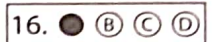


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Total Questions: 50 | Time: 1 hr.

Guidelines for the Candidate

- You will get additional ten minutes to fill up information about yourself on the OMR Sheet, before the start of the exam.
 - Write your **Name, School Code, Class, Section, Roll No.** and **Mobile Number** clearly on the **OMR Sheet** and do not forget to sign it. We will share your marks / result and other information related to SOF exams on your mobile number.
 - The Question Paper comprises four sections:
 - Word and Structure Knowledge** (30 Questions), **Reading** (10 Questions), **Spoken and Written Expression** (5 Questions) and **Achievers Section** (5 Questions).
 - Each question in Achievers Section carries 3 marks, whereas all other questions carry one mark each.
 - All questions are compulsory. There is no negative marking.
 - There is only ONE correct answer. Choose only ONE option for an answer.
 - To mark your choice of answers by darkening the circles on the OMR Sheet, use **HB Pencil** or **Blue / Black ball point pen** only. E.g.
- Q.16: Fill in the blank.**
Please teach my dog _____ a ball.
A. to fetch **B.** learn **C.** show **D.** to learn
- As the correct answer is option A, you must darken the circle corresponding to option A on the OMR Sheet.
- Return the OMR Sheet to the invigilator at the end of the exam.
- Please fill in your personal details in the space provided before attempting the paper.



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FOR QUESTIONS 1 TO 22, CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION TO COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE.

1. Mounting unemployment is the most serious and _____ problem faced by India today.
A. intractable B. amendable
C. unattainable D. dubious
2. The mob attacked the police officers when they came _____ the illegal construction.
A. to cede B. to raze
C. to summon D. to reform
3. Five famous personalities have _____ national awards for outstanding performance and wholehearted dedication to their profession.
A. bestowed B. picked
C. bagged D. discovered
4. I need not offer any explanation regarding this incident, as my behaviour _____.
A. is speaking itself
B. speaks about itself
C. speaks for itself
D. will speak to itself
5. He knew everything better than anybody else, and it was an affront to his _____ vanity that you should disagree with him.
A. overdoing B. overweening
C. override D. overhung
6. I had difficulty _____ work as I forgot to bring my spectacles today.
A. focused in B. focused over
C. focusing on D. focusing into
7. Hamlet wanted to avenge the death of his father, who was _____ killed by his mother's lover.
A. fortunately B. treacherously
C. vivaciously D. exponentially
8. Don't buy that dress right now. Let's _____; maybe we can find a cheaper one.
A. shop in B. shop for
C. shop around D. shop above
9. Could you please tell me _____ plants should be watered twice a day?
A. that B. many
C. which D. who
10. One who is unsure about God's existence is known as an _____.
A. aviary B. arsenal
C. agnostic D. aikido
11. Bacteria is _____ simplest and smallest form of plant life present in air, water, and soil; it is essential to life but may cause _____ disease.
A. an, a B. the, no article
C. the, an D. no article, a
12. The boys who had not done their homework _____ by their teacher.
A. had punished
B. have punished
C. had been punished
D. is being punished
13. Sachin was surprised to hear himself say this almost _____, with a great enthusiasm.
A. sadly B. mercilessly
C. gaily D. mortally
14. The press _____ serve the profession better if it is objective in its reporting.
A. can B. must
C. should D. couldn't
15. We would be able to take possession _____ our land _____ a long period of time.
A. with, during B. for, around
C. to, before D. of, after
16. I felt so exhausted after doing the whole day's practice for the event that I _____ on the couch.
A. nod off B. nodded off
C. nodded with D. nod up
17. I am reading such _____ interesting book about a man who wants to live his life in _____ wilderness of Alaska.
A. a, the B. the, the
C. an, the D. an, a
18. She didn't get success in the examination _____ she had worked very hard _____ adopted the right strategy.

19. She _____ had anything to wear when she came to me for help. I _____ in my eyes when I saw her like that.
- A. yet, if
C. though, and
- B. but, while
D. since, nor

- A. adequately, have tears
B. barely, had tears
C. longingly, have been tearing
D. lately, got tear

20. The CEO of our company _____ the event himself with ability and moderation all _____ the conference.

- A. felt, about
B. displayed, into
C. presented, though
D. conducted, through

21. There is something wrong with my sister these days; she easily gets _____ whenever someone is trying to have a conversation with her.

- A. naumachy
C. fitchy
- B. glitchy
D. tetchy

22. His mother ordered him to go down to the market to buy some fresh fruits and vegetables. " _____," said his mother.

- A. To go to the market to buy some fresh fruits and vegetables
B. Go down to the market. Buy some fresh fruits and vegetables
C. Going down to the market to buying some fresh fruits and vegetables
D. Buying some fresh fruits and vegetables you should go down to the market

FOR QUESTIONS 23 AND 24, CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE MEANING FOR THE FOLLOWING IDIOM/PROVERB.

