

# BCA ACADEMY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SCHOOL OF BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT SINGAPORE

### ENGLISH SCREENING TEST

1.5 HOURS

#### Instructions to candidates

1. Do **not** turn over this page until you are told to do so.
2. Check that you have the correct test script, number of pages and questions.
3. There are TEN (10) pages excluding this cover page.
4. This paper consists of **Four (4)** Sections (80 marks). Answer ALL questions.
5. All answers are to be written in this test script.
6. Write your **Name, Passport/IC NO. and Seat No.** on this cover page.
7. Do **NOT** remove any page. The test script is the property of BCA Academy and **must not be removed** from the test centre.
8. All mobile phones and electronic equipment are to be switched off.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

Section	Marks
A (15 marks)	
B (15 marks)	
C (20 marks)	
D (30 marks)	
Oral Interview (20 marks)	
Total marks	

### Section A Grammar (15 marks)

Write the correct form of verb forms for each of the following sentences.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ the voicemail message you left last night. (misunderstand)
2. You should have \_\_\_\_\_ the lamp before taking the bulb out. (unplug)
3. The whole area was \_\_\_\_\_ after the war. (rebuild)
4. It's dangerous to walk about with your shoelaces \_\_\_\_\_. (undo)
5. When she \_\_\_\_\_ her story to the police, she altered some details. (retell)
6. Later that night he \_\_\_\_\_ the tape and listened to it again. (rewind)
7. They had \_\_\_\_\_ my name as usual (misspell)
8. He was \_\_\_\_\_ from driving for a whole year. (disqualify)
9. I prefer \_\_\_\_\_ the knots to cutting the string. (untie)
10. The kids love \_\_\_\_\_ their birthday presents and showing them to everyone. (unwrap)
11. Speed restrictions will be in force during the \_\_\_\_\_ of the road. (resurface)
12. "Phew, it is so hot!" said Mike, \_\_\_\_\_ his jacket. (unbutton)
13. My assignment will have to be partly \_\_\_\_\_ before I can submit it. (rewrite)
14. I was so \_\_\_\_\_ in revising for my exams that I did not hear the commotion downstairs. (engross)
15. The performers were so good that everyone stood and \_\_\_\_\_. (applaud)

**Section B Vocabulary (15 marks)**

Select and write the correct answer (a), (b), (c) or (d) in the brackets provided.

16. Suzie and John are planning to get married and ..... a lot of children.
- (a) get (c) bring  
(b) have (d) take ( )
17. It's a great place to live apart from the increasing volume of ..... that passes under my window every day.
- (a) transport (c) vehicle  
(b) traffic (d) circulation ( )
18. This material is rather delicate and won't stand up to ..... handling.
- (a) aggressive (c) rowdy  
(b) rough (d) vicious ( )
19. You should read this novel — it's been ..... recommended by all the critics.
- (a) truly (c) highly ( )  
(b) fully (d) deeply
20. This meat is beautifully ..... ; what recipe did you use?
- (a) tender (c) mild  
(b) gentle (d) soft ( )
21. I'd like to talk this ..... with my group mate before I give you an answer.
- (a) about (c) over ( )  
(b) down (d) up
22. He ..... his adventures in the Amazon jungle to an audience of geographers.
- (a) detailed (c) recited ( )  
(b) recounted (d) revealed

23. Cindy just told me a very juicy piece of ..... about Janet and her husband.
- (a) talk (c) chatter  
(b) chat (d) gossip ( )
24. Nothing will be decided ..... after the holidays.
- (a) so far as (c) still  
(b) until (d) whenever ( )
25. I'm sorry, but we've had some difficulty ..... your luggage.
- (a) that we locate (c) in locating  
(b) to have located (d) in the location ( )
26. I really have no idea how the mistake ..... in the first place.
- (a) came round (c) came about ( )  
(b) came through (d) came off
27. I won't be going to the cinema with you tomorrow ..... I feel a lot better.
- (a) if not (c) as though ( )  
(b) as if (d) unless
28. Long ..... and so continue winning all its matches!
- (a) may our team flourish (c) our team flourish may  
(b) our team may flourish (d) may flourish our team ( )
29. My personal feelings about your choice of university is ..... the point; I only want what is best for you.
- (a) besides (c) beyond ( )  
(b) beside (d) to
30. Most children these days get inoculated ..... common childhood illnesses like measles and mumps when they are babies.
- (a) for (c) from ( )  
(b) against (d) apart

