

**MAHARASHTRA
NATIONAL TALENT SEARCH EXAMINATION 2016- 17**

LANGUAGE TESTING – ENGLISH

Directions (Q. Nos. 1-5) :

Read the passage and Answer the questions based on it :

In towns and cities of north and west India, kite flying is a craze. People fly their kites mostly from the roofs of their houses. At some places kites are flown from open grounds. Being a fun sports all times, kites are flown throughout the year. However there are some special occasions, on which every enthusiast involves himself in *Patang Baazi*. These occasions include Makar Sankranti, Basant Panchami, Raksha Bandhan, and Independence Day.

Basant Panchami is one of the biggest festivals of North India. It heralds both the approach of the harvest and the end of winter. This spring festival is celebrated by flying kites, mainly of yellow colour, which represents the ripening mustard in the fields. From the morning onwards, the roofs of almost every house become full of young and old keeping their kites afloat. By early afternoon, the sky becomes peppered with kites of different colours and sizes. The fun of Basant Panchami does not preclude the intense competition that is a unique north Indian phenomenon-cutting each other's kite lines. Each time a kite's lifeline is severed, a cheer, "Bo- kata: (loosely translated as "kite cut off"), is sent up by the victor.

1. What does the yellow colour kite represent ?
(1) End of winter
(2) Ripening of mustard
(3) Harvest season
(4) All of these
2. Pick out the antonyms for 'Victor' :
(1) Winner
(2) Loser
(3) Rivals
(4) Master
3. Which festivals are mentioned in the passage ?
(1) Basant Panchami
(2) Makar Sankranti
(3) Both (1) and (2)
(4) None of these
4. In which season is Basant Panchami celebrated ?
(1) Summer
(2) Winter
(3) Autumn
(4) Spring
5. Which of these pairs is the odd man out ?
(1) Flying kites
(2) Biggest festival
(3) Yellow colour
(4) Paper lamps

Directions (Q. Nos. 6-10) :

Read the following passage and answer the questions based on it :

It could be a scene straight out of a horror film. Only it was reality in suburban Mumbai. Rain lashed on the ground. A hundred children wailed in terror in a cramped, dark hall. Water gushed in from all sides and inched up. The inmates of Additional Bal Griha of the Children's Aid Society mostly terrified children, sang their daily prayer : "Itni shakti humme dena data". Asma, however, was the odd one out. She started calculating how soon the children will start drowning. "I could only think of one thing. That I couldn't bear to see the smaller ones drown. I am their didi." She picked up two of the smaller kids and jumped into the water nearly five feet of dirty, black liquid. "I don't know how to swim. So, slowly. I moved across the slippery ground, keeping my head up to keep the water from getting into my mouth and nose." She made over a dozen such trips, carrying nearly 40 kids on her shoulders to safety. Wasn't she scared ? "Nothing scares me." she says. Why didn't any of the other inmates join her ? "Oh, well, I'm the tallest!" The girl doesn't know who or where her parents are ("Kya pata" she says). Nor does she care to know about her life history from the orphanage files. But Asma certainly knows more about parenting than most. She loves to watch TV serials.

6. The natural calamity that the passage mentions is :
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| (1) Floods | (2) Heavy rains |
| (3) Electricity failure | (4) Waterfall |
7. The most courageous act of Asma was :
- | |
|--|
| (1) Rescuing the children. |
| (2) Taking care of small kids |
| (3) Plunging in water to save kids though she could not swim |
| (4) Being of help to others |
8. The incident happened in :
- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| (1) A hallway | (2) An orphanage |
| (3) A school | (4) A TV serial |
9. In what sense was Asma the 'odd one' out ?
- | |
|--|
| (1) She could not swim |
| (2) She did not know who her parents were |
| (3) She was not scared |
| (4) She ventured in the water to save younger kids while others just watched |
10. Which word in the passage means 'cried in a low pitch' ?
- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| (1) Wailed | (2) Cramped |
| (3) Terror | (4) Inmates |

Directions (Q. Nos. 11-15) :

Read the passage and answer the following questions :

