**USE OF ENGLISH 1978 COMPREHENSION**

Read each passage carefully and answer the questions that follows it.

**PASSAGE A**

All over the world till lately and in most of the world till today, mankind has been following the course of nature: that is to say, it has been breeding up to the maximum. To let nature, take her course in the reproduction of the human race may have made sense in an age in which we were also letting her take her course in decimating mankind by the casualties of war, pestilence, and famine. Being human, we have at least revolted against that senseless waste. We have started to impose on nature’s heartless play a humane new order of our own. But when once man has begun to interfere with nature, he cannot afford to stop half way. We cannot, with impunity, cut down the death-rate and at the same time, allow the birthrate to go on taking nature’s course. We must consciously try to establish an equilibrium, or sooner or later, famine will stalk abroad again.

1. The author observes that

**A.** war, pestilence and famine were caused by taiko the extravagance of nature

**B.** Nature was heartless and senseless

**C.** there was a time when uncontrolled birth made sense

**D.** It was wise at a time when mankind did not interfere with normal reproduction

**E.** nature was heartless in its reproductive process

2. Which of these statements does not express the option of the author?

**A**. Mankind has started to interfere with the work of nature

**B**. Many people had died in the past through want and disease

**C**. Mankind should not have the maximum number of children possible

**D**. Mankind should take care of its children

**E.** ' Man's present relationship with nature in matters of birth and death is a happy one.

3. Humane, as used in the passage means

**A.** sensible

B. wise

**C**. human

**D**. benevolent

**E**. thorough

4. 'We must consciously try to establish an equilibrium, implies that mankind must

**A**. realistically find an equation

**B**. strive not to be wasteful

**C**. deliberately try to fight nature

**D**. try to fight nature

**E**. purposely find a balance

5. The main idea of this passage is that

**A**. nature is heartless

**B.** man should control the birth rate

**C**. mankind will soon perish of starvation

**D.** pestilence causes more death than war

**E**. man should change-nature's course gradually

**PASSAGE B**

The endeavor to maintain proper standards of fairness in journalism must be pursued. It is fatally easy for the journalist to deviate from the straight path. There is his natural desire to make a story' and insidious temptation to twist facts to square with his paper's policy. Both are as indefensible as the framing of misleading headlines for the sake of effect. The conscientious journalist must check any tendency to bias, and guard against the dangers inherent in personal antipathies or friendships, and in traditional opposition between rival schools of thought. When a political opponent, whose stupidity habitually provokes attack, makes an effective speech, honesty requires that he be given credit for it. Where personal relationships might make it easier and more congenial to keep silent than to criticize, the journalist must never forget his duty to the public and the supreme importance of recording the truth.

6. When may a journalist have to act against his own

inclination?

**A.** "When his friends act stupidly

**B**. When he becomes weak and decrepit

**C**. When his enemies make a mistake

**D**. When his political opponents frame misleading headlines

**E**. After he has been given a bribe

7. A journalist would be able to uphold the tenets of his profession if

**A.** he seeks publicity

**B.** he tries to achieve popularity

**C.** he resists temptation to bias

**D.** he can manipulate his story to please his employers

**E.** He tries to protect his friends

8. 'Insidious' (line 2) means

**A**. subtle

**B**. wicked

**D.** unusual

**E.** wild

**C**. natural

9. A dutiful journalist must

**A.** read widely

**B**. have political acumen

**C.** make no enemies but friends

**D.** be able to make an effective speech

**E**. be able to recognize merit wherever found

10. The duty of the journalist to the public entails

A giving credit to his political enemies

**B.** keeping quiet when necessary

**C.** trying to 'make a story'

**D.** telling the truth

**E.** defending the weak

**PASSAGE C**

So far, I have been speaking of science in its universality viewed from the perspective of the world at large. For in the context of our own country and our sister developing countries many of the factors. mentioned earlier are not very important. For example, pollution, deterioration of the environment and population explosion are not yet serious problems for us in this country. Let me now turn to a more specific area, namely, the question of scientific choice for developing countries. There is no doubt that the role which science and technology have played in the upliftment of the material and economic well-being of the developed nations will, and does, influence the criteria that the Third World nations must choose in order to establish their science policies and priorities. But the criteria to be used by these nations do not have to be the same as those which have brought the developed countries to their present stage of evolution. For while human beings have the same problems, their solutions, to be meaningful, will have to be sought within some relevant frame of reference such as the available resources and expertise, social values, place and time in the historical scale.