23. The idiom "have bigger fish to fry" means _____.

- A. to have something important to talk about
B. to see a big fish in the ocean
C. to have more important matters to take care of
D. to buy a valuable asset

24. The proverb "an hour in the morning is worth two in the evening" means _____.

- A. sleeping an extra hour in the morning makes us more productive
B. people are generally more productive in the morning
C. one can enjoy the sunrise by waking up early in the morning
D. waking up early can make one work harder for two extra hours in the evening

FOR QUESTIONS 25 AND 26, CHOOSE THE CORRECT SYNONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

25. Apparition

- A. Phantom
C. Experience
- B. Phenomenon
D. Veracity

26. Scrupulous

- A. Mercenary
C. Painstaking
- B. Negligent
D. Crooked

FOR QUESTIONS 27 AND 28, CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANTONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

27. Pusillanimous

- A. Recreant
C. Dastardly
- B. Timorous
D. Intrepid

28. Vituperative

- A. Scurrilous
C. Deferential
- B. Censorious
D. Castigating

FOR QUESTIONS 29 AND 30, CHOOSE THE OPTION WITH CORRECT SPELLING.

29. How do you spell the word that means 'science of philosophy'?

- A. Jurisprudence
B. Juresprudense
C. Jurispredense
D. Jurisprudnce

30. How do you spell the word that means 'sparkle'?

- A. Scentillate
B. Scintellate
C. Scintilate
D. Scintillate

FOR QUESTIONS 31 TO 35, READ THE PASSAGE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

Creative thinking requires our brains to make connections between seemingly unrelated ideas. In the 1960s, a creative performance researcher named George Land conducted a study of 1,600 five-year-olds, and 98 percent of the children scored in the “highly creative” range. Dr. Land retested each subject in five-year increments. When the same children were 10 years old, only 30 percent scored in the highly creative range. This number dropped to 12 percent by age 15 and just 2 percent by age 25. As the children grew into adults, they effectively had their creativity trained out of them. In the words of Dr. Land, “non-creative behaviour is learned.”

Similar trends have been discovered by other researchers. For example, one study of 272,599 students found that although IQ scores have risen since 1990, creative thinking scores have decreased.

This is not to say that creativity is 100 percent learned. Genetics do play a role. According to psychology professor Barbara Kerr, “approximately 22 percent of the variance [in creativity] is due to the influence of genes”. This discovery was made by studying the differences in creative thinking between sets of twins.

All of this to say, claiming that “I’m just not the creative type” is a pretty weak excuse for avoiding creative thinking. Certainly, some people are primed to be more creative than others. However, nearly every person is born with some level of creative skill, and the majority of our creative thinking abilities are trainable.

As Carol Dweck says in her book, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, the growth mindset is focused more on the process than the outcome. This is easy to accept in theory, but very hard to stick to in practice. Most people don’t want to deal

with the accompanying embarrassment or shame that is often required to learn a new skill.

In order to fully embrace the growth mindset and enhance your creativity, you need to be willing to take action in the face of these feelings, which so often deter us.

Constrain yourself: Carefully designed constraints are one of your best tools for sparking creative thinking. Dr. Seuss wrote his most famous book when he limited himself to 50 words. Soccer players develop more elaborate skill sets when they play on a smaller field. Designers can use a 3-inch by 5-inch canvas to create better large-scale designs. The more we limit ourselves, the more resourceful we become.

Sleep longer: In my article on how to get better sleep, I shared a study from the University of Pennsylvania that revealed the incredible impact of sleep on mental performance. The main finding was this: Sleep debt is cumulative, and if you get 6 hours of sleep per night for two weeks straight, your mental and physical performance declines to the same level as if you had stayed awake for 48 hours straight. Like all cognitive functions, creative thinking is significantly impaired by sleep deprivation.

Enjoy the sunshine and nature: One study tested 56 backpackers with a variety of creative thinking questions before and after a 4-day backpacking trip. The researchers found that by the end of the trip, the backpackers had increased their creativity by 50 percent. This research supports the findings of other studies, which show that spending time in nature and increasing your exposure to sunlight can lead to higher levels of creativity.

Embrace positive thinking: Positive thinking can lead to significant improvements in creative thinking. Why? Positive psychology research has revealed that we

tend to think more broadly when we are happy. This concept, which is known as the Broaden and Build Theory, makes it easier for us to make creative connections between ideas. Conversely, sadness and depression seem to lead to more restrictive and limited thinking.

Creativity is a process, not an event. It's not just a eureka moment. You have to work through mental barriers and internal blocks. You have to commit to practising your craft deliberately. And you have to stick with the process for years, perhaps even decades like Newton did, in order to see your creative genius blossom.

