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Directions:

In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

1) The principal of this school is a hard nut to crack.

- a) difficult
- b) careless
- c) kind
- d) generous

2) We consider the 14th of February a red letter day.

- a) a day marked in red
- b) a day to write letters
- c) an important day
- d) a day to write with red pens

3) I am sure the girls will fight tooth and nail for their rights.

- a) without any weapon
- b) in a cowardly manner
- c) with all their rights
- d) with all their might

4) At the police station, he showed a clean pair of heels.

- a) displayed clean heels
- b) kneeled down
- c) showed courage
- d) ran away

5) You find a black sheep in every community.

- a) person with bad reputation
- b) one who lives the life of shame
- c) one who is always doing wrong
- d) one who does not co-operate

6) We must draw the line somewhere.

- a) fix a limit
- b) aim at the sky
- c) turn the tables
- d) put the screw on

7) The trial made a mockery of justice.

- a) it was a mock trial
- b) there was no serious outcome
- c) made the system look ridiculous
- d) people mocked at the judgement

8) He wanted this agreement in black and white.

- a) orally
- b) in discourse
- c) in detail
- d) in writing

9) The President gave away the prizes to the winners.

- a) released
- b) gave back
- c) distributed
- d) let go

10) When he left he was extremely disappointed. I think he's gone for good.

- a) to a good place
- b) to a foreign country
- c) permanently
- d) to seek good fortune

11) His recent statement is an about turn.

- a) a declaration of war
- b) complete change of opinion
- c) a bold statement
- d) a good announcement

12) The shopping mall is a bee hive of activity.

- a) a secure place
- b) a sweet place
- c) a costly place
- d) a busy place

13) You need to improve your work because it is not up to the mark.

- a) according to the required standard
- b) as good as the others
- c) marked properly and accurately
- d) up to the potential displayed

14) The officer was in the soup when there was a raid in his office.

- a) drinking soup
- b) distributing soup
- c) to be in trouble
- d) preparing soup

15) to cut the Gordian knot

- a) to cut a piece of cloth
- b) to perform an easy task
- c) to do a job perfunctorily
- d) to perform a difficult task

16) His observations were beside the mark.





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a) criticized
c) excellent

b) valid
d) irrelevant

17) to win laurels

a) to memorise
b) to be disappointed
c) to earn great prestige
d) to be victorious in a game

18) The manager gave his assistant a piece of his mind.

a) advice
c) scolding
b) gist
d) suggestion

19) Your report of the matter is all moonshine.

a) acceptable
c) excellent
b) concocted
d) familiar

20) to grease the palm

a) to lubricate the machine parts
b) to bribe
c) to cut the tree
d) to rub oil on the hand

21) He was given Hobson's choice by the employer.

a) choice to live or die
c) first choice
b) no real choice at all
d) excellent choice

22) He has a bone to pick with his cousin.

a) Cause of doubt
b) cause of quarrel
c) difference of opinion
d) reasonable agreement

23) The ruling party has been Warned not to play to the gallery.

a) to seek to win approval
b) to try to be clever
c) to side-track the issue
d) to give importance to the common man

24) The story does not hold water.

a) cannot be believed

b) does not fulfill the requirements
c) cannot be valued
d) does not deserve appreciation

25) Indians was going places in the field of software technology.

a) talented and successful
b) going to spaces
c) friendly and amicable
d) going abroad

26) His arguments cut no ice with me.

a) did not benefit me
b) did not hurt me
c) did not make me proud
d) had no influence on me

27) to have something up one's sleeve

a) to have a secret plan
b) to play a magician trick
c) to play hide and seek
d) to hide something in the sleeve

28) His failure at the election has been a sore point with him for a long time.

a) something memorable for
b) something that brings fear to
c) something pleasurable to
d) something which hurts

29) The teacher advised the students to take into account the advice given by the elders.

a) to consider
c) to reject
b) to neglect
d) to obey

30) The poet drew on his fancy not his knowledge of Nature, when he Wrote his poem on birds.

a) used his imagination
b) used his knowledge
c) used his skill
d) used his understanding





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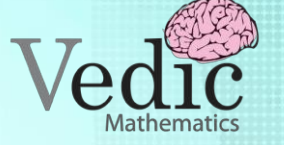
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31) to smell a rat

- a) to chase a rat
- b) to see a rat
- c) to be suspicious
- d) to smell foul

32) to keep under wraps means to keep something

- a) unpacked
- b) protected
- c) secret
- d) covered

33) As usual he is blowing his own trumpet.

- a) praising himself
- b) playing a tune on the trumpet
- c) praising himself and others
- d) refusing to use anybody else's trumpet

34) To look down one's nose

- a) to Insult in the presence of others
- b) to retaliate
- c) to regard with contempt
- d) to show anger

35) to feather one's nest

- a) to profit in a dishonest way
- b) something that lasts for a short time
- c) None of the above
- d) to make a residential house

36) There is no love lost between any two neighboring countries in the world.

- a) forming a group
- b) not on good terms
- c) have good understanding
- d) stop loving

37) Because of his misbehavior, he is hound to face the music.

- a) feel sorry
- b) get reprimanded
- c) listen to the music
- d) get finished

38) The question of higher membership fees was brought up at the last meeting.

- a) criticised vehemently
- b) introduced for discussion
- c) vaguely referred to
- d) discussed at great length

39) I don't think the law will interfere with us as we are just trying to turn an honest penny.

- a) have dealings in white money
- b) make a good living
- c) become more honest
- d) make a legitimate living

40) The beleaguered politician was anxious to set the record straight.

- a) give a correct account
- b) win party support
- c) make a confession
- d) give a speech

41) His arguments cut no ice with me.

- a) did not benefit me
- b) did not hurt me
- c) did not make me proud
- d) had no influence on me

42) to blow one's own trumpet

- a) to create noisy disturbances
- b) to praise one's own self
- c) to have a high-pitched voice
- d) to play on one's own trumpet

43) The project advanced by leaps and bounds.

- a) sharply
- b) slowly
- c) simply
- d) rapidly

44) "I take thee at thy word", said Romeo to Juliet.

- a) feel angry with you
- b) do not believe you
- c) truly believe you
- d) listen to you carefully





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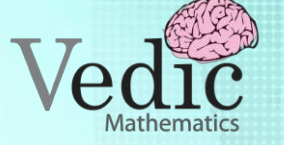
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45) The teacher took me to task for not completing my homework.

- a) took me to the principal
- b) punished me
- c) reduced my homework
- d) gave me additional homework

46) In spite of the immense pressure exerted by the militants, the Government, has decided not to give in.

- a) oblige
- b) yield
- c) conform
- d) accede

47) I had to pull strings to put up a good show.

- a) use the instrument
- b) use personal influence
- c) play a song
- d) play music

48) When the Principal was entering the class, all my friends quietly disappeared, leaving me alone to face the music.

- a) to bear the criticism
- b) to enter into the class
- c) to listen to a favourable comment
- d) to listen to him

49) The young engineer was hauled up for spilling the beans about the new project to the competitor.

- a) revealing the information indiscreetly
- b) hiding the details
- c) spoiling the plans
- d) suppressing the information

50) to call a spade a spade

- a) to be rude
- b) to be sly
- c) to be diplomatic
- d) to be frank

