

REGIONAL OLYMPIAD IN ENGLISH

2012

Group Three

Part Two

READING COMPREHENSION

Section One: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Directions: Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question – *A, B or C*. Mark your answers on the *ANSWER SHEET*.

David Copperfield Enlarges his Circle of Acquaintance

One day I was informed by Mr. Mell that Mr. Creakle would be home that evening. Later, after tea, before bedtime, I was fetched by the man with the wooden leg to appear before him.

Mr. Creakle's part of the house was a good deal more comfortable than ours, and he had a garden that looked pleasant. It seemed to me a bold thing even to take notice that the corridors looked comfortable, as I went on my way, trembling, to Mr. Creakle's presence. I was so embarrassed when I was ushered into the room that I hardly saw Mrs. Creakle or Miss Creakle (who were both there), or anything but Mr. Creakle, a stout gentleman with a bunch of watch-chain and seals, in an armchair, with a bottle beside him.

'So!' said Mr. Creakle. 'This is the young gentleman whose teeth are to be filed! Turn him round.' The wooden-legged man turned me about so as to exhibit the notice; and having afforded time for a full survey of it, turned me about again, with my face to Mr. Creakle, and posted himself at Mr. Creakle's side. Mr. Creakle's face was fiery, and his eyes were small, and deep in his head; he had thick veins in his forehead, a little nose, and a large chin. He was bald on the top of his head; and had some thin wet-looking hair that was just turning grey, brushed across each temple, so that the two sides interlaced on his forehead.

But the circumstance about him which impressed me most was that he had no voice, but spoke in a whisper. The exertion this cost him, or the consciousness of talking in that feeble way, made his angry face so much more angry, and his thick veins so much thicker, when he spoke, that I am not surprised, on looking back, at this peculiarity striking me as his chief one. 'Now,' said Mr. Creakle. 'What's the report of this boy?' 'There's nothing against him yet,' returned the man with the wooden leg. 'There has been no opportunity.' I thought Mr. Creakle was disappointed. I thought Mrs. and Miss Creakle (at whom I now glanced for the first time, and who were, both, thin and quiet) were not disappointed.

'Come here, sir!' said Mr. Creakle, waving at me.

'Come here!' said the man with the wooden leg, repeating the gesture.

'I have the happiness of knowing your father-in-law,' whispered Mr. Creakle, taking me by the ear; 'and a worthy man he is, and a man of a strong character. He knows me, and I know him. Do YOU know me? Hey?' said Mr. Creakle, pinching my ear fiercely.

'Not yet, sir,' I said, twisting with the pain.

'Not yet? Hey?' repeated Mr. Creakle. 'But you will soon. Hey?'

‘You will soon. Hey?’ repeated the man with the wooden leg. I afterwards found that he generally acted, with his strong voice, as Mr. Creakle’s interpreter to the boys.

I was very much frightened, and said, I hoped so, if he pleased. I felt, all this while, as if my ear were blazing; he pinched it so hard.

‘I’ll tell you what I am,’ whispered Mr. Creakle, letting it go at last, with a twist that brought the water into my eyes. ‘I’m a Tartar.’ ‘A Tartar,’ said the man with the wooden leg.

‘When I say I’ll do a thing, I do it,’ said Mr. Creakle; ‘and when I say I will have a thing done, I will have it done.’ ‘I will have it done,’ repeated the man with the wooden leg.

‘I am a determined character,’ said Mr. Creakle. ‘That’s what I am. I do my duty. That’s what I do. My flesh and blood’ – he looked at Mrs. Creakle as he said this – ‘when it rises against me, is not my flesh and blood. I reject it. Has that fellow’ – to the man with the wooden leg – ‘been here again?’ ‘No,’ was the answer.

‘No,’ said Mr. Creakle. ‘He knows better. He knows me. Let him keep away. I say let him keep away,’ said Mr. Creakle, striking his hand upon the table, and looking at Mrs. Creakle, ‘for he knows me. Now you have begun to know me too, my young friend, and you may go. Take him away.’ I was very glad to be ordered away, for Mrs. and Miss Creakle were both wiping their eyes, and I felt as uncomfortable for them as I did for myself. But I had a request on my mind, so that I couldn’t help saying, though I wondered at my own courage: ‘If you please, sir –’ Mr. Creakle whispered, ‘Hah! What’s this?’ and bent his eyes upon me, as if he would have burnt me up with them.

