

YEAR 8 ENGLISH SELF ASSESSMENT TEST



“Test yourself or your child at home, and reach out to us only if you need extra help. Otherwise, give yourself or your child a pat on the back and best of luck for the future!”

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the **best answer**. Think deeply about meaning, language, and purpose.

Vocabulary & Word meaning

1.

Which word best replaces “**assertive**” in this sentence?

She spoke in an assertive tone during the debate.

- A. Aggressive
- B. Confident
- C. Rude
- D. Loud

☞ *Look for the positive nuance.*

2.

Which word has the **most negative connotation**?

- A. Curious
- B. Inquisitive
- C. Nosy
- D. Interested

☞ *Connotation reflects attitude, not definition.*

3.

Which sentence uses “**subtle**” correctly?

- A. The elephant made a subtle noise.
- B. She noticed a subtle change in his behaviour.
- C. The subtle explosion shook the city.
- D. The subtle storm flooded the town.

☞ *Subtle usually means slight or hard to notice.*

4.

Which word most precisely completes the sentence?

The author’s message was intentionally

- A. Confusing
- B. Obvious
- C. Ambiguous
- D. Incorrect

☞ *Precision improves clarity of analysis.*

5.

Which word is closest in meaning to “**scrutinise**”?

- A. Ignore
- B. Glance
- C. Examine
- D. Destroy

☞ *Think careful and detailed.*

Grammar & Syntax

6.

Which sentence correctly uses a **semicolon**?

- A. I finished my work; and went home.
- B. I finished my work; I went home.
- C. I finished; my work and went home.
- D. I; finished my work and went home.

☞ *Semicolons join closely related independent clauses.*

7.

Which sentence contains a **dangling modifier**?

- A. Running quickly, the bus was missed.
- B. Running quickly, she caught the bus.
- C. She ran quickly to catch the bus.
- D. She quickly ran to the bus stop.

☞ *Check who is performing the action.*

8.

Which sentence shows **correct subject–verb agreement**?

- A. A group of students are waiting outside.
- B. A group of students is waiting outside.
- C. A group of students were waiting outside.
- D. A group of students have waiting outside.

☞ *Collective nouns are usually singular.*

9.

Which sentence uses the **subjunctive mood** correctly?

- A. If I was taller, I would play basketball.
- B. If I were taller, I would play basketball.
- C. If I am taller, I will play basketball.
- D. If I will be taller, I play basketball.

☞ *The subjunctive expresses hypotheticals.*

10.

Which sentence is **syntactically parallel**?

- A. She likes reading, to swim, and cycling.
- B. She likes reading, swimming, and cycling.
- C. She likes to read, swimming, and cycling.
- D. She likes read, swim, and cycling.

☞ *Parallel structures match in form.*

Figurative Language & Literary Devices

11.

Which sentence contains a **metaphor**?

- A. The stars twinkled brightly.
- B. Time is a thief that steals moments.
- C. The wind howled like a wolf.
- D. The leaves fell slowly.

☞ *Metaphors compare without “like” or “as”.*

12.

Which example best shows **dramatic irony**?

- A. The reader knows the hero’s secret, but the villain does not.
- B. A character slips on a banana peel.

- C. A character describes the weather.
- D. A poem rhymes.

☞ *Dramatic irony gives the audience extra knowledge.*

13.

Which sentence contains **alliteration**?

- A. The snake slid silently across the sand.
- B. The snake moved quickly.
- C. The sand was hot.
- D. The snake hissed loudly.

☞ *Alliteration repeats initial sounds.*

14.

Which line best reflects a **symbolic meaning**?

- A. The flag waved in the wind.
- B. The broken chain lay on the ground.
- C. The broken chain represented freedom.
- D. The chain was made of iron.

☞ *Symbols suggest deeper ideas.*

15.

Which technique is most effective in creating **tension**?

- A. Detailed setting
- B. Short, abrupt sentences

- C. Extensive description
- D. Explanatory narration

☞ *Sentence structure affects pace.*

Reading Comprehension & Analysis

16.

What does it mean to **infer** while reading?

- A. To copy information
- B. To guess randomly
- C. To combine clues with prior knowledge
- D. To summarise every detail

☞ *Inference is evidence-based thinking.*

17.