11. frame of reference in this passage means

**A.** point of information

**B**. range of authority

**C**. economic pattern

**D**. context of situation

**E.** wholesome choice

12. The writer apparently believes that through science and technology our country can achieve

**A.** peace and order

**B**. progress and material success

**C**. social values and universality

**D**. wealth and economic progress

**E.** military development and power

13. According to the passage, the basic consideration

for developing science and technology should be

three of the following: 1. technical know-how 2. availability of raw materials 3. Atmospheric pollution 4. the people's tradition and beliefs 5. population 6. capital

A. 2, 1 and 6 only

**B**. 3, 2 and 4 only

**C**. 5, 3 and 6 only

**D**. 6, 5 and 4 only

**E**. 5, 2 and 6 only

14. The main idea of this passage is that

**A**. there is a yawning gap between the have and the have-nots

**B**. there is need to rid his countrymen from scourges of hunger, disease, ignorance and want

**C.** there could be atmospheric pollution and population explosion

**D**. the concerns of science and technology are the same in all countries

**E.** each nation must plan its development according to its needs and resources

15. the term 'our sister developing countries' implies

**A.** Britain, Gambia and Canada

**B**. Ghana, Germany and Togo

**C**. Russia, Switzerland and America

**D**. Liberia, Sierra-Leone and Gabon

**E.** China, India and Holland

**PASSAGE D**

These two factors, the altitude and the weather, tend separately and together to defeat the climber. The height weakness, slows him down, it forces him to spend days and night in the course of his assault on the summit: the weather, besides adding to the demands of his energy and moral fortitude, conspires to deny him the time he needs to complete his mission Whereas in lower mountains and on easy ground the weather may be no more than a handicap, in the high Himalayas it is decisive, regardless of terrain. The deduction to be drawn from these two factors was clear enough. We must either so fortify ourselves that we could continue, without detriment, to live and have our being above the limit of natural acclimatization, or better still, we must solve the problem of speed. It was desirable, in fact, that we should meet both these requirements and thus give to those chosen to attempt the summit and to their supporting teams some measure of insurance against the vagaries of the weather, for safety in mountain climbing is as much a matter of swiftness as of sureness of foot. Either or both could be achieved only by the administration of oxygen in sufficient quantities to make up for the deficiency in the air, and for the duration of the upward journey above the limit of successful acclimatization.

16. The author believes that to overcome the problem of altitude and weather, the climber needs mainly

**A.** courage and speed

**B**. energy and moral fortitude

**C**. sufficient quantities of oxygen

**D**. swiftness and sureness of foot

**E**. quick acclimatization

17. 'conspires' (line 3) means

**А.** ruins

**B.** makes secret plans

**C.** takes a wicked action

**D**. combines

**E.** aggravates

18. regardless of terrain' (line 5) means

**А**. even on easy ground

**B**. despite the nature of the ground

**C**. because of steeper gradients

**D**. swiftness and sureness of foot

**E.** without considering the handicap.

19. to live and have our being above the limit of natural acclimatization' (line 7) means

**A.** to be protected from the effects of the weather

**B**. to expect no protection from the bad weather

**C**. to survive under unnatural weather conditions

**D**. limit our natural desires to get acclimatized to the weather

**E**. none of the above

20. Which ONE of the following was NOT a reason for using oxygen?

**А.** it gave them psychological encouragement

**B**. it fortified them to live above the limit of natural acclimatization

**C**. it protected them against the unexpected how changes of the weather

**D**. It quickened their journey to the summit

**E.** It helped them to survive the worst

**PASSAGE E**

You dare not lift the veil that protects our tribal marriage customs and ceremonies from the eyes of outsiders. There is already too little in this world that is sacred; and what Fatmata and I were required to go through during the next week must remain so. I was deeply in debt by the time everything was over, but I was absolutely satisfied with my parent's choice. Fatmata was as black as a satin, and as soft. She had the teeth and smile of a goddess. The Dopo tutors had done their job well; she was a complete efficient lover and mother. I brought her home with swelling pride, and began at once to save all I could spare towards the cost of acquiring my second wife.

