

# 2001 JUNE, WASSCE ENGLISH - PART B

## SECTION C – Summary

*Read the following passage carefully and answer, in **your own words as far as possible**, the question that follows.*

Poverty! Can anyone who has not really been poor know what poverty is? I really doubt it. How can anyone who enjoys three square meals a day explain what poverty means? Indeed can someone who has two full meals a day claim to know poverty? Perhaps, one begins to grasp the full meaning of poverty when one struggles really hard to have one miserable meal in twenty-four hours. Poverty and hunger are cousins, the former always dragging along the latter wherever he chooses to go.

If you were wearing a suit, or a complete traditional attire, and you look naturally rotund in your apparel, you cannot understand what poverty entails. Nor can you have a true feel of poverty if you have some good shirts and pairs of trousers, never mind that all these are casual wear. Indeed, if you can change one dress into another, and these are all you can boast of, you are not really poor. A person begins to have a true feel of what poverty means when, apart from the tattered clothes on his body, he doesn't have any other; not even calico to keep away the cold at night.

Let us face it, can anyone who has never slept outside, in the open, appreciate the full, harsh import of homelessness? Yet that is what real, naked poverty is. He who can lay claim to a house, however humble, cannot claim to be poor. Indeed, if he can afford to rent a flat, or a room in town or city, without the landlord having cause to eject him, he cannot honestly claim to be poor. The really poor man has no roof over his head, and this is why you find him under a bridge, in a tent or simply in the vast open air.

But that is hardly all. The poor man faces the world as a hopeless underdog. In every bargain, every discussion, every event involving him and others, the poor man is constantly reminded of his failure in life. Nobody listens attentively when he makes a point, nobody accepts that his opinion merits consideration. So in most cases, he learns to accept that he has neither wisdom nor opinion.

The pauper's lot naturally rubs off on his child who is subject not only to hunger of the body but also of the mind. The pauper lacks the resources to send his child to school. And even in communities where

education is free, the pauper's child still faces an uphill task because the hunger of the body impedes the proper nourishment of the mind.

Denied access to modern communications media, the poor child has very little opportunity to understand the concepts taught him. His mind is rocky soil on which the teacher's seeds cannot easily germinate. Thus embattled at home and then at school, the pauper's child soon has very little option but to drop out of school.

That is still not all. Weakened by hunger, embattled by cold and exposure to the elements, feeding on poor water and poor food, the pauper is an easy target for diseases. This is precisely why the poorest countries have the shortest life expectancy while the longest life expectancy are recorded among the richest countries. Poverty is really a disease that shortens life!

### Question

In **six** sentences, one for **each**, *summarize* the problems of the poor man.

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## SECTION D – Objective Test

*In each of the following sentences, there is a word or group of words underlined and one gap. From the list of words lettered A to D. Choose the one that is **most nearly opposite in meaning to the underlined word or group of words and that will, at the same time, correctly fill the gap in the sentence.***

1. The leader of the delegation was commended for the manner in which he handled the matter, while their hosts were.....

- A. applauded
- B. praised
- C. criticized
- D. sanctioned

2. Musa is very frugal, whereas his friend Audu is.....

- A. misery
- B. thrifty
- C. precocious
- D. extravagant

3, Taiwo's flamboyance and Kehinde's..... often keep people wondering if they are really twins.

- A. modesty
- B. arrogance

- C. timidity
- D. pretension

4. People enjoy stories with..... settings rather than those with far-fetched background

- A. practical
- B. realistic
- C. artificial
- D. undefined

5. We were asked to reach a compromise and not start another.....

- A. accusation
- B. concession
- C. controversy
- D. issue

6. He was promoted for his efficiency, while his colleague was demoted for.....

- A. ability
- B. lateness
- C. incompetence
- D. capability

7. Oken's business is flourishing while his father's is.....

- A. declining
- B. progressing
- C. withering
- D. vanishing

8. You should be..... so as not to be caught unawares.

- A. serious
- B. sober
- C. ready
- D. alert

9. The manager who was sacked last month has been.....

- A. retired
- B. suspended
- C. reinstated
- D. promoted

10. The school authorities expected the contributions to be..... rather than compulsory.

- A. willful
- B. voluntary
- C. deliberate
- D. outright

*From the letters A to D, choose the words that **best completes** each of the following sentences.*

