



UNICUS
OLYMPIADS

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Sample Paper



Class 8

Unicus Global English Olympiad (UGEO)

Time: 60 minutes

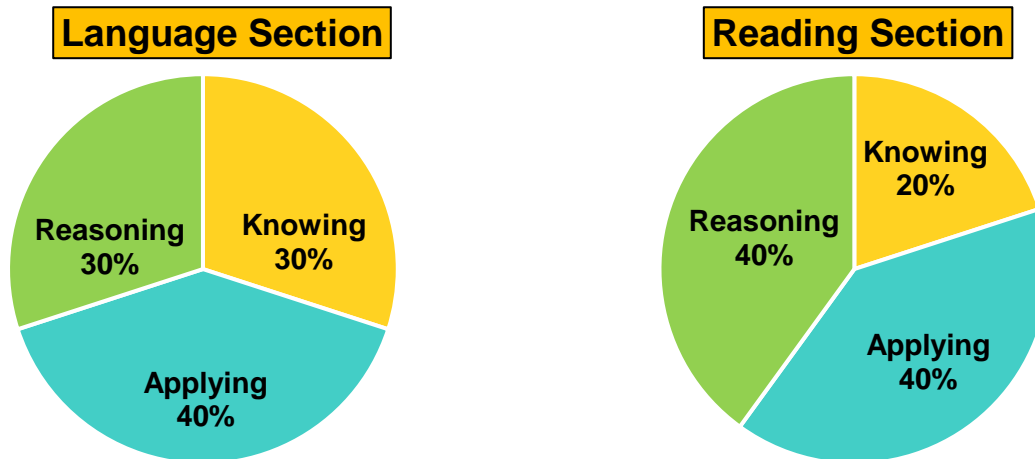
Pattern and Marking Scheme			
Section	Total Questions	Marks per Question	Total Marks
Language Section	30	1	30
Reading Section	15	2	30
Grand Total	45		60

Unicus Global English Olympiad (UGEO)

The **Unicus Global Olympiad** is organised around two dimensions:

1. Content dimension, specifying the subject matter domains to be assessed
2. Cognitive dimension, specifying the thinking processes to be assessed

Target percentages of the question paper devoted to cognitive domains



For more details, visit <https://www.unicusolympiads.com/ugeo>.

Language Section (Each Question is 1 Mark)

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Noun

1. Which sentence contains the most complex noun phrase?
- A group of students in matching uniforms waited outside.
 - The presentation on climate change given by the professor was informative.
 - A long and winding road led them to the hidden valley.
 - An old painting, discovered in the attic, proved to be valuable.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Verbs

2. Fill in the blank:

He managed to _____ his mistake before anyone noticed, saving himself from embarrassment.

- glass over
- bring about
- run into
- break through

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Pronouns

3. Rewrite the following sentence, replacing the phrase in bold with a suitable pronoun:

The directors of the company are meeting later to discuss the **directors' strategy** for the next quarter.

- They are meeting later to discuss their strategy for the next quarter.
- They are meeting later to discuss its strategy for the next quarter.
- The directors are meeting later to discuss his or her strategy for the next quarter.
- The directors are meeting later to discuss their strategy for the next quarter.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Adjectives

4. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate adjective type:

Her _____ observations during the meeting demonstrated a profound understanding of the subject.

- superficial
- astute
- trivial
- shallow

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Adverbs

5. Which of the following sentences contains an adverb that modifies an adjective rather than a verb?
- The weather was unusually cold for this time of year.
 - He always completes his work efficiently and on time.
 - The children ran quickly across the playground.
 - She speaks quite eloquently during her presentations.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Articles

6. Identify the correct sentence on the basis of usage of articles:
- An Eiffel Tower is one of the most iconic structures in the world.
 - She is studying at the Oxford University, which is renowned for its research.
 - The United Kingdom is an island nation.
 - He spoke about the environmental impact of a solar energy in developing nations.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Prepositions

7. Fill in the blank:

The company has been under scrutiny _____ the CEO's controversial decision.

