E-mail : English@saolympiads .co.za website: www.saolympiads .co.za

SOUTH AFRICAN HOME LANGUAGE (HL)
ENGLISH OLYMPIAD:
GRADE 9

DATE: 07 AUGUST 2024

TIME: 75 MINUTES

Instructions:

1. This booklet has 7 questions.
2. Answer on the paper below.
3. Read the questions carefully before answering.
4. Visit the websites: www.saolympiads.co.za.

NAME OF LEARNER:	
SCHOOL:	**GRADE:**

QUESTION ONE: Read the following text and then answer the questions that follow:

T I G E R S:

Who would win in a fight, a lion or a tiger? Well, if size has anything to do with the matter, the tiger would win - that's because tigers are the largest of all cat species. They grow up to eleven feet long and weigh as much as 670 lbs.This makes tigers the third largest land carnivore.The only larger land carnivores are polar bears and brown bears. Tigers are not only large, they are also fast.They can sprint as fast as 40 miles per hour for short distances and leap as far as 30 feet horizontally.This makes for an extremely dangerous pounce. You might not think that such large, fast and ferocious creatures need help to survive, but they do.The tiger is an endangered species.

Despite all of the tiger's strengths, the future of the species is uncertain.Tigers face a very high risk of extinction. It is estimated that at the start of the 20th Century 100 000 tigers were living in the wild. By the turn of the century, the number of tigers outside of captivity dwindled to just over 3,000. Interestingly, the most serious threats that tigers face come from a much smaller species, one with an average weight of around 140 lbs. That species is Homo Sapiens, better known as humans. Humans threaten tigers in primarily two ways: hunting and destroying habitat.

Tigers are hunted for many reasons. People have long valued the famous striped skins. Though trading tiger skins is now illegal in most parts of the world, tiger pelts are worth around $10 000 on the black market. Though the fur would be incentive enough for most poachers, other parts of a tiger can also fetch a pretty penny. Some people in China and other Asian cultures believe that various tiger parts have healing properties. Traditional Chinese medicine calls for the use of tiger bones, among other parts, in some prescriptions.

Tigers have also been hunted as game. In other words, people hunted tigers solely for the thrill and achievement of killing them. Such killings took place on a large scale during the 19th and early 20th centuries, when a single maharaja or English hunter might claim to kill over a hundred tigers in their hunting career. Though this practice is much less popular today than it was in the past, it has not ceased entirely.

Humans have done considerable damage to the world's tiger population through hunting, but perhaps more damage has been caused through the destruction of habitat. Tigers once ranged widely across Asia, all the way from Turkey to the eastern coast of Russia. But over the past 100 years, tigers have lost 93% of their historic range. Instead of spanning all the way across Asia, the tiger population is now isolated in small pockets in south and south-eastern Asia. This is because humans have drastically changed the environments. Humans have built towns and cities. Road and transit systems were created to connect these areas, forests, and fields have been cleared to create farmland. Large tracts of land have been strip-mined to yield metals and other materials used in

manufacturing. All of these activities have consumed habitats that at one time supported tigers.

A major obstacle to preserving tigers is the enormous amount of territory that each tiger requires. Each wild tiger demands between 200 and 300 square miles.Tigers are also both territorial and solitary animals. This means that they are protective of the areas that they claim and they generally do not share with other tigers. Because tigers need so much territory, it is difficult for conservation to acquire land enough to support a large population of tigers. Even when such considerable spaces are allocated, it is even more difficult to patrol such large areas to prevent poaching. There is no easy way to preserve the wild tiger population without making large sacrifices.

Read each question carefully and choose the best answer. Refer to the text if necessary.

1. Which of the following is not a reason in the article explaining why tigers are hunted?

(a) Tiger skins are worth a lot of money
(b) Tiger parts are used as medicines in some cultures
(c) Some tigers attack local villages
(d) Tigers are hunted for enjoyment by some people

(1)

2. Which animal does not grow larger than the tiger?

(a) Brown bear
(b) Lion
(c)) Polar bear
(d) All of these animals grow larger than a tiger

(1)

3. Which number is *closest* to the estimation of the wild Tiger population in 2003.

(a) 3,000
(b) 100,000
(c) 140
(d) 30,000

(1)

4. Which of the following best describes the author's main purpose in writing this article?

(a) To provide readers with interesting information about the lifestyles of tigers.
(b) To persuade readers to help the world's tiger population and to offer ways to Help.
(c) To entertain readers with stories about how tigers hunt and are hunted.
(d) To explain to readers why the world's tiger population is endangered.

