Arts and Culture – Test 1

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 30

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Choose the best option (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Part 1: Word meaning and choice

Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence or answers the question.

1. The new exhibition at the city gallery features over two hundred _____ by young local painters.
   A artists **B** artworks **C** audiences **D** galleries

2. The orchestra's _____ raised his baton, and the music began.
   A composer **B** performer **C** conductor **D** director

3. The play received excellent _____ from critics, who praised the acting.
   A reviews **B** criticisms **C** receptions **D** revisions

4. Frida's _____ of her grandmother hangs in the living room; it shows her smiling face in great detail.
   A landscape **B** still life **C** sculpture **D** portrait

5. The museum has a permanent _____ of ancient pottery as well as several temporary exhibitions.
   A gathering **B** collection **C** assembly **D** selection

6. At the end of the performance, the audience gave the dancers a standing _____.
   A applause **B** clap **C** ovation **D** cheer

7. The film is _____ on a true story about a family who sailed around the world.
   A founded **B** built **C** set **D** based

8. "Sadly, the band's second album was a flop." What does 'a flop' mean?
   A a huge success **B** a complete failure
   C a surprising change of style **D** a collection of old songs

9. The novelist is famous for her vivid _____ of everyday life in small towns.
   A premiere **B** preview **C** portrayal **D** performance

10. The actors spent six weeks in _____ before the show opened to the public.
    A rehearsal **B** repetition **C** reflection **D** revision

Part 2: Collocations and word families

Choose the correct option to complete each sentence or answer each question.

11. The famous pianist _____ a concert to raise money for the local hospital.
    A made **B** did **C** gave **D** took

12. Many tourists visit the old town because of its rich cultural _____.
    A inheritance **B** heirloom **C** ancestry **D** heritage

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13. The sculptor's work is admired for its great _____. (ORIGINAL)
    A originalness **B** originality **C** origination **D** originally

14. The concert hall has excellent _____, so every note can be heard clearly.
    A acoustic **B** audition **C** acoustics **D** auditorium

15. Which sentence is correct?
    A She is a very artful child who loves drawing and painting.
    B She is a very artistical child who loves drawing and painting.
    C She is a very artist child who loves drawing and painting.
    D She is a very artistic child who loves drawing and painting.

16. The author's first novel has been _____ into twenty languages.
    A interpreted **B** translated **C** transferred **D** converted

17. "What did you think of the exhibition?" "To be honest, I found it rather _____ – most of the paintings looked exactly the same."
    A repetitive **B** repeated **C** repeating **D** repetition

18. The director decided to _____ an unknown young actor in the lead role.
    A play **B** cast **C** act **D** perform

19. The _____ of the ancient temple took more than ten years. (RESTORE)
    A restorer **B** restorative **C** restoration **D** restorement

20. Which word is used incorrectly in this sentence? "The gallery is holding a retrospect of the photographer's work from the last forty years."
    A photographer's **B** holding **C** last **D** retrospect

Part 3: Vocabulary in context

Read the text, then choose the best meaning for each word or phrase as it is used in the text.

When the Riverside Theatre reopened last year after a two-year renovation, few people expected it to become the heart of the town's cultural life. For decades, the building had been seen as old-fashioned, a place where elderly audiences watched the same classic plays every season. Ticket sales had been declining steadily, and there was even talk of selling the site to developers.

Everything changed when Amara Osei was appointed artistic director. Instead of relying on familiar productions, she commissioned new work from local writers and invited community groups to stage their own shows. Her first season included a musical written by teenagers, an experimental dance piece and a bilingual comedy that sold out within days.

Critics were initially sceptical. One reviewer described the programme as 'ambitious but uneven', and some long-standing subscribers complained that the theatre had abandoned its traditions. However, Osei insists that tradition and innovation can coexist. 'We still perform the classics,' she explains, 'but we want people to see that theatre is a living art form, not a museum piece.'

The results speak for themselves. Attendance has almost doubled, and the average age of the audience has fallen dramatically. The theatre's café and rehearsal rooms are now used for workshops, poetry evenings and art exhibitions, so the building is busy from morning until late at night.

Not everyone is convinced that this success will last. Funding remains tight, and Osei admits that some productions have struggled to break even. Still, for now, the Riverside has proved that a cultural institution can reinvent itself without losing its soul.

