was returned to its princes, fewer in number than at the end of the eighteenth century but still 140 sovereign states. In France the Bourbons returned to govern but with a charter which guaranteed democratic rights. The work of the Congress of Vienna insured peace in Europe for forty years. Above all, Waterloo marked the beginning of British dominance in Europe and throughout the world, which was to last for close to a hundred years. It was to be the British century just as the eighteenth and the second half of the seventeenth had been French. The British Empire was to reach its greatest strength, and its fleet was to maintain peace throughout the world.

26. All of these powers had at one time allied with Napoleon except \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Russia                      B. England  
C. Prussia                      D. Austria
27. A term that could be used as a description of the Battle of Waterloo is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. unpredictable              B. huge  
C. savage                      D. indecisive
28. Victory at Waterloo meant the triumph of \_\_\_\_\_ political forces in England.  
A. liberal                      B. radical  
C. democratic                  D. conservative
29. Peace in Europe until the mid-nineteenth century was guaranteed by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the Germans  
B. Napoleon  
C. the Congress of Vienna  
D. the Bourbons
30. The best title for this selection is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. "Waterloo"  
B. "French Power"  
C. "The Effect of the Sea"  
D. "British Power"

Paragraph C:

The Stalinist terror of 1948 to 1953 in Eastern Europe was bound up not only with Soviet efforts to stamp out heresy or independence within the Communist Party but with the continued grand project of state industrialization. And this industrial emphasis

was based on Stalin's belief that World War III would be fought just as the previous war. It took Stalin's successors to recognize, however, that the nuclear revolution demanded a new strategy. Yet even under the new doctrine of "peaceful coexistence," the Soviet Union continued to see the international system as fundamentally hostile to Russia. When Khrushchev came to power in 1955, the Soviets emphasized the exploitation of the new nationalism in the developing world (Third World), but what he really needed to obtain was a viable nuclear deterrent. The fear was of the new U.S. strategy of "massive retaliation," and with a disdain for the professional military, Khrushchev declared missiles to be the decisive element of military power. There was a cut of two million men from the Russian armed forces, a cut in the defense budget, and a reduction of all major military staffs. At this point criticism of Khrushchev in Russia began in earnest and reached its hottest point after the disastrous decisions in the Cuban missile crisis.

It is hard to pinpoint when the collapse of communism actually began. But by the 1970's communism was failing to live up to its promises in the eyes of societies which took its pledges of equality seriously. Communist Party privileges prevailed over universal social rights. Inflation was marked by growing shortages, deteriorating quality of goods, and lengthening food lines. Black markets abounded. The result was empty shelves, time wasted, and at the extreme food riots, which threatened the rule of the party itself when it did try pushing price increases. All this was predicated on an outmoded industrialization which created a vast workingclass now producing less and less.

31. Between 1948 and 1953 Russia was most concerned with \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. armaments                      B. reform  
C. industrialization              D. war
32. The Soviets exploited the Third World countries by emphasizing \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. revolution                      B. nationalism  
C. communism                      D. democratization
33. Under Khrushchev the Soviet Union began to cut down the emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. massive retaliation          B. missiles  
C. the regular army              D. propaganda
34. By the 1970's the demise of the Soviet Union was indicated by the failure of its \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. philosophy                      B. armaments  
C. economy                          D. terror
35. The best title for this selection is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. "Decline"                          B. "Stalinism"  
C. "Propaganda"                      D. "Militarism"

**PART IV: SPELLING**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read each sentence. A word may be misspelled in one part of the sentence. If so, write the appropriate letter on the answer sheet. If not, write the letter D.

- (a) (b) (c)
36. The symphonic conductor / decided to acquiesce / to the demands of the difficult soprano.  
 A. error in a  
 B. error in b  
 C. error in c  
 D. no error
- (a) (b)
37. The tremendous confusion / as to who was to be the baccalaureate speaker / caused a tumult in the college.  
 A. error in a  
 B. error in b  
 C. error in c  
 D. no error
- (a) (b) (c)
38. The affidavet from the witness / encouraged the prosecutor / to fully examine the witness.  
 A. error in a  
 B. error in b  
 C. error in c  
 D. no error
- (a) (b) (c)
39. The jeweler decided / after much hesitation and indecision / to raise the apraisal on the bracelet.  
 A. error in a  
 B. error in b  
 C. error in c  
 D. no error
- (a) (b)
40. The geologist's plans to investigate / the volcano before it erupted / meant he had to expedite his travels.  
 A. error in a  
 B. error in b  
 C. error in c  
 D. no error

## PART V: WORD RELATIONSHIPS

**DIRECTIONS:** In each of the incomplete statements below, two words are related to each other. Following these words are four pairs of related words. Select the pair of words that are related to each other in the same way as the original pair of words are related to each other. Put the correct letter on your answer sheet.

**EXAMPLE:** Decayed is to meat as \_\_\_\_.

- A. fish is to line
- B. stale is to bread
- C. food is to waste
- D. good is to bad

THE CORRECT ANSWER IS B.

41. Angry is to livid as \_\_\_\_.
- A. wary is to vital
  - B. emotional is to effusive
  - C. weak is to resolute
  - D. modern is to old
42. Shallow is to depth as \_\_\_\_.
- A. cloudy is to height
  - B. lurid is to shock
  - C. pious is to faith
  - D. apathetic is to caring
43. Extreme is to temper as \_\_\_\_.
- A. speedy is to deliver
  - B. angry is to provoke
  - C. dishonest is to slander
  - D. severe is to mitigate
44. Reform is to incorrigible as \_\_\_\_.
- A. erased is to indelible
  - B. harried is to innocuous
  - C. verified is to irrelevant
  - D. initiated is to unnerving
45. Mobility is to lame as \_\_\_\_.
- A. energy is to lively
  - B. enemy is to hostile
  - C. speech is to hoarse
  - D. transportation is to walk



46. Suit is to alteration as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. crop is to irrigation  
B. story is to revision  
C. apron is to cooking  
D. snack is to digestion
47. Indecision is to vacillate as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. woe is to lament  
B. winter is to hibernate  
C. entanglement is to extricate  
D. egotism is to emulate
48. Flood is to levy as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. avalanche is to snow  
B. deluge is to rain  
C. disease is to immunization  
D. building is to buttress
49. Law is to repeal as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. offer is to withdraw  
B. agreement is to amend  
C. employee is to demote  
D. house is to renovate
50. Word is to abbreviate as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. idea is to inhibit  
B. mail is to expedite  
C. picture is to laminate  
D. book is to abridge