Inter-High-School Contest – English

Question 1 – The passive voice – Time: 2 minutes

"The ancient Egyptians built the pyramids of Giza about 4,500 years ago."
Task: Turn this sentence into the passive voice.

Answer:

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Question 2 – Reported speech – Time: 2 minutes

The teacher said, “I am preparing the exam for next week.”
Task: Report the teacher’s words.

Answer:

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Question 3 – Conditional type 2 – Time: 2 minutes

“If I (be) ..... the headmaster, I (build) ..... a new library.”
Task: Put the verbs in the correct form.

Answer:

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Question 4 – Used to – Time: 2 minutes

"In the past, people ..... (travel) on camels across the desert."
Task: Complete with "used to". What does it express?

Answer:

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Question 5 – Pronunciation of -ed – Time: 2 minutes

worked – played – wanted – watched – lived – decided

/t/	/d/	/ɪd/

Task: Classify the verbs according to the pronunciation of the final "-ed".

Answer:

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Question 6 – Pronunciation of final -s – Time: 2 minutes

books – dogs – watches – cats – pens – buses

Task: Classify the words according to the pronunciation of the final "-s": /s/, /z/ or /ɪz/.

Answer:

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Question 7 – Suffixes – Time: 2 minutes

honest – corrupt – responsible – develop

Task: Form nouns from these words by adding the appropriate suffix.

Answer:

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Question 8 – Prefixes – Time: 2 minutes

legal – responsible – honest – possible – regular

Task: Give the opposite of each adjective using a prefix.

Answer:

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Question 9 – Relative pronouns – Time: 2 minutes

(1) “Ibn Khaldoun is the scholar ..... wrote the Muqaddimah.”
(2) “This is the museum ..... I visited last year.”
(3) “Archaeologists study civilizations ..... history is very old.”
Task: Fill in the blanks with who, which or whose.

Answer:

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Question 10 – Expressing wishes – Time: 2 minutes

(1) “I wish I (have) ..... more time to revise.”
(2) “If only I (not / waste) ..... my time last year!”
Task: Put the verbs in the correct tense.

Answer:

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Question 11 – Reading comprehension – Time: 2 minutes

Text

The Sumerians, who lived in Mesopotamia between the Tigris and the Euphrates, are considered one of the first civilizations. Around 3200 BC, they developed one of the earliest writing systems, called cuneiform, which was written on clay tablets.

Task: Are these statements true or false? (a) Mesopotamia lies between two rivers. (b) The Sumerians wrote on paper. (c) Cuneiform is a writing system.

Answer:

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Question 12 – Ethics in business – Time: 2 minutes

Match each word with its definition: (1) bribery (2) counterfeiting (3) tax evasion

Text

(a) making illegal copies of products to sell them as originals.
(b) offering money to an official to get an unfair advantage.
(c) illegally avoiding paying taxes.

Task: Match the words with their definitions.

Answer:

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Question 13 – Text type – Time: 2 minutes

Text

School uniforms should be compulsory. First, they reduce social differences between students. Second, they help pupils focus on their studies rather than on fashion. Therefore, every school should adopt them.

Task: What type of text is this? Pick out two linking words that support your answer.

Answer:

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Question 14 – Linking words – Time: 2 minutes

(1) “..... it was raining, we went out.”
(2) “He failed ..... he didn’t work hard.”
(3) “The test was difficult. ....., most students passed.”
Task: Fill in the blanks with: although, because, however.

Answer:

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Question 15 – Word stress – Time: 2 minutes

education – civilization – important – technology

Task: Write each word and underline (or capitalize) the stressed syllable.

Answer:

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Question 16 – Comparatives and superlatives – Time: 2 minutes

(1) “Education in the past was (strict) ..... than today.”
(2) “The Nile is (long) ..... river in Africa.”
(3) “This lesson is (interesting) ..... than the last one.”
Task: Put the adjectives in the correct form.

Answer:

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Question 17 – Modals – Time: 2 minutes

(1) “You ..... respect your teachers.” (obligation)
(2) “You ..... cheat in the exam.” (prohibition)
(3) “You ..... revise every day.” (advice)

Task: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate modal.

Answer:

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Question 18 – Gerund or infinitive – Time: 2 minutes

(1) “I enjoy (read) ..... history books.”
(2) “She decided (study) ..... medicine.”
(3) “Stop (talk) ....., please!”
Task: Put the verbs in the gerund or the infinitive.

Answer:

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Question 19 – It's high time – Time: 2 minutes

"It's high time we (take) ..... action against pollution."
Task: Put the verb in the correct form. What does the sentence express?

Answer:

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Question 20 – Asking questions – Time: 2 minutes

(1) “The museum opens at 9 a.m.”
(2) “Carthage was founded by the Phoenicians.”
Task: Ask questions about the underlined words.

Answer:

Answer key (jury only)

No.	Answer:
1	The pyramids of Giza were built (by the ancient Egyptians) about 4,500 years ago.
2	The teacher said (that) he/she was preparing the exam for the following week.
3	If I were the headmaster, I would build a new library. (If + past simple → would + base form.)
4	People used to travel on camels across the desert. It expresses a past habit that no longer exists.
5	/t/: worked, watched. /d/: played, lived. /ɪd/: wanted, decided.
6	/s/: books, cats. /z/: dogs, pens. /ɪz/: watches, buses.
7	honesty – corruption – responsibility – development.
8	illegal – irresponsible – dishonest – impossible – irregular.
9	(1) who. (2) which (or that). (3) whose.
10	(1) had (present wish → past simple). (2) hadn't wasted (regret about the past → past perfect).
11	(a) True. (b) False: they wrote on clay tablets. (c) True.
12	1 → b, 2 → a, 3 → c.
13	An argumentative text (the writer defends an opinion). Linking words: First, Second, Therefore (and the modal "should").
14	(1) Although. (2) because. (3) However.
15	edu**CA**tion – civili**ZA**tion – im**POR**tant – tech**NO**logy. (Words ending in -tion are stressed on the syllable before the suffix.)
16	(1) stricter. (2) the longest. (3) more interesting.
17	(1) must (have to). (2) mustn't. (3) should (ought to).
18	(1) reading. (2) to study. (3) talking.
19	It's high time we took action against pollution. (It's high time + past simple) It expresses urgency: the action should have already been done.
20	(1) What time (When) does the museum open? (2) Who was Carthage founded by? (By whom was Carthage founded?)