Questions

Grade 12 Sentence Completion

Directions: Complete the sentence using the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. Howard Hughes was a man who lived and dreamed extravagantly; however, most of his ______ dreams were too crazy to ever come to fruition.
   A. minute  
   B. pragmatic  
   C. unpretentious  
   D. grandiose  
   E. shrewd

2. Because Ho Chi Minh’s rebel forces eventually defeated the French colonial regime, France relinquished its ______ Vietnam in 1954.
   A. hegemony over  
   B. victory over  
   C. liberation over  
   D. subservience to  
   E. incorporation of

3. Though the president announced the invasion during a scheduled press conference, the air force had already shot off of the opening ______ of the conflict by then.
   A. cannonade  
   B. missive  
   C. conflagration  
   D. salvo  
   E. bludgeon

4. Janet was charmed by the old man’s use of ______ phrases and styles; his anachronisms included dressing for dinner in nineteenth-century suits.
   A. eccentric  
   B. contemporary  
   C. novel  
   D. hackneyed  
   E. archaic

5. The judges at the inventors’ fair deemed my invention neither ______ nor intelligent; rather, they called my ideas “clichéd,” “derivative,” and most hurtful of all, “utterly imbecilic.”
   A. imitative  
   B. innovative  
   C. asinine  
   D. cognate  
   E. inane

6. Due to budget cutbacks, most of the positions in our company have been turned into part time positions or ______ altogether.
   A. ousted  
   B. altered  
   C. terminated  
   D. refunded  
   E. instituted
7. While most remember Steve Jobs as a technological innovator, fewer remember him for what he really was: a ____ businessman who possessed arguably the keenest business acumen and savvy of all of the Silicon Valley pioneers.

A. predaceous
B. penurious
C. perspicacious
D. feebleminded
E. rapacious

8. I was quite thrilled to learn that my new boots were ______ to water and likewise that the advertisement for the boots, which promised dry socks, was not at all dishonest.

A. impervious
B. sensitive
C. durable
D. vulnerable
E. tenacious

9. Because most of the evidence presented in the case was unconvincing, the judge decided that the plaintiff's case was not ______ enough to be brought to trial.

A. ambiguous
B. iniquitous
C. circumstantial
D. perfidious
E. cogent

10. The museum curator was amazed by the restorer's superb work; the painting from the Baroque period had been restored to such ______ condition that it looked brand new.

A. adulterated
B. retrograde
C. vile
D. immaculate
E. stigmatized

11. Most of the late author's work was known for being ______, but this new book, posthumously published, is surprisingly graspable and easy to read.

A. lucid
B. abstruse
C. fathomable
D. limpid
E. inchoate

12. Much to Diane's ______, her weeks of campaigning did not lead her to victory the student council elections.

A. chagrin
B. credibility
C. trepidation
D. mirth
E. vivacity

13. The title of the drink is something of a ______; an egg cream actually contains neither egg nor cream, and instead consists of chocolate syrup, seltzer water, and milk.

A. misapprehension
B. mishap
C. misconception
D. misnomer
E. misrepresentation

14. While Anthony appeared to be honest, he actually loved to create ______ stories about his past business successes in order to dupe investors.

A. guileless
B. credible
C. apocryphal
D. eloquent
E. enigmatic
15. The basketball coach was disappointed by her team’s ______ during practice; consequently, she warned her players that they would need to be much more energetic to win an actual game.

A. aggressiveness  
B. trifling  
C. elation  
D. hustle  
E. torpor 

16. Che Guevara helped ______ revolutions all across Latin America, and he is also commonly remembered as one of the key instigators of the Cuban revolution in the 1950s.

A. dissuade  
B. romanticize  
C. abolish  
D. quell  
E. foment 

17. Most of what is known about the religious settlement at Jonestown is gleaned from ______, since some former believers abandoned the settlement, living to tell the tale, before mass suicides claimed the remaining followers’ lives.

A. adherents  
B. adjudicators  
C. auxiliaries  
D. apostates  
E. adjuncts 

18. Because Dr. Richardson knew that his patient was given to ______, he doubted that her various ailments were as serious as she claimed.