11. The..... programme against childhood diseases has ended.

- A. injection

- B. vaccination
- C. immunization
- D. harmonization

12. The accused stated..... that he was innocent of the crime.

- A. unequivocally
- B. feebly
- C. ashamedly
- D. excitedly

13. The doctor's..... was that the patient was suffering from cancer.

- A. prediction
- B. verdict
- C. diagnosis
- D. analysis

14. I was advised to open a..... account with the bank if I wanted to pay with cheques.

- A. savings
- B. deposit
- C. loans
- D. current

15. The pastor addressed his..... in a sonorous voice.

- A. audience
- B. masses
- C. spectators
- D. congregation

16. Many African leaders try to cling..... to power.

- A. tenaciously
- B. judiciously
- C. economically
- D. socially

17. The civilian head of state was..... in a military coup d'etat.

- A. discharged
- B. ousted
- C. empowered
- D. enthroned

18. After much debate on the controversial issue, the meeting was..... till the next morning.

- A. postponed
- B. proscribed
- C. adjourned
- D. delayed

19. The company distributed gifts to its staff as an..... to hard work.

- A. incentive
- B. inception
- C. interest
- D. induction

*After each of the following sentences, a list of possible interpretations is given. Choose the interpretation that you consider **most appropriate** for each sentence.*

20. Bukola has an infectious smile. This means that Bukola.....

- A. spreads infection when she smiles
- B. has sores in her teeth
- C. make others smile when she smiles
- D. become infected when she smiles

21. It is cold comfort to tell a hungry man that starvation improves health. This means that telling a hungry man this is.....

- A. frightening
- B. consoling
- C. unhelpful
- D. hypocritical

22. Nonso's father gave him a free hand to run the family business. This means that his father.....

- A. assisted him freely
- B. allows him to make his own decision
- C. made him sole owner of the business
- D. allow him freedom of movement in the premises

23. Audu was certainly born with a silver spoon in his mouth. This means that.....

- A. he was born into a rich family
- B. his parent gave him silver spoon when he was born
- C. he was born in the age of miracle
- D. his parent could not help him

24. You must be speaking with your tongue in your cheek. This means that you.....

- A. you must be very serious
- B. must be thinking of something else
- C. have food in your mouth
- D. don't mean what you are saying

25. The manager hit the roof when he was presented with a huge estimate for the new project. This means that the manager.....

- A. became very suspicious
- B. threw an object at the roof
- C. became very angry
- D. ordered the project to be started at once

26. Her reproaches cut him to the quick. This means that he.....

- A. was made to act quickly
- B. was wounded
- C. was deeply hurt
- D. began to speak angrily

27. The girl went scot-free even though she started the fight. This means the girl was.....

- A. punished
- B. unpunished
- C. expelled from school
- D. free to move about

28. This secretary's vote of thanks did not ring true. This means that the vote of thanks was.....

- A. full of praise
- B. not audible
- C. not sincere
- D. well delivered

29. Mary Onyali won the race by a hair's breadth. This means that Mary won.....

- A. convincingly
- B. narrowly
- C. comfortably
- D. luckily

*From the words or group of words lettered A to D below each of the following sentences, choose the word that is **nearest in meaning** to the **underlined words** as it is used in the sentence.*

30. The criminal was incarcerated.

- A. arrested
- B. pardoned
- C. imprisoned
- D. cautioned

31. The manager soon found out that my sister was a competent typist.

- A. patient
- B. capable
- C. hardworking
- D. careless

32. At the inception of his administration, the Governor was very popular.

- A. end
- B. beginning
- C. dissolution
- D. peak

33. The business anticipated the collapse of the bank.

- A. prevented
- B. caused
- C. foresaw
- D. pre-empted

34. The plaintiff was dissatisfied with the decision of the court.

- A. solicitor
- B. accused

- C. complainant
- D. respondent

35. The judge was incorruptible.

- A. frank
- B. unreliable
- C. incorrigible
- D. honest

36. Mr Preye is a stern father.

- A. wicked
- B. loving
- C. conservation
- D. strict

37. My first son is an unusually audacious boy.

- A. daring
- B. clever
- C. cowardly
- D. mischievous

38. Amina often makes derogatory remarks about her husband.

- A. arrogant
- B. belittling
- C. laudable
- D. discreet

*From the words or group of words lettered A to D, choose the word or group of words that **best completes** each of the following sentences.*