- across
- towards
- since
- within

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Tenses

8. Fill in the blanks with the correct tense:

By the end of this week, I _____ (work) here for three years, and I _____ (never take) a single day off.

- will work, have taken
- will have worked; have never taken
- will have been working; have never taken
- will be working; had never taken

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Analogies

9. Fill in the blank:

Obelisk is to monument as codex is to _____.

- scroll
- manuscript
- painting
- tapestry

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Spellings

10. Identify the correct spelling of the word that refers to the "state of being overly showy or elaborate."

- a. flamboyance
- b. flamboyance
- c. flamboyanse
- d. flamboynce

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Homonyms and Homophones

11. Identify the incorrect homonym in the sentence below and correct it:

The renowned chef prepared a desert that was not only sweet but also aesthetically pleasing.

- a. renowned
- b. aesthetically
- c. pleasing
- d. desert

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Active-Passive voice

12. Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice:

The chef prepares a delightful meal every evening.

- a. A delightful meal was prepared by the chef every evening.
- b. Every evening, a delightful meal will be prepared by the chef.
- c. A delightful meal has been prepared by the chef every evening.
- d. A delightful meal is prepared by the chef every evening.

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Direct and Indirect Speech

13. Select the correct indirect form of the following sentence:

She said, "What time will the train leave?"

- a. She asked what time will the train leave.
- b. She asked what time would the train leave.
- c. She asked what time the train will leave.
- d. She asked what time the train would leave.

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Participle phrases

14. Which sentence correctly modifies the subject with a participle phrase?
- a. Having finished the exam, relief washed over the students.
 - b. The exam finished by the students, they felt relieved.
 - c. Relieved from finishing the exam, the students felt happy.
 - d. The students, feeling relieved after finishing the exam, left the room.

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Punctuations

15. In which sentence is the em dash used most effectively to emphasize a break or interruption in thought?
- a. The new policy—although controversial—proved to be highly effective in increasing productivity.
 - b. She had planned on attending the meeting—she didn't, however, expect it to last all day.
 - c. The artist's latest exhibition—an avant-garde collection of abstract pieces—has received critical acclaim.
 - d. He arrived late to the event—but still managed to catch the keynote address.

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Figures of speech

16. Identify the figure of speech in the sentence:

To err is human, to forgive, divine.

- a. chiasmus
- b. epigram
- c. antithesis
- d. paradox

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Synonyms

17. In the sentence below, which word is the best synonym for "enigmatic"?

The professor's lecture was so enigmatic that most students were left perplexed.

- a. clear
- b. boring
- c. mysterious
- d. simplistic

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Information Retrieval

18. Read this public notice and answer the following question.

No Writing or Pasting on Public Walls

It has come to our attention that public walls in New York City are being defaced by unauthorized posters, advertisements, graffiti, and writings. This is a violation of local regulations and leads to the degradation of public spaces.

We hereby remind all residents, business owners, and visitors that:

No individual or group is permitted to write, paint, or paste any material on public walls or any government-owned property.

Strict penalties, including fines and legal action, will be imposed on anyone found violating this rule.

Help us maintain a clean and beautiful community by respecting public property.

Issued by: New York City Municipal Office

Date: September 20, 2024

Thank you for your cooperation.

Which of the following statements accurately reflects the tone and intent of the public notice?

- a. The notice seeks to foster creativity among the community.
- b. The notice invites community members to submit proposals for public art projects.
- c. The notice emphasizes the historical significance of public walls in New York City.
- d. The notice conveys a strict warning about adherence to public property regulations.

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Collocations

19. Which collocation correctly completes the sentence?

After hours of brainstorming, they finally _____ a solution to the problem.

- a. created
- b. found
- c. arrived at
- d. designed

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Interjections

20. Which interjection best completes the sentence to express sorrow or regret?

_____, I really wish I hadn't made that mistake during the presentation.

- a. Yikes
- b. Ouch
- c. Alas
- d. Wow

Cognitive Domain: Applying

Content Domain: Figures of Speech

21. Which figure of speech is used in the following sentence?

The thunder clapped angrily in the sky as the storm raged on.

