

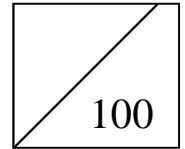
**Buddhist College of Singapore**  
**Overseas English Screening Test Sample**  
English BA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate No: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Duration of paper : 2 hours

**Marks  
Obtained**



***Instructions :***

- *Answer and write all answers on this paper.*
- *Dictionary or handphone is NOT allowed.*

**Section A : Grammar (30 marks)**

**Choose the most suitable answer and write its number (1, 2, 3 or 4) in the brackets provided.**

1. Susan was at the party yesterday, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- (1) was she
- (2) wasn't she
- (3) did she
- (4) didn't she

(    )

2. Ben and his brother \_\_\_\_\_ strong swimmers, are they?

- (1) are
- (2) were
- (3) aren't
- (4) weren't

(    )

3. The soup \_\_\_\_\_ been boiled yet.

- (1) has
- (2) hasn't
- (3) have
- (4) haven't

(    )

4. I \_\_\_\_\_ a thunderstorm last night.

- (1) hear
- (2) heard
- (3) was hearing
- (4) had heard

(    )

5. The man \_\_\_\_\_ in the accident at the construction site yesterday.
- (1) was injured
  - (2) were injured
  - (3) is injured
  - (4) had injured ( )
6. Penny \_\_\_\_\_ with her sister after school everyday.
- (1) play
  - (2) plays
  - (3) is playing
  - (4) has played ( )
7. The store \_\_\_\_\_ closed today. We have to come back tomorrow.
- (1) is
  - (2) was
  - (3) are
  - (4) were ( )
8. “The security guard will not let me into the office because I \_\_\_\_\_ have a pass,” said Jim.
- (1) don't
  - (2) doesn't
  - (3) haven't
  - (4) hadn't ( )
9. The title of this movie \_\_\_\_\_ unique. I can't wait to watch it.
- (1) is
  - (2) are
  - (3) was
  - (4) were ( )
10. Do you know how much \_\_\_\_\_ the fine for returning a library book late?
- (1) is
  - (2) are
  - (3) was
  - (4) were ( )

11. Samantha and Megan \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast when they received a prank call.

- (1) had
- (2) have
- (3) are having
- (4) were having ( )

12. Leo \_\_\_\_\_ from the fourth round of the competition when he failed to answer the last question.

- (1) eliminated
- (2) is eliminated
- (3) had eliminated
- (4) was eliminated ( )

13. The forest \_\_\_\_\_ engulfed in flames in the early hours of the morning.

- (1) is
- (2) are
- (3) was
- (4) were ( )

14. \_\_\_\_\_ you present when the accident occurred?

- (1) Are
- (2) Were
- (3) Had
- (4) Have ( )

15. Half a litre of cordial \_\_\_\_\_ mixed with the same amount of water to make this fruit punch.

- (1) is
- (2) are
- (3) was
- (4) were ( )

16. Mandy \_\_\_\_\_ her office when she ran into her superior.

- (1) left
- (2) is leaving
- (3) was leaving
- (4) were leaving ( )

17. A lot of dust \_\_\_\_\_ about when we tried to clean the unoccupied house.

- (1) fly
- (2) flies
- (3) were flying
- (4) was flying ( )

18. The driver \_\_\_\_\_ down an old lady and sped off without stopping.

- (1) knock
- (2) knocks
- (3) knocked
- (4) was knocking ( )

19. He hurts himself when he \_\_\_\_\_ off his skate scooter.

- (1) fall
- (2) falls
- (3) fell
- (4) was falling ( )

20. The wind \_\_\_\_\_ as we lay in our beds in the attic.

- (1) howl
- (2) howls
- (3) was howling
- (4) were howling ( )

21. Anyone who \_\_\_\_\_ the newspapers will know about the murder yesterday.

- (1) read
- (2) has read
- (3) had been reading
- (4) reading ( )

22. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ his mother to sell chicken rice since he was eight.

