Test: Idioms and Phrases

Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase given in bold.

1. **A close shave**
   (a) A lucky escape
   (b) A well guarded secret
   (c) A clean shave
   (d) A narrow escape

2. **To smell a rat**
   (a) To misunderstand
   (b) A bad smell
   (c) To see hidden meaning
   (d) None of above

3. The passing of anti-defection law **struck a chill to the heart** of every opportunist legislator
   (a) Caused anger
   (b) Caused relief
   (c) Aroused fear
   (d) Awakened bitterness

4. **In this day and age**
   (a) In old age of a person
   (b) Logically concluded time
   (c) To be suddenly aware of
   (d) In modern time

5. **To show the white feathers**
   (a) To be peaceful
   (b) To show signs of cowardice
   (c) To be fashionable
   (d) To become polite

6. Our house is within a **stone’s throw** from the Red Building.
   (a) Far off
   (b) Far away
   (c) Very near to
   (d) Beside

7. **To strike a bargain**
   (a) To criticize one
   (b) To interrupt one
   (c) To face facts
   (d) Come to an agreement

8. The deceits **took to their heels** when the police party arrived
   (a) Took shelter in some one’s house
   (b) Took to flight
   (c) Renewed their resolve to fight.
   (d) Surrendered unconditionally

9. **To beat the air**
   (a) To act foolishly
   (b) To make efforts that are useless
   (c) To pollute air
   (d) None of above

10. The day I graduated was a **red-letter day** for me
    (a) A dangerous day
    (b) An important day
    (c) An eventful day
    (d) A formidable day

11. **To have an axe to grind**
    (a) To have punishment.
    (b) A private end to serve
    (c) To have difficult job
    (d) To escape from the danger

12. I am reasonably sure that all his schemes will **end in smoke**
    (a) Bear no fruits
    (b) Will produce good results
    (c) Do not motivate the poor
    (d) To face problem

13. Many young artists were **dropping names** at the party to impress the gathering
    (a) Talking proudly about their family members
    (b) Using pet names
    (c) Hinting at high connections
    (d) Talking informally
14. These days prices have risen so much it is better to go duch while having a party.
   (a) Go to Holland
   (b) Bear all the expense
   (c) Bear the cost of an outing
   (d) Each person pays his own share of the expenses

15. To keep one's shirt on
   (a) To be in trouble
   (b) To praise oneself
   (c) To explore every alternative
   (d) To control one's temper

16. The bare bones of the one hour conversation was that he hated my guts.
   (a) The main point
   (b) Just the bones
   (c) With the flesh removed
   (d) The naked truth

17. The teacher announced that she had no blue-eyed boys in the class
   (a) Royal children
   (b) Young boys
   (c) Foreigners
   (d) Favourites

18. Rohan has made a laughing stock of the braggart.
   (a) Look ridiculous
   (b) Laughing storehouse
   (c) Foolish
   (d) Laugh.

19. He was confident that all his present sufferings will soon blow over.
   (a) Increase
   (b) Pass off
   (c) Be looked into
   (d) Be taken care of

20. To stamp away
    (a) To go out for a walk
    (b) In a benevolent mood
    (c) To relies suddenly
    (d) To go away in anger

21. The teacher advised the students to take into account the advice given by the elders
   (a) To obey
   (b) To neglect
   (c) To consider
   (d) To reject

22. It was clearly a case of the pot calling the kettle black when Mohan said that Sonu was a liar.
   (a) Someone criticizing another for a fault which he has himself.
   (b) Both are guilty of the same mistake
   (c) Someone blaming someone else for something he has himself done.
   (d) Someone accusing another of being black.

23. To be in name only
    (a) To live with joy without popularity
    (b) A powerful person
    (c) In theory only
    (d) To be held in high esteem

24. The lawyer asked his assistant to collect the details regarding the pros and cons of the case
    (a) Ups and downs
    (b) In and out
    (c) Weak and strong
    (d) For and against

25. The incident was blown up and people were made to believe that there was a large-scale violence
    (a) Exploded
    (b) Flown up
    (c) Made huge
    (d) Exaggerated
Answers
1. d  2. a  3. c  4. d  5. b  6. C
7. D  8. b  9. b  10. b  11. b  12. a
13. c  14. d  15. d  16. a  17. d  18. a
19. b  20. d  21. c  22. a  23. c  24. d
25. d