Ninth Grade - Grammar Pretest

Multiple Choice
Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

A. Identify the Parts of Speech

Choose the answer option that identifies the italicized word or words in the sentence.

____ 1. John Stuart Mill was an oldest son.
   a. noun
   b. verb
   c. adjective
   d. pronoun

____ 2. His father was his only teacher.
   a. noun
   b. verb
   c. adjective
   d. pronoun

____ 3. He learned Greek before he was eight years old.
   a. noun
   b. verb
   c. adjective
   d. pronoun

____ 4. “I might not have enough hours for practice.”
   a. conjunction
   b. preposition
   c. adverb
   d. interjection

B. Classifying Sentences

Choose the answer option that identifies the structure of the sentence.

____ 5. She fills the cavity with cement, and the cement hardens into the shape of the roots.
   a. simple
   b. compound
   c. complex
   d. compound-complex

____ 6. They also study the gardens shown in paintings that decorated many houses of Pompeii.
   a. simple
   b. compound
   c. complex
   d. compound-complex
7. These paintings can suddenly disintegrate if they are exposed to rain, and some have been lost.
   a. simple
   b. compound
   c. complex
   d. compound-complex

8. This loss saddens Jashemski.
   a. simple
   b. compound
   c. complex
   d. compound-complex

9. However, the result of all this labor is that the gardens of Pompeii are coming alive again through replantings.
   a. simple
   b. compound
   c. complex
   d. compound-complex

C. Identify the Prepositional Phrase

Choose the answer option that identifies the prepositional phrase or phrases in the sentence.

10. The tires and gears on his bike were brand-new.
    a. The tires and gears
    b. and gears
    c. on his bike
    d. were brand-new

11. The owner of the bike shop had given Hector’s ten-speed a complete tuneup.
    a. The owner
    b. of the bike shop
    c. had given Hector’s ten-speed
    d. a complete tuneup

D. Identify the Correct Type of Phrase

Choose the answer option that identifies the type of phrase that is italicized in each sentence.

12. That man, the one with Mr. Hodgkin, is always happy.
    a. participial phrase
    b. gerund phrase
    c. infinitive phrase
    d. appositive phrase
13. I like baking bread because of its wonderful smell.
   a. participial phrase
   b. gerund phrase
   c. infinitive phrase
   d. appositive phrase

14. My greatest wish is to become an artist.
   a. participial phrase
   b. gerund phrase
   c. infinitive phrase
   d. appositive phrase

15. Hoping it wouldn’t rain, we made plans for the picnic.
   a. participial phrase
   b. gerund phrase
   c. infinitive phrase
   d. appositive phrase

E. Identifying Independent Clauses and Dependent (Subordinate) Clauses

Choose the answer option that classifies the italicized clause in each sentence as either an independent clause or a dependent (subordinate) clause.

16. Irving Berlin, who immigrated to the United States from Russia, became a great composer.
   a. independent clause
   b. dependent clause

17. I remembered that I locked the apartment this morning.
   a. independent clause
   b. dependent clause

18. It is an important number system to know because it is used by computers.
   a. independent clause
   b. dependent clause

19. Please bring me the pitcher of juice that is in the refrigerator.
   a. independent clause
   b. dependent clause

20. The concert that we attended last night was excellent.
   a. independent clause
   b. dependent clause

F. Classifying Dependent (Subordinate) Clauses

Choose the answer option that identifies the kind of dependent (subordinate) clause that is italicized in each sentence.

21. Whether Toshio intends to run again for the student senate is a secret.
   a. noun clause
   b. adjective clause
   c. adverb clause
22. Flying squirrels, which glide rather than flap their arms, are an impressive sight.
   a. noun clause  
   b. adjective clause  
   c. adverb clause

23. When Mom goes on an emergency call, Anjan helps me cook dinner.
   a. noun clause  
   b. adjective clause  
   c. adverb clause

24. I thought that I should collect wood for a fire.
   a. noun clause  
   b. adjective clause  
   c. adverb clause

G. Identify the Correct Subject-Verb and Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

Choose the answer option that best completes the sentence.

