FSP
Vibrant Youngsters Competitions

QUESTION BOOKLET 2026

INTERNATIONAL FSP

ENGLISH LINGUISTICS CONTEST

VOLUME - 24

ACADEMIC CONTESTS AUSTRALIA
ACA

GRADE 9 & 10

VIBRANT YOUNGSTERS

TIME ALLOWED	90 MINUTES
MAXIMUM MARKS	90

INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE EXAMINATION INVIGILATORS

1. Invigilators must be carried out promptly.
2. Don't start attempting the paper until instructed by the invigilator.
3. Carefully recheck your name, father name, school name, address etc. at the bubble sheet / answer sheet.
4. Record all answers on the bubble sheet only. select best answer from the four given options and mark only one option in each question.
5. Use blue / black ink to fill up the circles for your answers on the bubble sheet use of lead pencil is not allowed.
6. Use of any helping material including cell phones and electronic devices is strictly prohibited.
7. Every correct answer earns three points. there would be negative marking. one point would be deducted for every incorrect answer.
8. Candidates may not leave the examination room unescorted for any reason, and this includes using the washroom.
9. No materials or electronic devices shall be brought in to the room.
10. There are five categories of the contest as under:

A	Vibrant youngsters Grade 1 & 2
B	Vibrant youngsters Grade 3 & 4
C	Vibrant youngsters Grade 5 & 6
D	Vibrant youngsters Grade 7 & 8
E	Vibrant youngsters Grade 9 & 10 / O-levels

11. Only registered students can participate in the contest.
12. No candidate shall take out of the hall any answer book(s) or part of an answer book, whether used or unused, or other supplied material.
13. If a participant does not understand a word or phrase on the exam paper, neither examiner nor invigilator is permitted to answer.
14. for information about upcoming contests or providing valuable feedback, please visit **www.fspcompetitions.org**
15. Any academic misconduct or malpractice must be reported to FSP vibrant youngsters at **info@fspcompetitions.org**

Read the following poem and answer questions 1 through 6.

The Cartesian Cartographer



I ink the coastlines of a shifting mind,
With latitude precise and longitude blind.

My compass is true to a northern regret,
Recording the tides of what I ought to forget.

The ink is brewed from an evening's despair,
Spilled onto parchment out of thin air.

I map out mountains that crumble to plains
Whenever a traveler counts up his gains.

A static horizon is a dangerous lie;
The topography warps with the blink of an eye.

For geography here is a slave to the mood,
A wilderness carved out of deep solitude.

So measure the borders with absolute doubt,
The scale is inverted from inside to out.

The distance between what is real and what's past
Is exactly the shadow the mountain has cast.

Q1. Which of the following best describes the structural paradox inherent in the mapmaker's craft in this poem?

A. He uses high-quality ink that disappears when exposed to real sunlight.

B. He attempts to apply fixed, mathematical measurements to a psychological landscape that alters based on human emotion.

C. He is mapping a real, historical continent but keeps getting lost due to a broken physical compass.

D. He creates maps exclusively for travelers who are searching for physical gold and monetary gains.

Q2. What is the precise implication of the line: "I map out mountains that crumble to plains / Whenever a traveler counts up his gains"?

A. Earthquakes frequently destroy the geographical structures of the country.

B. Greed and material focus eliminate the profound, difficult-to-climb emotional obstacles of introspection.

C. The mapmaker deliberately draws incorrect maps to confuse greedy explorers.

D. Travelers who get rich can afford to build roads that flatten out mountain paths.

Q3. If the scale of the map is "inverted from inside to out" (Stanza 4), what must a traveler do to accurately calculate distance?

A. Look at the map through a mirror while walking backward.

B. Realize that minor internal thoughts project as massive external realities within this space.

C. Multiply the numbers on the map by the physical height of the mountains.

D. Ignore the map entirely and navigate solely by using the position of the stars.

Q4. The phrase "longitude blind" in the first stanza functions as a stylistic tool to emphasize:

A. The cartographer's total lack of professional training in geography.

B. The impossibility of measuring horizontal progress across time when tracking memories.

C. The deep darkness of the night when the cartographer does his drawing.

D. A printing error on the physical test booklets.

Q5. The "shadow the mountain has cast" serves as a final metric for:

A. The physical time of day at which the traveler arrives at the peak.

B. The lingering, unmeasurable impact of past trauma or memories on present reality.

C. The exact height of the psychological mountains drawn in Stanza 2.

D. The coolness of the climate in the wilderness of solitude.

Q6. What underlying philosophical dilemma does the poem present regarding human perception?

