



ECRISTART 2008 – TEST N° 1

Each sentence in this section has a word underlined. Under each sentence you will see four words marked a) b) c) and d). Choose the one word that is closest in meaning to the original word in the sentence.

- 1) *It would be fun to go to the zoo this afternoon.*
 - a) boring
 - b) time-wasting
 - c) amusing
 - d) expensive

- 2) *I'm not happy in my job, but I'm going to stick it out for another month.*
 - a) complain about it
 - b) redefine it
 - c) give it up
 - d) remain in it

- 3) *Her boss was pleased with her and granted her a pay-rise.*
 - a) gave
 - b) offered
 - c) sent
 - d) refused

- 4) *Everyone was amazed at Pierre's mastery of the English language.*
 - a) difficulties in
 - b) interest in
 - c) dislike of
 - d) fluency in

- 5) *Don't worry – the Lees will be here in next to no time.*
 - a) in a couple of hours' time
 - b) very shortly indeed
 - c) not before this evening
 - d) much later than expected

- 6) *I'm not sure, but perhaps we should give him the benefit of the doubt.*
 - a) we ought not to trust him
 - b) we ought to support him after all
 - c) we must call everything he says into question
 - d) we should believe him and give him some cash

- 7) *"Have you finished your report yet?" "It's in the works."*
 - a) It is being printed at the moment
 - b) It's been a tough assignment

- c) I'm still working on it
d) At the moment, I'm writing about labour problems
- 8) ***The government's new policy will have far-reaching consequences.***
a) extensive
b) future
c) insignificant
d) unimagined
- 9) ***The riot police were involved in violent clashes with the student protestors.***
a) debates
b) fights
c) disagreements
d) exchanges of gunfire
- 10) ***The new suspension bridge links the island to the mainland.***
a) joins
b) binds
c) fixes
d) ties
- 11) ***No-one had voted for him – he had to acknowledge he had been beaten.***
a) consider
b) admit
c) live with
d) avoid
- 12) ***If we don't control the rat population, it will soon overrun our cities.***
a) inhabit
b) invade
c) avoid
d) enjoy
- 13) ***As a doctor, he seems a bit of a quack to me. I don't trust him.***
a) specialist
b) misfit
c) trainee
d) charlatan
- 14) ***The team played so abysmally they were completely routed.***
a) roundly defeated
b) warmly applauded
c) absolutely dominant
d) supremely victorious
- 15) ***If you buy it, you'll save money. It's a bargain.***
a) a good buy
b) a waste of money
c) a poor investment
d) a rare object

- 16) *The mayor is generally the figurehead of the community.*
a) leading politician
b) laughing stock
c) leading citizen
d) best-paid official
- 17) *He made such a spectacle of himself that the audience jeered him.*
a) mocked him
b) laughed along with him
c) threw money to him
d) applauded him
- 18) *It is difficult to grow things in soil which is barren.*
a) damp
b) stony
c) inaccessible
d) infertile
- 19) *It is compulsory to wear a helmet when on a building site.*
a) tedious
b) fashionable
c) obligatory
d) uncomfortable
- 20) *With the latest financial crisis, the future looks even more ominous.*
a) threatening
b) promising
c) challenging
d) uncertain
- 21) *I don't know what to do! I'm in a such a quandary.*
a) pleasant situation
b) impossible situation
c) bad financial position
d) dilemma
- 22) *The police are now scouring the area for the escaped prisoners.*
a) searching
b) visiting
c) abandoning
d) eliminating
- 23) *It was the bank's huge losses that triggered the panic.*
a) stopped
b) fuelled
c) brought about
d) intensified

- 24) *It's only by hard graft that you will succeed in life.*
a) by spending a lot
b) by negotiating everything
c) by investing in business
d) by working a lot
- 25) *There was little we could do to boost her flagging spirits.*
a) exuberant
b) fading
c) extraordinary
d) discouraging

In this section, three of the words are similar. Choose the fourth word marked a) b) c) or d) which does not belong with the other three.

