



**KGL CONTEST**  
English Olympiad

# 2024

## Stage 1

### Level B2

Time: 60 minutes

**Candidate Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Answer all questions.

Use black ball-point pen on your answer sheet.

Do NOT use pencil or correction fluid.

At the end of the test the supervisor will collect your paper and answer sheets.

Instructions may also be given in your language by your supervisor.

Good luck!



## Part 1

### Questions 1 - 10

Complete the gaps in the text.  
Choose **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.



### Our Amazing Eyes

The human eye can detect over 10 million different colours. This incredible range of colour **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ is made possible by the presence of two types of light-sensitive cells in the retina, known as rods and cones. Cones are responsible for **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ colour and are concentrated in the centre of the retina, while rods are responsible for detecting light and are found in higher numbers around the outside of the retina. The eye is capable of making rapid, **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ movements to follow the movements of objects in our field of vision. These movements are controlled by a network of muscles in the eye and are capable of tracking objects at speeds of up to 900 degrees per second. The human eye can detect differences in light that are just one-billionth of a watt. This **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ sensitivity to light is made possible by the presence of photoreceptor cells in the retina. These cells can detect even the **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ changes in light intensity.

The eye is constantly adapting to changes in light. To maintain a clear and accurate image of the world around us, the eye can make rapid **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ to the amount of light that enters it. This is known as the pupillary light reflex, and is controlled by the iris, the **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ muscle that controls the size of the pupil. The eye has a built-in correcting lens. The natural lens in the eye is capable of changing shape, which allows it to focus light from distant objects **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ the retina. This process, known as accommodation, helps to maintain a clear and focused image of the world around us, even as objects move closer or further away. The human eye is capable of registering movements as small as 1/30th of a degree. This incredible sensitivity to movement is made possible by the presence of specialized cells in the retina known as **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ detectors, which can detect even the slightest changes in position and movement.

The eye can process **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ information at an incredible speed. It can process this kind of information at a rate of up to 60 images per second, allowing us to perceive a smooth and continuous flow of information from the world around us.

- 1    **A)** deception    **B)** only    **C)** perception    **D)** variety
- 2    **A)** detecting    **B)** making    **C)** deactivating    **D)** rejecting
- 3    **A)** rough    **B)** precise    **C)** exactly    **D)** strange
- 4    **A)** realistic    **B)** incredible    **C)** credible    **D)** weak
- 5    **A)** slightest    **B)** thinnest    **C)** biggest    **D)** brightest
- 6    **A)** agreement    **B)** fixing    **C)** judgements    **D)** adjustments
- 7    **A)** circular    **B)** shaped    **C)** external    **D)** squared
- 8    **A)** from    **B)** onto    **C)** outside    **D)** on top of
- 9    **A)** colour    **B)** sight    **C)** motion    **D)** moving
- 10    **A)** audio    **B)** print    **C)** repeat    **D)** visual

## Part 2

### Questions 11 - 18

Read the extracts **A-D** and answer the questions.  
Choose **A, B, C** or **D**.

#### A

Social media has revolutionized the way we interact with each other and I believe it has had a positive impact on society. Social media has provided a platform for people to share their opinions and experiences and connect with others on a global scale. It has created a sense of community, bringing together people from all walks of life, and bridging cultural gaps. Social media has also given a voice to those who were previously marginalized or isolated, empowering them to advocate for their beliefs and causes. Moreover, it has enabled small businesses to reach a wider audience and fostered new job opportunities. The presence of social media in society has been overwhelmingly positive, promoting communication, understanding, and inclusivity.

It has broken down barriers that once separated us and has enabled us to create meaningful connections with people from all over the world. Social media is a powerful tool for positive change that we should continue to embrace.

#### B

Social media has become a widespread force in our lives, and I strongly believe that we need to severely limit its use. The reasons for this are many, but the most pressing concern is the negative impact it has on our mental health. Studies have shown that excessive use of social media is linked to depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. To address this problem, I believe that the government should step in and regulate social media use. This could take the form of laws limiting the amount of time people can spend on social media each day, or restrictions on the types of content that can be posted.

Punishments for violating these laws could include fines, community service, or even prison time in extreme cases. While these measures may seem extreme, I believe they are necessary to protect our mental health and well-being.

Of course, implementing such laws would not be easy, and would require significant cooperation from social media companies and individuals alike. However, I believe that the long-term benefits to our mental health and overall well-being make it a necessary step for society to take.

