CANDIDATE – PLEASE NOTE!

PRINT your name on the line below and return this booklet with your answer sheet. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

FORM TP 2024068

TEST CODE **01218010**

MAY/JUNE 2024

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

CARIBBEAN SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE® EXAMINATION

ENGLISH A

Paper 01 – General Proficiency

1 hour 30 minutes

06 JUNE 2024 (a.m.)

READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

1. This test consists of 60 items. You will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to answer them.
2. In addition to this test booklet, you should have an answer sheet.
3. Each item in this test has four suggested answers lettered (A), (B), (C), (D). Read each item you are about to answer and decide which choice is best.
4. On your answer sheet, find the number which corresponds to your item and shade the space having the same letter as the answer you have chosen. Look at the sample item below.

   Sample Item

   Choose the word that BEST completes each sentence.

   Someone who is suffering from influenza needs to be isolated as the disease is

   (A) lasting
   (B) serious
   (C) contagious
   (D) destructive

   Sample Answer

   The best answer to this item is "contagious", so (C) has been shaded.
5. If you want to change your answer, erase it completely before you fill in your new choice.
6. When you are told to begin, turn the page and work as quickly and as carefully as you can. If you cannot answer an item, go on to the next one. You may return to that item later.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

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Items 1–5

Instructions: Each sentence in this section has ONE underlined word. Choose from the four suggested answers the word which is nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word.

1. Many teenagers and even some parents do not agree with the amount of restrictiveness in today's society.

   (A) bluntness
   (B) forcefulness
   (C) permissiveness
   (D) competitiveness

2. Constructive criticism is neither appreciated nor encouraged by some of our peers.

   (A) Sound
   (B) Negative
   (C) Valuable
   (D) Unsatisfactory

3. The affluence displayed in the community on the hill indicated the significant difference in economic status compared with dwellers in the city.

   (A) misery
   (B) wealth
   (C) poverty
   (D) richness

4. The barren land was a result of agricultural practices.

   (A) stony
   (B) fertile
   (C) swampy
   (D) unproductive

5. They always displayed a lackadaisical approach to their studies, so no one was surprised at the results.

   (A) calm
   (B) casual
   (C) diligent
   (D) careless

Items **6–10**

Instructions: Select the option A, B, C or D that BEST describes EACH of the sentences and mark your choice on the answer sheet.

(A) The sentence is too wordy, that is, repetitive or contains redundancies.
(B) The sentence contains clichés or misused metaphors.
(C) The sentence is incorrect grammatically or faulty in diction.
(D) The sentence is acceptable as it stands.

6. He advanced a step or two to meet his attacker who became alarmed and retreated back.

7. Her friend told her to look for the good in the situation as every cloud has a silver lining.

8. She had adequate time to prepare for the interview.

9. When the clerk raised his voice in protest, his boss asked him to hold his tongue since empty vessels made the most noise and are often thrown in the den to be eaten by the lions.

10. If I was the captain of the West Indies cricket team, I will attack the batsmen with my fast bowlers.

Items 11–15

Instructions: Some of the following sentences are unacceptable because of inappropriate grammar, idiom, punctuation or spelling. Some sentences are acceptable as they stand. No sentence contains more than one inappropriate element.

Select the ONE underlined part that you feel is inappropriate and choose the corresponding letter. If the sentence is acceptable as it stands, choose D. Make your choice on the answer sheet.

11. The novice (A) climber called out to my partner and me (B) for assistance (C) as she struggled up the slope. No error. (D)

12. Neither the books nor the pen are (A) affordable (B) on my meagre budget (C). No error. (D)

13. The earthquake in Haiti, destroyed (A) many buildings, devastated (B) the population and was a catalyst for other disasters (C). No error. (D)

14. He is full of venom (A) since the war (B), took a great toll (C) on him. No error. (D)

15. I decided (A) to eat the hamburger before class, though (B) I was already late, however (C) I was ravenous. No error. (D)

Items **16–20**

Instructions: Revise each of the following sentences according to the directions that follow it. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence. Look at the options, A to D, for the word or phrase that BEST suits the revised sentence and mark your choice on the answer sheet.

