CANDIDATE – PLEASE NOTE!

PRINT your name on the line below and return this booklet with your answer sheet. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

TEST CODE **01218010**

MAY–JUNE 2026

FORM TP 2026–068

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

CARIBBEAN SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE® EXAMINATION

ENGLISH A

Paper 01 – General Proficiency

1 hour 30 minutes

26 MAY 2026 (a.m.)

READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

1. This test consists of 60 items. You will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to answer them.
2. In addition to this test booklet, you should have an answer sheet.
3. Each item in this test has four suggested answers lettered (A), (B), (C), (D). Read each item you are about to answer and decide which choice is best.
4. On your answer sheet, find the number which corresponds to your item and shade the space having the same letter as the answer you have chosen. Look at the sample item below.

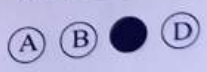
Sample Item

Choose the word that BEST completes each sentence.

Someone who is suffering from influenza needs to be isolated as the disease is

(A) lasting
(B) serious
(C) contagious
(D) destructive

Sample Answer



The best answer to this item is "contagious", so (C) has been shaded.

5. If you want to change your answer, erase it completely before you fill in your new choice.
6. When you are told to begin, turn the page and work as quickly and as carefully as you can. If you cannot answer an item, go on to the next one. You may return to that item later.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

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1–5

ructions: Each sentence in this section has ONE underlined word. Choose from the four gested answers the word which is nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word.

The distinguished actor avoided the press whenever he was on holidays.

(A) praised
(B) attacked
(C) contacted
(D) interviewed

2. It seems probable that the country will maintain the curfew for another week.

(A) unlikely
(B) impudent
(C) inevitable
(D) undecided

3. The affluence displayed in the community on the hill indicated the significant difference in economic status compared with dwellers in the city.

(A) misery
(B) wealth
(C) poverty
(D) richness

4. There was an increase in airplane travel after that incident.

(A) decline
(B) upheaval
(C) restriction
(D) fluctuation

5. They always displayed a lackadaisical approach to their studies, so no one was surprised at the results.

(A) calm
(B) casual
(C) diligent
(D) careless

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

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Items 6–10

Instructions: Select the option, A, B, C or D, that BEST describes EACH of the sentences and mark your choice on the answer sheet.

(A) The sentence is too wordy, that is, repetitive or contains redundancies.
(B) The sentence contains clichés or misused metaphors.
(C) The sentence is incorrect grammatically or faulty in diction.
(D) The sentence is acceptable as it stands.

6. Although it was creative, the programme failed because of a lack of advanced planning.

7. Her friend told her to look for the good in the situation as every cloud has a silver lining.

8. The reason why I didn't complete the assignment was because I had a stomach ache.

9. When the clerk raised his voice in protest, his boss asked him to hold his tongue since empty vessels made the most noise and are often thrown in the den to be eaten by the lions.

10. He did not looked as if he was prepared for school.

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Items 11–15

Instructions: Some of the following sentences are unacceptable because of inappropriate grammar, idiom, punctuation or spelling. Some sentences are acceptable as they stand. No sentence contains more than one inappropriate element.

Select the ONE underlined part that you think is inappropriate and choose the corresponding letter. If the sentence is acceptable as it stands, choose D. Mark your choice on the answer sheet.

11. If Antonio's attitude (A) changes their (B) will be a vast improvement (C) in his performance. No Error (D)

12. Neither the books nor the pen are (A) affordable (B) on my meagre budget (C). No error. (D)

13. The earthquake in Haiti destroyed (A) many buildings, devastated (B) the population and was a catalyst for other disasters (C). No error. (D)

14. As John listened (A) to the lesson being taught (B), he began to loose (C) interest. No Error (D)

15. Since too much (A) passengers were (B) in the taxi, the policeman issued a ticket to the driver (C). No Error (D)

Items **16–20**

Instructions: Revise each of the following sentences according to the directions that follow it. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence. Look at the options, A to D, for the word or phrase that BEST suits the revised sentence and mark your choice on the answer sheet.

16. Although the employee was cautioned about her attitude on several occasions, she continued to be impolite.

Begin the sentence with

In spite of

(A) her cautioning
(B) she being cautioned
(C) her being cautioned
(D) that she was cautioned

17. After three hours of walking through the museum, the entire family felt in need of a rest.

Begin the sentence with

The entire family felt in need of a rest

(A) walking through the museum for three hours
(B) having walked through the museum for three hours
(C) and they walked through the museum for three hours
(D) despite having walked through the museum for three hours

18. The cricket match ended abruptly when many of the spectators stormed the field.

Begin the sentence with

Many of the spectators stormed

(A) so
(B) but
(C) getting
(D) preventing

19. "It's going to be alright," Mum assured me.

