

100
ESSENTIAL
QUESTIONS
FOR
LANGUAGE
ARTS
TEST



100 Essential Questions for Language Arts – Comprehensive TEST

1. What is genre?

a. a type of literature b. a short story c. a poem d. a novel
2. What are the basic characteristics of a short story?

a. verses and rhymes b. plot, conflict, setting, characters, theme c. stanzas and refrains
3. What is narrative writing?

a. persuades an audience b. tells a story c. gives information d. describes how to do something
4. What are four functions of sentences?

a. declarative, interrogative, imperative, exclamatory b. simple, compound, complex, compound-complex

c. persuade, entertain, inform, describe
5. What are the parts of a well-constructed sentence?

a. adjective, verb, adverb b. subject, predicate, complete thought c. preposition, adjective, noun
6. What common sentence problems should I avoid?

a. run-ons and fragments b. capitalization and punctuation c. usage errors d. all of these
7. How does a verb function in a sentence?

a. it is a person, place or thing b. it shows action or state of being c. it describes a noun
8. How does a noun function in a sentence?

a. it is a person, place or thing b. it shows action or state of being c. it describes a noun
9. What is an abstract noun?

a. something you can detect with your senses b. an idea you cannot touch c. both of these
10. What is a proper noun?

a. a name of a specific person, place, or thing b. a general person, place, or thing c. both of these

11. What is setting of a story?

a. the sequence of events b. the problem of the story c. the lesson in the story d. the time and place

12. What are four different types of sentence structure?

a. simple, compound, complex, compound-complex b. persuasive, argumentative, thematic, informative c. declarative, interrogative, imperative, exclamatory

13. How can using different sentence structures improve my writing?

a. makes it more complicated to read b. makes it more interesting to read c. doesn't improve it at all

14. What are prepositional phrases?

a. prepositions with a noun b. they are complete sentences c. they are errors in writing

15. What is the function of an adverb in a sentence?

a. it describes a noun b. it describes a verb or another adverb c. it show action or state of being

16. How can you figure out the meaning of a word by reading the page on which it appears?

a. you can guess b. use context clues c. use Latin and Greek roots

17. What is conflict in a short story?

a. the lesson in the story b. the time and the place c. the problem in the story

18. What is a flashback?

a. part of the story goes back in time b. bright background c. idea that flashes in the character's head

19. How does an author develop suspense?

a. leaving the reader hanging at the end of each chapter b. telling the reader everything that could possibly happen c. not varying sentences

20. What is an internal conflict?

a. conflict between characters b. conflict between character and nature c. conflict within the character

21. What is the exposition of a plot in a short story?

a. the introduction to the story b. the end of the story c. the falling action

22. What are the key differences between simple sentences and compound sentences?

a. simple sentences have one independent clause, compound sentences have two b. simple sentences

have two independent clauses, compound sentences have one c. neither have dependent clauses d. both a and c

23. What is point of view?

a. the time and place b. the sequence of events c. who is telling the story d. the resolution

24. What is first person point of view? a. the person is telling the story about himself b. the person is

telling the story about someone else c. the person is telling the story about everyone else

25. What is another word for sensory details? a. figurative language b. idioms c. imagery

26. What are homophones? a. words that sound alike but have different meanings b. words that are

similar in meaning c. words that are opposites

27. What are several reading strategies you can use to better understand a story? a. predict, question,

reread, summarize b. skip lines, make up words, close your eyes c. skip words, pretend you

understand, close the book

28. What are the characteristics of good writers? a. they draft, revise, edit, and proofread b. they avoid

dead words c. they use descriptive language d. all of these

29. What are transition words? a. words that imitate sounds b. words that exclaim c. words that show

feeling d. words that connect thoughts and ideas

30. What is dialect? a. a geographical version of a language b. gibberish c. characters speaking to each other
31. What are character traits? a. the physical details of a character b. the personality of a character c. the moral standards of a character d. all of these
32. What are idioms? a. expressions that can't be taken literally b. expressions that are taken literally c. expressions that are idiotic and silly
33. How do you write a comparison/contrast response to literature? a. you compare similarities and differences of two works b. you focus on one work and write your opinion about it c. you look at two works for similarities only
34. How does learning the meanings of word roots/parts expand vocabulary? a. you can figure out pieces of words b. you can figure out new words you don't know c. both a and b
35. What is a protagonist and an antagonist? a. the main character and the character that opposes him b. the main character and a character that is not well-developed c. the main character and a character that is his relative
36. What is the difference between a static character and a dynamic character? a. a static character is a background character, a dynamic character is a main character b. a static character never changes, a dynamic character changes as the story develops c. both a and b
37. Which is not a way an author develops a character? a. description of the character b. shows how other characters react to the character c. what the character says and does d. description of other characters