‘If you please, sir,’ I hesitated, ‘if I might be allowed (I am very sorry indeed, sir, for what I did) to take this notice off, before the boys come back –’ Whether Mr. Creakle was serious, or whether he only did it to frighten me, I don’t know, but he made a burst out of his chair, before which I hastily retreated, without waiting for the escort of the man with the wooden leg, and never once stopped until I reached my own bedroom, where, finding I was not pursued, I went to bed, as it was time, and lay trembling, for a couple of hours.

Next morning Mr. Sharp came back. Mr. Sharp was the first master, and superior to Mr. Mell. Mr. Mell took his meals with the boys, but Mr. Sharp dined and supped at Mr. Creakle’s table. He was a limp, delicate-looking gentleman, I thought, with a good deal of nose, and a way of carrying his head on one side, as if it were a little too heavy for him.

His hair was very smooth and wavy; but I was informed by the very first boy who came back that it was a wig, and that Mr. Sharp went out every Saturday afternoon to get it curled.

It was no other than Tommy Traddles who gave me this piece of intelligence. He was the first boy who returned. He enjoyed my notice so much, that he saved me from the embarrassment of either disclosure or concealment, by presenting me to every other boy who came back, great or small, immediately on his arrival, in this form of introduction, ‘Look here! Here’s a game!’ Happily, too, the greater part of the boys came back low-spirited, and were not so boisterous at my expense as I had expected. Some of them certainly did dance about me like wild Indians, and the greater part could not resist the temptation of pretending that I was a dog, and patting and soothing me, in case I should bite, and saying, ‘Lie down, sir!’ This was naturally confusing, among so many strangers, and cost me some tears, but on the whole it was much better than I had anticipated.

1. When David was introduced to Mr. Creakle, he was

- A.** shocked by the manners of the man with the wooden leg.
- B.** ashamed by the presence of the ladies.
- C.** scared by Mr. Creakle’s personality.

2. Mr. Creakle had

- A. an angry face with small eyes and a tiny chin.
- B. a furious expression, deeply-seated eyes and a big chin.
- C. big fiery eyes, a huge nose and no hair.

3. Which of the statements about Mr. Creakle is NOT true?

- A. He had almost no voice, so he spoke very quietly.
- B. He had a weak voice, so he made a lot of effort when he spoke.
- C. His voice was inaudible, so he gestured a lot.

4. Why did the man with the wooden leg repeat Mr. Creakle's words?

- A. He said them again so that the boys could hear them.
- B. He translated them because they were in a foreign language.
- C. He acted in this way so as to win Mr. Creakle's favour.

5. David's eye filled with tears because Mr. Creakle

- A. threatened to twist his ear.
- B. had pulled his ear very hard.
- C. was a Tartar and that scared David.

6. Mr. Creakle's manner was

- A. forceful and dutiful.
- B. determined and broad-minded.
- C. stubborn and dictatorial.

7. David was happy to be sent away because

- A. he was sorry for the ladies who were crying.
- B. he did not feel comfortable and was about to weep.
- C. he was exhausted and wanted to go to bed.

8. After David expressed his wish to have the notice taken off,

- A. the man with the wooden leg accompanied him to his room.
- B. Mr. Creakle collapsed abruptly in his armchair.
- C. he swiftly took to his feet and ran away from the room.

9. Mr. Sharp was

- A. a crippled man with false hair.
- B. a slim man with a hunchback.
- C. a heavy man with a big head.

10. David shed a few tears when the boys came into the bedroom because

- A. he was afraid of being alone among so many strangers.
- B. the boys mocked at him, treating him as if he were a dog.
- C. he had not expected such terrible behaviour on the part of the boys.