- 26) a) glance b) peer c) stare d) gaze
- 27) a) metre b) foot c) pound d) yard
- 28) a) howl b) scream c) shriek d) sigh
- 29) a) loving b) caring c) worrying d) devoted
- 30) a) foreign b) strange c) exotic d) unwanted

Each sentence in this section is incomplete. Beneath each sentence you will see four possible answers: a) b) c) and d). Choose the answer which best completes the sentence.

- 31) *We have _____ news of our friends now that they are living in India.*
a) few
b) a few
c) little
d) fewer
- 32) *I would like _____ me.*
a) that you help
b) you help
c) your helping
d) you to help
- 33) *It's the first time _____ the plane.*
a) he has taken
b) he is taking
c) he takes
d) he took

- 34) *No sooner had I got in _____ the phone rang.*
a) when
b) that
c) than
d) but
- 35) *Every year, they _____ to Spain on holiday.*
a) were going
b) would go
c) have gone
d) have been going
- 36) *It was well after midnight when we arrived _____ our destination.*
a) to
b) in
c) at
d) into
- 37) *They _____ in London for over twenty years now.*
a) live
b) are living
c) had lived
d) have lived
- 38) *You'd be willing to help me, _____ ?*
a) aren't you?
b) hadn't you?
c) wouldn't you?
d) isn't it?
- 39) *Mary paid more than _____ for her new car.*
a) twenty thousand pound
b) twenty thousand pounds
c) twenty thousands pounds
d) twenty thousand of pounds
- 40) *If I had known, I _____ you.*
a) might help
b) had helped
c) was helping
d) would have helped
- 41) *Give me a call when you _____ home.*
a) will get
b) get
c) will be getting
d) may get

- 42) *It's high time _____ working for your examination!*
a) you start
b) you are starting
c) you started
d) for you to start
- 43) *I wish _____ better English!*
a) I am speaking
b) I speak
c) I was speaking
d) I spoke
- 44) *Scarcely _____ exam paper, when I realised my dreadful mistakes.*
a) did I hand in
b) I had handed in
c) had I handed in
d) I was handing in
- 45) *Peter is looking forward _____ his German pen-pal.*
a) for meeting
b) to meet
c) and meeting
d) to meeting
- 46) *Joanna is away on holiday. She _____ to Spain.*
a) has been
b) has gone
c) is gone
d) is going
- 47) *Rachel and I are good friends. We have known _____ since school.*
a) each other
b) one another
c) ourselves
d) the one, the other
- 48) *If you want to keep fit, you ought to cut _____ smoking.*
a) out
b) away
c) down
d) up
- 49) *I fear the film _____ by the time we get to the cinema.*
a) has already started
b) will already start
c) will already have started
d) will be already started

a basis for the years to come.
d

58) *We always listen to the weather forecast, but we know hardly nothing about
a b c
the forces influencing climate.*
d

59) *I wonder what the government will do about the raising oil prices and the
a b c
shortage of oil?*
d

60) *Several passengers were slightly injured in the crash but none were taken to
a b c
hospital.*
d

Reading Comprehension 1

Line 1 For billions of parents who earn only a few dollars a day, paying for a child's education often
Line 2 gets neglected. Many simple solutions that break the cycle of poverty have been tried and
Line 3 have failed. Now another one is on the horizon: a \$100 laptop.
Line 4 Such a jaw-dropping price tag for a kid-friendly, easy-to-fix computer is only a hope for now.
Line 5 The final price depends on how many nations sign on to this "One Laptop Per Child" initiative,
Line 6 which sprang from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The opening price is more likely to
Line 7 be \$150 – and that doesn't take into account the cost of setup, training, or maintenance.
Line 8 So far, only eight countries are on board: Argentina, Brazil, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda,
Line 9 Thailand and Uruguay. And prototypes of this white-and-green machine, which is dubbed "XO"
Line 10 have not been fully road-tested with children. By July, though, several million "XOs" are
Line 11 expected to be shipped, with \$29 million in funding from companies such as Google Inc., Red
Line 12 Hat and News Corp.