- a. alliteration
- b. onomatopoeia
- c. metaphor
- d. personification

Cognitive Domain: Reasoning

Content Domain: Adjectives

22. Choose the sentence that uses the adjectives in the correct order.

- a. She found a stunning red velvet embroidered purse.
- b. The festival showcased a colourful large Indian parade.
- c. He drove a vintage sleek black convertible.
- d. The display featured a grand majestic golden sculpture.

Cognitive Domain: Reasoning

Content Domain: Verbs

23. Select the best verb phrase to complete the thought:

In a situation where someone manages to control their emotions despite feeling angry, they are said to _____.

- a. fly off the handle
- b. keep a stiff upper lip
- c. bottle up
- d. lose their cool

Cognitive Domain: Reasoning

Content Domain: Pronouns

24. Which sentence contains correct pronoun usage?

- a. Whoever she met at the event left a lasting impression on her.
- b. The coach gave awards to he and his teammates for their outstanding performance.
- c. It was them who offered to assist with the project.
- d. She and myself volunteered to organize the charity event next month.

Cognitive Domain: Reasoning

Content Domain: Tenses

25. Rewrite the sentence in the future perfect continuous tense and change it to negative:

I am diligently studying for my final examinations at present.

- a. I will not have been studying diligently for my final examinations by that point.
- b. I will not be studying diligently for my final examinations at that time.
- c. I will not study diligently for my final examinations.
- d. I was not diligently studying for my final examinations recently.

Cognitive Domain: Reasoning

Content Domain: Tenses

26. Rewrite the sentence in the future perfect tense and change it to interrogative:

I shall have thoroughly revised the manuscript by the time the publisher requests it.

- a. Am I going to have thoroughly revised the manuscript by the time the publisher requests it?
- b. Have I thoroughly revised the manuscript by the time the publisher requests it?
- c. Shall I be thoroughly revising the manuscript by the time the publisher requests it?
- d. Will I have thoroughly revised the manuscript by the time the publisher requests it?

Cognitive Domain: Reasoning

Content Domain: Synonyms

27. In the context of the sentence,

His equivocal response left everyone confused about his true intentions," which word is a synonym for "equivocal"?

- a. clear
- b. certain
- c. straightforward
- d. ambiguous

Cognitive Domain: Reasoning

Content Domain: Information Retrieval

28. Read the news report given below and answer the following question:

Local Community Organizes Successful Beach Clean-Up Event

Residents of Seaside Town came together this Saturday for a beach clean-up event aimed at reducing plastic pollution. Over 100 volunteers, including local students, environmentalists, and families, participated in the initiative. Armed with gloves and bags, they collected nearly 500 pounds of trash, primarily plastic bottles and wrappers. The event, organized by the "Green Shores" foundation, aimed to raise awareness about ocean pollution and encourage sustainable practices. "This is just the beginning of our efforts to protect our beaches," said organizer Sarah Miller. The group plans to host similar events throughout the year.

In a news report, what does the term "witness" most closely mean?

- a. someone who reports the news
- b. someone who investigates the news
- c. someone who organizes events
- d. someone who saw an event happen

Cognitive Domain: Reasoning

Content Domain: Analogies

29. Her speech was so verbose that it became difficult to follow.

Which of the following sentences uses a word that is most similar in meaning to verbose?

- a. The report was concise and easy to understand.
- b. She gave a brief summary before the meeting ended.
- c. His instructions were so convoluted that we lost track of the main point.
- d. The essay was written with great brevity, getting to the point quickly.

Cognitive Domain: Reasoning

Content Domain: Direct and Indirect speech

30. Identify the error in the indirect speech conversion of the following sentence:

Direct Speech: "Why haven't you submitted the report?" the manager asked me.

Indirect Speech: The manager asked me why hadn't I submitted the report.

- a. The auxiliary verb "hadn't" should follow the subject "I" to maintain proper sentence structure in indirect speech.
 - b. The pronoun "I" should be replaced with "me" to reflect the object form in indirect speech.
 - c. "Why" should be replaced by "whether" to form a clearer question in indirect speech.
 - d. The tense of "submitted" should shift to "had submitted" to match the indirect speech tense.
-

Reading Section (Each Question is 2 Marks)

Direction for questions (31-33): Read the paragraph given below and answer the following question.