A. Math is an entirely useless subject that should not be used to study geographical nature.

B. Objective measurement is entirely incompatible with, and constantly warped by, subjective human experience.

C. Traveling alone without a proper map will inevitably result in physical peril.

D. Nature intentionally shifts its borders to protect itself from human industrialization.

Read the following story and answer questions 7 through 14.

The Algorithm of Silence

In the city of Veridia, the state had successfully quantified art. The Department of Resonance used a highly complex metric called the Semantic Efficiency Index (SEI) to grade all literature. A perfect score of 100 meant a text contained zero ambiguity, zero subtext, and zero risk of misinterpretation. Words were treated like clean pipes carrying a singular, unpolluted fluid.

Master Scribe Kaelen had spent two decades writing legal definitions for the Department, ensuring absolute language efficiency. Yet, in his private hours, he kept an illegal ledger. In it, he didn't write sentences; he wrote contradictions. He paired words that fought each other: blinding darkness, chaotic symmetry, joyful mourning. He called these linguistic nodes "fuses"—phrases designed to short-circuit the SEI algorithm.

One day, his supervisor, Director Vane, called him in. The screen displayed Kaelen's latest legal draft, but the SEI score was fluctuating wildly between 12 and 98.

"There is a phantom in your syntax, Kaelen," Vane said, tapping the glass. "Look here. You wrote: 'The law ensures the safety of the citizens, an anchor in a sea of changing winds.' The algorithm cannot calculate 'anchor in a sea of winds.' An anchor belongs in water. Winds require sails. The machine is attempting to calculate the physical weight of iron against moving air. It is generating infinite loops."

"It's a metaphor," Kaelen whispered. "It requires the reader to bridge the gap creatively."

"A bridge over nothing is a collapse," Vane countered coldly. "Metaphor introduces choice. Choice introduces interpretation. Interpretation introduces dissent. We do not pay you to build

bridges over nothing. Rewrite it so that iron stays in the sea and the wind stays out of our laws."

Kaelen went back to his desk. He looked at his legal draft. Then, instead of fixing it, he copy-pasted his entire illegal ledger of contradictions directly into the main database of the State's Lexicon. He did not build a bridge; he detonated the pipes.

Q7. What is the ultimate systemic goal of the Semantic Efficiency Index (SEI) in Veridia?

A. To make sure children learn how to read books at a much faster pace.

B. To eliminate independent critical thinking and interpretation by enforcing absolute verbal singularity.

C. To increase the financial profit of the publishing industries.

D. To replace human writers with advanced automated legal machines.

Q8. Why does the phrase "anchor in a sea of changing winds" cause the SEI algorithm to crash into infinite loops?

A. The machine lacks the vocabulary data to recognize the words "anchor" or "sea."

B. The machine attempts to process the imagery literally and mathematically, failing because the literal logic is contradictory.

C. The sentence contains a bad grammatical typo that breaks the system's code.

D. The algorithm is programmed to automatically delete any laws written by Kaelen.

Q9. Director Vane's assertion that "a bridge over nothing is a collapse" reveals that the state views creative thinking as:

A. A highly useful tool that just needs better regulation.

B. An inherently unstable, dangerous vacuum that leads to social disorder and deviation.

C. A funny but harmless hobby for older citizens.

D. An economical waste of ink and physical paper resources.

Q10. What does Kaelen's illegal ledger of contradictions symbolize?