Begin the sentence with

Mum assured me that

(A) there
(B) it was
(C) simply
(D) only just

20. People from crowded nations cannot get over the accessibility of Canada's natural environment, in all its magnificence.

Begin the sentence with

It is impossible for

(A) to be over
(B) to get over
(C) to getting over
(D) to have got over

Items 21–25

Instructions: Each of the sentences in this section has one underlined word. Choose from the four options the word which is NEAREST IN MEANING to the underlined word.

21. It was impossible to rectify the error made by the computer since inaccurate information had been fed into it.

(A) fix
(B) pin
(C) aggravate
(D) determine

22. The young man gave the most cogent reasons for the proposed changes in the educational programme.

(A) logical
(B) flippant
(C) excellent
(D) insightful

23. The committee selected Mrs Singh to judge the competition as she was known to be unprejudiced.

(A) quick
(B) impartial
(C) judgemental
(D) knowledgeable

24. The gregarious young man was involved in numerous groups on campus and also enjoyed spending time with his large group of friends.

(A) helpful
(B) grateful
(C) sociable
(D) respectable

25. The flowers grow profusely in the garden.

(A) wildly
(B) healthily
(C) colourfully
(D) abundantly

Items 26–33

Instructions: Read the following poem carefully and then answer Items 26–33 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

Taste of Endless Fruit

When a single kite is left
in evening sky
and I stand
black against its saffron
pulling in the night-covers
with a single thread
I think of you.
When chickens search the warmth
of a hen's wings;
When bats break a calm lake
like scissors on a warm fabric
where a lone fisherman waits
alone, on the hill,
I think of you.

Source unknown

26. There is a "single kite" (line 1) left in the sky MOST likely because

(A) the cover of night has descended
(B) the other kite flyers are asleep
(C) the lone fisherman waits
(D) it is late

27. On which aspect of the sky does the poet focus?

(A) Size
(B) Shape
(C) Colour
(D) Distance

28. Of whom is the poet MOST likely thinking?

(A) An artist at work
(B) A lonely old man
(C) An enemy in hiding
(D) Someone he/she loves

29. "When bats break a calm lake / like scissors on a warm fabric" (lines 10–11) is an example of

(A) simile
(B) assonance
(C) onomatopoeia
(D) personification

30. The poet speaks of each of the following EXCEPT

(A) a single kite that is flying
(B) a lone fisherman waiting
(C) the hen's wings that are warm
(D) bats descending on the chickens

31. Which of the following literary devices is used in line 4 ("black against its saffron")?

(A) Contrast
(B) Metaphor
(C) Hyperbole
(D) Alliteration

32. The poet's intention is to

(A) describe nature
(B) describe the sunset
(C) tell us of the lone fisherman
(D) tell someone he/she is missing him/her

33. Which word BEST describes the poet's tone?

(A) Bitter
(B) Serious
(C) Regretful
(D) Nostalgic

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Items 34–40

Instructions: Read the following extract carefully and then answer Items 34–40 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

The moment Aldrick stepped outside, Carnival hit him. And his heart grew big, and he felt a softness flow over him, and on the street, the steelband and masqueraders were assembling. The months of practising and sewing and painting and building were flowing together in the stillness of the morning under the eyes of women and children who had awakened from sleep and dressed hurriedly to come out and watch their band, to see their people, to admire them and cheer them and to accompany them, to tramp the pavement, while the masqueraders occupied the street, as a sort of guard, right into Port-of-Spain.

It hit him, the red and black and gold and green, the colours and the feathers and the satin, and the people's faces with that look in their eyes, and the smell of cologne and face powder, and the smell of grease and the look of wonder on the children's faces, and the little fellars with sailor caps on; and what reverence and what awe as they alone in the whole world had the real eyes to see the real thing, to see heroes, to see giants, to see gods.

And watching, fascinated by it all, as if he were seeing with the boys' eyes, Aldrick felt a tallness and a pride, felt his hair rise on his head. And full of brimming with furious tears, Aldrick felt again the fierce love and hope that he had doubted in himself, felt again a sense of mission: felt that yes, there was a place here for him, that there was something to say yes to, and people before whom and on whose behalf he could dance the dragon. With a strong, piercing scream, he stepped into the street, his chains rattling, his arms outflung, his head lolling, in a slow threatening dance of the Beast, so that the people of the Hill turned to him, recognizing him, said "Yes! Yes! That is Dragon!"

Adapted from Earl Lovelace, The Dragon Can't Dance, Longman Group, 1979, pp. 135–137.