31. Define 'creativity' in a single sentence.
- A. Creativity is when one can make up stories and make them seem real.
 - B. Creativity is the ability to make things come true.
 - C. Creativity is the strength to make sure things are always right.
 - D. Creativity means making connections between seemingly unrelated ideas.
32. All of the given options are ways to help improve one's creative skills, except _____.
- A. learning magic
 - B. being in nature
 - C. sleeping longer
 - D. thinking positively
33. Read the given statements and choose the correct option.
- Statement I : According to Dweck, growth mindset is focused more on the outcome than on the process.
- Statement II : Positive thinking and exposure to sunlight can lead to higher levels of creativity.
- A. Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
 - B. Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.
 - C. Both the Statements I and II are correct.
 - D. Both the Statements I and II are incorrect.
34. Choose the incorrect statement based on the given passage.
- A. Majority of our creative thinking abilities are trainable.

- B. Soccer players develop more elaborate skills when they play on smaller field.
- C. Like all cognitive functions, creative thinking is not hampered by lack of sleep.
- D. Creativity is not just a eureka moment.

35. Which word in the given passage means 'to be conditioned'?
- A. Variance
 - B. Primed
 - C. Constrain
 - D. Cumulative

FOR QUESTIONS 36 TO 40, READ THE PASSAGE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

If you consider yourself an "advanced" green tea connoisseur, perhaps you have considered or even tried brewing gyokuro. Since good gyokuro is expensive, it's common for people to try it once, not find it to their liking, and then give up on it. This is often the result of an enthusiast brewing it like they would brew their normal sencha green tea. Once you have tried a good gyokuro brewed correctly, however, you will understand what a great green tea it actually is.

In case you are not aware, gyokuro is a shade-grown green tea. About 3 weeks before the anticipated harvest date, the tea bushes are covered in 90% shade. This is accomplished by building an enclosure around the plants using bamboo poles covered with rice straw. All of this, of course, means extra labour, which has a lot to do with why gyokuro is so expensive in the first place. Obviously, there is a reason why growers go to all of this trouble—gyokuro is delicious!

Probably the most important aspect of brewing gyokuro is temperature. Gyokuro needs to be brewed at a lower temperature than other green teas, about 155° Fahrenheit (68° Celsius). Since water boils at 212° Fahrenheit, the temperature obviously needs to be reduced somehow. Even when cooled, however, one can't really start the process with water that is 155° Fahrenheit for numerous reasons. If one pours 155-degree water into a teapot that has been sitting at room temperature,

expect that the water will no longer remain at 155-degrees, but will instead drop about 15 degrees. Great, now we're at 140° F—too cool for brewing. If, in turn, one pours that tea into two teacups sitting at room temperature, expect another 15-degree temperature drop. Now we're at 125° F and two cold, boring cups of improperly brewed gyokuro. So, the devil is in the details, and to brew a good cup of gyokuro, these things need to be taken into consideration.

To brew a good cup of gyokuro, you will need to use more tea. Where you normally can get away with a teaspoon of loose leaf sencha in an 8-ounce teapot, for gyokuro you will instead need about 1 tablespoon of tea per person and about 5 or 6 ounces of water for each person served.

One other aspect of brewing gyokuro that is often overlooked is the teapot that one brews it in. Gyokuro, like other green teas, is compact. That means it needs a lot of room to expand when it's brewed. You will never be able to brew good gyokuro (or really, any other good green tea) in a paper filter, tea ball, or anything ridiculous like that. The preferred teapot here would be the ceramic Japanese type, which has a stainless-steel screen inside as a filter. I'm not talking about the kind where a steel infuser cup sits inside the lid, but instead where the screen is actually butted up against the inside of the teapot. This gives the tea plenty of room to expand. Additionally, Japanese teapots are usually just the right size for the job. This is not to say you can't use other types of teapots. Western teapots and the like can be used as long as you know what you are doing and take all of the above into consideration.

To get down to brewing, I think I can best sum this up by saying the traditional Japanese way of brewing their green tea is also probably the best way to do it; no surprises there. So, let's make two cups of gyokuro green tea. You will need three empty teacups, your teapot, and a good gyokuro. Start off by boiling your water

in a kettle. When the water "just" starts to boil, immediately turn off the heat and allow the water to cool on its own for a few minutes. Pour your hot water directly into the empty teapot, filling it, and allowing the teapot to sit for a minute or so and warm up. This not only warms the teapot, it also cools the water a little. Next, pour the hot water from the teapot into two of the three cold teacups, and then empty the remaining water from the teapot. At this stage, we now have a warm teapot, two teacups with hot water in them, and a cold, still empty third teacup. More likely than not, the hot water in those two teacups is still a bit warm for gyokuro, so what you will want to do is pass the water back and forth among the three teacups, warming the cups and cooling off the water. You usually only have to do this once or twice. This also has the effect of adding oxygen to the water, which will improve the taste of the finished product.

