



RAMAGYA SCHOOL, NOIDA
XI / ENGLISH / 2017-18
OLYMPIAD PRACTICE WORKSHEET

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

Marie Curie was one of the most accomplished scientists in history. Together with her husband, Pierre, she discovered radium, an element widely used for treating cancer, and studied uranium and other radioactive substances. Pierre and Marie's amicable collaboration later helped to unlock the secrets of the atom.

Marie was born in 1867 in Warsaw, Poland, where her father was a professor of physics. At an early age, she displayed a brilliant mind and a blithe personality. Her great exuberance for learning prompted her to continue with her studies after high school. She became disgruntled, however, when she learned that the university in Warsaw was closed to women. Determined to receive a higher education, she defiantly left Poland and in 1891 entered the Sorbonne, a French university, where she earned her master's degree and doctorate in physics.

Marie was fortunate to have studied at the Sorbonne with some of the greatest scientists of her day, one of whom was Pierre Curie. Marie and Pierre were married in 1895 and spent many productive years working together in the physics laboratory. A short time after they discovered radium, Pierre was killed by a horse-drawn wagon in 1906. Marie was stunned by this horrible misfortune and endured heart-breaking anguish. Despondently she recalled their close relationship and the joy that they had shared in scientific research. The fact that she had two young daughters to raise by herself greatly increased her distress.

Curie's feeling of desolation finally began to fade when she was asked to succeed her husband as a physics professor at the Sorbonne. She was the first woman to be given a professorship at the world-famous university. In 1911 she received the Nobel Prize in chemistry for isolating radium. Although Marie Curie eventually suffered a fatal illness from her long exposure to radium, she never became disillusioned about her work. Regardless of the consequences, she had dedicated herself to science and to revealing the mysteries of the physical world.

Question 1 to 7; choose the best reply to complete the sentence.

1. The Curies' _____ collaboration helped to unlock the secrets of the atom.
A. friendly B. competitive C. courteous D. industrious E. chemistry
2. Marie had a bright mind and a _____ personality.
A. strong B. light-hearted C. humorous D. strange E. envious
3. When she learned that she could not attend the university in Warsaw, she felt _____.
A. hopeless B. annoyed C. depressed D. worried E. None of the above

4. Marie _____ by leaving Poland and traveling to France to enter the Sorbonne.
A. challenged authority B. showed intelligence C. behaved D. was distressed
E. None of the above

5. _____ she remembered their joy together.
A. Dejectedly B. Worried C. Tearfully D. Happily E. Irefully

6. Her _____ began to fade when she returned to the Sorbonne to succeed her husband.
A. misfortune B. anger C. wretchedness D. disappointment E. ambition

7. Even though she became fatally ill from working with radium, Marie Curie was never _____.
A. troubled B. worried C. disappointed D. sorrowful E. disturbed

Q8-Q11 Choose the correct meaning of the word in italics.

8. Their speech was slurred and their movements were *lethargic*.
A. deficient in alertness or activity B. fear resulting from the awareness of danger
C. having a common boundary or edge D. the state of being dependent on something

9. The argument against it is as much *pragmatic* as moral: If we can use it on them, they can use it on us.
A. Concerned with practical matters B. excessively fat
C. believing the worst of human nature and motives D. no longer in force or use; inactive

10. The allegations were later *discredited* and convictions overturned, but the actions damaged morale and fuelled resentment.
A. reject as false; refuse to accept B. the way a person behaves toward other people
C. a plant or animal naturalized in a region D. wasting time

11. While change is coming, it is *grudging* and slow.
A. petty or reluctant in giving or spending B. cause to lose one's composure
C. unaffected by strong emotion or prejudice D. hold back

For the questions 12 to 18 choose the correct option to complete each sentence.

12. By nature, my sister is a _____ girl who remains reserved and reticent.
A. suppressed B. flagrant C. vivacious D. taciturn

13. J. K. Rowling, _____ works turned her fortunes around, is the creator of one of the most fascinating characters of fiction.
A. her B. while C. that D. whose

14. Drivers over 65 have experience but _____ physical and sensory capabilities.
A. not diminished B. having diminished C. may have diminished D. were diminishing

15. If we don't find a solution to this problem soon, we _____ a lot of explaining to do.
A. have had B. are having C. will have D. had to have
16. When people talk about the wonders of France, the first thing _____ mind is the Eiffel Tower.
A. springing of B. that bear on C. on ours D. that comes to
17. People were moved to flood shelters after days of heavy rain caused _____ damage.
A. spasmodic B. intermittent C. substantial D. deliberate
18. The Zika virus is _____ complex and life threatening.
A. considerably B. extremely C. determinedly D. indomitably

For the questions 19 and 20, choose the most suitable antonym for the word given in bold.

19. ARTIFICE

- A. innuendo B. decadence C. injustice D. forthrightness E. stratagem

20. INVIGORATE

- A. extrude B. gall C. fatigue D. activate E. galvanize