34. "And his heart grew big" (line 1) means that Aldrick

(A) wanted to cry
(B) felt great pride
(C) felt quite angry
(D) wanted to join a band

35. Lines 2 and 3 ("The months of ... in the stillness") suggest that preparations for carnival entail a great deal of

(A) waste
(B) tension
(C) hard work
(D) excitement

36. The repetition of "and" in line 3 of the extract is intended to show

(A) the specific activities involved in costume making
(B) how important each of the activities is to the band
(C) the continuous nature of the activities involved in preparing
(D) the boring nature of the many activities before carnival itself

37. "What reverence and what awe" (line 11) reveals that the spectators were

(A) captivated
(B) astonished
(C) bewildered
(D) apprehensive

38. The reaction of the people to Aldrick's dance was one of

(A) laughter and fear
(B) arrogance and surprise
(C) recognition and approval
(D) uncertainty and suspicion

39. The last sentence of the extract (lines 17–20) gives the impression that Aldrick's dance is intended to be

(A) cheerful
(B) amusing
(C) surprising
(D) frightening

40. In describing carnival, the writer makes use of the senses. To which of the following senses does the writer NOT appeal?

(A) Taste
(B) Sight
(C) Smell
(D) Hearing

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Items **41–46**

Instructions: Read the following extract carefully and then answer Items 41–46 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

Some people have suggested that every individual is born with a predetermined weight (sometimes called your set-point). This implies that you have little control over your weight or body fat levels. In fact, you do have considerable control over your weight and level of fatness as evidenced by the fact that calories taken in (diet) and calories expended (activity) are the two most important factors associated with fat control. Nevertheless, research suggests that people are born with a predisposition towards fatness or leanness. For years, some scholars have suggested that your body type or somatotype is inherited. Clearly, some people will have more difficulty than others controlling fatness because of their body types and because they come from families with a history of obesity. In fact, very recent research by a well-respected team of scholars indicates that the body has a 'natural' fatness range, which is influenced by heredity. If you deviate more than 10 to 15 per cent from this range, your body may actually alter its metabolism in an attempt to maintain your 'natural' fatness level. But even these changes are temporary. If you continue the behaviour that caused the weight gain (eating more or exercising less), after a period of time your body accepts your new weight as your 'natural' level. Scientists caution people not to overgeneralize the importance of heredity as it relates to body fatness. Such overgeneralization could lead to incorrect conclusions about the regulation of body fat levels.

Recently the ob-gene (or gene responsible for obesity) was discovered. It is true that this is an important scientific discovery but it is unlikely that it will result in a 'cure' for obesity in the near future. In the meantime, more conventional methods of fat control must be used. Even if you come from a family with a history of obesity, you should not conclude that nothing can be done to prevent obesity. Virtually all people have a natural fatness below obese levels. Those with a predisposition to high fatness will have a harder time having a low body fatness level, but with healthy lifestyles, even these people can maintain body fat levels within normal ranges. Research shows that regular physical activity is especially effective in the control of genetically determined predispositions to fatness.

Glandular disorders can cause or contribute to overfatness. For example, thyroid problems can cause a low metabolic rate that results in fat gain. However, most experts suggest that only one to two per cent of all overfatness is directly caused by problems of this type. Medical treatment is necessary for people suffering from these problems.

The amount of energy you expend each day must be balanced by your energy intake if you are to maintain your body fat and body weight over time. Your energy intake is determined by the calories you eat. Expenditure is determined by a combination of several factors. You expend calories just to exist — even when you are inactive. Your basal metabolic rate (BMR) is the indicator of your energy expenditure when you are totally inactive. You also expend calories digesting food and, of course, in the activities of daily living.

Adapted from Charles B. Corbin and Ruth Lindsey et al., Concepts of Fitness and Wellness: A Comprehensive Lifestyle Approach, 2000, p. 282.

41. According to the extract, a person's set-point is

(A) his/her potential adult weight based on genetics
(B) the weight that is determined prior to his/her birth
(C) the predetermined weight before his/her first birthday
(D) a glandular disorder that affects his/her overall fat content

42. According to the extract, the ob-gene is responsible for

(A) caloric intake and expenditure
(B) genetic obstructions
(C) food cravings
(D) obesity

43. According to the extract, a person's BMR is the

(A) rate of weight gain when he/she is active
(B) energy expenditure when he/she is inactive
(C) calories counted when food is being digested
(D) combination of several factors that affect how the body expends energy

44. Which of the following contribute to overfatness?

I. Heredity factors
II. Glandular disorders
III. Basal metabolic rate

(A) I and II only
(B) I and III only
(C) II and III only
(D) I, II and III

45. Which of the following is the BEST way for an overweight person to obtain a healthy weight?

(A) Eat as little as possible.
(B) Indulge in regular physical activities.
(C) Reduce calorie input while increasing output.
(D) Increase medical interventions for the treatment of glandular disorders.

