

# 20<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL KANGAROO LINGUISTIC CONTEST 2023

Student Level (Class 11 & 12)

Time Allowed: 60 minutes

## 3 – Point Questions

Read the text. For each question (1-5), choose the correct answer.



## **RAGAMUFFIN DAY**

On November 26, 1911, children wearing garish masks were running amok on the streets of Manhattan. Dressed as homeless rascals, cheeks smudged with cinders, they were celebrating what was to later become the peaceful, sedate Thanksgiving holiday. Or were they? At the time they would have said they were out for Ragamuffin, a celebration that only shared the date with contemporary Thanksgiving, but definitely not the spirit. Dressed in their shabbiest rags, these fake beggar children would go knocking on doors asking for sweets, fruit and money. Instead of “Trick or treat?” they would ask: “Anything for Thanksgiving?” Does this sound familiar? Indeed, Ragamuffin has more in common with how we celebrate Halloween than how we do Thanksgiving. As if this were not confusing enough, the origins of this weird celebration are clouded in mist. Sources at the time pinned it on immigrant communities like the Irish, but that might have also been a way for Americans to dissociate themselves from such disorderly behaviour.

New York kids did not stop at asking for coveted foodstuff or money and could be quite the troublemakers. They would throw confetti and flour at pedestrians, jump onto moving cars and create pandemonium by shouting and blowing horns. If all of this sounds too dangerous or outrageous to you, think of it this way: if you had been one of the kids working in factories at the time, wouldn't you have seized this opportunity to just run free and feel the city belonged to you and nobody could stop you?

Even ragamuffin costumes were more daring than the ones kids don nowadays. Young boys would dress up in girls' clothes and dance around the streets and blackface was quite popular. Awareness of how that could be offensive to various

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ethnic groups was sadly lacking at the time. But it was rampant poverty that spelled the beginning of the end for Ragamuffin. After the Big Crash of 1929 and the devastating economic crisis that followed, dressing up as a beggar somehow lost its appeal. The respectable New York Times even ran a campaign calling for the end of this tradition which had stopped being a fancy dress party but was now a mirror held up to a horrible reality. Of course, when it comes to the fairly elitist New York Times, one cannot help but suspect they might have simply disliked the vulgar practices associated with Ragamuffin.

New Yorkers were also losing their patience with young rascals so, in 1937, they came up with a solution to put it out of fashion: they created a sanitized, nationalistic competitor for it, the Madison Square Boys Club parade. Using the slogan "American boys don't beg," they were distancing themselves from the supposedly immigrant-only Ragamuffin Day and promoted an orderly, "truly American" celebration. This was to be finally replaced by Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a respectable parade where nobody goes begging or playing pranks on passers-by. Ragamuffin Day is nothing but a memory today and one can't help but wonder if, despite its blind spots, perhaps some form of nonconformism was lost with it.

1. **According to the text, .....**

- A) Halloween and Thanksgiving were one and the same thing
- B) Ragamuffin Day definitely originated in immigrant neighbourhoods
- C) Ragamuffin and Halloween have nothing in common
- D) Ragamuffin was an unruly tradition
- E) Modern Thanksgiving is celebrated in the same way as Ragamuffin

2. **According to the author, children at the beginning of the 20th century .....**

- A) sometimes had to work
- B) had too much freedom
- C) were rude
- D) were all poor
- E) didn't play pranks

3. **In paragraph 3, the author .....**

- A) is scandalized by boys dressing up as girls
- B) disapproves of blackface
- C) supports the attitude of The New York Times
- D) states that Ragamuffin was vulgar
- E) disapproves of dressing like beggars

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4. Compared to Ragamuffin, The Madison Square Boys Club parade was .....

- A) more fun                      B) more multicultural  
C) more disciplined            D) more hygienic              E) more daring

5. The tone of the author in the final paragraph is .....

- A) joyful                          B) desperate                      C) contemplative  
D) angry                          E) offended

Read the first sentence. For the second sentence, choose the best answer for each gap (6-10) so that the meaning stays the same.

6. The new measures will be introduced beginning tomorrow.

The new measures will be introduced ..... tomorrow.

- A) with effect from              B) for a start                      C) for a change  
D) effectively                      E) from starting

7. He felt it was unfair that the teacher scolded him.

He felt ..... by the teacher was unfair.

- A) been told away                B) being told off                C) telling off  
D) was told off                      E) telling away

8. If you happen to spot that car, call the police immediately.

..... spot that car call the police immediately.

- A) Might you                      B) Hadn't you                      C) Were you  
D) Should you                      E) Weren't you

9. Bob apparently was a pretty good painter in his youth.

Bob ..... a pretty good painter in his youth.

- A) is supposed to have been      B) was supposed to be  
C) was to have been                D) was to be  
E) had to be

10. Minutes before the end of the match it looked certain that he would lose.

In the ..... of the match it looked certain that he would lose.