### **C**

The impact of social media on society is complex, multifaceted, and difficult to fully comprehend. On the one hand, social media has provided a platform for people to connect with others, share ideas, and advocate for their favourite causes. Many claim it has created new opportunities and assisted businesses in getting their message out and therefore reaching many more people. There are those, of course, who say that this is actually one of the problems as it is difficult to make businesses more accountable when you deal with them through social media platforms. Of course, most of us acknowledge how it has also led to problems for those who may be easily influenced by what they see and read on social media.

Maintaining a neutral view of the impact of social media on society is an invitation to take a critical look at social media and recognize both its potential and its limitations. We must be mindful of the impact of social media on our lives, and work to forge a digital world that values privacy, truth, and genuine human connection.

### **D**

As technology continues to evolve, so too does the way we interact with social media. It's clear that the future of social media will bring about significant changes, both in the way we use it and the way it affects our lives.

One of the biggest changes we can expect is a greater focus on privacy and data protection. In the wake of high-profile data breaches and concerns over targeted advertising, platforms will be under pressure to make their privacy policies more transparent and secure.

Another trend we can expect is the rise of niche social media platforms. As users become increasingly specialized in their interests, social media platforms will need to cater to these specific communities. We can expect to see new platforms emerge that are tailored to specific hobbies, interests, and lifestyles.

The future of social media will also be more interactive and immersive. With the growth of virtual reality and augmented reality, we can expect to see social media experiences that are more immersive, interactive, and engaging.

**11** What evidence does the text provide to suggest that social media has created a sense of community and inclusivity?

- A)** Social media has caused people to become more isolated
- B)** Social media has made it easier for small businesses to sell
- C)** Social media has brought people from all walks of life together
- D)** The fact that it has a positive impact on society

- 12** In which extract does the writer think social media platforms will be under pressure to improve their privacy policies?
- A) Extract A  
 B) Extract B  
 C) Extract C  
 D) Extract D
- 13** The writer of extract C implies that we could have a balance by \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) working to overcome the negative impact of social media  
 B) only using social media for personal use  
 C) by always focusing on the negative aspects of social media  
 D) by ensuring privacy for everyone
- 14** How does the writer in extract D see social media changing?
- A) It will force people to look after their privacy  
 B) It will cater more to the interests of each of us  
 C) It will help people to use their personal data more easily  
 D) Everyone will be under pressure to do something new
- 15** In which extract does the writer seem to think that mental health can be protected by taking harsh measures?
- A) Extract A  
 B) Extract B  
 C) Extract C  
 D) Extract D

**For questions 16-18 choose A, B, C or D.**

In which extract does the writer \_\_\_\_\_?

believe that it is necessary to regulate our exposure to social media

believe we should keep an open mind about social media

infer that we should not abandon social media

<b>16</b>	
<b>17</b>	
<b>18</b>	

## Part 3

### Questions 19-25

Read the article and answer the questions.

Choose **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

## The Philosophy of Humour

Humour is a fundamental aspect of human life that has been around since the dawn of time. It is present in all cultures and has been used to entertain, educate, and even to relieve tension. But have you ever stopped to wonder what makes something funny? What is it about jokes, puns, and witty remarks that elicit laughter?

The philosophy of humour attempts to answer these questions by exploring the nature of humour and its role in human life. One prominent theory in this field is the Incongruity Theory, which suggests that humour arises from a violation of our expectations. In other words, when something happens that is unexpected or doesn't fit with our usual patterns of thought, it can be funny.

For example, a classic joke that illustrates the Incongruity Theory is: "Why did the tomato turn red? Because it saw the salad dressing!" The punchline of the joke is unexpected because it takes a familiar object (a tomato) and puts it in a new and humorous context (being aware of salad dressing). The incongruity between the tomato and the salad dressing creates a sense of surprise and amusement, leading to laughter.

Another important theory in the philosophy of humour is the Superiority Theory, which suggests that we find things funny when they make us feel superior to others. This theory suggests that humour is a way for us to assert our superiority over others by laughing at their expense.

However, the Superiority Theory has faced criticism for its potential to promote harmful and discriminatory attitudes towards marginalized groups. Humour that relies on mocking or belittling others can perpetuate harmful stereotypes and reinforce harmful power dynamics.