Section Two: JUMBLED PARAGRAPHS

Directions: Read the text below. Five paragraphs have been removed from the text. Choose from paragraphs A-F the one which fits each gap. There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Write your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

I must depend on rumors, on old photographs, on stories told, and on memories which are hazy and mixed with fable in trying to tell you about the Hamiltons. They were not eminent people, and there are few records concerning them except for the usual papers on birth, marriage, land ownership, and death.

1.	
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Why Samuel left the stone house and the green acres of his ancestors I do not know. He was never a political man, so it is not likely that a charge of rebellion drove him out, and he was scrupulously honest, which eliminates the police as prime movers. There was a whisper – not even a rumor but rather an unsaid feeling – in my family that it was love that drove him out, and not love of the wife he married.

2.	
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I don't know what directed his steps toward the Salinas Valley. It was an unlikely place for a man from a green country to come to, but he came about thirty years before the turn of the century and he brought with him his tiny Irish wife, a tight hard little woman. She had a code of morals that pinned down and beat the brains out of nearly everything that was pleasant to do. I do not know where Samuel met her, how he married her. I think there must have been some other girl printed somewhere in his heart, for he was a man of love and his wife was not a woman to show her feelings.

3.	
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He followed the usual practice. He took a quarter-section for himself and a quarter-section for his wife, and since she was pregnant he took a quarter-section for the child. Over the years nine children were born, four boys and five girls, and with each birth another quarter-section was added to the ranch, and that makes eleven quarter-sections, or seventeen hundred and sixty acres.

4.	
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Samuel built his house with his own hands, and he built a barn and a blacksmith shop. He found quite soon that even if he had ten thousand acres of hill country he could not make a living on the bony soil without water. His clever hands built a well-boring rig, and he bored wells on the lands of luckier men. He invented and built a threshing machine and moved through the bottom farms in harvest time, threshing the grain his own farm would not raise. And in his shop he sharpened plows and mended harrows and shod horses. Men from all over the district brought him tools to mend and to improve. Besides, they loved to hear Samuel talk of the world and its thinking, of the poetry and philosophy that were going on outside the Salinas Valley.

5.	
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Samuel had a great black book on a shelf and it had gold letters on the cover – *Dr. Gunn's Family Medicine*. Some pages were bent and beat up from use, and others were never opened to the light. To look through *Dr. Gunn* is to know the Hamiltons' medical history.

- A If the land had been any good the Hamiltons would have been rich people. But the acres were harsh and dry. There were no springs, and the crust of topsoil was thin. Even the sagebrush struggled to exist, and the oaks were dwarfed from lack of moisture. Even in reasonably good years there was so little feed that the cattle kept thin running about looking for enough to eat. From their barren hills the Hamiltons could look down to the west and see the richness of the bottom land and the greenness around the Salinas River.
- B While many people came to the Salinas Valley penniless, there were others who, having sold out somewhere else, arrived with money to start a new life. These usually bought land, but good land, and built their houses of timber and had carpets and colored-glass windows. There were numbers of these families and they got the good land of the valley.
- C He came to the Salinas Valley full-blown and hearty, full of inventions and energy. In the dusty business of ranching he seemed always immaculate. His hands were clever. He was a good blacksmith and carpenter and woodcarver, and he could improvise anything with bits of wood and metal. He was forever inventing a new way of doing an old thing and doing it better and quicker, but he never in his whole life had any talent for making money. Other men who had the talent took Samuel's tricks and sold them and grew rich, but Samuel barely made wages all his life.
- D When Samuel and Liza came to the Salinas Valley all the level land was taken, the rich bottoms, the little fertile creases in the hills, the forests, but there was still marginal land to be homesteaded, and in the barren hills, to the east of what is now King City, Samuel Hamilton homesteaded.
- E Samuel should have been rich from his well rig and his threshing machine and his shop, but he had no gift for business. His customers, always pressed for money, promised payment after harvest, and then after Christmas, and then after – until at last they forgot it. Samuel had no gift for reminding them. And so the Hamiltons stayed poor.
- F Young Samuel Hamilton came from the north of Ireland and so did his wife. He was the son of small farmers, neither rich nor poor, who had lived on one landhold and in one stone house for many hundreds of years. The Hamiltons managed to be remarkably well educated and well read; and, as is so often true in that green country, they were connected and related to very great people and very small people, so that one cousin might be a baronet and another cousin a beggar. And of course they were descended from the ancient kings of Ireland, as every Irishman is.