25. The least expensive bottles _____ have famous names on them.
   a. doesn’t  
   b. don’t

26. The committee _____ reached a decision.
   a. has  
   b. have

27. Who _____ the first settlers in this area?
   a. was  
   b. were

28. The frog and the rat _____ made of carved wood.
   a. is  
   b. are

29. Some of the nails _____ on the bottom shelf.
   a. is  
   b. are

30. Neither Luna nor Aretha _____ in Spanish as well as I do.
   a. writes  
   b. write

31. Many a decision _____ been made in haste.
   a. has  
   b. have

32. Paco and Larry have _____ models on display.
   a. his  
   b. their

33. Each of the women raised _____ hand to vote.
   a. her  
   b. their
34. Either he or they _____ guilty.
   a. is
   b. are

35. Economics _____ an interesting class.
   a. is
   b. are

H. Identify the Correct Pronoun

Choose the answer option that identifies the pronoun form that correctly completes each of the following sentences.

36. Lila sent both Josh and _____ an invitation.
   a. I
   b. me

37. _____ Japanese eat fish at many meals.
   a. We
   b. Us

38. He saw _____ and _____ at the game.
   a. she, I
   b. her, me

39. Shantala was depending upon Harun and _____.
   a. they
   b. them

40. Mrs. Daly handed _____ guests warm napkins.
   a. our
   b. ours

41. Shannon explained _____ wove each rug.
   a. who
   b. whom

I. Identify the Correct Usage of the Word

Choose the answer option that identifies the correct word or words to complete each of the following sentences.

42. My mother has _____ the bricks down in a circular pattern.
   a. lain
   b. laid

43. The whole family has _____ early so we can go to the silver fair in Taxco.
   a. risen
   b. raised
44. Hakeem spent _____ money at the market because he clipped coupons.
   a. fewer
   b. less
45. My aunt Lucy walks a long _____ from her apartment to work.
   a. ways
   b. way
46. Exercising has a positive _____ on my energy level.
   a. affect
   b. effect

J. Identify the Correct Capitalization

Choose the sentence in which all words are correctly capitalized.

47. Choose the answer option that is correctly capitalized.
   a. My Grandmother is taking me to hear it next month.
   b. My grandmother is taking me to hear it next month.
   c. my grandmother is taking me to hear it next month.
48. Choose the answer option that is correctly capitalized.
   a. She tried to persuade the Conductor of the orchestra to perform The Barber of Seville.
   b. She tried to persuade the conductor of the orchestra to perform The Barber of Seville.
   c. she tried to persuade the conductor of the orchestra to perform The barber of Seville.
49. Choose the answer option that is correctly capitalized.
   a. I read about that opera in Stories Of The Operas.
   b. I read about that opera in Stories of the Operas.
   c. I read about that Opera in Stories of the Operas.
50. Choose the answer option that is correctly capitalized.
   a. According to Grandmother, the conductor, Dr. Park, was determined to perform Nixon in China, and he wouldn’t budge.
   b. According to Grandmother, the Conductor, Dr. Park, was determined to perform another work, Nixon in China, and he wouldn’t budge.
   c. According to Grandmother, the conductor, Dr. Park, was determined to perform another work, Nixon in China, and he wouldn’t budge.

K. Identify the Correct Use of Apostrophes, Quotation Marks, End Marks and Italics

Read each pair of items, and identify the item that is correctly punctuated.

51. Choose the answer option that is correctly punctuated.
   a. the article “Yesterday is Gone”
   b. the article Yesterday is Gone
52. Choose the answer option that is correctly punctuated.
   a. the book “Starting Out”
   b. the book Starting Out
53. Choose the answer option that is correctly punctuated.
a. Who said, “You may?”
b. Who said, “You may”?  

54. Choose the answer option that is correctly punctuated.
a. “Ouch” she said!
b. “Ouch!” she said.

L. Identify the Correct Use of Punctuation

Read each sentence, and decide which answer option is punctuated correctly with commas, semicolons, and colons.

55. My brother was accepted at Troy State University his first choice  
a. My brother was accepted at Troy State University, his first choice.
b. My brother was accepted at Troy State University: his first choice  
c. My brother was accepted at Troy State University, his first choice

56. There were many layoffs in the following industries transportation manufacturing and real estate  
a. There were many layoffs in the following industries, transportation, manufacturing, and real estate.
b. There were many layoffs in the following industries: transportation manufacturing, and real estate.
c. There were many layoffs in the following industries: transportation, manufacturing, and real estate.