16. I would have considered going to the picnic had I heard of it earlier.

Begin the sentence with

Since I did not know

(A) I could
(B) I should
(C) I considered
(D) have consideration

17. The kitten, frightened by the thunder, cowered under the sofa.

Begin the sentence with

The thunder frightened the kitten, so

(A) cowers
(B) cowered
(C) cowering
(D) was cowering

18. The cricket match ended abruptly when many of the spectators stormed the field.

Begin the sentence with

Many of the spectators stormed

(A) so
(B) but
(C) getting
(D) preventing

19. These students are hard-working as well as respectful.

Begin the sentence with

Not only

(A) and
(B) though
(C) rather than
(D) but they are

20. People from crowded nations cannot get over the accessibility of Canada's natural environment, in all its magnificence.

Begin the sentence with

It is impossible for

(A) to be over
(B) to get over
(C) to have got over
(D) to getting over

Items 21–25

Instructions: Each of the sentences in this section has one underlined word. Choose from the four options the word which is NEAREST IN MEANING to the underlined word.

21. It was impossible to rectify the error made by the computer since inaccurate information had been fed into it.

(A) fix
(B) pin
(C) aggravate
(D) determine

22. The flowers grow profusely in the garden.

(A) wildly
(B) healthily
(C) plentifully
(D) colourfully

23. The news story revealed the squalor of the old prison cells.

(A) security
(B) strength
(C) ambiance
(D) filthiness

24. The gregarious young man was involved in numerous groups on campus and also enjoyed spending time with his large group of friends.

(A) helpful
(B) sociable
(C) grateful
(D) respectable

25. Bush fires are prevalent during the dry season, but the current drought has made the situation worse.

(A) frequent
(B) unpopular
(C) controlled
(D) established

Items 26–33

Instructions: Read the following poem carefully and then answer Items 26–33 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

To a Daughter Leaving Home

When I taught you
at eight to ride
a bicycle, loping along
beside you
as you wobbled away
on two round wheels,
my own mouth rounding
in surprise when you pulled
ahead down the curved
path to the park,
I kept waiting
for the thud
of your crash as I sprinted to catch up,
while you grew
smaller, more breakable
with distance,
pumping, pumping
for your life, screaming
with laughter
the hair flapping
behind you like a
handkerchief waving
goodbye.

Linda Pastan, "To a Daughter Leaving Home". Retrieved from https://www.loc.gov/programs/poetry-and-literature/poet-laureate/poet-laureate-projects/poetry-180/all-poems/item/poetry-180-075/to-a-daughter-leaving-home/

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26. The speaker in the poem is MOST likely

(A) a parent
(B) a grandfather
(C) an older sibling
(D) a riding instructor

27. Why does the speaker compare the daughter's leaving home to her learning to ride a bicycle?

I. The daughter needs support in both activities.
II. The person remembers the child's courage and enjoyment.
III. The person thinks learning to ride a bicycle is hard, as is life.

(A) I and II only
(B) I and III only
(C) II and III only
(D) I, II and III

28. The speaker's mouth is "rounding/in surprise" (lines 7 and 8) because the

(A) girl wobbles, but does not fall
(B) girl is confident that the speaker can keep up with her
(C) novice rider is able to easily ride around a bend
(D) daughter pulls away from the person's protective hold and rides ahead

29. What device is used in lines 12 and 13 ("for the thud/of your crash as I sprinted to catch up")?

(A) Onomatopoeia
(B) Repetition
(C) Metaphor
(D) Simile

30. The words "breakable/with distance" (lines 15 and 16) indicate the speaker's

(A) concern that he/she is not keeping up with the child
(B) fear that the daughter will fall prey to a variety of dangers
(C) worry that the child is fragile and cannot cope with the bicycle
(D) anxiety that the girl cannot be protected when she is away from home

31. "Pumping/for your life" (lines 17 and 18) indicates that the

(A) girl's well-being is compromised
(B) person fears that the girl will fall
(C) girl is willing to exert herself to succeed
(D) person thinks the girl is too young to be on her own