- (1) helps
- (2) has been helping
- (3) helped
- (4) had helped ( )

23. I \_\_\_\_\_ be sitting for the exam next week.

- (1) shall
  - (2) was
  - (3) could
  - (4) am
- (    )

24. Wood that \_\_\_\_\_ treated will usually last longer.

- (1) was
  - (2) are
  - (3) has been
  - (4) have been
- (    )

25. Either John or Peter can \_\_\_\_\_ French.

- (1) speak
  - (2) speaks
  - (3) spoke
  - (4) speaking
- (    )

26. Before yesterday, I never \_\_\_\_\_ that Maryann could be such a dishonest person.

- (1) think
  - (2) have thought
  - (3) thought
  - (4) had thought
- (    )

27. Either Joe or Alex \_\_\_\_\_ in the soccer team last year.

- (1) is
  - (2) was
  - (3) are
  - (4) were
- (    )

28. In the past, the living conditions of a worker \_\_\_\_\_ worse than those today.

- (1) is
  - (2) are
  - (3) was
  - (4) were
- (    )

29. A rainbow \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky after the rain.

- (1) appear
- (2) appeared
- (3) appearing
- (4) have appeared ( )

30. Many animals were killed when a fire \_\_\_\_\_ out in the forest.

- (1) breaks
- (2) has broken
- (3) was breaking
- (4) broke ( )

**Section B: Vocabulary (30 marks)**

**Choose the most suitable answer and write its number (1, 2, 3 or 4) in the brackets provided.**

31. Put this poster in a/an \_\_\_\_\_ place so that more people will notice it.

- (1) prominent
- (2) open
- (3) recognised
- (4) convenient ( )

32. All the items on sale at this shop can be found in this thick \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) brochure
- (2) catalogue
- (3) leaflet
- (4) pamphlet ( )

33. Everyone knows that this \_\_\_\_\_ of the two watches belongs to the famous watch company from Switzerland.

- (1) signal
- (2) logo
- (3) gesture
- (4) icon ( )

34. The colourful neon lights \_\_\_\_\_ on and off on the front of the buildings along Orchard Road.

- (1) flashed
- (2) flared
- (3) glared
- (4) radiated ( )

35. Samples of the new perfume were \_\_\_\_\_ to all the customers in the shopping mall.

- (1) dispersed
- (2) spread
- (3) scattered
- (4) distributed ( )

36. What is the underlying message of this advertisement trying to \_\_\_\_\_ to the public?

- (1) relate
- (2) speak
- (3) convey
- (4) advise ( )

37. Some services and products are spread by word of \_\_\_\_\_ and not through the television or radio.

- (1) experience
- (2) mouth
- (3) tradition
- (4) time ( )

38. The factory is now fully \_\_\_\_\_ with its computers and machines working around the clock.

- (1) automated
- (2) preset
- (3) manual
- (4) mechanical ( )

39. You can \_\_\_\_\_ these robots to tell them what you want them to do.

- (1) fix
- (2) arrange
- (3) coach
- (4) program ( )

40. This new DVD player has more \_\_\_\_\_ than the old one.

- (1) gadgets
- (2) tools
- (3) equipment
- (4) functions ( )

41. The group reached the \_\_\_\_\_ of the mountain after a four-hour climb.

- (1) height
- (2) zenith
- (3) summit
- (4) vertex

( )

42. Peter and Jackson went on an underwater \_\_\_\_\_ to search for interesting marine life.

- (1) hike
- (2) safari
- (3) patrol
- (4) expedition

( )

43. The captain found it challenging to \_\_\_\_\_ the ship through the stormy sea.

- (1) navigate
- (2) locate
- (3) cruise
- (4) move

( )

44. The river was flowing so \_\_\_\_\_ that it was impossible for them to get to the other side.

- (1) rapidly
- (2) speedily
- (3) hastily
- (4) briefly

( )

45. The hikers saw a bear \_\_\_\_\_ for food near their tents.

- (1) exploring
- (2) pilfering
- (3) foraging
- (4) seeking

( )

46. Our group \_\_\_\_\_ at the foot of the mountains with the more adventurous ones scaling the steeper mountain.

- (1) disbanded
- (2) detached
- (3) disintegrated
- (4) broke

( )



47. Melissa spent two months studying the \_\_\_\_\_ tribes who led very simple lives in the wild.
- (1) elementary
  - (2) underdeveloped
  - (3) primitive
  - (4) archaic ( )
48. Whenever Javier is given a new project to do, he \_\_\_\_\_ his work enthusiastically and no one is allowed to disturb him.
- (1) tears at
  - (2) tears up
  - (3) tears down
  - (4) tears into ( )
49. Close to a thousand workers were \_\_\_\_\_ when the company closed down last year.
- (1) laid aside
  - (2) laid up
  - (3) laid off
  - (4) laid in ( )
50. Our boss has not \_\_\_\_\_ the budget for the project.
- (1) decided over
  - (2) decided on
  - (3) decided with
  - (4) decided about ( )
51. What happened to the \_\_\_\_\_ that was saved in the computer yesterday?
- (1) function
  - (2) data
  - (3) facts
  - (4) collection ( )
52. She \_\_\_\_\_ a recent photograph of herself with the email she sent to the clerk.
- (1) joined
  - (2) fastened
  - (3) attached
  - (4) connected ( )