Part Three

USE OF ENGLISH

Section One: CLOZE TEST – The text

Directions: Read the text below and for each of the gaps **1-15** choose the letter (**A, B,** or **C**) of the word or phrase that best suits the space. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

Lydgate had been left an orphan when he was **1. A. fresh B. new C. recent** from a public school. His father, a military man, had **2. A. done B. made C. prepared** little provision for three children, and when the boy asked to have a medical **3. A. instruction B. education C. coaching**, it seemed easier to his guardians to **4. A. grant B. carry out C. perform** his request by apprenticing him to a country practitioner than to make any **5. A. rejections B. projections C. objections** because of family dignity. He was one of the rarer lads who early **6. A. bend B. decide C. make up** their minds that there is something particular in life which they would like to do for its own **7. A. right B. sake C. purpose**, and not because their fathers did it. Most of us who turn to any subject with love remember some morning or evening hour when we got on a stool to **8. A. attain B. achieve C. reach** down an untried volume, or because of lack of books began to listen to the voices within, as the first traceable beginning of our love. Something of that sort happened to Lydgate.

One vacation, a wet day sent him to the small home library to hunt once more for a book which might have some freshness for him: in **9. A. turn B. return C. vain**, unless, indeed, he took down a dusty row of volumes with gray-paper backs and dingy labels – the volumes of an old Cyclopaedia which he had never disturbed. It would at **10. A. least B. last C. that** be a novelty to disturb them. They were on the **11. A. tallest B. loftiest C. highest** shelf, and he stood on a chair to get them down. But he opened the volume which he first took from the shelf: somehow, one is **12. A. apt B. interested C. fond** to read just where it might seem inconvenient to do so. The page he opened on was under the head of Anatomy, and the first passage that **13. A. pulled B. concentrated C. drew** his eyes was on the valves of the heart. He was not much **14. A. knowledgeable B. introduced C. acquainted** with valves of any sort, but he knew that valves were folding-doors, and through this opening came a sudden light startling him with his first vivid **15. A. issue B. notion C. topic** of a finely adjusted mechanism in the human body.

Section Two: CLOZE TEST – The Sentences

Directions: Read the sentences below and for each one circle the letter (A, B, or C) of the word or phrase that best suits the space. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

16. My sister, Rosalind, has never had a reputation for being a good ; in fact, she doesn't even know how to fry an egg.
A. cooker B. cookery C. cook
17. It is vital to do all your homework if you want to keep the class.
A. up with B. on with C. up to
18. The critics admire this young artist's art but he has not had much success.
A. economic B. economical C. commercial
19. The new exhibition of Oriental art at the Louvre is extremely
A. marvellous B. incredible C. impressive
20. Just as we were going out of the station there was a sudden heavy
A. drizzle B. downpour C. hail
21. Martha has for the pottery class that starts next weekend.
A. written up B. signed up C. taken up
22. The Human Resources manager gave the job to Stella because he knows she is of doing it.
A. capable B. able C. qualified
23. Sorry, but the results of this experiment are because it was unscientific.
A. invaluable B. worthless C. noteworthy
24. No one knew he was a police officer because he was in clothes.
A. civic B. simple C. plain
25. Jonathan tries not to spend all his wages. He is saving for a day.
A. rainy B. cloudy C. poor

Section Three: ERROR IDENTIFICATION

Directions: Each sentence below contains an error in grammar or usage. The error is contained in one of the underlined parts of the sentence. For each sentence, circle the letter (A, B, C or D) of the underlined part that contains the mistake. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

1. I find it hard to understand why didn't Susan want to help me with the cleaning and redecoration of the house.

A
B
C
2. The peoples of Asia are believed to have had a more nomadic way of life in the past then nowadays.

A
B
C
3. Unless our team makes a considerable progress, none of us has a chance to get a promotion or a pay rise.

A
B
C
D
4. On 30th August my husband and I would have been knowing each other for exactly twenty-five years.