### Section C - Cloze Passages (20marks)

#### Passage 1 (10 marks)

Select a suitable word from the box below and write the correct answer in the blank to complete the passage.

or	on	however	as
with	about	so	because
instead	although	from	by

A new report (31) \_\_\_\_\_ the World Health Organisation (WHO) says processed meat causes cancer. Processed meat includes bacon, hot dogs, ham and sausages, as well as canned meat and meat-based sauces. The report was made (32) \_\_\_\_\_ the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). It said it was important to tell the world (33) \_\_\_\_\_ the danger of processed meat (34) \_\_\_\_\_ of the large number of people who eat it and get cancer. The report says that eating just 50g of processed meat a day increases the chance of developing certain types of cancer by 18 per cent. Fifty grams is just two slices of bacon (35) \_\_\_\_\_ one sausage. The WHO also said eating red meat carried a risk of developing cancer.

(36) \_\_\_\_\_ the WHO warned people about the risk of eating too much processed and red meat, it did say that meat had health benefits. Meat has many important vitamins and minerals. The WHO said people should cut down (37) \_\_\_\_\_ the amount of processed meat they eat. People should also eat more food that contains fibre, such as fruit and vegetables, (38) \_\_\_\_\_ they have a balanced diet. The meat industry is not happy (39) \_\_\_\_\_ some of the details of the report. It does not like the fact that the IARC put processed meat in the same group as tobacco and alcohol. A spokesperson said processed meat is not (40) \_\_\_\_\_ harmful as alcohol or tobacco. The North American Meat institute said the report would unnecessarily scare people.

**Passage 2 (10marks)**

Select a suitable word from the box below and write the correct answer in the blank to complete the passage.

highly	climate	increasing	illegal	existence
fauna	never	natural	creation	dangers
dangerous	released	shrinking	uninhabitable	suffering

The conservation charity World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has warned that climate change is threatening the (41) \_\_\_\_\_ of the snow leopard in the Himalayas. Its Snow Leopard Programme says rising temperatures are (42) \_\_\_\_\_ the natural habitat of the big cat to the point that snow leopards could become extinct. In a new report, the charity says that up to a third of the mountainous areas where the leopards live could become (43) \_\_\_\_\_. Much of the flora and (44) \_\_\_\_\_ the animals need to survive could disappear in warmer temperatures. The WWF said: "The Himalayas region will face a major crisis if we choose to ignore (45) \_\_\_\_\_ change. We risk losing majestic species such as the snow leopard."

It isn't just climate change that is posing a serious threat to the future of the snow leopard. A variety of activities from humans is also adding to the (46) \_\_\_\_\_ the animals face. Snow leopards are (47) \_\_\_\_\_ sought after for their fur and body parts. More and more poachers are joining this lucrative, (48) \_\_\_\_\_ trade and are killing the animals. The leopards are also being killed by farmers who are trying to protect their livestock. As the (49) \_\_\_\_\_ prey of the snow leopards is decreasing, the animals are venturing into areas inhabited by humans and killing farm animals. The result is the farmers shoot the leopards. The WWF (50) \_\_\_\_\_ its report on the first International Snow Leopard Day.

## Section D - Comprehension (30 marks)

Read the following passages and answer all the questions that follow. Write your answer for each question in this test script.

### Passage 1

#### Summer Rain

The worst days of any summer are the rainy ones. We spend all year looking forward to nice weather and long, hot days. All of winter, with its **dreary** gray days and bitter cold, we dream of those endless days at the beach, laying on the sand and soaking in the bright and burning sun. And then, summer comes, and it rains.

