

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY, BELGRADE
ENTRANCE EXAM SEPTEMBER 2026

(60 minutes)

I - Read the whole text carefully, choose the correct answer, and mark it on your answer sheet:

Tom Langdon was a journalist, a globetrotting one because it was in his blood to roam widely. He'd spent the (1)_____ of his career in foreign lands covering wars, insurrections and famines, with a simple goal: to change the world by calling attention to its wrongs. But, after (2)_____ all these horrific events and seeing the conditions of humanity steadily worsen, he'd returned to America filled with disappointment. Seeking (3)_____ this melancholy, he'd started writing light stories for ladies' magazines, home-decorating journals, garden digests and (4)_____. Now, after glorifying the wonders of compost and do-it-yourself wood flooring, he'd ended up restless and utterly (5)_____.

It was nearing Christmas, and Tom was taking the train all the way from the East Coast, (6)_____, to Los Angeles for the holidays, to see his movie-actress girlfriend, Lelia Gibson. Tom and Lelia (7)_____ many years before on an overnight flight from Southeast Asia to the States. They (8)_____ turns spending the holidays together, alternating between coasts, ever since. He believed that the fact they didn't live together year-round was a significant advantage (9)_____ couples who cohabitated. He'd been briefly married, but from the outset, his marriage was a rocky one. Today, his ex-wife (10)_____ even accept a collect call from him (11)_____ he were bleeding to death on the street. He was forty-one and had just lost his mother (12)_____ a stroke; his father had been dead for several years. (13)_____, he was truly alone now. Half his time on earth was gone, and all he had to show for it was a failed marriage, an on-and-off alliance with a Californian actress, and some awards. A miserable excuse for an existence, but, after all, one can only (14)_____, he concluded.

Now, ever the man of action, and with the travel itch upon him once more, Tom boarded the train. He (15)_____ an ambition to travel across the continent by rail and write about the experience. Just like Mark Twain, the writer and journalist, who had gone on a similar trip over the Christmas season, (16)_____ notes but never distilling them into a story. Tom, despite his many awards, didn't believe he was a writer with the ability to create memorable prose that would (17)_____ and rival that of Mark Twain, whose wit and artistry were second to none. But, nevertheless, he (18)_____ if he could do it and clean up the mess he'd made of his life.

(19)_____, had he known what life-altering event would happen to him barely two hours after he boarded the train, he might (20)_____ to walk to California instead.

(Adapted from: *The Christmas Train* by David Baldacci)

1. A. entire
B. time
C. chunk
D. bulk

2. A. he has chronicled
B. having been chronicled
C. chronicling
D. he has been chronicling

3. A. an antidote to
B. a confirmation for
C. the cure from
D. the distraction against

4. A. alike
B. the like
C. the likes
D. a like

5. A. unsatisfactory
B. dissatisfied
C. contented
D. pacified
6. A. where he lived on
B. in which he lived
C. that he lived in
D. where he lived
7. A. had laid back
B. had taken to
C. had hit it off
D. had got it along
8. A. were having
B. 'd been having
C. 'd been taking
D. were taking
9. A. over the hurdles facing
B. of the obstacles affecting
C. over the obstacles waiting
D. of the hurdles confronting
10. A. shouldn't
B. mustn't
C. needn't
D. wouldn't
11. A. when
B. though
C. as
D. if
12. A. by
B. to
C. of
D. in
13. A. Being only a child
B. Being an only child
C. Having been an only child
D. Having been only a child
14. A. do so much
B. endure so little
C. give as much
D. take as little
15. A. harboured long
B. has harboured long
C. had long harboured
D. was long harboured
16. A. taking extensive
B. making extensively
C. putting detailed
D. writing detailing
17. A. stand the test of time
B. pass the test of the time
C. endure the test of the times
D. withstand the test of a time
18. A. will have seen
B. is going to see
C. was going to see
D. would have seen
19. A. Whereas
B. While
C. Even
D. However
20. A. be opting
B. have opted
C. opt
D. have been opting

II - Choose the correct answer and mark it on your answer sheet:

21. _____ it, this potted plant is dead.

- A. Having glimpsed
- ☒ B. By the look of
- C. On second seeing
- D. With a glance at

22. On _____ occasions I tried _____ them to join us, but they always refused.

- ☒ A. multiple / to persuade
- B. a plenty / convincing
- C. a lot / to convince
- D. numbered / persuading

23. Make sure you cover all the _____ when _____ a business.

- A. bases / setting out
- B. basis / setting out
- ☒ C. bases / setting up
- D. basis / setting up

24. _____ your choice may be, don't let it _____ on your conscience afterwards.

- ☒ A. Whatever / weigh
- B. However / weight
- C. Whichever / be weighed
- D. No matter / be weighty

25. At least she was _____ enough to apologize.

- A. virtual
- B. considerable
- C. uptight
- ☒ D. decent

26. _____ himself for years, he finally _____ the guilt.

- A. Blaming / left out
- B. Being blamed / let go of
- ☒ C. Having blamed / let go of
- D. Having to blame / left out

27. After _____ felt like an eternity, she gave us an answer.

- A. which
- B. that
- C. whose
- ☒ D. what

28. It _____ be said that Jon's _____ is invaluable.

- A. need / offer
- ☒ B. must / effort
- C. ought / contribution
- D. should / effective

29. When _____ the last time you _____ to your estranged cousin?

- A. is / were speaking
- B. had been / talked
- C. will be / had talked
- ☒ D. was / spoke

30. All things considered, I didn't expect it to be _____ of a failure as it was.

- A. such
- ☒ B. as much
- C. too much
- D. as such

31. We _____ artificial grass on the new football _____ the other day.

- A. lay / court
- ☒ B. laid / pitch
- C. laid / court
- D. lay / pitch

32. It was recommended she _____ her application by mail.

- A. would forward
- B. should put forward
- ☒ C. should submit
- D. would send in

33. The sales director is resigning and _____ most of the marketing team _____.

- A. since / are
- B. so / are
- ☒ C. so are / -
- D. since are / -

34. There was the most glamorous wedding _____ in the pages of *Hello!* magazine to date.

- ☒ A. to have been featured
- B. getting featured
- C. having featured
- D. have featured

35. The problem you've reported _____ is currently being looked _____.

- A. to / over
- B. on / out for
- C. of / at
- ☒ D. - / into

36. I forgot my laptop charger, _____ I'll have to _____ with my phone for today's meetings.

- A. so that / do
- B. so / do
- C. so that / make do
- ☒ D. so / make do

37. Jane: "What did the doctor suggest _____?"

John: "He suggested _____ a few days off."

- A. her / taking
- ☒ B. to her / that she take
- C. her / she should take
- D. to her / her to take

38. We decided to hire my father _____ knows the subject _____.

- ☒ A. , who / inside out
- B. who / inside out
- C. , who / upside down
- D. who / upside down

39. _____ the fact that there were no major accidents, the traffic was _____ for over an hour.

- ☒ A. Despite / held up
- B. Even though / caught up
- C. Although / held up
- D. In spite of / caught up

40. If athletes _____ their training seriously nowadays, they _____ so many records in recent years.

- ☒ A. didn't take / wouldn't have broken
- B. didn't take / wouldn't break
- C. hadn't taken / wouldn't have broken
- D. hadn't taken / wouldn't be breaking

Komunica:

Appijana Anna
Gopana Karan
Aha Thimobut
Abraham