39. For such a serious offense, Etim was lucky to..... with a fine.

- A. get over
- B. get on
- C. get away
- D. get off

40. The members of the association were just rounding..... their discussion when the police arrived.

- A. up
- B. off
- C. of
- D. in

41. I could not attend the meeting, so I asked my sister to stand..... for me.

- A. up
- B. by
- C. in
- D. on

42. I tendered for that contract, but my application.....

- A. fell in
- B. fell off
- C. fell through
- D. fell down

43. He is Mr Bello's son, .....?
- A. isn't he
  - B. isn't it
  - C. is it
  - D. wont you
44. You will help me with my assignment, .....?
- A. can you
  - B. could you
  - C. would you
  - D. won't you
45. I bought my..... today at the mall.
- A. very green first party dress
  - B. green very party first dress
  - C. first green very party dress
  - D. very first green party dress
46. Although he was not born in Yoruba land, .....
- A. he can't speak the language
  - B. he can't write the language
  - C. he can speak the language
  - D. but he can speak the language
47. Adaku and Udoka were curious..... who was coming to see their father
- A. at
  - B. about
  - C. in
  - D. of
48. Moji says she is better in Math.....
- A. as me
  - B. than I am
  - C. as I am
  - D. with me
49. I have never..... humiliated in my life.
- A. being so
  - B. so being
  - C. been so
  - D. so been
50. He..... the scene before that accident occurred.
- A. leaves
  - B. has left
  - C. left
  - D. had left
51. The proposer's argument was..... convincing than that of his opponent.
- A. much more
  - B. most

- C. much
- D. more much

52. The cloth is..... bright for my liking.

- A. very
- B. so
- C. quite
- D. too

53. By the time they arrive, we..... the work.

- A. shall have finished
- B. could have finished
- C. will finish
- D. have finished

54. This engine is..... that one.

- A. superior than
- B. more superior than
- C. more superior to
- D. superior to

55. Janet could not attend the party because she..... with the flu over the weekend

- A. came up
- B. came down
- C. came away
- D. came in

56. The new student made a good impression..... rest of the class.

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

57. Could I borrow..... cash, please?

- A. a little
- B. a few
- C. much
- D. few

58. It is..... this background that we can understand the issue clearly.

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

59. The teacher told the pupils to commit the poem..... memory

- A. to
- B. in
- C. onto
- D. inside

60. .... we waited, Ayo read the letter over again

- A. While

- B. When
- C. Where
- D. Why

61. I expect everybody to respect.....

- A. itself
- B. ourselves
- C. himself
- D. oneself

62. You are..... for having that painful experiences.

- A. none the best
- B. none the worst
- C. none the worse
- D. nonetheless

63. .... is not good for children.

- A. To have skipped breakfast
- B. To have been skipping breakfast
- C. To be skipping breakfast
- D. Skipping breakfast

64. The manager is leaving the company to..... a new appointment elsewhere.

- A. take over
- B. take on
- C. take up
- D. take off

65. Since we were not given all the things we requested, we should..... with what we have.

- A. make up
- B. make out
- C. make do
- D. make over

66. Nigerians will have to..... to blame for withdrawing from the competition at the last minute.

- A. themselves
- B. one another
- C. each other
- D. ourselves

67. Many people do not..... their religious professions.

- A. live by
- B. live
- C. live with
- D. live on

68. .... a new teacher, she does not know much about the behavior of the students