(1)

5. Information in the third paragraph is *mainly* organized using which text structure?

(a) Cause and effect
(b) Compare and contrast
(c) Chronological order
(d) Spatial order **(1)**

6. Which *best* explains why tigers have lost so much of their habitat according to the text?

(a) Because humans are afraid of tigers.
(b) Because tiger skins are extremely valuable.
(c) Because humans have changed the land.
(d) Because tigers need so much space to survive.

(1)

7. Based on information in the text, which *best* explains why tigers are poached?

(a) Poachers hunt tigers to protect their families from dangerous animals.
(b) Poachers hunt tigers for medicine to cure sick family members.
(c) Poachers hunt tigers because they enjoy killing dangerous animals.
(d) Poachers hunt tigers to earn large amounts of money.

(1)

8. Which *best* explains why it is so difficult to preserve the wild tiger population?

(a) Tigers do not get along with most other animals.
(b) Tigers must make their homes close to rivers and the world's rivers are evaporating.
(c) Tigers require a lot of space.
(d) Tigers hunt in large packs and there are too few tigers left to make these packs.

(1)

9. Which of the following is an opinion?

(a) Tigers can grow up to eleven feet long.
(b) Saving the wild tiger population is important.
(c) South China tigers were brought to live in South Africa.
(d) Humans have endangered the world's wild tiger population. **(1)**

10. Based on context, which *best* defines the term "rewilded" as used in the last paragraph?

(a) To preserve animals by keeping them in zoos
(b) To teach animals to coexist with humans
(c) To teach humans to coexist with animals
(d) To bring animals born in zoos back to nature **(1)**

11. What does this idiom mean: "*other parts of the tiger can also fetch a Pretty penny?*"

(a) The fur is the only valuable part of the tiger.
(b) Other parts of the tiger are worth a lot of money.
(c) The tiger is a very beautiful animal.
(d) Tigers can be trained to do tricks like in the circus.

(1)

12. Which of the following could be best supported by information from the text?

(a) Efforts to save tigers have had some success, but there are many obstacles to recovery.
(b) Efforts to save tigers have failed in the past, but there is reason to continue trying.
(c) Efforts to save tigers have been so successful that they saved tigers from endangerment.
(d) Efforts to save tigers have failed completely.

(1)
(12)

QUESTION TWO:

Each sentence is followed by five other sentences.

Choose the one NEAREST in meaning to the original sentence.

1. Because of his innocent face, it is difficult even today to believe he was a criminal although it had been certainly proven.

(a) It is really surprising how he hurt somebody.

(b) Today it is possible to understand why people didn't want to believe that he was guilty because of his innocent face.

(c) If it had been proven that he was guilty, they would believe that he was a criminal.

(d) It doesn't necessarily mean that criminals can't have an innocent look.

(e) Despite the fact that he was proven to be a criminal, his innocent face makes it difficult to believe that.

(1)

2. The twins resemble each other so much that I can never tell which is which.

(a) Although the twins do not look like each other I cannot name them easily.

(b) I cannot tell the twins apart because I don't know them well enough.

(c) It is impossible for me to identify the twins because they look very much like one another.

(d) I can never tell the twins anything as they like each other so much.

(e) The twins are similar to each other, but I can easily name them.

(1)

3. She didn't eat anything but small pieces of bread and butter.

(a) She ate small pieces of bread and butter but didn't like them.

(b) She only ate some small pieces of bread and butter.

(c) She didn't eat anything, not even the bread and butter.

(d) She didn't touch the bread and butter, but she ate other things.

(e) She ate neither bread nor butter. **(1)**

QUESTION THREE:

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. Athens is remembered by historians as a peaceful society known for its philosophers and scientists, while its neighbour, Sparta, is remembered for its _____ people and focus.

(a) chivalrous

(b) contentious

(c) controversial

(d) inflammatory

(e) martial

(1)

2. The storm _____ our efforts to hold a company picnic in the park last weekend, because it was impossible to stay outdoors in such a _____.

(a) destroyed … squalor

(b) bolstered … torrent

(c) thwarted … downpour

(d) increased … monsoon

(e) ruined … tragedy

(2)

3. The two rich cousins were very similar to each other in their _____ lifestyles: both spent money freely and ostentatiously displayed the _____ of their homes to their less wealthy neighbours.