In 1933-34 I got my first chance to play in Test cricket in India. The M.C.C. team under Douglas Jardine was in our country to play three Test matches. Fortunately I was able to do sufficiently well to retain my place in all the three Tests. During the Test matches my younger sister, Laxmi, had given me an autograph book to get the autographs of the visiting players. I had carefully put down M.C.C. Touring Team — 1933-34 on one of the pages. Under this heading I took the autographs of all the 16 players who visited India. Two months later I had an occasion to approach Gandhiji for his autograph which my sister was very keen to have. There were quite a few people present when I made my request. Gandhiji smiled and leafed through the pages of the autograph book and then underneath the names of the M.C.C. players wrote. '17 — M.K. Gandhi'. I immediately understood the greatness of the man and what had prompted him. By that unforgettable signature as the seventeenth man of the M.C.C. team he showed that although he was prepared to fight the British Government tooth and nail for the independence of India, he had nothing against the common man of England and was prepared to put himself down as the seventeenth man of an English Cricket Team.

11. Which nations' teams played three test matches ?
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) West' Indies and India | (2) England and India |
| (3) Australia and India | (4) S. Africa and India |
12. With whom was Mahatma Gandhi fighting for freedom ?
- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| (1) British people | (2) British Governor |
| (3) British Government | (4) All of these |
13. The phrase 'to put down' means:
- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| (1) wear | (2) write |
| (2) get down | (4) keep |
14. Why did Mahatma Gandhi put himself down in the English team ? Because :
- (1) he had nothing against the British
 - (2) he had nothing against the British government
 - (3) he had nothing against the British common people
 - (4) none of the above
15. Author's younger sister Laxmi had given him the autograph book for :
- (1) writing down scores
 - (2) listing down the team members
 - (3) getting autographs of visiting players
 - (4) getting autograph of Mahatma Gandhi

Directions (Q. Nos. 16 and 17) :

The following five sentences come from a single paragraph. The first and the last sentences are given. Choose the right order in which the sentences (**P, Q, R**) should appear to complete the paragraph :

16. **S1** : One day I decided to make my favourite sandwich.
S2 :
S3 :
S4 :
S5 : I then sprinkled pepper and ate my sandwich with relish.
P : Then I toasted the bread and put some mayo, tomatoes and lettuce on it.
Q : First I washed the tomatoes and the lettuce and chopped them.
R : So I went to the kitchen and gathered all the things needed on the counter.
Options :
(1) PQR (2) PRQ
(3) RQP (4) RPQ

17. **S1** : The alarm goes off and I hit snooze and go back to bed
S2 :
S3 :
S4 :
S5 : When I finally get ready, I realise I have no time for breakfast and have to leave without it.
P : Then it goes off again and I snooze it again and go to bed.
Q : Finally I realise I have very less time to get up and get ready.
R : It goes off the third time and once more snooze it.
Options :
(1) PRQ (2) RQP
(3) QPR (4) RPQ

Directions (Q. Nos. 18 and 19) :

The following questions have the second sentence missing. Choose the appropriate sentence from the given options to complete it. The second sentence should link the first and last sentences.

18. **A** : My greatest strength is my exceptional teachers.
B :
C : It was due to this that I am able to think creatively.
(1) I read a lot of books.
(2) They have given me the liberty to think individually and learn by experimentation.
(3) I have always liked to go to school and enjoyed learning.
(4) I have successfully cleared many competitive exams.
19. **A** : On a hot summer afternoon, two friends walked a few miles.
B :
C : They wanted to stop and get some water.
(1) They became thirsty after walking in the hot sun.
(2) They had to reach on time to catch a bus.
(3) They had their school bags in their hands.
(4) They saw some big, shady trees on the way.