A more recent theory that has gained prominence in the philosophy of humour is the Relief Theory. This theory suggests that humour is a way to release tension and reduce stress. It suggests that laughter functions as a form of emotional release, allowing us to cope with difficult or stressful situations. For example, imagine a tense situation at school where everyone is feeling stressed and anxious. A fellow student tells a joke, and everyone starts laughing. The laughter releases the tension and helps everyone feel more relaxed and able to handle the situation.

One interesting aspect of humour is its ability to challenge social norms and expectations. Comedians and satirists have long used humour as a way to critique and challenge social norms and power structures.

The comedian George Carlin was known for his social commentary and use of humour to challenge dominant cultural norms. His routine "Seven Dirty Words" challenged the censorship of language and called attention to the ways in which words and language are used to control and limit our expression.

Humour can also be a way to bring people together and build social bonds. Sharing a laugh with someone creates a sense of connection and intimacy and can help build trust and camaraderie.

In conclusion, the philosophy of humour is a fascinating field that explores the nature and role of humour in human life. While theories such as the Incongruity Theory, the Superiority Theory, and the Relief Theory provide insight into the nature of humour, they

are by no means exhaustive or complete. As we continue to explore and understand the nature of humour, we can gain a greater appreciation for this fundamental aspect of human life and the role it plays in our social and emotional well-being.

- 19** What is the author's main argument in the article?
- A)** Humour is subjective and varies from person to person
  - B)** Humour has a deeper meaning than just entertainment
  - C)** Comedians are more intelligent than the average person
  - D)** The purpose of humour is to make people laugh
- 20** Humour that relies on mocking or belittling others falls into the \_\_\_\_\_ theory.
- A)** self-deprecating humour
  - B)** harmful humour
  - C)** superiority
  - D)** satirical humour
- 21** Which of the following can be said of humour as described in the text?
- A)** The philosophy of humour uncovers its multifaceted nature, serving diverse purposes
  - B)** Superiority theory in humour promotes inclusivity and positive social dynamics
  - C)** The philosophy of humour asserts that humour serves no purpose in human life
  - D)** All comedians use humour solely for social critique
- 22** From the article we can conclude that people use humour \_\_\_\_\_.
- A)** to make themselves feel better
  - B)** to make others feel better
  - C)** to improve social interactions
  - D)** for all the above reasons
- 23** What is the relief theory of humour?
- A)** Humour that promotes harmful and discriminatory attitudes towards marginalized groups
  - B)** Humour that helps to release tension and reduce stress
  - C)** Humour that is used to critique and challenge social norms
  - D)** Humour that is complex and multifaceted
- 24** How does humour challenge social norms and expectations?
- A)** By perpetuating harmful stereotypes
  - B)** By reinforcing harmful power dynamics
  - C)** By promoting censorship of language
  - D)** By critiquing and challenging dominant cultural norms



- 25 From the text, we understand that the superiority theory of humour cannot account for all forms of humour, particularly those that involve\_\_\_\_\_.
- A) self-deprecation
  - B) feeling superior to others
  - C) surprise
  - D) tension release

## Part 4

### Questions 26-35

For questions 26-31 choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined word(s).

For questions 32-35 choose A, B, C or D.

### What Are You Really Made Of?

Let me begin by stating the claim that every person on Earth is made up of atoms that were once part of stars that exploded billions of years ago. And while we all appreciate the need for (26) rigor and evidence-based arguments, it is now known that this is not only true, but it is also backed up by a vast body of scientific evidence.

Our bodies are composed of a range of elements, including carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen, which were formed in the nuclear reactions that took place in ancient stars.

When these stars exploded, these elements were (27) dispersed into space and ultimately merged with new stars and planets, including our own.

The evidence for this process comes from a range of scientific (28) disciplines, including astrophysics, nuclear physics, and chemistry. For example, astrophysicists have studied the spectral properties of stars and have identified the characteristic absorption lines associated with various elements. These spectral fingerprints have allowed scientists to determine the composition of stars and to trace the origins of these elements.

Similarly, nuclear physicists have conducted experiments to study the behaviour of atoms and to understand the processes by which they form and decay. These studies have revealed that the fusion of lighter elements in the centre of stars produces heavier elements such as carbon and oxygen. When these stars explode, the elements they contain are dispersed into space and are available to form new stars and planets.

Finally, chemists have studied the properties of elements and compounds and have identified the specific chemical reactions that take place in living organisms.