The Great Pyramid of Giza, an architectural marvel, stands as a testament to the ingenuity and grandeur of ancient Egypt. Built over 4,500 years ago during the reign of Pharaoh Khufu, this colossal structure dominates the Giza plateau and is the only surviving wonder of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Rising to an original height of 146.6 meters, the pyramid was the tallest man-made structure for millennia, its limestone casing shimmering in the desert sun. Today, it remains an awe-inspiring symbol of Egypt's sophisticated engineering, astronomical knowledge, and hierarchical society. Comprising more than two million limestone blocks, some weighing as much as 15 tons, the precision with which these blocks were aligned and assembled remains a mystery to modern archaeologists. The pyramid's internal chambers, including the King's Chamber and the Grand Gallery, reflect a level of craftsmanship that defies its ancient origins. Positioned in precise alignment with the cardinal points, it also embodies the Egyptians' advanced understanding of mathematics and astronomy. Surrounded by smaller pyramids, temples, and the enigmatic Sphinx, the Great Pyramid continues to fascinate historians, engineers, and tourists alike. Its enduring grandeur symbolises the eternal quest of ancient civilisations to transcend the earthly and achieve immortality. Beyond its sheer scale and intricate design, it also holds deep cultural and spiritual significance. It was built as a tomb for Pharaoh Khufu, intended to ensure his safe passage to the afterlife and secure his legacy for eternity. The pyramid's strategic placement, alongside its companions in the Giza complex, was likely influenced by both celestial and terrestrial factors, reflecting the Egyptians' belief in cosmic harmony.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing	Content Domain: Comprehension Passage
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31. What does the Great Pyramid of Giza symbolise?

- a. Egypt's advanced medical knowledge
- b. Ancient Egypt's engineering and astronomical prowess
- c. modern archaeological techniques
- d. the decline of ancient Egyptian society

Cognitive Domain: Knowing	Content Domain: Comprehension Passage
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32. What remains a mystery to modern archaeologists about the Great Pyramid?

- a. its alignment with celestial bodies
- b. the location of Pharaoh Khufu's remains
- c. how the limestone blocks were aligned and assembled
- d. the purpose of the King's Chamber

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

33. In the context of the passage, what does "hierarchical society" most likely refer to?
- a. a society that values equality
 - b. a society structured in levels of power and status
 - c. a society based on religious beliefs
 - d. a society with a strong military presence
-

Direction for questions (34-36): Read the paragraph given below and answer the following question.

Heather Miriam Watson is a British tennis player renowned for her dynamic playing style and resilience on the court. Born on May 19, 1992, in Guernsey, Watson quickly ascended the ranks of British tennis, turning professional in 2010. Her early achievements, including winning the US Open Junior title in 2009, showcased her immense potential. Heather's breakthrough came in 2012 when she won her first WTA singles title at the Japan Open, making her the first British woman to claim a WTA singles title since 1988. Her game is defined by speed, agility, and intelligent shot selection, allowing her to compete fiercely against some of the world's top-ranked players.

In doubles, Watson has also found considerable success, winning multiple titles, including the mixed doubles crown at Wimbledon in 2016. Her partnership with Henri Kontinen was vital to this victory, making her the first British woman to win a Wimbledon title in mixed doubles in over 30 years. Watson's grit, determination, and mental toughness have made her a role model for aspiring athletes, particularly for her ability to bounce back from setbacks such as injuries and dips in form.