21. The evidence would seem to indicate that

**A**. the author adores his wife

**B**. he disapproves of her ways

**C**. he thinks she is extravagant

**D**. the author regrets the cause of his debt

**E**. she had not been properly brought up

22. When the author said My anti-Western revolt was gaining momentum' (line 7), he was referring to the fact that

**А**. he did not like polygamy

**B**. he hated Europeans

**C**. he did not want to marry another wife

**D**. he admired everything about his wife

**E**. he revolted against European values

23. It would appear that the marriage had turned him into

**A**. a good worker B. a faithful husband

**C**. an incurable debtor

**D**. a tragic figure

**E**. a proud husband

24. Which one of the following is NOT true of the passage?

**A**. The lady was beautiful

**B**. The marriage cost a lot of money

**C**. The marriage was according to native law and custom

**D**. Fatmata never had an issue

**E**. The author wanted another wife

25. 'swelling' (line 6) means

**A**. jovial

B. great

**C**. remarkable

**D**. happy

**E**. growing

## **Choose the option that best conveys the meaning of the underlined portion in the following sentence;**

26. In the match against the uplanders team, the sub mariners turned out to be the dark horse

**A.** played most brilliantly

**B.** played below their usual form

**C.** won unexpectedly

**D.** lost as expected

**E.** won as expected

27. Only the small fry get punished for such social misdemeanors

**A.** small boys

**B.** unimportant people

**C.** frightened people

**D.** frivolous people

**E.** inexperienced people

28. He spoke with his heart in his mouth

**A.** courageously

**B.** with such unusual cowardice

**C.** with a lot of confusion in his speech

**D.** without being able to make up his mind

**E.** with fright and agitation

29. The leader in today's issue of our popular newspaper focuses on inflation

**A.** president

**B.** headline

**C.** editorial

**D.** columnist

**E.** proprietor

30. From the ways my friend talks, you can see he is such a bore

**A.** rude

**B.** brilliant

**C.** uninteresting

**D.** overbearing

**E.** humorous

31. His jail terms were to run concurrently

**A.** simultaneously

**B.** uniformly

**C.** laboriously

**D.** consecutively

**E.** judiciously

32. There is some obvious symmetry in the whole presentation

**A.** confusion

**B.** hesitation

**C.** excitement

**D.** orderliness

**E.** dissatisfaction

33. The bill has to wait as we are now insolvent

**A.** overworked

**B.** bankrupt

**C.** unsettled

**D.** insoluble

**E.** affluent

34. All his plans fell through

**A.** failed

**B.** were accomplished

**C.** had to be reviewed

**D.** were rejected

**E.** fell

35. The balance sheet at the end of the business year shows that we broke even

**A.** lost heavily

**B.** made profit

**C.** neither lost nor gained

**D.** had no money to continue business

**E.** were heavily indebted to our bankers

36. He was appointed specifically to put the recruits through

**A.** assign them to work

**B.** train them

**C.** discipline them

**D.** assist them at work

**E.** supervise them at work

37. The result of his experiment represents a breakthrough in medical science

**A.** an outstanding success

**B.** catastrophe

**C.** an end to such experiments

**D.** breaking point

**E.** a colossal failure

38. Being an optimist, our professor always sees the bright side of most things

**A.** charming

**B.** illumined

**C.** brilliant

**D.** pleasing

**E.** cheerful

39. The state government appointed a commission of inquiry to go into the community's complaints carefully and without prejudice

**A.** investigate

**B.** search

**C.** look for

**D.** account for

**E.** ascertain

40. The traffic situation in Lagos can lead to disastrous consequences; a man lost a very lucrative job because he was held up by it

**A.** confused

**B.** delayed

**C.** annoyed

**D.** intrigued

**E.** obstructed

41. Mrs. Dada has been deserted by her husband because he feels she has a heart of stone

**A.** she has a heavy heart

**B.** she has little warmth of feeling

**C.** she has a hard heart

**D.** she is hard hearted

**E.** she has a strong heart

42. Mr. Jack could be a successful businessman if he paid more attention to the more intricate aspects of his account

**A.** Mr. Jack will undoubtedly succeed

**B.** Mr. Jack cannot succeed

**C.** Jack will have a very good chance of succeeding

**D.** Mr. Jack will find it difficult to succeed

**E.** Mr. Jack will succeed in spite of all odds

43. If my father had not arrived, I would have starved. This sentence means

**A.** My father did arrive and I didn't starve

**B.** I had to starve because my father didn't come

**C.** my father didn't arrive and I didn't starve

**D.** I should have starved but I didn't

**E.** I had starved before my father arrived

44. The two sprinters were running neck and neck

**A.** exact level

**B.** very slowly

**C.** very fast

**D.** with their necks together

**E.** together

45. He stared at her

**A.** glanced

**B.** peeped

**C.** looked

**D.** gazed

**E.** fixed

46. When the man was caught by police, he presented a bold front

**A.** he attacked the policemen boldly

**B.** he walked up to the policemen

**C.** he faced the situation with apparent boldness

**D.** he bravely attempted to give them a present

**E.** he frowned at them in a defiant manner

47. I have been able to observe him at close quarters

**A.** in government house nearby

**B.** within a short space of time

**C.** in a small family house

**D.** at close range

**E.** at regular intervals

48. At the site of the ghastly accident the poor woman's hair stood on end

**A.** the woman's hair became straight

**B.** the wind blew her hair upwards

**C.** the woman was unmoved

**D.** the woman disarranged her hair

**E.** the woman was frightened

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing the option that **most suitably** fills the space;