From an article in *The Christian Science Monitor*

61) *What is the purpose of the journalist in the above extract?*

- a) To inform readers of a new project
- b) To promote the "XO"
- c) To show the generosity of firms like Google Inc.
- d) To criticise computer technology

62) *Which of the following statements is untrue?*

- a) Poor parents find it hard to pay for their children's education.
- b) Poor people do not make enough to pay for their children's education.
- c) Paying for their children's education is a priority – even for poor people.
- d) Paying for their children's education is not a priority for the poor.

63) *A new solution is said to be "on the horizon" (line 3). This means it is*

- a) equally out of reach
- b) soon to be available
- c) already available
- d) pure fiction

- 64) ***“A jaw-dropping price-tag” (line 4) means***
 a) the price of the computer is unbelievably low
 b) the price of the computer is incredibly high
 c) no-one will want to pay the price
 d) everyone will want to have one of these computers
- 65) ***According to the journalist,***
 a) the computer will indeed cost \$100
 b) the computer will cost less than \$100
 c) the computer will certainly be more expensive
 d) the computer should be affordable to all
- 66) ***Which of the following statements is true?***
 a) The project was initiated by MIT.
 b) MIT refused to be involved in the project.
 c) MIT is actively promoting the project.
 d) MIT took over the project from another agency.
- 67) ***According to the journalist, if the computer sells for \$150***
 a) users will have to repair their computers themselves
 b) users will not have to pay for any extras at all
 c) users will have to pay more for certain services
 d) users will have got a really good bargain
- 68) ***If eight countries are “on board” (line 8), this means that***
 a) they are hostile to the project
 b) they will participate in the project’s development later on
 c) they are in sole charge of the project
 d) they are involved in the project
- 69) ***If the computer has not yet been “road-tested” (line 10), this means***
 a) children have not been able to use it in their parents’ cars
 b) the computer will have limited applications
 c) as yet children have not tried it out extensively
 d) its inventors are not sure how resistant the computer will be
- 70) ***How could the journalist’s attitude to the “XO” be qualified?***
 a) enthusiastic
 b) pessimistic
 c) hostile
 d) cautious

Reading Comprehension 2

Line 1 California is supposed to be the Golden State of beautiful people, their bodies honed to
 Line 2 perfection by 24-hour gyms, cosmetic surgery and “healthful” diets. Sadly, the image is yet

Line 3 another Hollywood illusion. In reality, according to a recent study, Californians are almost as fat,
Line 4 often grotesquely so, as the rest of burger-munching America. In 1990 some 10% of the state's
Line 5 adults were considered medically obese; by 2003 the proportion had more than doubled.
Line 6 Factor in the fat, as well as the gross, and only half of Californians are of "normal" weight for
Line 7 their height.
Line 8 How can this be, when the advertising hoardings promote stick-thin Paris Hilton and when
Line 9 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, a former Mr Universe, rails against junk-food? One difference
Line 10 lies in racial and ethnic differences: California's Latinos who make up 35% of the population
Line 11 and blacks (around 7%) are much more likely to be overweight than California's non-Hispanic
Line 12 whites (45%) or Asians (12%).
Line 13 The income equation is straightforward: the poor eat a disproportionately large amount of junk
Line 14 food, and are mostly Latino or black. Poor areas have fewer supermarkets, with their greater
Line 15 choice of fruit and vegetables, and more convenience stores, with their narrow range.

From an article in *The Economist*

- 71) ***In this extract, the journalist***
a) debunks a Californian myth
b) makes a plea for tolerance
c) criticises obese people
d) shows understanding of the obese
- 72) ***In "burger-munching America" (line 4),***
a) Americans consume large quantities of burgers
b) Americans quite enjoy eating burgers
c) Americans now tend to avoid eating burgers
d) more burgers are eaten in the US than in any other country
- 73) ***Which of the following statements is untrue?***
a) In 1990, around one Californian in ten was obese.
b) Less than 20% of Californian adults were obese in 2003.
c) Before 2003, over 20% of Californian adults were obese.
d) Between 1990 and 2003, the obesity rate rose by 200%.
- 74) ***In line 6, "the fat" and "the gross" refer to***
a) California's adult population
b) junk food
c) native Californians and immigrants
d) two other degrees of obesity
- 75) ***According to the journalist, Paris Hilton***
a) is a model Californian
b) is untypical of Californians
c) looks really good in adverts
d) has not put on any weight at all recently
- 76) ***If Governor Schwarzenegger "rails against junk food" (line 9),***
a) he openly criticises it
b) he warmly endorses it
c) he thinks it should be eaten in moderation
d) he advises it for others, but not for himself
- 77) ***Which of the following statements is true?***

