

LITERATURE-IN-ENGLISH  
NECO  
PAST QUESTIONS AND  
ANSWERS

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1. Which of the following is common to all forms of literature?

- A. language
- B. chorus
- C. action
- D. narrator

Correct Answer: Option A

2. The three major forms of literature are

- A. tragedy, comedy, tragi-comedy
- B. poetry, drama, folktales
- C. drama, lyric, prose fiction
- D. poetry, drama, prose

Correct Answer: Option D

3. Beauty in poetry depends mainly on

- A. expression and rhythm
- B. length and theme
- C. vowels and consonants
- D. mood and verse form

Correct Answer: Option A

4. Read the extract below and answer this question.

But the towering earth was tired of sitting in one position. She moved, suddenly, and the houses crumbled, the mountains heaved horribly, and the work of a million years was lost.

The predominant figure of speech in the above extracts is

- A. Oxymoron
- B. Metaphor
- C. Simile
- D. Personification

Correct Answer: Option D

5. Read the extract below and answer this question.

But the towering earth was tired of sitting in one position. She moved, suddenly, and the houses crumbled, the mountains heaved horribly, and the work of a million years was lost.

The subject matter of the above extract is

- A. earthquake
- B. house movement
- C. sea waves
- D. storm

Correct Answer: Option A

6. Read the extract below and answer this question.

But the towering earth was tired of sitting in one position. She moved suddenly, the houses crumbled, the mountains heaved horribly, and the work of a million years was lost.

The image depicted in the extract is one of

- A. destruction
- B. merriment
- C. happiness
- D. admiration

Correct Answer: Option A

7. Pick the odd item from the list below

- A. Night Rain
- B. Things fall Apart
- C. Stanley Meets Mutesa
- D. Nightfall in Soweto

Correct Answer: Option B

8. The birds fly high over the hills beyond the corn fields.

The poetic device used in the above extract is

- A. assonance
- B. alliteration
- C. metaphor
- D. metonymy

Correct Answer: Option A

9. The birds fly high over the hills beyond the corn fields.

A poem written or rendered in praise of a person or thing is called

- A. a lyric
- B. an ode
- C. an elegy
- D. a panegyric

Correct Answer: Option D

10. The basic elements of drama are

- A. character, plot, episode
- B. dialogue, chorus, plot
- C. character, action, setting
- D. character, monologue, plot

Correct Answer: Option A

11. The choice of appropriate words to convey the thoughts of an author is called

- A. idiomatic language
- B. setting
- C. figure of speech
- D. diction

Correct Answer: Option D

12. The state of mind of a poet can be described as

- A. style
- B. mood
- C. setting
- D. theme

Correct Answer: Option B

13. Which of the following is a likely source of traditional oral poetry?

- A. Theatre
- B. fiction
- C. books
- D. songs

Correct Answer: Option D

14. An African author who has written plays, poems and prose is

- A. Wole Soyinka
- B. Zaynab Alkali
- C. Chinua Achebe
- D. Flora Nwapa

Correct Answer: Option A

15. In a novel, the antagonist is

- A. a fully developed character
- B. a flat character
- C. the main female character
- D. the archrival of the hero

Correct Answer: Option D

16. Read the extract below and answer this question.

The pattering rain was kicking up little  
explosions of dust in the glade. He heard the  
faint whisper of the stream as it stole across  
the land and disappeared into the bush.

The figure of speech underlined in line 1 is

- A. assonance
- B. consonance
- C. onomatopoeia
- D. alliteration

Correct Answer: Option C

17. Read the extract below and answer this question.

The pattering rain was kicking up little  
explosions of dust in the glade. He heard the  
faint whisper of the stream as it stole across  
the land and disappeared into the bush.

The underline expression in line regular pattern of

- A. vowels and consonants
- B. long and short words
- C. stressed and unstressed syllables
- D. stressed syllables and rhymes

Correct Answer: Option B

18. Which of the following is an African poet?

- A. Dennis Brutus
- B. William Wordsworth
- C. Rober Frost
- D. W.B.Yeats

Correct Answer: Option A

19. In a play, a long speech by a single character in the presence of other characters is called

- A. soliloquy
- B. monologue
- C. aside
- D. prologue

Correct Answer: Option A

20. A play that is full of exaggerated ridicule and laughter is called

- A. farce
- B. comedy
- C. tragi-comedy
- D. masque

Correct Answer: Option A

21. Pick the odd item from the list below

- A. tragedy
- B. comedy
- C. epilogue
- D. tragi-comedy

Correct Answer: Option C

22. A group of actors in a play is called

- A. characters
- B. cast
- C. chorus
- D. promoters

Correct Answer: Option B

23. A novel is usually written in

- A. prose
- B. verse
- C. scenes
- D. stanzas

Correct Answer: Option A

24. What distinguishes a novel from a play is

- A. characters
- B. setting
- C. narration
- D. theme

Correct Answer: Option C

25. Which of the following best describes Literature? It

- A. tells the story of great men and women
- B. is a reflection of man's life in society
- C. is a record of past events
- D. describes what never happened and cannot happen

Correct Answer: Option B

26. The literary device in the statement - 'Students are to come to class with their Shakespeare' is called

- A. metonymy
- B. litotes
- C. synecdoche
- D. personification

Correct Answer: Option A

27. The first person narrator is usually

- A. the protagonist
- B. a villain in the novel
- C. the antagonist
- D. a character in the novel

Correct Answer: Option A

28. The first person narrator is usually

- A. the protagonist
- B. a villain in the novel
- C. the antagonist
- D. a character in the novel

Correct Answer: Option A

29. Which of the following is closest to the novel?

- A. the short story
- B. fable
- C. tale
- D. epic

Correct Answer: Option A

30. "The people's voices ruttled like pigs in the mud" is an example of

- A. simile
- B. metaphor
- C. personification
- D. metonymy

Correct Answer: Option A

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