49. When the beggar was tired, he .... down by the roadside

**A.** lied

**B.** laid

**C.** layed

**D.** lay

**E.** lain

50. He did not like .... leaving the class early

**A.** we

**B.** us

**C.** our

**D.** ourselves

**E.** our selves

51. Before the operation, the dentist found that his patient's teeth....

**A.** have long decayed

**B.** have long been decayed

**C.** have long being decayed

**D.** had long decayed

**E.** had been decayed

52. The employer, not the salesman and his representative .... responsible for the loss

**A.** are

**B.** are being

**C.** are never

**D.** have been

**E.** is

53. The boy was born before his parents actually got married and so the court has declared him ....

**A.** illegal

**B.** illegitimate

**C.** illicit

**D.** unlawful

**E.** untenable

54. As he was still owing me two naira, I was careful not to .... him any more money

**A.** lend

**B.** loan

**C.** borrow

**D.** extend

**E.** credit

55. Last week the .... at the theater was the longest I had ever seen

**A.** assembly

**B.** congregation

**C.** convention

**D.** audience

**E.** crowd

56. If you travel by air you will be given an allowance to cover ....

**A.** a luggage

**B.** luggage

**C.** luggages

**D.** a baggage

**E.** baggages

57. Tennyson and Browning lived about the same time and therefore .... poets

**A.** contrary

**B.** contractual

**C.** contemporaneous

**D.** contemporary

**E.** contemptible

58. The green snake which lives in the green grass is using a perfect ....

**A.** ambush

**B.** under cover

**C.** camouflage

**D.** shelter

**E.** subterfuge

59. In order to carry out necessary examination the dead body was ....

**A.** extracted

**B.** extradited

**C.** exiled

**D.** expelled

**E.** exhumed

60. Remember this matter is strictly ....

**A.** between you and I

**B.** among you and me

**C.** among you and me

**D.** between you and me

**E.** between you and myself

61. He went abroad with a view .... a business partner

**A.** to find

**B.** to be finding

**C.** to have found

**D.** to finding

**E.** he will find

62. He had just entered the office .... the telephone rang

**A.** as

**B.** before

**C.** since

**D.** when

**E.** until

63. They .... receive visitors on short notice.

**A.** use to

**B.** are used to

**C.** used to

**D.** are always

**E.** are use to

64. His suggestion are completely .... the point and cannot be accepted

**A.** to

**B.** about

**C.** beside

**D.** on

**E.** under

65. For .... he is a secretary we shall not have correct minutes

**A.** because

**B.** as long as

**C.** so long

**D.** in as much

**E.** although

66. He went up quickly and returned ....

**A.** fastest

**B.** fastly

**C.** as fastly

**D.** as fast

**E.** in fastness

67. Invariably, he ends his letters .... amicably

**A.** you

**B.** your's

**C.** yours'

**D.** yours

**E.** your own

68. If I went to the cinema I .... early

**A.** shall return

**B.** am returning

**C.** would return

**D.** had return

**E.** may return

69. The traditional folktales form an .... to the book

**A.** index

**B.** insertion

**C.** information

**D.** overview

**E.** appendix

70. the frightening explosion in the factory .... whole wing

**A.** washed out

**B.** wiped out

**C.** rooted out

**D.** flushed out

**E.** cleared out

71. Our plane was scheduled to .... at 10.00 hrs. but it was delayed because of the bad weather

**A.** fly out

**B.** take off

**C.** start out

**D.** shoot off

**E.** lift off

72. As luck would have it, the weather brightened almost immediately and after six hours flight we .... at Heathrow Airport