53. Joel has to \_\_\_\_\_ what he has read on the Internet into a short paragraph for his presentation tomorrow.

- (1) trim
- (2) summarise
- (3) review
- (4) create ( )

54. It is important not to \_\_\_\_\_ your home address to anyone you chat with in a chatroom on the Internet.

- (1) expose
- (2) find
- (3) discover
- (4) disclose ( )

55. His secretary accidentally \_\_\_\_\_ all the work that was typed into the computer earlier.

- (1) deleted
- (2) cancelled
- (3) repelled
- (4) discharged ( )

56. It is ethical to pay a small fee to \_\_\_\_\_ songs from the Internet.

- (1) imitate
- (2) copy
- (3) download
- (4) tamper ( )

57. Joanna was often \_\_\_\_\_ her twin sister.

- (1) mistaken with
- (2) mistaken at
- (3) mistaken on
- (4) mistaken for ( )

58. If no one can \_\_\_\_\_ what you have just said, you cannot expect me to believe you so readily.

- (1) vouch to
- (2) vouch with
- (3) vouch by
- (4) vouch for ( )

59. After walking through the alleys and streets, they \_\_\_\_\_ back where they started again.

- (1) landed in
- (2) landed over
- (3) landed on
- (4) landed up ( )

60. We will \_\_\_\_\_ the decorations \_\_\_\_\_ from the ceiling and walls after the birthday party is over.

- (1) take ... in
- (2) take ... down
- (3) take ... over
- (4) take ... up ( )

### **Section C: Cloze Passage (20 marks)**

**There are two passages in this section. Choose the correct word in the given box and fill in each blank. (1 mark each)**

#### **Cloze Passage A**

crucial	friends	needs	require	busy
wake	lack	fatigue	colleagues	prefers
task	function	person	though	probable

Sleep is (*e.g.*) probably the furthest thing on many people's minds today. Even then, sleep is simply a time out from their (61) \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyles. However, (62) \_\_\_\_\_ of sleep can affect a person emotionally. A good rest is (63) \_\_\_\_\_ for a person's mental and physical health. A person can become unnecessarily agitated with co-workers and (64) \_\_\_\_\_ and might be unable to perform memory tasks effectively. Even (65) \_\_\_\_\_ sleep is important for all, the amount of sleep of each person is different. If a (66) \_\_\_\_\_ has had insufficient sleep, his actions will give him away during the day. Some people (67) \_\_\_\_\_ effectively in the day after a mere six hours of sleep but others (68) \_\_\_\_\_ up to ten hours of sleep every night. When a person falls asleep while completing monotonous tasks, he most probably (69) \_\_\_\_\_ sleep. This is a sign of (70) \_\_\_\_\_.

## Cloze Passage B

express	abstract	feeling	bid	motor
style	think	increase	grow	recognised
ask	private	vision	doodle	see

Art is one of the many ways people (*e.g.*) express themselves. Most children first learn to (71) \_\_\_\_\_ or draw before they learn to write. Drawing helps them develop their (72) \_\_\_\_\_ skills. This prepares them to form proper letters and shapes as they (73) \_\_\_\_\_. From drawings and paintings, we get a sense of what an artist was (74) \_\_\_\_\_ at the time the work was created.

While some artists play with colours and (75) \_\_\_\_\_ images, some prefer to paint realistic images of objects, people and scenery. The paintings often show an artist's individual, distinct and unique (76) \_\_\_\_\_. When a painting or the artist becomes well-known, the value of the paintings will (77) \_\_\_\_\_. Leonardo Da Vinci's 'Last Supper' and 'Mona Lisa' are (78) \_\_\_\_\_ by people everywhere, even those who are not interested in the art market.

Art collectors usually visit auctions to (79) \_\_\_\_\_ for valuable, unique paintings. These paintings are usually entrusted to the auction houses by (80) \_\_\_\_\_ collectors who have decided to sell them. The prices that collectors are willing to pay are very attractive.