All of this does take a little practice to get the hang of, but you'll soon be able to sense when you have cooled the water enough. Put about one and a half tablespoons of loose leaf gyokuro into the warm teapot, and pour the hot water from the two filled teacups directly into the teapot. Brew for 2 to 3 minutes, not disturbing the teapot. Lastly, pour the tea from the teapot back into the warm teacups, draining all of the tea to the very last drop. If you've done that correctly and were patient, you should have one of the finest cups of green tea you've ever tasted. For subsequent infusions, simply re-brew for 30 seconds. It's normal for the second infusion to have a more "green" colour than the first. Enjoy your superior cup of green tea!

36. Why is brewing gyokuro a difficult task?
- A. Because it requires an expert to brew it.
 - B. Because it can only be made in a specific type of teapot.
 - C. Because it is found only in Japan.
 - D. Because it requires a specific temperature to brew it.

37. Mention one unique feature of gyokuro tea.
- It is moderately expensive.
 - It is grown in a shaded area, away from direct sunlight.
 - Gyokuro can only be brewed and liked by extreme green tea lovers.
 - It is made to be consumed only by royals in Japan.

38. Arrange the given sentences in the correct order of the brewing process for gyokuro tea.

- Pour the hot water from the teapot into the two cold teacups, and pour the remaining water back into the kettle.
- Turn off the heat when the water 'just' starts to boil and leave for a few minutes.
- Pass the hot water from the two teacups back and forth among the three teacups, involving the third empty, cold teacup.
- Brew the mixture for 2-3 minutes. Then your tea is done!
- Boil water in a kettle.
- Pour hot water into the empty teapot and let it sit for a few minutes.
- Take three empty teacups, your teapot, and a good gyokuro.

- Put about one and a half tablespoons of loose leaf gyokuro into the warm, empty teapot, along with the warm water from the two teacups.
 - 5, 1, 7, 8, 3, 2, 6, 4
 - 7, 5, 2, 6, 1, 3, 8, 4
 - 5, 8, 6, 2, 3, 1, 7, 4
 - 3, 7, 6, 2, 5, 1, 8, 4

39. What makes gyokuro tea superior to other green teas?

- It is not widely available in markets.
- Its price is extremely high, making it unobtainable for most people.
- Its cultivation and brewing techniques make it superior.
- Its medicinal properties make it the most expensive green tea.

40. What does the idiom 'the devil is in the details' mean?

- A simple situation that has hidden complications
- Some things are best left to the experts
- A little effort is better than no effort
- There is no such thing as too much effort

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

FOR QUESTIONS 41 TO 45, CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION TO COMPLETE EACH CONVERSATION.

41. Aditi : So, how's your brother getting on with the job search?

Nidhi : He's doing fine. He is confident that with his skills and experience, it's going to be a _____.

- walk in the park
- free meal in a café
- game in the ground
- swim in the pool

42. Sam : I feel relaxed now after talking to you, dear.

Albert : That's good. But _____

- I regret that I have to go now. Bye!
- I have to hang up now as I am getting bored. Bye!
- I'll have to talk to my other friend now. Good bye.
- I can't talk right now.

43. Kamal : Should I do what my heart says?

Adi : Yes, you should _____.

- take heart
- have a heart of stone
- follow your heart
- eat your heart out

44. Sandy : Do you know that when I got to know about the increasing cases of COVID-19 in my area, I _____.

Laura : It happened to everyone.

- pulled someone's leg
- turned a deaf sense
- was in doldrums
- was throwing a shirt

45. Aditi : I thought renovating the entire house would save us some money, but it turned out to be _____ for us.

- the light at the end of tunnel
- penny-wise and pound-foolish
- ignorance is bliss
- down for the count

ACHIEVERS SECTION

FOR QUESTIONS 46 AND 47, CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION TO COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE.

46. Though she is known for her technicalities, her books were sadly _____ of the work of others, as she lacked originality.

- A. indicative B. derivative
C. independent D. ignorant

47. _____, I would not have helped such an ungrateful man.

- A. Had I been in your place
B. Had I be the one helping
C. Had he did not deserve any help
D. Had he had showed signs of wanting help

48. CHOOSE THE CORRECT SYNONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

Harangue

- A. Panegyric B. Encomium
C. Plaudit D. Jeremiad

49. CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANTONYM OF THE GIVEN WORD.

Swashbuckler

- A. Charlatan B. Ruffian
C. Daredevil D. Apathetic

50. CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION TO COMPLETE THE CONVERSATION.

Mindy : It would be my first experience shifting from a field job to an assistant manager.

Father : It's going to be great. You should _____.

- A. start with both hands
B. jump in with both feet
C. chip off the old block
D. jump the gun



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