32. What literary device is used in the last four lines of the poem?

(A) Simile
(B) Metaphor
(C) Repetition
(D) Onomatopoeia

33. The word "goodbye" stands alone in the last line of the poem to

(A) indicate the end of one phase of life
(B) point to the girl's happiness at leaving home
(C) represent the speaker's understanding that he/she has to let go
(D) symbolize the end of the relationship between the person and child

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Items **34–41**

Instructions: Read the following extract carefully and then answer Items 34–41 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

She had always been a small woman — short, light-boned, delicately structured — but now, under the white hospital sheet, she was becoming tiny. I thought of a doll with huge, fierce eyes. There had always been a fierceness in her. It showed in that angry, challenging thrust of the chin when she issued an opinion, and a great one she had always been for issuing opinions.

"I tell people exactly what's on my mind," she had been fond of boasting. "I tell them what I think, whether they like it or not." Often they had not liked it. She could be sarcastic to people in whom she detected evidence of the ignoramus or the fool.

"It's not always a good policy to tell people exactly what's on your mind," I used to caution her.

"If they don't like it, that's too bad," was her customary reply, "because that's the way I am."

And so she was. A formidable woman. Determined to speak her mind, determined to bend those who opposed her. In that time when I had known her best, my mother had hurled herself at life with chin thrust forward, eyes blazing, and an energy that made her seem always on the run.

She ran after squawking chickens, a knife in her hand, determined on the beheading that would put dinner in the pot. She ran when she made the beds, ran when she set the table. One Thanksgiving she burned herself badly when, running up from the cellar oven with the ceremonial turkey, she tripped on the stairs and tumbled back down ending on the bottom in the debris of giblets, hot gravy, and battered turkey. Life was combat, and victory was not for the lazy, the timid, the slugabed, the drugstore cowboy, the mushmouth afraid to tell people exactly what was on their mind whether people liked it or not. She ran.

But now her running was over.

Adapted from Russell Baker, In My Day.
Retrieved 23 February 2015, from
http://www. douban.com/note/173685719.

34. The mother's "thrust of the chin" (line 3) is done in

(A) fear
(B) hatred
(C) defiance
(D) contemplation

35. The son cautioned his mother about telling people exactly what she thought because he

(A) was affronted by her arrogance
(B) thought others would be offended
(C) found her behaviour aggressive
(D) was upset that she would not change

36. Why does the writer choose the expression "A formidable woman" (line 11) to describe the mother?

(A) He is intimidated by her.
(B) Her words often provoked anger.
(C) The difference in her style shows the constancy of her character.
(D) He emphasizes her strength which he finds admirable.

37. What does "In that time when I had known her best" (line 12) say about the mother–son relationship?

(A) They had grown apart.
(B) They admired each other.
(C) They had always had a close relationship.
(D) The son had forgotten things about his mother.

38. What literary device is used in lines 12–13, "my mother had hurled herself at life"?

(A) Irony
(B) Imagery
(C) Repetition
(D) Onomatopoeia

39. The behaviours the mother finds contemptible include

I. timidity
II. laziness
III. cowardice

(A) I and II only
(B) I and III only
(C) II and III only
(D) I, II and III

40. The incident at Thanksgiving shows the mother's attitude to be one of

(A) hastiness
(B) aggression
(C) impudence
(D) determination

41. The final sentence of the extract implies that the mother has

(A) become lazy and sleepy
(B) lost her physical strength
(C) hurt her leg in the hospital
(D) died leaving the son to reminisce

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Items **42–46**

Instructions: Read the following extract carefully and then answer Items 42–46 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

If you're a man, at some point a woman will ask you how she looks. You must be careful how you answer the question. The best technique is to form an honest yet sensitive opinion, then collapse on the floor with some kind of fatal seizure. Trust me, this is the easiest way out, because you will never come up with the right answer.

The problem is that women generally do not think of their looks in the same way that men do. Most men form an opinion of how they look by age 15 and they stick to it for the rest of their lives. Some men form an opinion that they are irresistible, and they do not change this opinion even when their faces sag and their noses bloat to the size of eggplants.