## **Section D : Comprehension (20 marks)**

**Read the two passages carefully before you attempt any questions. The marks for each question are shown in brackets. Use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question. You are reminded of the importance of clear English and answer in complete sentences.**

### **Passage A**

We all have friends. These are people we turn to when we get into trouble. But animals such as dogs, can also be good friends. As they say, a dog is a man's best friend. These faithful animals have always shared a close relationship with us. They are a great help to men, especially to people who are blind. With the dogs guiding their movements, blind people can perform daily tasks.

Ask Erin Rumer from Chicago and she will tell you how important her guide dog is to her. You see, Erin has been blind since she was born.

When Erin was 16, she was invited to a talk about guide dogs for the blind. She found out how guide dogs can help a blind person do many things. On her 18th birthday, Erin got Sparkle as her guide dog. A great relationship with Sparkle began.

Erin has always been an animal lover. She was very happy that she had Sparkle. With Sparkle, she could do many things that a normal person does. The quiet teenager also found herself becoming more outgoing and making a lot of new friends, thanks to her guide dog. 'Sparkle really changes me!' said Erin.

Today, Erin is married and she is now with her third guide dog, Onyx. But she will always remember Sparkle, the guide dog that has given her the ability to do things in her life.

81. Which animal is said to be a man's best friend? (1 mark)

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82. How do guide dogs help the blind? (2 marks)

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83. When did Sparkle become Erin's guide dog? (1 mark)

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84. What was the change in Erin after she had Sparkle? (2 marks)

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85. What is the name of Erin's latest dog? (1 mark)

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86. Find a word in the passage that has *the same meaning* as the given word below.  
(1 mark each)

(i) Loyal : \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) Friendly : \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) Power : \_\_\_\_\_

## **Passage B**

‘You are fat because you eat too much’, has always been the simplest explanation for being overweight. Mary has tried every diet in the book, battled with the bulges for years and still the kilograms have crept on. Mary realised that she can lose weight by going on a crash diet, but several schools of thought have said that crash dieting is dangerous and does little to help you **adjust** permanently to a more appropriate eating pattern for maintaining weight loss.

It is not just how much Mary eats but what she eats. The fact that Britain has one of the highest rates of heart disease amongst the developed nations has **prompted** her government to announce new laws to try and curb the fat content in their diet.

Diet alone cannot get your body in great shape. Exercise is also essential to keep your muscles in tone and improve your shape. If you are unable or unwilling to take up an aerobic exercise, you can try a 10 to 15 minute daily stretch routine to tone and condition your body. Breaking old habits can be hard, but once you have set your mind to thinking health, you are one step nearer towards a shapelier you.

Doctors and dieticians are now more likely to be social engineers — helping us to look at the context of food as well as the content, so that we can work towards a healthier all-round life-style. If you are among those who are overweight, the chances are you’ve tried to slim down and failed. Nine out of 10 people return to their original weight after dieting. We fail repeatedly because when we have reached our target weights, we go back to our old eating habits.

What should you be eating? The general formula is simple — increase your intake of fresh fruit, vegetables, potatoes, fiber, eat less sugar and starch. Cut down on milk, cheese, eggs, oily fish and red meats which contain hidden fats, and reduce your salt intake. Any diet that promises a very rapid weight loss is likely to be unsuccessful in the long term. You would lose more water than fat, put your health at risk and slow down your metabolism.

Crash diets of bananas and skimmed milk or the old favourite of grapefruit and boiled eggs may show quick results but are generally bad for your health and you may suddenly yearn for high-calorie sugary treats to **compensate**. Sugar may be a good energy booster for athletes who need glucose, but it is highly calorific and the calories are nutritionally empty.

In general, a good diet is a varied one, well-balanced with a target of no fewer than 1,000 calories a day, for a steady weight loss of one kilogram a week. The slower the weight loss, the longer it is likely to stay off.

Some tips for wise eating include low-fat dairy products. Choose skimmed milk, low-fat yoghurt, curd and cottage cheeses. Use natural yoghurt instead of cream in cooking. Limit eggs to three per person per week.

87. How can one lose weight quickly? (1 mark)

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88. How do schools of thought view crash dieting? (2 marks)

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89. Why is exercise an essential part of dieting? (1 mark)

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90. Give one reason why there is a high failure rate in dieting. (1 mark)

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91. If you were a dietician, what general formula would you give on eating? (2 marks)

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92. Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the passage. (1 mark each)

(i) adjust (in paragraph 1) : \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) prompted (in paragraph 2): \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) compensate (in paragraph 6): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\* THE END \*\*\*\*\*