A. prolixity  
B. frankness  
C. hyperbole  
D. understatement  
E. candor 

19. The response to the band’s latest album was ______ and drew little excitement or fanfare; as a result, the album failed to stay on the charts very long.

A. enthusiastic  
B. hypercritical  
C. zealous  
D. mellifluous  
E. tepid 

20. Hamlet’s inability to act is brought on by his ______ nature; most of the play revolves around his contemplations and doubts.

A. rash  
B. pensive  
C. dauntless  
D. cretinous  
E. cursory 

21. The ______ example of urbanity and suaveness is James Bond, because he epitomizes the very notion of cosmopolitanism.

A. iconoclastic  
B. idiosyncratic  
C. clichéd  
D. quintessential  
E. rudimentary 

22. At the Nuremberg Trials, most judges expected the Nazi defendants to show some ______, but only one high-ranking Nazi actually expressed any remorse and thus avoided a death sentence.

A. propitiation  
B. recalcitrance  
C. grimness  
D. ingenuity  
E. compunction
23. When immigrants arrive in the United States in large numbers, many settle in tight-knit ethnic communities that are practically autonomous from the cities that surround them; these ____ include the Chinatowns of many large metropolitan areas.

A. colonies  
B. sovereignties  
C. enclaves  
D. microcosms  
E. districts

24. The teacher received praise for presenting abstract concepts in a way that was easy to grasp, thus making them practically ______.

A. abstruse  
B. intangible  
C. palpable  
D. fungible  
E. opaque

25. Though regarded as _____ in the Middle Ages because it went against the contemporary religious ______, Joan of Arc's refusal to wear women's clothing is now considered a heroic act of early feminism.

A. profane … heterodoxy  
B. blasphemous … orthodoxy  
C. pious … dogma  
D. sacred … heresy  
E. sacrilegious … scurrility

26. Because her brother's friends constantly bullied her, Christa disliked them so strongly that they were practically ______ to her.

A. anathema  
B. rivals  
C. pariahs  
D. bugbears  
E. malcontents

27. Because he worried that his children would not be careful with the money they inherited in their grandfather's will, Martell took it upon himself to be ______ and set up trust funds for both of them.

A. apprehensive  
B. prudent  
C. sly  
D. lackadaisical  
E. nonchalant

28. Guy Fawkes' diabolical plot to blow up Parliament is now celebrated, but not because it worked; rather, Britons are jubilant on Guy Fawkes Day precisely because his ______ failed, and the king and all his ministers survived.

A. mendacity  
B. candor  
C. frankness  
D. machinations  
E. blueprint

29. The esoteric author showcased his immense knowledge of history in his latest book, most critics noting that his ______ facts were not easily found in any other source.

A. analogous  
B. prosaic  
C. occult  
D. arcane  
E. trite

30. Although she had prepared herself for meeting the notoriously lewd and flirtatious prince, the reporter was disgusted to find how ______ he actually was.

A. lascivious  
B. chaste  
C. seductive  
D. provocative  
E. austere
31. The art collector was shocked to learn that her supposedly original Picasso painting was actually ______, though even the appraiser admitted that it was one of the most convincing reproductions he’d ever seen.

A. an exemplar  
B. a prototype  
C. a fresco  
D. a facsimile  
E. a collage

32. In an attempt to ______ the union and avoid a strike, management offered several concessions in its latest contract offer.

A. vex  
B. tyrannize  
C. placate  
D. subjigate  
E. irk

33. Just as Louis Sullivan has been called "the father of modernism," his most famous disciple, Frank Lloyd Wright, is considered the ______ of the Prairie School movement of architecture.

A. patriarch  
B. chieftain  
C. patron  
D. ancestor  
E. beneficiary

34. The intrepid adventurer laughed in the face of danger; nevertheless, he knew better than to put himself in serious ______ and avoided it as much as possible.

A. pluck  
B. jeopardy  
C. aegis  
D. destitution  
E. despair

35. Those who agreed to sample the experimental drug were told it was completely ______; however, later in life, many of those experimented on found out the scientists actually knew of several ______ side effects.