Which statement is an **implicit idea**?

- A. The character is angry.
- B. The character slammed the door and clenched his fists.
- C. The story is about friendship.
- D. The chapter is long.

☞ *Implicit ideas are shown, not stated.*

18.

Which sentence best identifies **authorial bias**?

- A. The article presents multiple viewpoints.
- B. The author describes historical

- events.
C. The author mocks opposing opinions.
D. The author includes statistics.

☞ *Bias reveals partiality.*

19.

Which text type is MOST likely to include **counterarguments**?

- A. Narrative
B. Recount
C. Persuasive essay
D. Descriptive report

☞ *Some texts anticipate opposition.*

20.

Which sentence best summarises a paragraph?

- A. It includes every example.
B. It adds new opinions.
C. It captures the central idea concisely.
D. It repeats the opening sentence.

☞ *Summaries are selective and concise.*

Persuasive & Analytical Writing

21.

Which statement is a **logical appeal**?

- A. This rule is unfair!
B. Everyone hates this rule.
C. Research shows homework improves

- retention.
D. I feel angry about homework.

☞ *Logical appeals rely on evidence.*

22.

Which modal verb expresses the **highest certainty**?

- A. Might
B. Could
C. Should
D. Must

☞ *Modal verbs vary in strength.*

23.

Which sentence uses **formal tone** most effectively?

- A. This idea is kinda ridiculous.
B. The proposal lacks sufficient evidence.
C. I reckon this won't work.
D. This is super unfair.

☞ *Formal tone avoids colloquial language.*

24.

Which transition best signals **cause and effect**?

- A. However
- B. Similarly
- C. Consequently
- D. Meanwhile

☞ *Some connectives show results.*

25.

Which sentence avoids **emotive manipulation**?

- A. Only a heartless person would disagree.
- B. Anyone with sense knows this is wrong.
- C. The policy affects school attendance rates.
- D. This decision will ruin everything.

☞ *Objective language strengthens credibility.*

Critical & Advanced Language Skills

26.

Which sentence is **ambiguous**?

- A. The student read the book quietly.
- B. The teacher praised the student.
- C. The man saw the boy with the telescope.
- D. The bell rang at noon.

☞ *Ambiguity allows multiple interpretations.*

27.

Which revision most improves **clarity and concision**?

- A. Due to the fact that it was raining, we stayed inside.
- B. Because of rain, we stayed inside.
- C. It rained and we stayed inside because of the rain.
- D. Rain occurred, therefore indoor activity happened.

☞ *Strong writing is precise.*

28.

Which feature most clearly signals a **satirical text**?

- A. Literal descriptions
- B. Exaggeration and irony
- C. Neutral tone
- D. Chronological order

☞ *Satire uses humour to criticise.*

29.

Which sentence best demonstrates **cohesion**?

- A. I like sport. Books are interesting.
- B. I like sport. Books.
- C. I like sport; however, I prefer reading.
- D. I sport like reading.

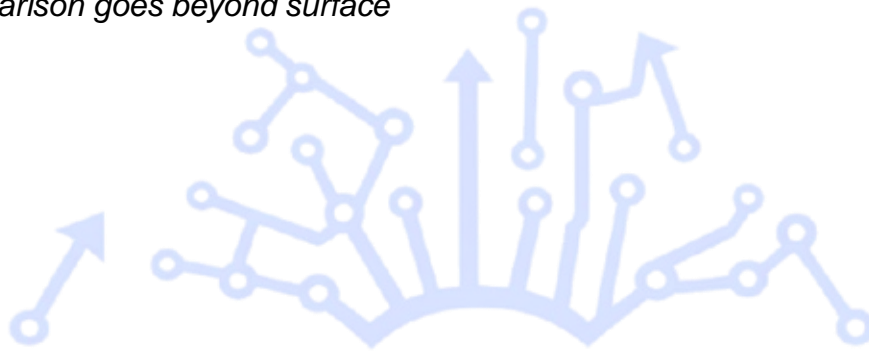
☞ *Cohesion links ideas logically.*

30.

Which skill is MOST important for **text comparison**?

- A. Identifying the topic only
- B. Comparing language, structure, and purpose
- C. Retelling the stories
- D. Counting similarities

☞ *Comparison goes beyond surface features.*



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