57. Yes I brought pencil and paper and a calculator and a ruler  
a. Yes I brought pencil and paper and a calculator and a ruler.
b. Yes, I brought pencil and paper and a calculator and a ruler.
c. Yes I brought pencil, and paper, and a calculator, and a ruler.

58. Harold will conduct the interviews Francine will meet the managers and Charles will guide the plant tour  
a. Harold will conduct the interviews, Francine will meet the managers, and Charles will guide the plant tour.
b. Harold will conduct the interviews, Francine will meet the managers and Charles will guide the plant tour.
c. Harold will conduct the interviews, Francine will meet the managers and, Charles will guide the plant tour.

59. Her low soft whisper could not be heard in the big noisy room  
a. Her low soft whisper could not be heard in the big, noisy room.
b. Her low, soft whisper could not be heard in the big, noisy room.
c. Her low, soft, whisper could not be heard in the big, noisy, room.

60. The Tlingit wore a mask of which this is a reproduction only during special ceremonies  
a. The Tlingit wore a mask, of which this is a reproduction, only during special ceremonies.
b. The Tlingit wore a mask of which this is a reproduction, only during special ceremonies.
c. The Tlingit, wore a mask of which this is a reproduction, only during special ceremonies.
61. Please try to arrive before dark otherwise call ahead
   a. Please try to arrive before dark; otherwise call ahead.
   b. Please try to arrive before dark; otherwise, call ahead.
   c. Please try to arrive before dark, otherwise, call ahead.

M. Identify the Correct Use of Contractions and the Possessive

Read each pair of items, and identify the item that is correctly punctuated.

62. Choose the answer option that is correctly punctuated.
   a. their song
   b. they’re song

63. Choose the answer option that is correctly punctuated.
   a. It’s a sunny day!
   b. It’s a sunny day!

64. Choose the answer option that is correctly punctuated.
   a. the children’s toys
   b. the children’s toys

65. Choose the answer option that is correctly punctuated.
   a. You’re welcome.
   b. You’re welcome.

N. Identifying Fragments and Run-ons

Choose the answer option that correctly identifies the sentence as a fragment, run-on or complete sentence.

66. Even though I was tired
   a. Fragment
   b. Run-on
   c. Complete Sentence

67. He asked for a raise she got it.
   a. Fragment
   b. Run-on
   c. Complete Sentence

68. She is a good mother she pays attention to her children
   a. Fragment
   b. Run-on
   c. Complete Sentence

69. When Alex calls.
   a. Fragment
   b. Run-on
   c. Complete Sentence

70. He laughed.
   a. Fragment
   b. Run-on
   c. Complete Sentence
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Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. ANS: A PTS: 1
2. ANS: C PTS: 1
3. ANS: D PTS: 1
4. ANS: B PTS: 1
5. ANS: B PTS: 1
6. ANS: C PTS: 1
7. ANS: D PTS: 1
8. ANS: A PTS: 1
9. ANS: C PTS: 1
10. ANS: C PTS: 1
11. ANS: B PTS: 1
12. ANS: D PTS: 1
13. ANS: B PTS: 1
14. ANS: C PTS: 1
15. ANS: A PTS: 1
16. ANS: B PTS: 1
17. ANS: B PTS: 1
18. ANS: A PTS: 1
19. ANS: A PTS: 1
20. ANS: B PTS: 1
21. ANS: A PTS: 1
22. ANS: B PTS: 1
23. ANS: C PTS: 1
24. ANS: A PTS: 1
25. ANS: B PTS: 1
26. ANS: A PTS: 1
27. ANS: B PTS: 1
28. ANS: B PTS: 1
29. ANS: B PTS: 1
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31. ANS: A PTS: 1
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33. ANS: A PTS: 1
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35. ANS: A PTS: 1
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37. ANS: A PTS: 1
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39. ANS: B PTS: 1
40. ANS: A PTS: 1
41. ANS: A PTS: 1
42. ANS: B PTS: 1
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