A. banal … noisome  
B. corrosive … pernicious  
C. innocuous … deleterious  
D. noxious … detrimental  
E. invigorating … tonic

36. Gillian got sick of Gary’s ______ remarks, whether it involved him telling her that she was a second-rate artist, a mediocre athlete, or a below-average student.

A. abhorrent  
B. disparaging  
C. encouraging  
D. misleading  
E. demonizing

37. Before his stroke, Dennis was a gifted orator, but after the stroke, sadly, he was rarely even ______, let alone eloquent.

A. reticent  
B. succinct  
C. curt  
D. abstruse  
E. coherent

38. The visiting foreign novelist was appalled at what he perceived to be the ______ views of the students with whom he spoke; similarly, he was taken aback by the equally ______ opinions he discovered the university’s faculty possessed.

A. chauvinistic … sophisticated  
B. parochial … provincial  
C. perspicacious … broad  
D. cosmopolitan … ingenuous  
E. bucolic … liberal
39. My problem with the story was that it seemed so ______; however, amazingly, every detail of it actually happened to the author of the book, who based it on his experiences as a foreign correspondent in the last days of colonialism.
A. formulaic
B. tangible
C. contrived
D. eloquent
E. manipulative

40. Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal" was intended as a ______ of the contemporary belief in social engineering; to this end, Swift made his essay ______, though he writes with such terrific persuasion that one almost takes his plan to eat children seriously.
A. eulogy … caustic
B. saga … sardonic
C. satire … solemn
D. mockery … lugubrious
E. lampoon … farcical

41. Many of Yeats' most celebrated poems express his romantic longings to live a rustic lifestyle; for instance, 1888's "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" concerns the narrator's dream of moving to the ______ lake isle and leaving the modern, urban world behind.
A. utopian
B. idyllic
C. ambiguous
D. remote
E. adulterated

42. The band's manager had taken only ______ glance at the contract before he signed it, and it cost him and the band millions of dollars; as a result, he always told others to take ______ of any documents before signing them.
A. a scrutinizing … a compendium
B. a desultory … a skimming
C. a hasty … a gander
D. a thorough … an analysis
E. a cursory … a perusal

43. Though most of the nation's judges are ______, there have been several high-profile instances of judicial bias, resulting in a general perception that trials in the small country are rigged.
A. aloof
B. pious
C. subjective
D. impartial
E. prejudiced

44. Kennedy's inaugural address ______ a feeling of optimism about the direction of the country; similarly, it produced an era, however short-lived, of volunteerism and political participation.
A. precipitated
B. prevaricated
C. engendered
D. obviated
E. gestated

45. Unlike Freud, Jung sought to ______ his patients rather than merely diagnose them; whenever possible, he looked for a way to ______ their conditions so they could once again function in society.
A. aggravate … allay
B. subdue … audit
C. mollify … exacerbate
D. assuage … augment
E. cure … ameliorate

46. Silvio was habitually ______ his entire life; likewise, he raised both of his sons to be careful with money.
A. spendthrift
B. frugal
C. miserly
D. prodigal
E. opulent
47. Caroline was arguably the most zealous Elvis fan in history; at minimum, she was the most _______ Elvis supporter I personally ever met.

A. frigid  
B. grandiose  
C. stoical  
D. resplendent  
E. ardent

48. The producer of the film was accused of _______ because she gave the available position in the art department to her niece even though other applicants for the job were more qualified.

A. nepotism  
B. discrimination  
C. equitableness  
D. meritocracy  
E. favoritism

49. The irritable curmudgeon was easily _______, and it was nearly impossible to _______ him.

A. vexed … mollify  
B. soothed … relax  
C. pacified … peeve  
D. bemused … placate  
E. aggravated … provoke

50. George Wallace proved himself to be little more than _______ in the 1968 election; in fact, nearly all of his political success that year was rooted in his ability to capitalize on the racial prejudices and fears he incited in a contingent of the American populace.

A. an orator  
B. a rogue  
C. a politician  
D. a demagogue  
E. a conniver