A. His failure to master basic English grammar and syntax rules.

B. The untamed, rebellious, and multi-layered nature of human language that cannot be computerized.

C. A collection of secret codes meant to assist a military invasion.

D. A dictionary of ancient words that are no longer used in Veridia.

Q11. When Kaelen uploads his entire ledger into the main database at the end, his action is best described as:

A. An accidental error caused by workplace exhaustion.

B. A calculated act of systemic sabotage using the weapon of absolute ambiguity.

C. A desperate plea to get his supervisor's professional approval.

D. An attempt to update the software of the Department of Resonance.

Q12. The underlying irony of Kaelen's job is that:

A. He was highly paid but hated spending money.

B. He spent his days making language a cage, while spending his nights keeping it wild.

C. He was secretly blind despite working as a visual proofreader for the state.

D. He did not know how to read until he turned forty years old.

Q13. Which of the following literary devices is Kaelen using when he pairs words like "blinding darkness" and "chaotic symmetry"?

A. Onomatopoeia

B. Oxymoron

C. Hyperbole

D. Personification

Q14. If a reader approaches this story with a purely "Veridian mindset" (matching Director Vane's perspective), Kaelen's final action would be judged as:

A. A brilliant artistic achievement.

B. An act of unforgivable, chaotic terrorism against public order.

C. A minor technical glitch that can be easily bypassed.

D. A productive upgrade to the city's trade infrastructure.

Analyze the dialogues and text structures to find the hidden logic traps.

Q15. Read the following exchange:

Reviewer A: "The director's new avant-garde film is an absolute masterpiece of minimalist storytelling." **Reviewer B:** "Minimalist is a polite word for it. It certainly spared the studio the expense of writing a script, building sets, or hiring actors who can project their voices."

What is Reviewer B's primary rhetorical method to undermine Reviewer A?

A. Directly disputing the statistical accuracy of the film's financial box office earnings.

B. Using cutting sarcasm to reframe the film's "minimalism" as cheapness and poor production value.

C. Accusing Reviewer A of being secretly paid off by the movie studio.

D. Complimenting the director's ability to save money during a global recession.

Q16. Study this argument structure:

"If we allow citizens to install solar panels on their private roofs without state approval, they will generate their own power. If they generate their own power, they will stop paying utility taxes. Without utility taxes, public road maintenance will completely halt, causing all highways to disintegrate within a month, which will strand emergency vehicles and cause total societal collapse."

Which of the following points represents the most accurate critique of this argument's logical validity?

A. It correctly maps out the immediate financial realities of alternative green energy markets.

B. It relies entirely on a Slippery Slope fallacy, assuming an extreme, unproven chain of catastrophic events from a minor initial allowance.

C. It commits an Ad Hominem fallacy by attacking the personal moral character of people who buy solar panels.

D. It uses circular logic by stating the same fact twice without providing any secondary terms.

Q17. Read the interaction below:

Manager: "Your department's restructuring proposal is exceptionally bold. It completely ignores our entire historical business model to focus on unproven digital markets." **Employee:** "Thank you! I believe in looking to the future rather than staying trapped in the past."

Based on the subtext of the word "exceptionally bold" in an institutional corporate environment, the employee's reaction is most likely:

A. A smart, strategic alignment with the manager's hidden entrepreneurial goals.

B. A naive misinterpretation of what was actually a highly critical, cautionary warning about risk.

C. A factual confirmation that the company's past business model was illegal.

D. An intentional insult meant to make the manager look outdated in front of staff.

Q18. Consider the following dialogue during a city council meeting:

Councilman Troy: "We need to allocate twenty percent of our city budget to upgrade the structural integrity of our water treatment facility." **Councilwoman Diaz:** "I find it fascinating that Councilman Troy cares so little about our local police force that he actively wants to strip our brave officers of their equipment just to play with plumbing fixtures."

Which rhetorical strategy or logical fallacy is Councilwoman Diaz utilizing to defeat Troy's proposal?

A. Red Herring / Straw Man Fallacy (misrepresenting the opponent's argument to make it easier to attack).

B. Ethos (building up her own personal credibility as a certified engineer).

C. Logos (using structural data about water purity metrics to disprove the need for funding).

D. Post Hoc Fallacy (assuming that because one event followed another, the first caused the second).

Answer questions 19 through 30 based on advanced linguistic engineering, tone, and analytical reasoning.