Most men, I believe, think of themselves as average looking. Men will think this even if their faces cause heart failure in cattle at a range of 300 metres. Being average does not bother them; average is fine, for men. Their primary form of beauty care is to shave themselves, which is essentially the same form of beauty care that they give to their lawns. If, at the end of his four-minute daily beauty regimen, a man has managed to wipe most of the shaving cream out of his hair and is not bleeding too badly, he feels he has done all he can, so he stops thinking about his appearance and devotes his mind to more critical issues, such as the World Cup.

Women do not look at themselves this way. If I had to express in three words what I believe women would think about their appearance, those words would be "not good enough". No matter how attractive a woman may appear to be to others, when she looks at herself in the mirror, she thinks "woof". She thinks that at any moment a municipal officer is going to throw a net over her and haul her off to the shelter.

Why do women have such low self-esteem? There are many complex psychological and societal reasons. Women grow up thinking that they need to look like Barbie, which for most women is impossible, although there is a multibillion-dollar industry devoted to convincing women that they must try.

Getting back to my original point: If you're a man, and a woman asks you how she looks, you're in big trouble. Obviously you can't say she looks bad. But you also can't say she looks great, because she'll think you're lying. Furthermore, she suspects that you're not qualified to judge anybody's appearance. This is because you have shaving cream in your hair.

Adapted from Dave Barry, "The Ugly Truth About Beauty"
Retrieved from https://pennykittle.net/uploads/images/PDFs/.
Mentor_Texts/The-Ugly-Truth-About-Beauty.pdf

42. The MAIN idea of the extract is that

(A) men and women have different ideas of beauty and what is acceptable
(B) women have low self-esteem because of society's beauty ideals
(C) women must not try to trap men with their questions
(D) men do not understand women

43. According to the author, women's self-esteem is eroded by

I. the cosmetics and fashion industries
II. their own unquestioning acceptance of societal norms
III. dolls whose proportions do not match the average woman's

(A) I and II only
(B) I and III only
(C) II and III only
(D) I, II and III

44. The writer believes that most men are free from the self-esteem problem women face because men

(A) think they are irresistible anyway
(B) prefer the natural look to rigorous beauty regimens
(C) are perfectly fine with being average looking
(D) believe that it is the woman's job to look good, not theirs

45. According to the extract, why is a man's "beauty regimen" so comparatively simple?

(A) It is very low on his list of priorities.
(B) Most men look good anyway; they do need a beauty regimen.
(C) Men are honest and sensitive, and not as concerned with appearance.
(D) Men are less complex creatures than women and their habits reflect this.

46. The language of the extract is informal, with personal interjections, because the author

(A) wants to make fun of the situation
(B) wants to create rapport with his audience
(C) is expressing his opinion, not studied fact
(D) wishes to share simple truths about the sexes

Items 47–54

Instructions: Read the following extract carefully and then answer Items 47–54 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

This is an open request to try to find who is the 'brain' behind traffic management in Paolo. Does anybody know? I have tried Traffic Branch, not them; Highways, not them; Planning & Development, not them; in fact nobody wants to take responsibility for certain decisions and the mess that results.

For example, Mission Road was made one-way, north to south. Great idea! It worked, no traffic jams. In fact, many people were charged for going the wrong way up a one-way street. Then suddenly it's back to two-way and traffic for so! Same is true of Stoke Street. Somebody changed the 'Stop' signs at the corner for a few weeks, then they changed it back; nobody knows why.

But the best is Celestial Road in St John which is 'Wrecker Heaven'. Somebody made this road, which, apart from Broadway, is the widest street in Paolo, a 'no parking' street, either side, any time, and the 'Wrecker' is profiting from this.

There are four major office buildings on this road, all of which provide underground parking for staff, so some (usually the lower paid) have to park elsewhere and these are the persons whose cars the wrecker is taking away all day, everyday. Again the small man suffers!

Oh! there is an exception: if you have a Canadian High Commission sticker you can park and the wrecker will not touch your 'Diplomatic' car. Maybe we could all become Diplomats!