Off the court, Heather is known for her friendly demeanour and positive attitude, often engaging with fans and promoting a healthy, active lifestyle. Her career, marked by perseverance and an unwavering fighting spirit, continues to inspire many in the world of sports, especially in British tennis.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

34. In the sentence, "Her game is defined by speed, agility, and intelligent shot selection," the word 'defined' functions as a:
- a. colossal
 - b. enduring
 - c. sophisticated
 - d. grand
-

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

35. In what way did Heather Watson's victory in mixed doubles at Wimbledon in 2016 stand out historically?
- a. It marked her first Grand Slam title.
 - b. It ended a 30-year drought for British women in mixed doubles at Wimbledon.
 - c. It made her the youngest British woman to win a Wimbledon title.
 - d. It was the first time a British woman partnered with a foreign player to win a title.
-

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

36. Which sentence from the passage contains a non-defining relative clause?

- a. Heather Miriam Watson is a British tennis player renowned for her dynamic playing style.
- b. Born on May 19, 1992, in Guernsey, Watson quickly ascended the ranks of British tennis.
- c. Her partnership with Henri Kontinen was vital to this victory.
- d. Her career, marked by perseverance and an unwavering fighting spirit, continues to inspire many.

Direction for questions (37-39): Read the paragraph given below and answer the following question.

Acupressure and acupuncture are ancient healing techniques rooted in traditional Chinese medicine, both aimed at restoring the body's natural balance of energy, or qi (pronounced "chee"). Acupressure involves applying manual pressure to specific points on the body, stimulating energy flow and relieving tension. Acupuncture, on the other hand, uses thin needles inserted into these same points to achieve a similar effect, though the needles penetrate the skin. Both methods are believed to activate the body's self-healing mechanisms by targeting meridians—energy pathways that run throughout the body. Acupressure is often favoured for its non-invasive nature, making it a suitable option for individuals wary of needles. It is commonly used to alleviate headaches, stress, muscle tension, and even nausea. Acupuncture, while more invasive, is considered highly effective in treating a broader range of ailments, including chronic pain, migraines, and certain neurological conditions.

Scientific research on the effectiveness of these practices is mixed, with some studies highlighting their benefits, particularly for pain management, while others remain inconclusive. However, many patients report significant relief after undergoing these treatments, attributing improvements in their physical and mental well-being to the sessions. Despite differing opinions in the medical community, acupressure and acupuncture continue to be widely used, combining ancient wisdom with modern therapeutic practices to promote holistic healing.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

37. Which of the following best describes the primary difference between acupressure and acupuncture?

- a. Acupuncture involves the use of needles, while acupressure uses manual pressure.
- b. Acupressure targets different points than acupuncture.
- c. Acupressure is less effective for pain management compared to acupuncture.
- d. Acupuncture focuses on meridians, while acupressure does not.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

38. In the sentence, "Acupressure is often favoured for its non-invasive nature, making it a suitable option for individuals wary of needles," what role does the phrase "making it a suitable option" play grammatically?
- It is a participial phrase providing additional information about acupressure.
 - It is a noun clause modifying the subject.
 - It is an adverbial phrase explaining the reason for the preceding statement.
 - It is a prepositional phrase describing the object of the sentence.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

39. Identify the sentence that is grammatically correct according to standard English usage:
- Heather Watson, who has won multiple titles, demonstrate her skill and determination on the court.
 - Known for her resilience, Heather often bounce back from injuries and setbacks.
 - Heather Watson has become a role model for aspiring athletes because of her grit and mental toughness.
 - Watson's achievements, including her Wimbledon victory, showcases her talent and hard work.

Direction for questions (40-42): Read the paragraph given below and answer the following question.

Ice cream, a universally cherished treat, come in countless varieties across the globe, each offering distinct flavours and textures. Italy's gelato stands out with its smooth, dense texture and vibrant taste, often made with natural ingredients like pistachio, lemon, and hazelnut. In Japan, mochi ice cream blends chewy rice dough with creamy ice cream, available in flavours ranging from matcha to red bean, creating a delightful contrast of textures. Meanwhile, Turkish dondurma is famous for its stretchy, elastic quality, thanks to the inclusion of salep, an ingredient derived from orchid roots, which makes this ice cream truly one-of-a-kind.

