

DISTINCTION SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENT TEST

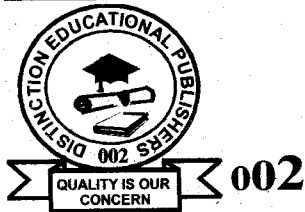
STANDARD EIGHT - 2023

ENGLISH: LANGUAGE

8

PREMIER

Time: 1hr 40 mins



Read the passage below. It contains blank spaces numbered 1 – 15. For each blank space, choose the best alternative from the given four.

I could not sleep at all __1__ night. Normally, after a hard day of studying, I am exhausted and __2__ fall asleep as soon as my head touches the pillow. Last night, __3__, I did not sleep a wink. It was an __4__ hot and humid night. Although I had the fan blowing at me, I was perspiring all over. I tossed and turned in bed, feeling __5__ uncomfortable.

After an hour or so, I __6__ to help myself fall asleep by reading a book. I __7__ from friends that reading a dull book can induce sleep. I turned on my table lamp and began reading a __8__ from my chemistry text. Sure enough, I began to feel sleepy after ploughing __9__ two pages. I hurriedly tossed my book aside and __10__ the light. However, the minute I closed my eyes, my mind was flooded with numerous chemical equations __11__ I had read. I tried to make my mind blank but could not do so. I __12__ resorted to counting sheep to make myself sleepy. Despite all my efforts, sleep simply would not __13__.

__14__ the end, I gave up trying to sleep. I sat up in bed and gazed out of my window. Although __15__ was approaching, there were still a few twinkling stars in the sky. In the stillness of the night, only the crickets could be heard. Lulled by the chirping of the crickets, my eyes grew heavy.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. A. last | B. during | C. previous | D. next |
| 2. A. could | B. must | C. might | D. would |
| 3. A. nevertheless | B. however | C. moreover | D. therefore |
| 4. A. truly | B. indeed | C. especially | D. in fact |
| 5. A. so | B. very | C. too | D. quite |
| 6. A. decided | B. managed | C. preferred | D. liked |
| 7. A. would hear | B. have heard | C. had heard | D. heard |
| 8. A. unit | B. section | C. strand | D. chapter |
| 9. A. over | B. in | C. above | D. through |
| 10. A. turned off | B. turned on | C. turned in | D. turned away |
| 11. A. whose | B. who | C. that | D. whom |
| 12. A. also | B. even | C. and | D. or |
| 13. A. come | B. arrive | C. reach | D. catch me |
| 14. A. On | B. In | C. By | D. With |
| 15. A. dusk | B. twilight | C. dawn | D. nightfall |

For question 16 -19, choose the best alternative to complete the sentence given.

16. The little boy plays football well, _____?

- A. is it
- B. isn't it
- C. doesn't he
- D. does he

17. What a fantastic goal _____

- A. that was!
- B. was that!
- C. it was.
- D. was that?

18. The musician may not come to perform but we shall just prepare the stage in case he _____

- A. comes
- B. will
- C. may
- D. does

19. The workers were hard _____ work when we last saw them.

- A. with
- B. at
- C. on
- D. for

For question 20 and 21, choose the alternative that means the opposite of the underlined word.

20. The stranger displayed wonderful skills that everybody loved him.

- A. adored
- B. hated
- C. respected
- D. disliked

21. "Come and dine with us," said the king.

- A. Go
- B. Reach
- C. Travel
- D. Depart

For question 22 and 23, arrange the given sentences to make a sensible paragraph.

22. i. although he had been admitted in hospital after the accident
ii. he got very high marks
iii. and passed the national assessment
iv. because he worked hard
A. ii, iv, iii, i B. iv, i, ii, iii
C. ii, iii, i, iv D. i, iv, ii, iii
23. i. He told of the origin of man on earth
ii. We really enjoyed listening to him
iii. He also told stories about how man invented the first working tools
iv. Maria's grandfather loved to tell stories

- A. iv, iii, ii, i B. iv, i, iii, ii
C. iv, ii, iii, i D. iv, ii, i, iii

For question 24 and 25, choose the alternative that means the same as the underlined word.

24. Our mother had always told us never to despair.
A. give away B. give in
C. give out D. give up
25. Our apartment has lots of new chairs, tables, beds and cupboards.
A. necessities B. things
C. furniture D. luggage

Read the passage below and then answer question 26 – 38.