Then again, the two narrowest streets in Paolo allow parking; try Delino Street off Abby Lane, you can hardly pass!

Who is the 'brain' behind this mess? It seems the more cars we put on the road, the less parking somebody wants to allow. Who is this brain? No doubt a small man with a BIG, BIG car who has no name!

Source unknown

47. The writer's use of the word "brain" (line 1) is meant to

(A) compliment an individual
(B) create a comparison of streets
(C) make fun of the poor decisions
(D) exaggerate the traffic problems

48. When the writer repeats "not them" in paragraph 1, he implies that

(A) he is choosing someone to complain to
(B) no one wants to accept responsibility for the traffic situation
(C) no one knows who is in charge of the traffic management
(D) he is searching diligently for the person in charge of traffic

49. "Stoke Street" (line 7), "Celestial Road" (line 9) and "Delino Street" (line 17) can BEST be considered as

(A) prohibited streets for all drivers
(B) streets that attract a lot of attention
(C) examples to support the writer's case
(D) assigned parking places for diplomats

50. The writer's tone can be described as

(A) puzzled
(B) resigned
(C) sarcastic
(D) complimentary

51. The last sentence of the letter is similar to paragraph 5 because both of them

(A) mention cars
(B) express disgust
(C) are complimentary
(D) contain rhetorical questions

52. The author of the extract is MOST likely a

(A) motorist
(B) pedestrian
(C) traffic warden
(D) government official

53. "Again the small man suffers" (line 14) implies that the small man is often

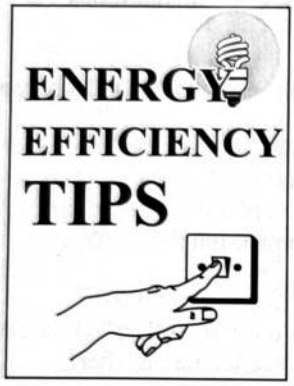
(A) ignored
(B) disadvantaged
(C) the one who is wrong
(D) discriminated against

54. The letter was MOST likely published in a

(A) newspaper
(B) press release
(C) tourist brochure
(D) school magazine

Items **55–60**

Instructions: Read the following advertisement carefully and then answer Items 55–60 on the basis of what is stated or implied.



1. **Keep fixtures and bulbs clean. Dirt can absorb as much as 50% of light.**
2. **Turn off the lights, when leaving a room even if it's only for a few minutes. It's just a myth that it takes more energy to turn a light on than to leave it on.**
3. **Use motion sensors for outdoor lights. They're a good security measure and don't waste energy.**
4. **Use lower wattage bulbs; your lights may be brighter than you need.**
5. **Purchase lamps with dimmer switches, as you can lower the settings when less light is required.**
6. **Place floor or table lamps in a corner. This allows light to reflect from the walls, making the room brighter without turning on more lights.**
7. **Use fluorescent lights instead of incandescent lights. Compact fluorescent lights use up to 75% less energy than incandescent lights, for the same amount of light, and last up to ten times longer.**

55. The MAIN purpose of the advertisement is to

(A) sell light bulbs
(B) encourage better energy use
(C) promote lighting in the home
(D) highlight energy use in the home

56. Which of the following is the BEST meaning of the word "absorb" as used in Tip 1 of the advertisement?

(A) Use up
(B) Soak up
(C) Take in
(D) Swallow up

57. Which of the following practices is recommended?

(A) Turning off all lights for a minute
(B) Turning off the lights for short periods
(C) Keeping the lights on when leaving a room
(D) Turning off the lights when leaving a room

58. The advertisement emphasizes that motion sensors are important because they

(A) are efficient and provide security
(B) are cheaper and brighter
(C) do not waste energy
(D) use energy indoors

59. Which of the following statements is NOT made in the advertisement?

(A) Low wattage bulbs use less energy.
(B) Not all light bulbs are energy efficient.
(C) Compact fluorescent lights are energy efficient.
(D) Lamps placed on the floor are better for energy efficiency.

60. The information in the advertisement would be MOST useful to

(A) electricians
(B) householders
(C) the light company
(D) building contractors

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END OF TEST

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS TEST.