These studies have allowed scientists to trace the movement of elements through ecosystems and to understand how living organisms are able to **(29) utilize** and transform these elements.

Despite the wealth of evidence supporting this claim, there may still be sceptics who challenge this idea. For example, some may argue that the presence of heavy elements in our bodies could be due to other processes, such as the fusion of cosmic rays with atoms in the upper atmosphere.

While it is true that cosmic rays can produce heavy elements, the amount of these elements produced in this way is relatively small compared to the amount produced in stellar nucleosynthesis. Furthermore, the composition of these elements is different from that produced in stars, providing additional evidence for their **(30) stellar** origin.

Another potential challenge to this claim may come from those who argue that the presence of heavy elements in our bodies could be due to contamination from Earth. However, studies of meteorites and lunar rocks, which have not been subject to earthly contamination, have revealed similar **(31) elemental** compositions to those found on Earth.

In conclusion, the idea that every person on Earth is made up of atoms that were once part of stars that exploded billions of years ago is a well-supported scientific claim. While there may be sceptics who challenge this idea, the weight of evidence supports the notion that we are all connected to the cosmos. Scientists are constantly searching for answers to some of the universe's most fundamental questions. Where did we come from? How did we get here? What is the nature of our existence? The study of the origins of the universe is a field that has fascinated scientists for centuries, and recent discoveries have shed new light on this age-old question.

- |           |                       |                      |                             |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>26</b> | <b>A)</b> preciseness | <b>B)</b> difficulty | <b>C)</b> flexibility       | <b>D)</b> inaccuracy  |
| <b>27</b> | <b>A)</b> accumulated | <b>B)</b> assembled  | <b>C)</b> scattered         | <b>D)</b> disposed of |
| <b>28</b> | <b>A)</b> areas       | <b>B)</b> awards     | <b>C)</b> negligence        | <b>D)</b> exercises   |
| <b>29</b> | <b>A)</b> impede      | <b>B)</b> misuse     | <b>C)</b> take advantage of | <b>D)</b> halt        |
| <b>30</b> | <b>A)</b> excellent   | <b>B)</b> cosmic     | <b>C)</b> principle         | <b>D)</b> momentous   |
| <b>31</b> | <b>A)</b> simple      | <b>B)</b> beginner   | <b>C)</b> chemical elements | <b>D)</b> not basic   |

- 32** What is the main claim in the article?
- A)** The universe is infinite
  - B)** Heavy elements in our bodies are due to contamination from Earth
  - C)** Our bodies are composed of a range of elements
  - D)** Sceptics challenge the idea that we are made up of atoms from stars
- 33** What evidence supports the claim that every person on Earth is made up of atoms that were once part of stars that exploded billions of years ago?
- A)** The presence of heavy elements in our bodies
  - B)** The study of meteorites and lunar rocks
  - C)** The weight of evidence from various scientific disciplines
  - D)** All of the above
- 34** What is the main reason for scientists to study the spectral properties of stars?
- A)** To determine the age of stars
  - B)** To identify the characteristic absorption lines associated with various elements
  - C)** To measure the distance of stars from Earth
  - D)** To study the behaviour of atoms
- 35** What do studies of meteorites and lunar rocks reveal about their elemental compositions?
- A)** They are unlike those found on Earth
  - B)** Meteorites and lunar rocks do not contain any heavy elements
  - C)** Scientists are still not sure if they are similar
  - D)** They are similar to those found on Earth

## Part 5

### Questions 36-40

Complete the sentences with the correct word and spelling.  
Choose **A**, **B** or **C**.



- 36 She does not want her identity disclosed and prefers to remain\_\_\_\_\_.
- A) anonymus                      B) anonymous                      C) annonymous
- 37 The pilot had to make a quick \_\_\_\_\_to avoid hitting the other plane.
- A) maneuver                      B) manouver                      C) maneuver
- 38 An \_\_\_\_\_ is a word that imitates the sound it represents, like "buzz" or "sizzle."
- A) onomotopoeia                      B) onomatopeia                      C) onomatopoeia
- 39 The \_\_\_\_\_ of the new school rules to all students was done via email.
- A) transmission                      B) transmittion                      C) transmision
- 40 Her lawyer was \_\_\_\_\_ that she had not done anything wrong.
- A) adament                      B) adamant                      C) addament