- A. Being
- B. Having been
- C. Been
- D. Having being

69. The principal hoped that he.....  
to help the students.

- A. can be able
- B. is able
- C. would be able
- D. must be able

70. The lecturer arrived exactly.....  
time to give the talk.

- A. on
- B. with
- C. by
- D. in

71. Olumide initially disliked Mathematics,  
but..... time began to like it.

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

72. The judge says that no one  
is..... the law.

- A. over
- B. above
- C. after
- D. across

73. The officer..... that he was not  
supposed to talk to the press on the  
matter.

- A. will know
- B. shall know
- C. could have known
- D. should have known

74. He is a dare-devil; I really..... be  
surprised that he has escaped.

- A. ought to
- B. oughtn't
- C. could
- D. couldn't

75. This is Bisi's handwriting:  
there..... be no argument about it.

- A. will
- B. may
- C. might
- D. can

*The gaps in the following passage  
indicate missing words. Four options are  
offered, lettered A to D. Choose the word  
that is the **most suitable** to fill the gap in  
the passage.*

76. Jide bought a car last year and now  
there is the need to renew the.....

- A. road worthiness
- B. chassis
- C. insurance policy
- D. vehicle dues

77. The first time he went to Mr Olumide, the.....

- A. road superintendent
- B. insurance broker
- C. drawing instructor
- D. licensing officer

78. he was advised to.....

- A. take out
- B. take up
- C. taken on
- D. take in

79. a.....

- A. yearly license
- B. yearly premium
- C. cheaper deal
- D. comprehensive policy

80. rather than..... cover

- A. second rate
- B. first party
- C. third party
- D. third rate

81. Mr Olumide had carefully explained the merits and demerits of both types, which include the fact that one was far more..... than the other.

- A. expensive
- B. prohibitive
- C. exclusive
- D. impressive

82. Now Jide has cause to smile because of his entitlement to a no-claim.....

- A. deduction
- B. bonus
- C. dividend
- D. reward

83. Being a careful owner-driver, he has not been involved in any..... during the period.

- A. incident
- B. event
- C. accident
- D. quarrel

84. Unfortunately, the same could not be said for his friend, Jackson whose car was a total.....

- A. wash-out
- B. write-up
- C. knock-out
- D. write-off

85. after a..... with a truck.

- A. collision
- B. collusion
- C. contact
- D. confrontation

86. He could not even make any claim for.....

- A. damage
- B. repair
- C. damages
- D. improvement

87. because he was not..... at all.

- A. endorsed
- B. recognized
- C. insured
- D. authorize

88. Jackson's experience clearly points to the need for insurance.....

- A. agents
- B. vendors
- C. administrators
- D. dealers

89. to educate prospective..... on benefits of insurance.

- A. customer
- B. buyers
- C. clients
- D. applicants

*The gaps in the following passage indicate missing words. Four options are offered, lettered A to D. Choose the word that is the **most suitable** to fill the gap in the passage.*

90. The persistent fuel..... in the country paralyzed all aspects of life in the cities.

- A. paucity
- B. scarcity
- C. withdrawal
- D. subsidy

91. The streets were often..... of the usual hustle and

- A. full
- B. derailed
- C. deserted
- D. devoid

92. .... that characterized city life.

- A. struggle
- B. bustle
- C. juggle
- D. tussle

93. A visitor might erroneously think it was a public holiday, until he came near a.....,

- A. market place
- B. park
- C. filling station
- D. fuel depot

94. there he will find long..... of haphazardly parked vehicles

- A. columns
- B. crowd
- C. lines
- D. queues

95. waiting to buy the non-existent fuel from the idle.....

- A. hand
- B. pumps
- C. motors
- D. tanks

96. Another look at the bus stops would reveal groups of people anxiously trying to get to their places of work. Even car owners used the few..... buses,

- A. inaccessible
- B. available
- C. agreeable
- D. pliable

97. the drivers of which had increased the..... by anything from 100 to 500%.

- A. fees
- B. levies
- C. fares
- D. money

98. Though this could be very annoying, .....should not blame the drivers

- A. transport
- B. voyagers
- C. conductors
- D. passengers

99. for the..... rates

- A. exorbitant
- B. moderate
- C. exquisite
- D. fair

100. because the drivers had to pay through the nose to procure fuel at the.....

- A. back door
- B. black market
- C. fuel depot
- D. open market

*END*