A
B
C
5. Despite the famous couple are under house arrest for their own protection, they are feeling that they are being held there against their will.

A
B
C

Section Four: TEXT COMPLETION WITH DETERMINERS AND QUANTIFIERS

Directions: For each gap in the text write *ONE* word – an article, determiner or quantifier (e.g. *the, a, this, these, some, any, no, all, little, a little, few, a few, many, much, a lot, both, each, neither, either, other, etc.*) – that best completes the meaning. You may **not** need to add anything in some of the gaps. Write your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

A SPECIAL TYPE OF GARDEN ROSES

David Austin's garden roses have thicker outer petals, which are known as 'guard petals'. It is rare to see 1.) in cut roses as they are often stripped away.

If, as you are admiring your roses, you notice that 2.) of the guard petals is damaged, simply grasp it firmly at the base and remove it. There are so 3.) petals in a David Austin rose that a 4.) would never be missed. This extra care is optional, but will help to keep your flowers looking fresh for longer, particularly as the outer petals, being 5.) oldest, tend to age first.

Section Five: SENTENCE COMPLETION

Directions: For each sentence below choose the word or expression that best completes its meaning. For each sentence, circle the letter (A, B or C) of the word or expression that you have chosen. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

1. It is a long way; maybe we should take the bus.
A. very B. fairly C. rather
2. The flight attendant asked me tea or coffee.
A. if did I want B. whether I wanted C. did I want either
3. Stuart said he had wanted to speak to me but my mobile had been switched off.
A. two days previously B. two days after C. two days before
4. These dishes were clean. You them again. But thank you, anyway.
A. needn't have washed B. didn't need to wash C. needn't wash
5. If you the lottery, what would you do with the money?
A. will win B. were to win C. would have won

Section Six: SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

Directions: Transform each sentence below beginning with the word given. Preserve the meaning of the original sentence. Write your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

1. Jeremy took up tennis two years ago and he still plays it.
Jeremy has
2. There is very little to do in the evenings in this small town.
There is hardly
3. Barbara did not go to college and now she is sorry for that.
Barbara regrets
4. My elder sister loses her keys quite frequently. It is unbearable.
My elder sister is forever
5. People believe that the robbers escaped via Heathrow Airport.
The robbers are believed

Part Four

WRITING

Directions: Write an essay of about 200 – 220 words on **ONE** of the following topics. Comment drawing upon your own experience, observations or reading. Write your essay on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

1. Some people think that hard work is the only key to success. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? What is your personal experience? Do you know of any people who have been successful due to sheer luck?
2. Tell about a conversation that has made an impression on you and has changed your way of thinking and/or your behaviour. Who did you talk with? When did the conversation take place? What was it about?

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО, МЛАДЕЖТА И НАУКАТА

REGIONAL OLYMPIAD IN ENGLISH

2012

Group Three

ANSWER SHEET

Part One

Dictation

Part Two

READING COMPREHENSION

Section One

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. A B C | 6. A B C |
| 2. A B C | 7. A B C |
| 3. A B C | 8. A B C |
| 4. A B C | 9. A B C |
| 5. A B C | 10. A B C |

Section Two

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Part Three

USE OF ENGLISH

Section One: Cloze Test – The text

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. A B C | 6. A B C | 11. A B C |
| 2. A B C | 7. A B C | 12. A B C |
| 3. A B C | 8. A B C | 13. A B C |
| 4. A B C | 9. A B C | 14. A B C |
| 5. A B C | 10. A B C | 15. A B C |

Section Two: Cloze Test – The sentences

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 16. A B C | 21. A B C |
| 17. A B C | 22. A B C |
| 18. A B C | 23. A B C |
| 19. A B C | 24. A B C |
| 20. A B C | 25. A B C |

Section Three: Error Identification

1. A B C D
2. A B C D
3. A B C D
4. A B C D
5. A B C D

Section Four: *Text Completion with Articles & Quantifiers*

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

Section Five: *Sentence Completion*

1. A B C
2. A B C
3. A B C
4. A B C
5. A B C

Section Six: *Sentence Transformation*

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Part Four

WRITING

Topic 1 / Topic 2 (Please underline to indicate your choice.)