- a) Latinos are more likely to be obese than blacks.
 - b) Blacks are just as likely to be obese as whites.
 - c) Hispanic whites are less obese than Asians and blacks.
 - d) Latinos and blacks are more likely to be obese than Asians.
- 78) "The income equation is straightforward" (line 13) means that**
- a) personal income affects body weight
 - b) rich people tend to be more obese than poor people
 - c) rich and poor people are equally obese
 - d) money and obesity are totally unrelated
- 79) Which of these statements is not mentioned in the article?**
- a) Supermarkets are not all that common in poor neighbourhoods.
 - b) Supermarkets invariably attract rich rather than poor customers.
 - c) Supermarkets offer more choice than convenience stores.
 - d) Convenience stores offer a smaller variety of goods than supermarkets.
- 80) Which of these headlines would best suit the extract?**
- a) "The good, the bad and the ugly"
 - b) "Healthy eating"
 - c) "Eat till you drop"
 - d) "Californian eating habits"

REPONSES

- 1) c) amusing
- 2) d) remain in it
- 3) a) gave
- 4) d) fluency in
- 5) b) very shortly indeed
- 6) b) we ought to support him after all
- 7) c) I'm still working on it
- 8) a) extensive
- 9) b) fights
- 10) a) joins
- 11) b) admit
- 12) b) invade
- 13) d) charlatan
- 14) a) totally defeated
- 15) a) a good buy
- 16) c) leading citizen
- 17) a) mocked him
- 18) d) infertile
- 19) c) obligatory
- 20) a) threatening
- 21) d) dilemma
- 22) a) searching
- 23) c) brought about
- 24) d) work
- 25) b) fading
- 26) a) glance
- 27) c) pound
- 28) d) sigh
- 29) c) worrying
- 30) d) unwanted
- 31) c) little
- 32) d) you to help
- 33) a) he has taken
- 34) c) than
- 35) b) would go
- 36) c) at
- 37) d) have lived
- 38) c) wouldn't you?
- 39) b) twenty thousand pounds
- 40) d) would have helped
- 41) b) get

- 42) c) you started
- 43) d) I spoke
- 44) c) had I handed in
- 45) d) to meeting
- 46) b) has gone
- 47) d) each other
- 48) a) out
- 49) c) will already have started
- 50) c) I'll help
- 51) d) she hadn't flown
- 52) a) as
- 53) b) feeling
- 54) d) although
- 55) b) closing
- 56) a) Him
- 57) b) agreed with
- 58) c) hardly nothing
- 59) c) raising
- 60) c) were
- 61) a) To inform readers of a new project
- 62) c) Paying for their children's education is a priority – even for the poor.
- 63) b) soon to be available
- 64) a) the price of the computer is unbelievably low
- 65) c) the computer will certainly be more expensive
- 66) a) The project was initiated by MIT
- 67) c) users will have to pay more for certain services
- 68) d) they are involved in the project
- 69) c) as yet children have not tried it out extensively
- 70) d) cautious
- 71) a) debunks a Californian myth
- 72) a) Americans consume large quantities of burgers
- 73) b) Less than 20% of Californian adults were obese in 2003
- 74) d) two other degrees of obesity
- 75) b) is untypical of Californians
- 76) a) he openly criticizes it
- 77) d) Latinos and blacks are more likely to be obese than Asians
- 78) a) personal income affects body weight
- 79) b) Supermarkets invariably attract rich rather than poor customers
- 80) d) "Californian eating habits"