In other parts of the world, ice cream remains equally innovative. India's kulfi, rich and dense, is infused with traditional flavors like cardamom, saffron, and mango, offering a frozen-custard experience. Artisanal ice creams in the United States are taking bold steps with unique ingredients such as lavender, sea salt, and bourbon. Iceland's skyr ice cream, made from the country's signature yoghurt, adds a tangy twist to this beloved dessert. Australia's gelato culture, known for its creative combinations like honeycomb and macadamia, is also thriving. From the vibrant streets of Bangkok to the elegant cafes of Paris, ice cream continues to evolve, delighting taste buds with every spoonful, proving it to be a timeless global indulgence.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

40. Which of the following best describes the main difference between gelato and regular ice cream?
- Gelato contains less milk and more cream, giving it a denser texture.
 - Gelato is primarily frozen yogurt and contains live cultures.
 - Gelato contains less cream and more milk, resulting in a silkier texture.
 - Gelato is made with a rice dough that makes it chewier.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

41. What is the best meaning of "artisanal" in the sentence, "Artisanal ice creams in the United States are taking bold steps with unique ingredients"?
- handcrafted and high-quality
 - mass-produced and inexpensive
 - foreign and exotic
 - limited in flavour variety

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

42. Which of the following most accurately describes the difference between kulfi and traditional Western ice cream?
- Kulfi is denser and is not churned, giving it a more solid consistency.
 - Kulfi is always flavoured with fruits, while Western ice cream is not.
 - Kulfi is served at a much colder temperature than regular ice cream.
 - Kulfi is whipped, resulting in a light, airy texture.

Direction for questions (43-45): Read the paragraph given below and answer the following question.

Johnny Depp, an enigmatic and versatile actor, has carved a unique niche in the film industry with his eclectic roles and profound acting talent. Born on June 9, 1963, Depp first gained recognition in the late 1980s through his portrayal of offbeat, often misunderstood characters. He is best known for his collaborations with director Tim Burton, embodying iconic figures like Edward Scissorhands and Willy Wonka with a depth that transcends their eccentric exteriors. However, it is his portrayal of the swashbuckling Captain Jack Sparrow in the Pirates of the Caribbean series that solidified his status as a global phenomenon. Depp's ability to fully immerse himself in characters, blending subtlety with flamboyance, has garnered him critical acclaim and numerous awards. Beyond his acting prowess, Depp is also an accomplished musician, having performed with rock legends like Alice Cooper and Aerosmith. His off-screen life, though often mired in controversy and personal struggles, reflects a man of depth, artistry, and complexity. Depp's enduring appeal lies in his chameleon-like ability to switch between whimsical and intense roles, making him one of the most intriguing and influential actors of his generation. His career continues to evolve, cementing his legacy as a transformative force in modern cinema, captivating audiences with his daring and unconventional approach to storytelling.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

43. Which of the following best describes Johnny Depp's acting style as mentioned in the passage?
- restrained and minimalistic
 - blending subtlety with flamboyance
 - focused solely on physical comedy
 - always playing serious and intense characters

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

44. Which of the following sentences from the passage correctly uses the present perfect tense?
- Depp's ability to fully immerse himself in characters garnered him critical acclaim.
 - Depp's career continues to evolve, making him an influential actor.
 - He has performed with rock legends like Alice Cooper.
 - His roles transcends their eccentric exteriors.

Cognitive Domain: Knowing

Content Domain: Comprehension Passage

45. Which of the following best explains why Johnny Depp is described as a “transformative force” in modern cinema?
- his collaborations with famous directors
 - his ability to portray a wide range of characters
 - his long-standing music career
 - his role in the Pirates of the Caribbean series alone

Answer Key

1.	b	2.	a	3.	a	4.	b	5.	a	6.	c	7.	c
8.	c	9.	b	10.	b	11.	d	12.	d	13.	d	14.	d
15.	c	16.	c	17.	c	18.	d	19.	c	20.	c	21.	d
22.	a	23.	b	24.	a	25.	a	26.	d	27.	d	28.	d
29.	d	30.	a	31.	b	32.	c	33.	b	34.	b	35.	b
36.	d	37.	a	38.	a	39.	c	40.	c	41.	a	42.	a
43.	b	44.	c	45.	b								