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21. In paragraph 1, ticket sales had been "declining steadily". This means they had been _____.
    A rising quickly
    B decreasing gradually over time
    C changing unpredictably
    D staying exactly the same

22. In paragraph 2, Amara Osei "was appointed" artistic director. This means she was _____.
    A dismissed from the job
    B interviewed for the job
    C officially given the job
    D recommended for the job

23. Osei "commissioned new work from local writers". This means she _____.
    A formally asked and paid them to create new pieces
    B bought their old scripts cheaply
    C criticised their new writing
    D rewrote their plays herself

24. The bilingual comedy "sold out within days". This means that _____.
    A it was cancelled after a few days
    B it was performed outdoors
    C the tickets were given away free
    D all the tickets were bought very quickly

25. "Critics were initially sceptical." The word 'sceptical' is closest in meaning to _____.
    A enthusiastic **B** doubtful **C** angry **D** confused

26. One reviewer called the programme "ambitious but uneven". Here, 'uneven' means _____.
    A of varying quality
    B unfair to audiences
    C far too long
    D badly lit

27. Osei says tradition and innovation "can coexist". This means they can _____.
    A compete with each other
    B replace each other
    C exist together at the same time
    D both disappear

28. Osei says theatre is "not a museum piece". She means theatre should not be _____.
    A too expensive for ordinary people
    B mainly educational
    C popular with young people
    D old and unchanging, only there to be admired

29. "The results speak for themselves." This means the results _____.
    A are still unclear
    B clearly show success without needing any explanation
    C are often discussed in interviews
    D are talked about by many people

30. Some productions "have struggled to break even". To 'break even' means to _____.
    A make a large profit
    B attract good reviews
    C earn as much money as they cost
    D finish on time

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Answer key – Arts and Culture – Test 1

1 B	2 C	3 A	4 D	5 B	6 C	7 D	8 B	9 C	10 A
11 C	12 D	13 B	14 C	15 D	16 B	17 A	18 B	19 C	20 D
21 B	22 C	23 A	24 D	25 B	26 A	27 C	28 D	29 B	30 C

Explanations

1. **B** – Painters produce artworks; the gallery displays the works, not the people.
2. **C** – A conductor leads an orchestra using a baton.
3. **A** – Critics write reviews; 'criticisms' are negative comments, so 'excellent criticisms' makes no sense.
4. **D** – A portrait is a painting or picture of a person, especially the face.
5. **B** – Museums have a 'permanent collection' of objects.
6. **C** – 'A standing ovation' is a fixed expression meaning the audience stands up to applaud.
7. **D** – A film or book is 'based on' a true story.
8. **B** – A flop is something, such as a film or album, that fails completely.
9. **C** – A portrayal is the way something is described or shown in a work of art.
10. **A** – Actors practise a play 'in rehearsal' before it opens.
11. **C** – The correct collocation is 'give a concert'.
12. **D** – 'Cultural heritage' means the traditions, buildings and art passed down in a society.
13. **B** – The noun form meaning 'the quality of being new and creative' is 'originality'.
14. **C** – 'Acoustics' (plural noun) describes how well sound travels in a room.
15. **D** – 'Artistic' means talented at art; 'artful' means clever in a dishonest way, and 'artistical' does not exist.
16. **B** – Written texts are 'translated into' other languages; 'interpret' is used for spoken language.
17. **A** – 'Repetitive' is the adjective meaning boring because the same thing happens again and again.
18. **B** – Directors 'cast' an actor in a role, meaning they choose them to play it.
19. **C** – 'Restoration' is the noun for the process of repairing an old building or artwork.
20. **D** – An exhibition of an artist's work over many years is a 'retrospective', not a 'retrospect'.
21. **B** – 'Decline' means decrease, and 'steadily' means gradually and continuously.
22. **C** – To be appointed is to be officially chosen for a position.
23. **A** – To commission a work is to officially ask and pay someone to create it.
24. **D** – A show that sells out has no tickets left because they have all been bought.
25. **B** – Sceptical means having doubts about whether something is good or true.
26. **A** – When describing artistic work, 'uneven' means some parts are good and others are weaker.
27. **C** – To coexist is to exist together in the same place or at the same time.
28. **D** – A 'museum piece' figuratively describes something old-fashioned and no longer in active use.
29. **B** – If results speak for themselves, they are so clear that no explanation is needed.
30. **C** – To break even is to make neither a profit nor a loss.

Notes for teachers: Use this test after a unit on arts and culture or as a revision quiz before B2 exams. It targets common learner errors such as confusing similar words (portrait/portrayal, heritage/inheritance, artistic/artful), wrong collocations (make a concert, based on vs set on) and incorrect word forms. Part 3 practises working out meaning from context. As a follow-up, students could write a short review of a performance or exhibition using at least ten words from the test.

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