Thousands of spectators stood cheering the competitors. Some participants wore shorts and sleeveless T-shirts while the others were in ordinary clothes. There were more than fifty athletes and they all seemed convinced that they would win the 10,000 metres race. The venue for the event had a difficult name, which Chebet could not recall.

She stood still behind everyone else. She was the youngest among the participants and felt like withdrawing from the race. However, people from her division cheered her up and encouraged her to participate. A woman who appeared familiar and wore a white dress, gave her a thumbs-up sign. She did not take her eyes off her. Her gaze was very sharp. She felt it penetrate deep into her spine. Next to the woman were some famous people she had met. They, too, flashed her a victory sign.

The whistle was blown and the race started. She stumbled and fell on the ground, injuring her arm. She felt a sharp pain. She held her arm in pain and felt like crying. She had also injured her thigh resulting in a small but painless cut that started to bleed right away. She stared at the blood in shock. She wiped it gently with the other arm.

"Milcah! Milcah! Milcah!" the spectators shouted in unison, clapping their hands rhythmically.

She stole a glance at the excited crowd. She then looked at the participants who were now at the first bend of the track.

"Milcah! Milcah! Milcah!"

She rose from the ground and felt the heavy blouse she was wearing slide off. It felt like someone was removing it from her body. She did not resist. She was left with a camisole.

"Marigat Express! Marigat Express!" the crowd changed the words in their cheer in reference to her home.

The woman dressed in white robes cheered with so much enthusiasm. She felt energy flow into her muscles. It was not the first time she had participated in athletics, more specifically in the long races.

She started to run and picked up speed as she moved on. She caught up with some people after the first lap. Everyone was cheering her up and the attention of the crowd was on her as she overtook the athletes one after the other. She was exhilarated and did not fail to look at the familiar woman in robes. Her breathing was even but her heart beat faster.

On the fifth lap, she was in the lead and no one could keep up with her pace.

"Marigat Express! Marigat Express!" they continued shouting.

She smiled broadly as she led in the last lap, the nearest person coming in more than eighty metres behind. Everybody was clapping to her as she crossed the finish line. She could not have been happier.

26. From the first sentence we learn that
A. there were many people present to cheer the competitors.
B. there were countless spectators to cheer competitors.
C. the competitors had those who cheered and jeered them during the race.

- D. the competition was so stiff that it needed supporters and cheerers.
27. What can we say about the competitors in the race?
A. They had trained hard.
B. All would win the 10000 metres race.
C. They were all dressed in ordinary clothes.
D. They did not have uniform.

28. Why couldn't Chebet recollect the name of the stadium?
- Her heart was racing hard.
 - It had so difficult a name.
 - The event needed intense concentration.
 - The place was packed to capacity.
29. Why did Chebet feel like withdrawing from the race?
- She sensed defeat.
 - No one had given her a thumbs up yet.
 - She was the youngest and probably the shortest.
 - She stood behind everyone else.
30. The word famous has been used in the passage. Which one among the following cannot be used to replace it?
- Popular
 - Well known
 - Eminent
 - Renowned
31. Three of the following groups of people encouraged Chebet to take part in the race save?
- The woman clad in a white dress.
 - A few celebrated people familiar to her.
 - People from her division.
 - The entire crowd of spectators.
32. What unfortunate incident happened at the onset of the race?
- Chebet injured her arm.
 - Chebet tripped and fell.
 - The whistle went very fast.
 - Chebet felt a sharp pain.
33. Who do you think Milcah was?
- The one in the leading pack of athletes.
 - The one going to win the race.
 - It was actually Chebet.
 - One of the favourite winners of the race.
34. What shows that Chebet was determined to win the race?
- She rose from the ground and raced to catch up with the others after the fall.
 - She let go of her blouse and was left with a camisole.
 - She did not mind her bleeding thigh.
 - She looked at the other competitors around the bend and wiped the blood.
35. It is true to say that Chebet
- took part in this long race for her maiden.
 - and Marigat's main competitor overpowered her.
 - looked at the woman in white and increased her speed.
 - had taken part in long distance races before.
36. Why did the attention of the crowd turn to Chebet?
- She overtook the athletes one after the other.
 - She was now bleeding profusely.
 - She only had a camisole on.
 - Her heart beat faster despite her even breathing.
37. Why do you think the writer says she could not have been happier?
- The nearest person was eighty metres back.
 - Chebet won the race despite the earlier incident of falling.
 - Because Chebet smiled broadly.
 - She had managed to cross the finish line on time.
38. What lesson do we learn from the passage?
- Determination and hard work brings success.
 - Some people are naturally gifted.
 - Marigat Express had a special talent.
 - Chebet feels encouraged by the woman in white robes.