38. What is theme? a. the time and place b. the sequence of events c. the lesson about life d. the conflict
39. What kinds of conflict are found in short stories? a. internal b. external c. both of these
40. What are the characteristics of good readers? a. they reread b. they use context clues and take notes c. they preview and skim for important information d. all of these
41. How do I identify a sentence fragment? a. it is missing a subject b. it is missing a verb c. it doesn't express a complete thought d. all of these
42. What is a run on sentence? a. a sentence that never ends b. two sentences joined together incorrectly c. a sentence that has too many words
43. What is a comma splice? a. a comma placed after a dependent clause in a sentence b. a comma in a series or list c. joining two sentences incorrectly with a comma
44. How do I locate the subject of a sentence? a. the subject is the noun the sentence is about b. usually the subject comes after the verb c. usually the subject comes before the verb d. both a and c
45. What is an independent clause? a. a clause that can stand alone as a sentence b. a clause that cannot be a sentence by itself c. a clause that writes itself d. none of these
46. What is a complex sentence? a. has two independent clauses b. has a dependent clause and an independent clause c. has two dependent clauses d. has two dependent clauses and an independent clause
47. What is a compound-complex sentence? a. has two independent clauses b. has a dependent clause and an independent clause c. has two dependent clauses d. has two independent clauses and a dependent clause

48. What is a type of conflict often found in literature? a. man vs. self b. man vs. nature c. man vs. man
d. all of these
49. What are personal pronouns? a. pronouns that stand for things b. pronouns that stand for people
c. pronouns that show ownership d. pronouns that stand for places
50. What is a pronoun antecedent? a. the word a pronoun stand for b. the word that the pronoun
precedes c. the word that comes immediately after a pronoun d. none of these
51. What is a linking verb? a. a verb that shows action b. a verb that is a state of being verb c. a verb that
joins one thing to another d. both b and c
52. What are the perfect tenses of verbs? a. tenses that use the helping verb has, had, or have b. tenses
that are in perfect rhythm with the sentence c. tenses that have a perfect sound d. all of these
53. What is a direct object? a. a word that receives the action of a transitive verb b. a word that does not
receive the action of a transitive verb c. a word that directs the reader to object d. none of these
54. What is an intransitive verb? a. a verb that does not transfer action to a direct object b. a verb that
doesn't have a direct object c. a verb that is not transitive d. all of these
55. Why is it important for the subject to agree with the verb? a. so they can get along b. so the reader is
not confused c. so the sentence makes sense d. both b and c
56. What is expository writing? a. writing that tells a story b. writing that explains something c. writing
that makes you feel deeply d. writing that introduces a poem
57. What is narrative writing? a. writing that tells a story b. writing that explains something c. writing that
makes you feel deeply d. writing that introduces a poem

58. What are the elements of a friendly letter? a. it is written to someone you are familiar with b. it has the date in the upper right corner in the heading c. it does not have an address in the heading d. all of these
59. What are the elements of a business letter? a. it is written formally to a company or someone you are not familiar with b. it has the date and the return address in the heading c. it has the company address in the heading d. all of these
60. Why is it important to cite your sources when you do a research project? a. to give credit for someone else's work b. to be polite and thank your sources c. to make sure no one knows where you got your information d. none of these
61. What is an almanac and what information can you find in it? a. a yearly publication of statistical information b. a book of maps c. a book of general knowledge d. another type of dictionary
62. Which of these are reference books? a. novels b. encyclopedias c. almanacs d. both b and c
63. How can you find information in the card/online catalog? a. by title b. by subject c. by author d. all of these
64. What is the glossary of a book? a. the table of contents b. the title page c. a dictionary of terms in the back of a book d. the page in the exact center of a book
65. What is an author's purpose? a. to explain b. to entertain c. to persuade d. all of these
66. What are steps in the writing process? a. drafting b. revising c. editing d. all of these
67. What are steps to use when writing a research paper? a. choose a topic b. note taking c. write an outline d. all of these