**A.** touched down

**B.** dropped

**C.** came down

**D.** flew down

**E.** stopped

73. Before we left the airport, each passenger was made to .... certain form

**A.** fill in

**B.** write in

**C.** enter in

**D.** go through

**E.** read out

74. My father cannot bear the .... of the concoction that emanates from my mother’s soup pot

**A.** sweet

**B.** savoring

**C.** aroma

**D.** smell

**E.** scent

75. I would not have condescended to appease the traffic policeman but I happened .... traffic regulation

**A.** to have broken

**B.** to be breaking

**C.** to break

**D.** to break in

**E.** to have evaded

76. The managing director did not pay his staff last month ...?

**A.** didn't he

**B.** had he not

**C.** is not it

**D.** did he

**E.** has he

77. Although he is in all respects a poor student, he has managed to buy a tape recorder to improve his .... of French

**A.** mastery

**B.** mastering

**C.** speaking

**D.** ideas

**E.** thinking

78. Granted you are my senior by one year, you cannot .... me around as if I were your servant

**A.** control

**B.** dribble

**C.** order

**D.** ask

**E.** compel

79. .... mark an important step in the history of industrial revolution

**A.** The invention of the locomotive engine

**B.** The discovery of locomotion

**C.** The discovery of the engine

**D.** The process of locomotion

80. Because the referee was partial and his opponent rough, the loser of the wrestling match received .... cheers than the winner

**A.** thunderous

**B.** many more

**C.** overwhelming

**D.** a little more

**E.** several

81. The boxer was highly rated .... his doggedness and ability to absorb heavy punches

**A.** by

**B.** through

**C.** for

**D.** about

**E.** in

82. Many lives are lost on Nigerian roads .... lack of consideration for other road users by many crazy drivers

**A.** in view of

**B.** resulting in

**C.** owing totally to

**D.** through

**E.** by

83. The man no longer feared his opponent after their spokesman had assured him that they were well disposed .... him

**A.** to

**B.** toward

**C.** around

**D.** about

**E.** for

84. My little boy is hyper-active and he is therefore prone .... accidents

**A.** with respect to

**B.** for

**C.** to

**D.** about

**E.** as regards

85. His horrible high-pitched laugh .... on my nerves

**A.** jags

**B.** jabs

**C.** jams

**D.** jars

**E.** jeers

86. The train rattled along .... full speed

**A.** in

**B.** at

**C.** with

**D.** by

**E.** on

87. You would have thought that somebody would have informed me ….

A. shouldn’t they

B. wouldn’t you

C. I should think

D. You agree

E. isn’t it

88. If this had happened to you, what ......?

**A.** would you do

**B.** have you done

**C.** would you have done

**D.** will you do

**E.** would you be doing

89. What a relief that the strike .... when it did!

**A.** would end

**B.** was ending

**C.** ended

**D.** has ended

**E.** is ending

90. We should take care .... the robbers come back

**A.** may be

**B.** should in case

**C.** perhaps

**D.** probably

**E.** in case

91. By the time the rainy season ended, all the young cocoa trees .... in size

**A.** have double

**B.** had doubled

**C.** were doubling

**D.** doubled

**E.** will double

92. There were so many children ....

**A.** that she couldn't feed them all

**B.** than she could feed

**C.** that she couldn't feed

**D.** that she could feed them all

**E.** more than she could feed them all

93. Isn't it high time you .... your office?

**A.** are leaving

**B.** do leave

**C.** leave

**D.** left

**E.** did leave

94. In West Africa the .... of sickle cell is about 25 percent

**A.** incident

**B.** incidence

**C.** accident

**D.** accidence

**E.** incense

95. We got to the hall after the play ....

**A.** is started

**B.** was starting

**C.** had started

**D.** has started

**E.** would start

Substitute for the underlined word in the following sentence the word that most closely expresses the **opposite meaning**:

96. The plaintiff made very cogent submissions to the trail judge

**A.** bailiff

**B.** prosecutor

**C.** lawyer

**D.** defendant

**E.** accused

Choose the option which is **nearest in meaning** to the sentences in each of the following questions:

97. We visited the home of one boy. That’s the boy I mean

A. That’s the boy whom we visited his home

B. That’s the boy whose home we visited

C. That’s the boy to whose home we visited

D. That’s the boy whom we visited the home

E. That’s the boy the home of whom we visited

98. The dog was limping. It appeared that one of its legs might have been injured

**A.** The dog was limping as if it had an injured leg

**B.** The dog was limping as it had an injured leg

**C.** The dog was limping so it had an injured leg

**D.** The dog was limping so as it had an injured leg

**E.** The dog was limping for it had an injured leg

99. I can walk that distance and have done so many times

**A.** I am used to walk that distance

**B.** I used to walk that distance

**C.** I used to walking that distance

**D.** I am used to walking that distance

**E.** I will walk that distance

100. For all he cared, his parent might have been dead for years

**A.** although concern about his parent, he had been unable to find out if they were alive

**B.** He cared for no one except his parents, and it was possible that they had died long before

**C.** he did not care whether his parents were alive or had died long before

**D.** He was concerned about everyone not just his parents, who might have died long before

**E.** He cared very much for his parents even though they were dead

****