

# 2012 BECE English Language Past Questions – Paper One

From the alternatives lettered A to D, choose the one which most suitably completes each sentence

1. Two people perished .....the spot.

- A. upon
- B. in
- C. on
- D. through

C. on

2. Oyo fell ill .....measles.

- A. at
- B. by
- C. of
- D. with

C. of

3. The doctor gave .....to the patient.

- A. some good advice
- B. much good advices
- C. many good advice
- D. some good advices

A. some good advice

4. All girls were supposed to wear .....during the Speech Day.

- A. new, white, long dresses
- B. new, long, white dresses
- C. long, white, new dresses
- D. white, new long dresses

B. new, long, white dresses

5. 'I think you know .....already', said the host to all the participants.

- A. one another
- B. each other
- C. themselves
- D. ourselves

A. one another

6. The girls asserted that both tennis racquets were

- A. of Akologos.
- B. Akologo's.
- C. Akologo's own.
- D. Akologo

B. Akologo's.

7. Children usually take .....their parents in appearance.

- A. after
- B. from
- C. to
- D. up

A. after

8. We haven't had .....rice to eat this week.

- A. some
- B. little
- C. any
- D. many

C. any

9. The chief praised the .....during the students demonstration.

- A. policemen's behaviours
- B. policemen behaviours
- C. policemen's behaviour
- D. policemens' behaviour

C. policemen's behaviour

10. When the lights went off I .....my supper.

- A. have eaten
- B. have been eating
- C. am eating
- D. was eating

D. was eating

11. The doctor said she .....if she had not kept strictly to her diet.

A. has died

B. will die

C. would die

D. would have died

D. would have died

12. We saw the plane .....for Kumasi

A. take on

B. take of

C. take off

D. take out

C. take off

13. There are many big houses in our area, .....?

A. isn't it

B. aren't they

C. weren't there

D. aren't there

D. aren't there

14. You have cut the grass, .....?

- A. haven't you
- B. did you
- C. didn't you
- D. had you

A. haven't you

15. The new airport .....next year.

- A. will be completed
- B. shall complete
- C. will be completing
- D. shall have completed

A. will be completed

16. Walking in the rain is not good, .....?

- A. is not
- B. is it
- C. must not
- D. must it

B. is it

17. Go over your work carefully, ..... you?

- A. do
- B. will
- C. may
- D. shall

B. will

**Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one which is nearest in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence.**

18. About fifty houses were demolished to make way for the new road.

- A. removed
- B. attacked
- C. destroyed
- D. displayed

C. destroyed

19. The headmaster took drastic action against the culprits.

- A. bold
- B. dangerous
- C. necessary
- D. severe

D. severe

20. It was forecast that there would be floods this year.

- A. deduced
- B. predicted
- C. imagined
- D. observed

B. predicted

21. Many people revered the old man for his charity to the poor.

- A. glorified
- B. respected
- C. feared
- D. praised

B. respected

22. When they reached the frontier, the customs officer stopped the car.

- A. fence
- B. gate
- C. entrance
- D. border

D. border

**In each of the following sentences a group of words has been underlined. Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one that best explains the underlined group of words.**

23. Awuni normally feels at home in my house. This means that Awuni .....in my house.

- A. feels comfortable
- B. lives
- C. moves about
- D. eats

A. feels comfortable

24. The students were advised to stop building castles in the air. This mean that the students should

- A. be serious and realistic
- B. not worry about castles
- C. be serious and hardworking
- D. not build any more castles

A. be serious and realistic

25. The chief told his linguist not to beat about the bush. This means that the linguist must

- A. not stammer
- B. go straight to the point
- C. not enter the bush
- D. cut down the bush

B. go straight to the point



26. Immediately Ekuba's mother left the house, she let the cat out of the bag. This means that Ekuba

- A. bought a cat
- B. took the cat from the bag
- C. left her house
- D. revealed the secret

D. revealed the secret

27. The teacher poured cold water on Sena's suggestion. This means that the teacher

- A. challenged Sena's suggestion
- B. approved of Sena's suggestion
- C. discouraged Sena
- D. provoked Sena

A. challenged Sena's suggestion

**From the list of words lettered A to D, choose the one that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word underlined in each sentence**

28. He had applied for a permanent job.

- A. a boring
- B. a dull
- C. an exacting
- D. a temporary

D. a temporary

29. He has a violent temper.

- A. mild
- B. natural
- C. flexible
- D. pleasant
- D. pleasant

30. His position made him humble.

- A. stubborn
- B. wicked
- C. arrogant
- D. selfish
- C. arrogant

31. That is a genuine painting.

- A. bad
- B. fake
- C. damaged
- D. poor
- B. fake

32. The soldier climbed the mountain carefully.

- A. descended
- B. circled
- C. fell off
- D. looked up

A. descended

**From the options lettered A to D, choose the one that correctly answers the questions or completes the sentence**

33. The main idea in a novel or play is the .....

A. suspense

B. plot

C. gist

D. theme

D. theme

34. The three main forms of literature are prose, drama and .....

A. novel

B. satire

C. poetry

D. prosody

C. poetry

**Read the following stanza and answer questions 35 and 36**

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away.  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

35. Time in the stanza is being used as .....

A. symbol

B. simile

- C. synecdoche
- D. personification

D. personification

36. The rhyme scheme of the stanza is .....

- A. abba
- B. bbaa
- C. abab
- D. baba

C. abab

37. The place and time of the action of a play or novel is its .....

- A. background
- B. setting
- C. scene
- D. atmosphere

B. setting

38. One of the following helps best to create interest in a work of art:

- A. rhythm
- B. preface
- C. epilogue
- D. suspense

D. suspense

39. The main function of imagery in literature is to make readers / listeners .....

- A. appreciate the great efforts of writers
- B. understand clearly what writers put across
- C. admire how learned writers are
- D. know literature is different from other uses of language

B. understand clearly what writers put across

40. A character in a play that opposes the hero or heroine is the .....

- A. antagonist
- B. challenger
- C. opponent
- D. protagonist