Read the passage below and then answer question 39 – 50.

There is no greater joy than playing with friends, especially during this festive season. Nevertheless, you can get injured running up and down and this can really dampen your moods. To avoid being injured, you should take the following safety measures.

First, avoid any violent game. This is a game that involves excessive force. If your friends suggest that you participate in a brutal game, avoid it and report them to your parent or guardian. This way, you will escape injuries and save your friends from being injured.

Second, wear appropriate gear. Just like the way you wear uniform to school, there is an appropriate gear suitable for the playground. Please ensure that you wear game attire before going to the field. Additionally, you should have sports shoes to provide the correct foothold. Sport shoes have a different type of sole that is appropriate for running and kicking balls. A sole is the bottom part of the shoe. Also, you should wear protective padding to protect your elbows and knees when you fall, therefore, avoiding injuries while playing.

Third, take care of your friends. While playing, you should ensure that you take care not to hurt your friends. If you become aggressive, you may hurt your friends and end up being hurt too. You should, therefore, be gentle with your friends. If you feel stronger than your friends, do not use your strength to hurt them, rather protect them and ensure that neither of you gets hurt. Notably, if you treat others like you would like to be treated, then there would be fewer injuries in the playground.

Fourth, do not exert yourself in the field. What is to exert? This is when you push your body beyond what it is capable of doing. While in the field, please ensure that you stop and rest a while when your body demands. Take a glass of water if you feel thirsty and allow yourself to cool down if you feel too hot. Also, you should warm up before starting to play and cool down after you have played. This helps the body keep up with you and avoid injuries. Fainting in the field and having pulled muscles are also a type of injury that should be avoided. Listening to your body helps minimize this type of injuries.

Lastly, do not play when injured. It is bad to stand aside and watch your friends play, isn't it? Look, you might even be tempted to join them despite having an injury. Please avoid this habit because it only worsens the injury. If you had a wound and you fell again, the wound would rupture therefore slowing its healing. It is therefore, wise to wait until all your injuries are healed. This could prevent further injuries and give you time to heal and join your friends at playtime.

39. From the first sentence we learn that
- playing with friends during the vacation brings the greatest joy.
 - the festive season brings on board many people.
 - there is no greater joy in life than the festive season.
 - playing with friends sometimes brings no joy.
40. What do we learn about injury according to the first paragraph?
- It prevents you from enjoying the vacation.
 - It is part of play among children.
 - It can dampen your moods.
 - It cannot be avoided at all.
41. A game that involves excessive force
- should be reported immediately to your parent.
 - is violent hence prone to bring about injury.
 - needs to be tackled with force as well.
 - is good for your health.
42. Three of the following protective gear are correctly matched except?
- Sport shoes for the legs.
 - Padding for your elbows.
 - Correct padding to protect the knees.
 - Appropriate gear suitable for the playground.
43. Why are sport shoes the best for going to the field?
- Their sole is appropriate for running and kicking balls.
 - They have a different type of sole.
 - They have a firm foothold.
 - They are shiny and light to move around with.
44. When you become aggressive in a game, you
- hurt your friends.
 - enjoy the game more than the others.
 - not only hurt your friends but also yourself.
 - only hurt yourself.
45. Whenever you feel stronger than your friends in a game
- allow your friends to win at least once.
 - use your strength to protect rather than hurt them.
 - use your strength to your own advantage.
 - enjoy the better part of the game.
46. Which one among the following proverbs best summarizes the information in the fourth paragraph?
- Tit for tat is a fair game.
 - An eye for an eye.
 - Revenge is best served cold.
 - Do unto others what you would like done to you.
47. Any time you push your body beyond what it can do, you
- exert it.
 - stretch it.
 - burst it.
 - exercise it.
48. Three of the following are recommended practices while playing in the field except?
- Stop and take a rest when the body demands.
 - Take a glass of water when thirsty.
 - Cool down after fainting in the field.
 - Warm up before starting to play.
49. What happens to anyone who plays with an injury?
- It proves to all that he is loyal to the team.
 - It worsens the injury.
 - It slows down the process.
 - It proves to all that he can endure pain.
50. The passage above addresses
- How to enjoy the festive season.
 - Ways of playing in the field.
 - Protective gear required for playing games.
 - Precautionary measures to take while playing.