Q19. **Read the following scientific abstract excerpt:**

The phenomenon of lateral gene transfer (LGT) complicates the construction of a singular, monophyletic phylogenetic tree of life. By allowing unrelated prokaryotic organisms to exchange critical genetic sequences across distinct evolutionary domains, LGT creates a reticulated web of relationships rather than a linear descent framework. Consequently, evolutionary biologists must transition from rigid vertical lineages to multidimensional network models to accurately chart primordial genomics.

Which of the following statements requires the highest level of inference to deduce from the text?

A. Unrelated prokaryotic organisms are capable of swapping genetic sequences.

B. Reticulated webs are more difficult to draw on flat paper than linear trees.

C. The traditional, linear "tree of life" model is structurally insufficient for mapping the early evolutionary history of organisms that engage in LGT.

D. Evolutionary biologists are entirely abandoning the study of genomics due to computational errors.

Q20. Review the following snippet from a legal brief:

Given that the appellant, while cognizant of the ongoing statutory transformations, deliberately omitted the filing of Schedule-B protocols under the assumption that prior administrative variances remained operational, this court finds no basis for equitable estoppel. The defense of institutional inertia is structurally invalid under Section 9-A.

What is the core judicial ruling being delivered in this dense text?

A. The appellant is completely innocent because the statutory laws were transforming too fast.

B. The court rejects the appellant's excuse that they didn't file the paperwork simply because "things used to be done differently."

C. The case is being moved to a different district court because of administrative errors.

D. The court is forcing Section 9-A to be rewritten by the state legislature.

Q21. Which of the following sentences utilizes an inverted syntactic structure to create a dramatic, formal tone?

A. The ancient champion fell silently into the dust of the arena as the crowd gasped.

B. Into the dark valley rode the remaining knights, completely unaware of the trap ahead.

C. We watched the rocket launch skyward until it was nothing but a tiny speck of bright light.

D. If you want to achieve academic excellence, you must study consistently every day.

Q22. Examine these three pieces of data:

In hyper-arid zones, certain species of acacia trees release volatile organic compounds when browsed by herbivores, triggering nearby acacias to immediately elevate tannin levels in their leaves as a chemical deterrent.

Phytoplankton under localized thermal stress release dimethylsulfide, a gas that accelerates cloud condensation nuclei formation directly above the ocean surface, reducing localized solar radiation.

Fungal networks connecting tomato plants transport defense signals from an infected plant to healthy neighbors before the pest arrives.

Which of the following options represents the most comprehensive, high-level conceptual topic sentence to introduce these details?

A. Insects and weather patterns are the primary threats to modern global agricultural yields.

B. Organisms within diverse biomes possess intricate, proactive biochemical feedback mechanisms that dynamically alter local ecology or defenses in response to stress.

C. Plants are significantly smarter than marine organisms like phytoplankton when managing planetary climate resources.

D. Nature always uses fungal networks to solve computational problems faster than human technology.

Q23. Select the text segment that achieves a highly detached, clinical, and clinical-objective tone.

A. The results were incredibly spectacular; the compound glowed with an awesome, bright neon light that shocked everyone in the lab room.

B. We tried our absolute best to keep the temperature steady, but the old machine kept acting up and ruined our weekend runs.

C. Spectroscopic evaluation of the precipitate indicated a baseline shift at 450 nm, consistent with the expected molecular deformation under pressure constraints.

D. The old, crumbling ruins of the castle stood like a lonely sentinel watching over the dark, fog-covered moors of Scotland.

Q24. Read this narrative passage:

The rain didn't fall; it assaulted. Marcus watched the drops smash against his dirty windshield, each impact matching the rhythmic click of his broken dashboard clock. He knew that if he turned back toward the border now, he would be safe. But safety had become a tasteless currency, and he had already spent his whole life buying it.

What is the primary narrative function of the metaphor "safety had become a tasteless currency"?

A. To explain Marcus's literal financial bankruptcy following a bad real estate investment at the border.

B. To illustrate an internal, psychological shift where Marcus realizes that living a cautious life is no longer fulfilling or valuable to him.

C. To describe the physical currency notes used by the corrupt border guards.

D. To show that Marcus is a professional coin collector who is traveling to an exhibition.

Q25. Read the short message below:

"To all engineering staff: The implementation of Version 4.2 architecture is strictly contingent upon the complete eradication of the systemic baseline latency observed in the secondary relays. Do not initiate deployment schedules under any circumstances prior to formal sign-off from QA."