68. How do I make sure that the information I use is current and relevant? a. check for dates b. check for bias c. check for illustrations d. both a and b
69. What is the most useful strategy for note taking? a. use note cards b. use scrap paper c. use loose-leaf paper d. use a spiral notebook
70. How do you organize an outline? a. with numbers and symbols b. with headings and subheadings c. with Roman numerals, numbers and letters d. both b and c
71. What are some strategies you can use to engage or “grab” the attention of your reader? a. anecdote b. question or exclamation c. interesting fact d. all of these
72. When do you capitalize the word “I”? a. never b. always c. only at the beginning of a sentence d. only at the beginning of a quote
73. When is a comma used? a. to separate items in a list b. to separate dates c. to separate cities and states d. all of these
74. How do I use a colon? a. in the greeting of a business letter b. after a dependent clause c. before a list d. both a and c
75. How do use a semicolon? a. to join two sentences together into a compound sentence b. before a list c. after a dependent clause d. in the greeting of a friendly letter
76. What is dialogue? a. another term meaning slang b. an accent c. when characters speak to each other d. when a character thinks to himself
77. What questions do adverbs answer? a. why and where? b. how? And when? c. How often? To what extent? d. both b and c

78. When do I need to use quotation marks and where do I put them? a. around a direct quote b. around an indirect quote c. around a proverb d. around all figurative language
79. How do I identify adjective and adverb clauses? a. they are independent clauses b. they are dependent clauses c. they are found at the beginning of a sentence d. they are found at the end of a sentence
80. What is a misplaced modifier? a. a preposition in the wrong place b. a verb in the wrong place c. an adjective in the wrong place d. none of these
81. What is the difference between tone and mood? a. tone is the author's attitude, mood is the reader's feeling b. tone is the reader's feeling, mood is the author's attitude c. tone is always happy, mood is always sad d. none of these
82. What is figurative language? a. similes b. metaphors c. idioms d. all of these
83. What is a metaphor? a. it compares something using the words "like" or "as" b. it compares something by saying it is something else c. it imitates sounds d. it explains a lesson in a poem
84. What is personification? a. human characteristics of non-human things b. old people in stories c. young people growing up in stories d. none of these
85. What is hyperbole? a. an exaggeration b. a kind of poem c. a kind of song d. a kind of essay
86. What sound device is used in poetry? a. onomatopoeia b. alliteration c. rhyme d. all of these
87. What is rhyme scheme? a. the rhyming words in a poem b. the pattern of rhyming words in a poem c. the type of rhyme in a poem d. none of these
88. What is an internal rhyme? a. when a word rhymes with itself b. when a rhyme falls within a line c. when someone memorizes a rhyme d. when a poem rhymes with another poem

89. What is alliteration? a. when consonant sounds at the ends of words are the same b. when consonant sounds at the beginning of words are the same c. when vowels in words are the same d. none of these
90. What is onomatopoeia? a. words that imitate sounds b. words that are only used in poems c. words that exaggerate d. words that have internal rhyme
91. What is necessary to use in a paragraph? a. topic sentence b. supporting details c. concluding or clincher sentence d. all of these
92. What is a correlative conjunction? a. because b. and c. but d. so
93. What is a coordinating conjunction? a. and b. although c. because d. however
94. What is a transition word? a. however b. generally c. next d. all of these
95. What is prose? a. writing using paragraphs b. writing using verses c. writing using stanzas
96. What does the Latin root “-dict-” mean? a. run b. speak c. before d. against
97. Why does the Greek root “-graph-” mean? a. write b. sing c. dance d. run
98. What is persuasive writing? a. writing to convince someone b. writing to entertain someone c. writing to inform someone d. writing to explain directions to someone
99. What is editing? a. make big changes in a draft b. fine tune grammar and mechanics c. rewriting with no changes d. none of these
100. What is revising? a. make big changes in a draft b. fine tune grammar and mechanics c. rewriting with no changes d. none of these



Key-

1.a 2.b 3.b 4.a 5.b 6.d 7.b 8.a 9.b 10.a
11. d 12.a 13.b 14.a 15.b 16.b 17.c 18.a 19.a 20.c
21. a 22.d 23.c 24.a 25.c 26.a 27.a 28.d 29.d 30.a
31. d 32. a 33.a 34.c 35.a 36.c 37. d 38. c 39. c 40. d
41. d 42. b 43. c 44.d 45.a 46.b 47.d 48.d 49. b 50. a
51.d 52.a 53.a 54.d 55.d 56.b 57. a 58. d 59. d 60. a
61. a 62. d 63. d 64. c 65. d 66. d 67. d 68. d 69. a 70. d
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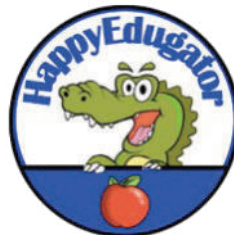
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