**BECE Past Questions & Answers – 2012 (English)**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1**

Objective Test  
45 minutes

PART A  
LEXIS AND STRUCTURE

SECTION A

From the alternatives lettered A to D, choose the one which most suitably completes each sentence

1. Two people perished …………….the spot.  
A. upon  
B. in  
C. on  
D. through

2. Oyo fell ill ……………..measles  
A. at B. by C. of  
D. with

3. The doctor gave ……………………to the patient  
A. some good advice

B. much good advices

C. many good advice

D. some good advices

4. All girls were supposed to wear …………………during the Speech Day.

A. new, white, long dresses

B. new, long, white dresses

C. long, white, new dresses

D. white, new long dresses

5. I think you know ………………already, said the host to all the participants.  
A. one another

B. each other

C. themselves

D. ourselves

6. The girls asserted that both tennis racquets were  
A. of Akologos  
B. Akologo‟s  
C. Akologo‟s own  
D. Akologo

7. Children usually take ……………their parents in appearance  
A. after B. from C. to  
D. up

8. We haven‟t had …………….rice to eat this week.  
A. some B. little C. any D. many

9. The chief praised the ………………during the students demonstration.

A. policeme’s behaviours

B. policemen behaviours

C. policemen’s behaviour

D. policemens’ behaviour

10. When the lights went off I …………my supper  
A. have eaten  
B. have been eating  
C. am eating  
D. was eating

11. The doctor said she ……………if she had not kept strictly to her diet.  
A. has died  
B. will die  
C. would die  
D. would have died

12. We saw the plane ………………for Kumasi  
A. take on  
B. take of

C. take off  
D. take out

13. There are many big houses in our area, ………….?  
A. isn’t it  
B. aren’t they  
C. weren’t there  
D. aren’t there

14. Your have cut the grass, ……………..?  
A. haven’t you  
B. did you  
C. didn’t you  
D. had you

15. The new airport ………………next year.  
A. will be completed  
B. shall complete  
C. will be completing  
D. shall have completed

16. Walking in the rain is not good, ……………….?  
A. is not  
B. is it  
C. must not  
D. must it

17. Go over your work carefully, …………….. you?  
A. do B. will C. may D. shall

**SECTION B**

***Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one which is nearest in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence.***

18. About fifty houses were demolished to make way for the new road.  
A. removed  
B. attacked  
C. destroyed  
D. displayed

19. The headmaster took drastic action against the culprits.

A. bold

B. dangerous

C. necessary

D. severe

20. It was forecast that there would be floods this year.  
A. deduced

B. predicted

C. imagined

D. observed

21. Many people revered the old man for his charity to the poor.  
A. glorified

B. respected

C. feared

D. praised

22. When they reached the frontier, the customs officer stopped the car.  
A. fence  
B. gate  
C. entrance  
D. border

**SECTION C**

*In each of the following sentences a group of words has been underlined. Choose from the alternatives lettered A to D the one that best explains the underlined group of words.*

23. Awuni normally feels at home in my house. This means that Awuni …………….in my house.  
A. feels comfortable  
B. lives  
C. moves about  
D. eats

24. The students were advised to stop building castles in the air. This mean that the students should  
A. be serious and realistic  
B. not worry about castles  
C. be serious and hardworking  
D. not build any more castles

25. The chief told his linguist not to beat about the bush. This means that the linguist must  
A. not stammer  
B. go straight to the point  
C. not enter the bush  
D. cut down the bush

26. Immediately Ekuba’s mother left the house, she let the cat out of the bag. This means that Ekuba  
A. bought a cat  
B. took the cat from the bag  
C. left her house  
D. revealed the secret

27. The teacher poured cold water on Sena’s suggestion. This means that the teacher

A. challenged Sena’s suggestion

B. approved of Sena’s suggestion

C. discouraged Sena

D. provoked Sena

**SECTION D**

*From the list of words lettered A to D, choose the one that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word underlined in each sentence.*

28. He had applied for a permanent job.  
A. a boring  
B. a dull  
C. an exacting  
D. a temporary

29. He has a violent temper  
A. mild  
B. natural C. flexible D. pleasant

30. His position made him humble  
A. stubborn B. wicked C. arrogant D. selfish

31. That is a genuine painting  
A. bad  
B. fake  
C. damaged  
D. poor

32. The soldier climbed the mountain carefully  
A. descended  
B. circled

C. fell off  
D. looked up

**PART B**

**LITERATURE**

From the options lettered A to D, choose the one that correctly answers the questions or completes the sentence