The primary communicative purpose of this corporate memo is to:

A. Congratulate the engineering team on the successful design of Version 4.2.

B. Issue an absolute prohibition against launching the new software until a specific technical glitch is fixed and certified.

C. Inform the QA department that their budget is being cut next month.

D. Schedule a mandatory training meeting for all secondary relay operators.

Q26. Consider the claim:

Implementing a universal basic income (UBI) would structurally revitalize rural economies far more effectively than traditional localized infrastructure grants.

Which of the following options serves as the most logically robust, empirical evidence to support this specific claim?

A. A statement from a rural mayor saying, "Our people are very hardworking and would love to have more money to spend on local businesses."

B. A comparative study showing that rural regions receiving direct cash transfers experienced a 24% increase in local business creation and wealth retention compared to baseline regions receiving project-specific infrastructure funding.

C. A philosophical essay arguing that money is a fundamental human right that should be distributed equally across all modern nations.

D. An opinion poll indicating that 80% of urban citizens think rural infrastructure grants are a waste of taxpayer money.

Q27. Order these academic disciplines from most conceptually comprehensive (broadest) to most specific (narrowest).

A. Syntactic analysis of non-standard English dialects in urban centers

B. Theoretical Linguistics and Cognitive Science paradigms

C. Structural grammar methodologies within Germanic language families

A) A, B, C **B)** C, B, A **C)** B, C, A **D)** B, A, C

Q28. Choose the correct conjunctive adverb pair to complete the complex logical sequence:

The deep-sea submersible lost primary communication arrays within minutes of entering the trench; _____, the backup acoustic modems failed to sync with the surface vessel, _____ forcing the mission command to initiate an emergency ballast blow.

A. on the other hand / nevertheless

B. furthermore / thereby

C. instead / conversely

D. specifically / granted

Q29. Which of the following paragraphs is completely devoid of cognitive bias, emotional framing, or subjective evaluations?

A. Solar power is a brilliant solution to our current energy crisis. It harnesses the pristine, endless power of the sun to cleanly fuel our grid without the dirty environmental costs of old coal plants.

B. The experiment failed because the team used an uncalibrated thermometer. It was a careless mistake that could have been easily avoided with a tiny bit of professional attention before the run.

C. Photosynthesis is a process used by plants to convert light energy into chemical energy. In green plants, light is captured by chlorophyll molecules inside cellular organelles called chloroplasts.

D. Classical music is highly superior for studying compared to modern pop music. The complex instrumental arrangements stimulate deep cognitive pathways that simple, repetitive tracks can never activate.

Q30. Read the text of this social advocacy advertisement:

"Look closely at the data on this screen. Every day our outdated electrical grid leaks 15% of its generated power into empty air due to resistance decay. That is energy paid for by your hard-earned wages—energy that could power 40,000 homes. Our engineers have built a superconductor solution. Look at the numbers, look at the science, and demand an upgrade."

What is the primary rhetorical appeal structure used in this specific advertisement?

A. Pure Pathos (relying entirely on emotional guilt and fear tactics regarding children).

B. Pure Logos (relying primarily on empirical data, technical metrics, and scientific solutions to persuade).

C. Ethos by Celebrity Endorsement (using a famous actor's social status to build trust).

D. None of these appeals are present in the text.

NOTES

NOTES

ANSWER SHEET

GRADE 9 & 10

Q.NO	ANSWER	Q.NO	ANSWER
1	A ● C D	16	A ● C D
2	A ● C D	17	A ● C D
3	A ● C D	18	● B C D
4	A ● C D	19	A B ● D
5	A ● C D	20	A ● C D
6	A ● C D	21	A ● C D
7	A ● C D	22	A ● C D
8	A ● C D	23	A B ● D
9	A ● C D	24	A ● C D
10	A ● C D	25	A ● C D
11	A ● C D	26	A ● C D
12	A ● C D	27	A B ● D
13	A ● C D	28	A ● C D
14	A ● C D	29	A B ● D
15	A ● C D	30	A ● C D



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