Directions (Q. Nos. 20 to 29) :

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate options from the given alternatives :

20. I don't expect him to change his mind because I know he is very
- (1) patient (2) hardworking
(3) abstinate (4) obstinate
21. Our teacher is a person. She easily captivates the attention of the students.
- (1) lethargic (2) dynamic
(3) iconic (4) uninteresting
22. My father gets very angry with us whenever we make a mistake. He has no for mistakes.
- (1) tolerance (2) impatience
(3) solution (4) tolerate
23. Teachers like students who never break rules.
- (1) mischievous (2) studious
(3) stubborn (4) obedient
24. We couldn't see the meteor shower due to weather conditions.
- (1) hot (2) cold
(3) unfavourable (4) favourable
25. He is wet He of the sea.
- (1) has just comes out (2) just comes out
(3) had just come out (4) was just coming out
26. Raman can speak, Telugu Marathi and English.
- (1) besides (2) with
(3) beside (4) alongside
27. People will catch the thief, ?
- (1) will not they (2) will they
(3) won't they (4) don't they
28. If it snows this weekend, we skiing.
- (1) go (2) will go
(3) could going (4) are going
29. you like buy jewellery or a dress ?
- (1) Can (2) Could
(3) Will (4) Would

Directions (Q. Nos. 30 to 35) :

Select the correct meaning of the underlined phrases or idioms :

- 30.** The sailor found himself between the devil and deep sea.
(1) lost in the deep ocean
(2) facing two challenges
(3) facing two equally bad alternatives
(4) confronting two opportunities
- 31.** Our school is within a stone's throw of the railway station.
(1) within a certain radius
(2) at a short distance
(3) within a definite circumference
(4) very far off
- 32.** He did me a good turn by recommending me for the post of Vice-Principal.
(1) became suddenly good
(2) improved my prospects
(3) did an act of kindness
(4) returned my kindness
- 33.** One should not indulge in tall talks.
(1) flattery
(2) boasting
(3) ideal talk
(4) irrelevant talk
- 34.** He is always picking holes in all the projects.
(1) asking irrelevant questions
(2) suggesting improvements
(3) finding faults
(4) creating problems
- 35.** He does not like to be friendly with Sarita, he always gives her a cold shoulder.
(1) tries to be unfriendly by not taking notice of her
(2) argues with her
(3) insults her
(4) creates trouble for her

Directions (Q. Nos. 36 to 43) :

In the following passage there are some numbered blanks. Fill in the blanks by selecting the most appropriate word for each blank from the given options :

The earth is one of the known planets that circles the sun. In (36) times, the men who studied the (37) noticed that while certain heavenly (38) seemed fixed in the sky, others seemed to (39) about. The latter they named planets or wanderers. (40) astronomers have discovered that the four planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are surrounded by poisonous gases and are so (41) that any living thing attempting to (42) on them would instantly be frozen. Of the five remaining planets, Venus closely (43) the earth in size.

36. (1) past (2) antique
(3) ancient (4) modern
37. (1) light (2) stars
(3) earth (4) sun
38. (1) bodies (2) objects
(3) things (4) entities
39. (1) jump (2) roam
(3) run (4) move
40. (1) upstart (2) future
(3) modern (4) new
41. (1) cold (2) lukewarm
(3) dull (4) frigid
42. (1) squat (2) land
(3) walk (4) stay
43. (1) imitates (2) negates
(3) resembles (4) identify

Directions (Q. Nos. 44 to 47) :

Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blanks from the given options:

44. When will you hand your assignment ?
(1) into (2) back
(3) down (4) in
45. The were arrested for illegally hunting the bears.
(1) poachers (2) rangers
(3) soldiers (4) roachers
46. My sister upset the kettle of boiling water and her right hand badly.
(1) scorched (2) scalded
(3) sizzled (4) wounded
47. She made her stepson her to a large fortune.
(1) hare (2) heir
(3) hair (4) here

Directions (Q. Nos. 48 to 50) :

Choose the antonym of the underlined word from the four alternatives given:

- 48: Knowledge is the elixir of life.
(1) ignorance (2) cleverness
(3) intelligence (4) illiteracy
49. A deficit budget is harmful for the nation's economy.
(1) profit (2) bonus
(3) benefit (4) surplus
50. The adventurous young man enjoyed bungee jumping.
(1) fearless (2) fearful
(3) dangerous (4) careless