33. The main idea in a novel or play is the ……………….  
A. suspense  
B. plot  
C. gist  
D. theme

34. The three main forms of literature are prose, drama and ………..  
A. novel B. satire C. poetry  
D. prosody

***Read the following stanza and answer questions 35 and 36***

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all its sons away.  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

35. Time in the stanza is being used as …………………..  
A. symbol  
B. simile  
C. synecdoche  
D. personification

36. The rhyme scheme of the stanza is …………….  
A. abba B. bbaa C. abab D. baba

37. The place and time of the action of a play or novel is its ……………  
A. background

B. setting  
C. scene  
D. atmosphere

38. One of the following helps best to create interest in a work of art: A. rhythm  
B. preface C. epilogue D. suspense

39. The main function of imagery in literature is to make readers / listeners …………….  
A. appreciate the great efforts of writers  
B. understand clearly what writers put across  
C. admire how learned writers are  
D. know literature is different from other uses of language

40. A character is a play that opposes the hero or heroine is the …………..  
A. antagonist B. challenger C. opponent D. protagonist

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1**

SOLUTIONS

OBJECTIVE TEST

1. C. on

2. C. of

3. A. some good advice

4. B. new, long, white dresses

5. A. one another

6. B. Akologo’s

7. A. after

8. C. any

9. C. policemen’s behaviour

10. D. was eating

11. D. would have died

12. C. take off

13. D. aren’t there

14. A. haven’t you

15. A. will be completed

16. B. is it

17. B. will

18. C. destroyed

19. D. severe

20. B. predicted

21. B. respected

22. D. border

23. A. feels comfortable

24.A. be serious and realistic

25. B. go straight to the point

26. D. revealed the secret

27. A. challenged Sena’s suggestion

28. D. a temporary

29. D. pleasant

30. C. arrogant

31. B. fake

32. A. descended

33. D. theme

34. C. poetry

35. D .personification

36. C. abab

37. B. setting

38. D. suspense

39. B. understand clearly what writers put across

40. A. antagonist

ENGLISH LANGUAGE 2

Essay  
1 hour

Answer two questions in all; one question from Part A and all the questions in Part B.  
Your composition should be about 250 words long. Credit will be given for clarity of expression and orderly presentation of material.

**PART A  
ESSAY WRITING**

Answer one question only from this part

1. Write a letter to the Member of Parliament of your constituency, telling him / her about the rise in armed robbery in your area. Suggest at least two ways to check it

2. Write a story which ends with the sentence: We arrived just in time to save the situation

3. Your father has received the “National Best Farmer’s Award”. Write a letter to your brother who is  
outside the country, describing the ceremony.

**PART B COMPREHENSION**

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer all the questions which follow.

Cholera is a very dangerous disease which can kill many people within a short time. Indeed, it has ruined several communities particularly in developing countries. It must therefore be prevented at all costs.

The disease is generally spread by germs which thrive in filthy and unhygienic areas. There could be an outbreak of cholera when drinking water becomes polluted by floods after a downpour. Human carriers also cause the disease to spread from place to place. For example, a person carrying the cholera germs would vomit or pass frequent stools. Flies would then carry the germs on their hairy legs and deposit them on exposed food or in water. When a person eats this contaminated food or drinks the polluted water, he or she is likely to contract the disease within a few days. The person would go about spreading the disease unknowingly.

On the whole, the main symptoms of cholera are severe diarrhoea and vomiting, which may result in loss of weight. The stool tends to be watery. As a lot of fluid is lost from the body, the patient quickly becomes dehydrated, thin and weak. The rapid loss of body fluid can soon result in death, unless the lost fluid is replaced immediately.  
The first thing for the patient to do is to replenish as much fluid as is lost by taking, from time to time, boiled water which has been allowed to cool and mixed with salt and sugar. Then, he should seek medical attention.

(a) Where do cholera germs usually breed?  
(b) Mention the two main carriers of cholera germs. (c) (i) State the two signs of cholera  
(ii) Give one effect of the disease.  
(d) What advice does the writer give to the cholera patient? (e) Explain the following expressions in your own words:  
(i) it has ruined several communities;  
(ii) at all costs;  
(iii) after a downpour.

(f) For each of the following words, give another word or phrase that means the same and can fit into the passage:  
(i) thrive (ii) deposit (iii) rapid  
(iv) replenish  
(v) seek