- A) deadly minutes                B) dead minutes                C) deathly minutes  
D) died minutes                      E) dying minutes

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## 4 – Point Questions

Read the text. For each question (11-20), choose the best answer.



### ***THE BUTTERFLIES***

On November 25, 1960, three Dominican sisters—Patria, Minerva and María Teresa Mirabal— were ..... (11) dead in a car crash. Press releases said the car they were riding in had ..... (12) over a cliff. At least, that was the story in the newspapers sanctioned by the government of Rafael Trujillo, the brutal dictator who had seized power in a military coup 30 years earlier. The Mirabal sisters were actually revered members of the growing underground resistance against Trujillo's regime, and it was a(n) ..... (13) secret their deaths were no accident. All married mothers, Patria, Minerva and María Teresa may not have seemed the most likely revolutionaries. But the Mirabal sisters risked their lives to work in the resistance, helping to organize the underground movement, and were ..... (14) arrested. The murder of the three sisters, aged 36, 34 and 25 ..... (15) the Dominican public and ironically triggered Trujillo's assassination by a group ..... (16) dissidents and former allies six months later. After the Dominican Republic ..... (17) to democracy in the late 1970's, the Butterflies, as Dominicans ..... (18) call the sisters, became national symbols. A fourth Mirabal sister, Dede, who was less actively involved in activism, survived the regime and honoured her sisters' legacy by setting ..... (19) a museum in their name. The U.N. ..... (20) the date of their death as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

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11.

A) reported  
D) advertised

B) stated  
E) tattled

C) gossiped

12.

A) toppled  
D) thrown

B) tripped  
E) ascended

C) plunged

13.

A) open  
D) kept

B) true  
E) risen

C) discussed

14.

A) habitually  
D) continually

B) on and on  
E) repeatedly

C) always

15.

A) irritated  
D) overjoyed

B) annoyed  
E) stoked

C) outraged

16.

A) comprising  
D) implying

B) consisting  
E) composing

C) integrating

17.

A) transferred  
D) altered

B) transitioned  
E) skipped

C) adapted

18.

A) dearly  
D) fondly

B) affectedly  
E) lovely

C) truly

19.

A) in  
D) down

B) off  
E) up

C) on

20.

A) designated  
D) reminded

B) designed  
E) allocated

C) remembered

## 5 – Point Questions

For each sentence (21-25), choose the right answer to define the phrase in italics.

21. He *couldn't keep a straight face* during the job interview.

- A) had butterflies in his stomach
- B) couldn't keep to the point
- C) couldn't stop laughing
- D) was too anxious
- E) couldn't concentrate on his speech

22. Your bike *is on its last legs*.

- A) running perfectly
- B) in the designated parking space
- C) has special capabilities
- D) in a very bad condition
- E) is put on sale

23. You have become *such a pain in the neck*.



- A) so indecisive
- B) really annoying
- C) so tight-fisted
- D) very sick
- E) so furious

24. When I broke the news to her, she *didn't bat an eyelid*.

- A) didn't become violent
- B) didn't show any signs of surprise
- C) broke into tears
- D) didn't hesitate
- E) reacted immediately

25. I am always *a bit crotchety* in the mornings.

- A) prone to getting angry
- B) fresh and energetic
- C) happy for no apparent reason
- D) somewhat depressed
- E) overexcited

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For each group of sentences (26-30), choose the word which can be used in all three gaps.

26.

- ✦ **Make sure to ..... up before doing strenuous exercise.**
- ✦ **Please give a ..... welcome to our next guest.**
- ✦ **The kids will ..... to you immediately.**

A) collect                                      B) cool                                      C) warm  
D) grand                                        E) gather

27.

- ✦ **I've been busy all morning because I had to ..... up all my kids' old toys.**
- ✦ **They still haven't found the black ..... at the bottom of the sea.**
- ✦ **You need to be able to think outside the ..... if you care to become a good leader.**

A) step    B) box                                        C) present  
D) crate                                        E) line

28.

- ✦ **The bird's wings move so smoothly when in ..... .**
- ✦ **When I offered to help you with the luggage you didn't mention the extra ..... of stairs.**
- ✦ **The kid took ..... as soon as he hit the ball into his neighbour's window.**

A) step    B) flight                                      C) air  
D) escape                                        E) flew

29.

- ✦ **She won the elections by a ..... margin.**
- ✦ **I was really lucky the other day when I had the ..... escape**
- ✦ **There are simply too many options; you will have to ..... the list down to no more than three or four.**

A) narrow                                        B) slow                                        C) stop  
D) put    E) steep

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30.

- ✦ You look so .....; are you sure you're ok?
- ✦ I think I'll buy the ..... blue shirt.
- ✦ Compared to what some other kids go through, his worries simply ..... into insignificance.

A) dark  
D) pale

B) light  
E) fade

C) smart