(a) lavish … opulence

(b) frugal … misery

(c) stingy … sumptuousness

(d) austere … grandeur

(e) luxurious … deficiency

(2)

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QUESTION FOUR:

Choose the word that is the best ANTONYM for the words below. Underline the correct answer.

1. AGONY

(a) comfort (b) anguish

(c) success (d) grief

(e) security **(1)**

2. MYRIAD

(a) mass (b) scarcity

(c) void (d) excess

(e) pyramid **(1)**

3. GRATIFY

(a) puncture (b) coddle

(c) disappoint (d) fatigue

(e) thrill **(1)**

4. CULTIVATE

(a) labour (b) neglect

(c) renounce (d) further

(e) cede **(1)**

QUESTION FIVE: What is the name of the following FIGURES OF SPEECH

One-word answers are required.

(a) "her face was a mask of terror"
(b) "like hyenas on a kill"
(c) "pocketed our precious packet of tea"
(d) "the boots stormed up the stairs"

(4)

QUESTION SIX: LOGIC

(a) How far can a dog run into the woods? Explain (2)

(b) Two boxers are in a match scheduled for 12 rounds. (Pure boxing only – no kicking, UFC take downs, or anything else). one of the boxers gets knocked out after only six rounds, yet no man throws a punch. How is this possible? (1)

QUESTION SEVEN: CROSSWORD: PROVERBS AND IDIOMS

Read the following clues and then fill in the crossword below.

Across:	**Down:**
2.Keep to the topic! Don't beat around the ……	1.She is actually very nice – don't …… a book by its cover.
3. Don't put all your eggs in one …….	4.You can't make tea! It's not rocket ……..
5.I hate parties. I always feel like a …… out of water.	6. John is on thin …. with his parents. They are really upset with him.
8. This is easy because many hands make ……. work!	7.This group of teenagers is completely out of ……
9. It was so easy – it was a piece of ……!	12. It's a surprise party – don't spill the …….!
10. Forget him! Boys like him are a dime a …….	14.The new iPhone costs an …. and a leg.
11.Every ……. has a silver lining.	15.He got it right! He hit the ….. on the head!
12.Don't worry, we will cross that bridge when we get there.	
13. Just do it! _____ the bullet.	
16. They are so late, but better late than ……..	
17. She is so dumb! She's got nothing between her …..	
18.Don't cry over spilt ……	

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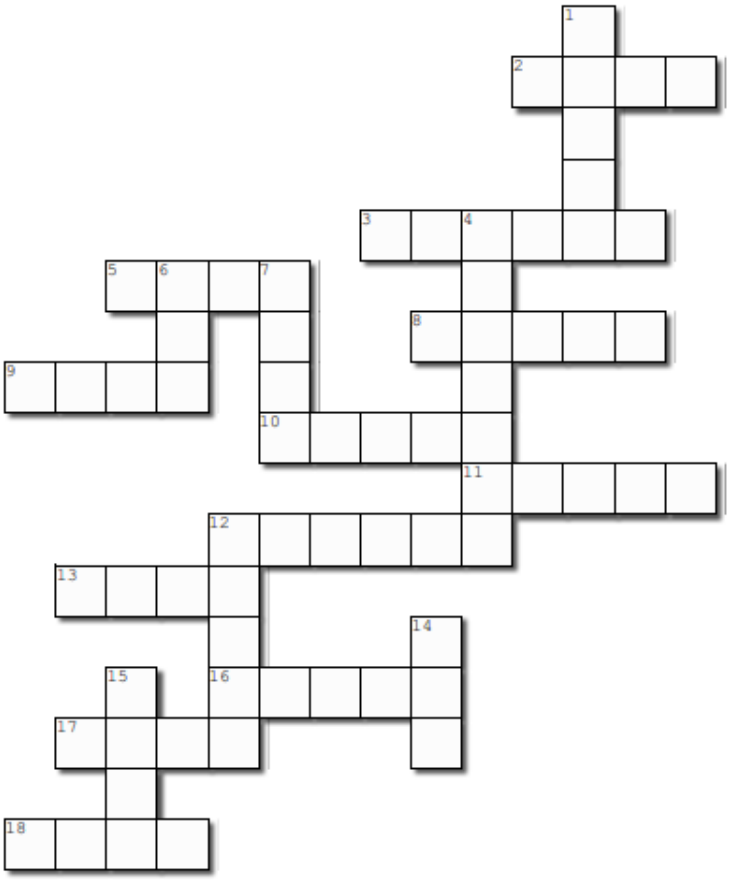
Complete the crossword puzzle below



(19)

Total for paper: 50