As a child, I would wake up to rainy summer days and come close to crying. It 5  
wasn't fair. We suffered through months of school and miserable weather for those  
scant ten weeks of freedom and balmy weather. Any day that I could not spend at the  
beach or playing ball with my friends seemed like a punishment for something I  
didn't even do. On those rainy summer days, I had nothing fun to do and could only  
sit inside, staring out at the rain like a Dickensian orphan. I was an only child, so 10  
there was no one else to play with. My father worked from home, so I was not truly  
alone, but he could not actively play with me since he was technically at work. It was  
those days that I would resign myself to whatever was on television or any books that  
I could find lying around. I'd crawl through the day and pray each night that the rain  
would not be there the next day. 15

As an adult, though, my opinion of summer rain has changed. When you have to  
work every day, summer is not as eagerly anticipated. Mostly, the days run together,  
bleeding into each other so that they no longer seem like separate entities and instead  
feel like continuations of the same long day. Everything seems **monotonous** and dull,  
and an ennui or listlessness kicks in. Such a mindset makes you cheer for anything 20  
new or different. I spend the winter dreaming of summer and the summer dreaming  
of winter. When summer comes, I complain about how hot it is. And then I look  
forward to the rain, because the rain brings with it a cold front, which offers a  
**reprieve** – admittedly one that is all too short – from the torture of hot and humid  
days. Rainy days are still the worst days of the summer, but summer rain today 25  
means positively beautiful – and considerably cooler – weather tomorrow.

**Answer ALL questions below. (2 marks each)**

51. The meaning of “orphan” is having

A. no friends

B. no parents

C. no activities

D. no fun

( )

52. According to the passage, summer is different for adults because

A. rain brings with it cold temperatures for the following days.

B. the weather is much warmer than it is for children.

C. they do not get a long time off from work for the season.

D. they better know how to occupy their downtime.

( )

53. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true about the writer as a child?

A. He or she was often bored on summer days.

B. He or she preferred cooler weather.

C. He or she liked staying indoors.

D. He or she had no siblings.

( )

54. Compared to how he or she was as a child, the writer as an adult is

A. more realistic

B. less excitable

C. more idealistic

D. less calm

( )

55. In the final paragraph, the word ‘reprieve’ (line 24) means

A. a permanent conclusions

B. a short continuation

C. a higher level of pain

D. a temporary break

( )



56. How long were the writer's summer holidays?

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57. In your own words, describe how the writer felt about the rainy summer days.

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For each of the following words, give one word or a phrase (of not more than seven words) which have the same meaning that they have in the passage.

58. Dreary (line 2) : \_\_\_\_\_

59. Monotonous (line 19) : \_\_\_\_\_

## **Passage 2**

### **Badminton**

- 1 Badminton is a recreational sport played by either two opposing players (singles) or two opposing pairs (doubles), that take positions on opposite halves of a rectangular court divided by a net. Players score points by striking a shuttlecock with their racquet so that it passes over the net and lands in their opponents' half of the court. Each side may only strike the shuttlecock once before it passes over the net. A rally ends once the shuttlecock has struck the floor, or if a fault has been called by either the umpire or service judge or, in their absence, the offending player, at any time during the rally.
- 2 The shuttlecock is a feathered or (mainly in non-competitive matches) plastic projectile whose unique aerodynamic properties cause it to fly differently from the balls used in most racquet sports; in particular, the feathers create much higher drag, causing the shuttlecock to **decelerate** more rapidly than a ball. Shuttlecocks have a much higher top speed, when compared to other racquet sports. Because shuttlecock flight is affected by wind, competitive badminton is played indoors. Badminton is also played outdoors as a casual recreational activity, often as a garden or beach game.
- 3 Since 1992, badminton has been an Olympic sport with five events: men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles, in which each pair consists of a man and a woman. At high levels of play, especially in singles, the sport demands excellent fitness: players require aerobic stamina, agility, explosive strength, speed and

precision. It is also a technical sport, requiring good motor coordination and the development of sophisticated racquet movements.

**Answer ALL questions below. (2 marks each)**

60. When badminton is played with two opposing pairs, how many players are there in that match?

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61. What are the materials used to make shuttlecocks?

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62. Why is competitive badminton played indoors?

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63. Name **TWO** (2) requirements that a badminton player needs to play the sport well.

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64. Explain "decelerate" as used in paragraph 2.

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65. Why is badminton considered a technical sport?

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**End-of-paper**