46. Which of the following makes the information in the extract MOST credible?

(A) Use of research and statistics
(B) Application of appropriate vocabulary
(C) Discovery of new contributors and gene types
(D) Analysis of glandular contributions and effects



Items 47–53

Instructions: Read the following extract carefully and then answer Items 47–53 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

This is an open request to try to find who is the 'brain' behind traffic management in Paolo. Does anybody know? I have tried Traffic Branch, not them; Highways, not them; Planning & Development, not them; in fact nobody wants to take responsibility for certain decisions and the mess that results.

For example, Mission Road was made one-way, north to south. Great idea! It worked, no traffic jams. In fact, many people were charged for going the wrong way up a one-way street. Then suddenly it's back to two-way and traffic for so! Same is true of Stoke Street. Somebody changed the 'Stop' signs at the corner for a few weeks, then they changed it back; nobody knows why.

But the best is Celestial Road in St John which is 'Wrecker Heaven'. Somebody made this road, which, apart from Broadway, is the widest street in Paolo, a 'no parking' street, either side, any time, and the 'Wrecker' is profiting from this.

There are four major office buildings on this road, all of which provide underground parking for staff, so some (usually the lower paid) have to park elsewhere and these are the persons whose cars the wrecker is taking away all day, everyday. Again the small man suffers!

Oh! there is an exception: if you have a Canadian High Commission sticker you can park and the wrecker will not touch your 'Diplomatic' car. Maybe we could all become Diplomats!

Then again, the two narrowest streets in Paolo allow parking; try Delino Street off Abby Lane, you can hardly pass!

Who is the 'brain' behind this mess? It seems the more cars we put on the road, the less parking somebody wants to allow. Who is this brain? No doubt a small man with a BIG, BIG car who has no name!

Source unknown

47. The writer's use of the word "brain" (line 1) is meant to

(A) compliment an individual
(B) create a comparison of streets
(C) make fun of the poor decisions
(D) exaggerate the traffic problems

48. When the writer repeats "not them" in paragraph 1, he implies that

(A) he is choosing someone to complain to
(B) no one wants to accept responsibility for the traffic situation
(C) no one knows who is in charge of the traffic management
(D) he is searching diligently for the person in charge of traffic

49. "Stoke Street" (line 7), "Celestial Road" (line 9) and "Delino Street" (line 17) can BEST be considered as

(A) prohibited streets for all drivers
(B) streets that attract a lot of attention
(C) examples to support the writer's case
(D) assigned parking places for diplomats

50. The writer's tone can be described as

(A) puzzled
(B) resigned
(C) sarcastic
(D) complimentary

51. The last sentence of the letter is similar to paragraph 5 (lines 15–16) because both of them

(A) mention cars
(B) express disgust
(C) are complimentary
(D) contain rhetorical questions

52. The author of the extract is MOST likely a

(A) motorist
(B) pedestrian
(C) traffic warden
(D) government official

53. The letter was MOST likely published in a

(A) school magazine
(B) tourist brochure
(C) press release
(D) newspaper

Items **54–60**

Instructions: Read the following advertisement carefully and then answer Items 54–60 on the basis of what is stated or implied.



Source: https://cdn-az.allevents.in/events5/banners/206d5e9e99cdf81c99c78b5a5adcff99525d23a7d0392892 6ce13b7b912a79c6-rimg-w1024-h1493-gmir.jpg?v=1686835441

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54. When he uses the phrase "save the date", the intention of the author is to

(A) indicate the date of the event
(B) highlight that it is during the week when people should be working or at school
(C) remind the reader to save dates on their calendar that are significant to them
(D) suggest that the date be put in the reader's calendar so the event is not missed.

55. According to the advertisement, who would be considered the organizer(s) of the event?

(A) The police department of Florida
(B) The Jamaica Consulate in Miami
(C) The local neighbourhood watch groups
(D) Concerned citizens and parents in Florida

56. The phrase "in partnership with" signifies that

(A) the event is cosponsored
(B) both groups will be attending the event
(C) the persons involved in both groups are friends
(D) the responsibility for organizing the event is shared

57. The statements "Get involved. Protect the children" reveal that the writer's intention is to

(A) advertise the event
(B) force people to become aware of the issues
(C) call persons to action and to encourage them to become involved
(D) encourage people to attend the event to make it successful for organizers

58. How does the picture on the poster help the reader to understand the cause of the event?

(A) It shows women being silenced.
(B) It highlights that white teenagers are at risk.
(C) It showcases the helplessness of the victim.
(D) It adds an artistic element of interest to the poster.

59. Which of the following pieces of information is NOT provided on the flyer?

(A) The venue to be used for the event
(B) The nature of the committee's work
(C) Instructions for registering to attend the symposium
(D) How to get help from the Anti-trafficking Committee

60. The use of the flags in the poster emphasizes that the symposium is designed for

(A) persons living in Maimi
(B) all Caribbean nationals
(C) European visitors to the region
(D) anyone from the international community

END OF TEST

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS TEST.