

**FFA Career Development Event**  
**Nursery/Landscape**  
**SAMPLE EXAM**

**Instructions: Circle the most appropriate answer for each question (3 points each).**

1. An activity that involves the planning and constructing of landscapes that will enhance and protect the beauty of the surrounding environment is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. forestry
  - b. ornamental horticulture
  - c. nursery production
  - d. landscaping
  - e. grave attendant
  
2. Which of the following is a binomial name of a plant?
  - a. Quercus macrocarpa
  - b. bur oak
  - c. Chinese pistache
  - d. black-eyed Susan
  - e. petunia
  
3. A person whose business is cultivating and maintaining plants, trees, shrubs, flowers and turf is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. arborist
  - b. horticulturist
  - c. groundskeeper
  - d. landscaper
  - e. exterior plantscaper
  
4. Which of the following is NOT appropriate when dressing for an interview?
  - a. Be modest and well-groomed.
  - b. Wear the latest fad.
  - c. Dress to fit the job for which you are applying.
  - d. Coordinate clothing.
  - e. Be conservative.
  
5. A tool that is used to prune small branches no larger than a pencil is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. knife
  - b. lopping shear
  - c. hand pruner
  - d. pruning saw
  - e. ripping saw

6. A power tool that is used for light and medium cultivation 1" and 6" deep in vegetable and flower beds, will not break untilled ground but is effective on previously tilled soil, does not work well in rock or hard soils, chops mulch, and is gas powered is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- dethatcher
  - front-tine rotary tiller
  - rear-tine rotary tiller
  - mid-tine rotary tiller
  - edger
7. From a safety point of view, protective clothing and gear should be
- appropriate for the work to be done.
  - worn in all work situations.
  - worn around moving parts.
  - all of the above.
  - none of the above.
8. What type of fire extinguisher is required to extinguish a fire that occurs with flammable liquids such as gasoline, oil, and grease?
- Class A
  - Class B
  - Class C
  - Class D
  - Class E
9. A switch-type mechanism that automatically interrupts the flow of electricity when the flow becomes excessive is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- fuse
  - short circuit
  - bimetal thermal protector
  - circuit breaker
  - trip switch
10. What type of greenhouse is pictured to the right?
- contiguous
  - gothic
  - quonset
  - even-span
  - ridge and furrow

11. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of polyethylene (flexible plastic) greenhouses?
- Lasts 5 to 25 years.
  - Passes less light to plants than glass.
  - Least expensive greenhouse covering in the short term.
  - Becomes yellow and brittle in one or two years.
  - Usually considered temporary.
12. Which of the following is true regarding climate control in greenhouses?
- Steam pipes heat the soil while killing bacteria.
  - Steam is sprayed into the air.
  - Overhead fans cool by exhausting hot air.
  - Fan and wet-fiber pads cool by evaporation.
  - Steam heat removes gases and maintains proper levels of humidity.
13. Salt build-up in growing medium is removed by \_\_\_\_\_.
- withholding water
  - adding fertilizer
  - leaching
  - adding lime
  - all of the above
14. An automatic irrigation system consisting of a system of tubes placed into each plant pot is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- spaghetti system
  - soaker hose
  - capillary watering mat
  - mist system
  - fan spray system
15. The part of the plant that manufactures and stores food and controls transpiration is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- petiole
  - root
  - flower
  - leaf
  - fruit
16. A plant with only one cotyledon in its seed is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- dicot
  - monocot
  - pith
  - herbaceous plant
  - woody plant

17. The type of leaf shown to the right is a \_\_\_\_\_ leaf.
- simple
  - trifoliate
  - pinnately compound
  - bipinnately compound
  - palmately compound
18. The plant form shown to the right is \_\_\_\_\_.
- pyramid or conical with a central leader
  - irregular
  - oval to rounded
  - columnar
  - multiple trunk
19. A pesticide that is used to control mites is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- nematicide
  - acaricide
  - miticide
  - insecticide
  - fungicide
20. A chemical that kills the whole plant when absorbed by any part of the plant is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- fumigant
  - sterilant
  - foliar poison
  - translocated herbicide
  - contact poison

21. Which of the following describes an acute toxicity?
- A toxicity sometimes developed by people who load chemical products, work in the same building with toxic materials, mix chemicals, or work in chemically treated fields.
  - Symptoms develop quickly, within a few minutes or within a few hours.
  - A toxicity that occurs over a period of time.
  - Symptoms may appear within a week or toxic buildup may take many years before symptoms occur.
  - Refers to how poisonous a chemical is after repeated small doses.
22. A component of growing medium that consists of partially decomposed plant matter, has high water retention, absorbing 15 to 20 times its dry weight in water, has high nutrient retention, and has a pH reading of 4.0 to 4.5 is \_\_\_\_\_.
- pine bark
  - perlite
  - vermiculite
  - sand
  - peat moss
23. Which of the following is true regarding growing medium pH?
- High alkaline pH reduces solubility of all micronutrients in soils or media.
  - Proper pH enables plants to absorb water.
  - High acid pH soils can be neutralized by adding soil as alkaline as the acidity.
  - High alkaline soils, if over 8.5, have high concentrations of calcium that can cause reduced growth or death of the plant.
  - Most minerals are more soluble in alkaline media than in acid media.
24. Which of the following statements is true regarding loam soils?
- When wet, forms an easily-crumbled ball.
  - When dry, feels smooth, soft and floury, shows fingerprints, makes hard-to-break clods.
  - When wet, feels smooth, slick like butter, stains fingers.
  - Good drainage and moisture retention.
  - Shrinks and expands dramatically as water varies leaving soil cracked and cloddy.

25. Which of the following can be added to soil in order to increase pH?
- sulfur
  - lime
  - sand
  - vermiculite
  - perlite
26. Which of the following is an essential micronutrient for plant growth and development?
- magnesium
  - gypsum
  - calcium
  - iron
  - nitrogen
27. When complete fertilizers and plant-specific nutrients are mixed into potting soil for transplanted seedlings and repotted plants, the method of fertilizer application is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- a pressure spray
  - a pellet injection
  - incorporated
  - top dressing
  - none of the above.
28. When a plant is rooted while it is still attached to the parent plant, the method of propagation is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- division
  - layering
  - root cuttings
  - separation
  - grafting
29. The top portion of a grafted plant is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- scion
  - stock
  - interstock
  - rootstock
  - rootscion

30. When the mother plant is bent to the ground and most of the stem is buried, then shoots arise from the buds and roots form underground, the method of propagation is \_\_\_\_\_.
- mound layering.
  - node layering
  - root layering
  - tip layering
  - trench layering
31. Which of the following is NOT a quality that is generally considered when selecting an evergreen for a landscape?
- color
  - disease and insect problems
  - bark
  - size
  - climate (hardiness)
32. Which of the following is NOT a landscape use for spreading and small upright evergreens?
- Provide a screen for privacy and to hide unsightly views.
  - Provide good erosion protection so can be used on slopes or to drape over walls.
  - Can be pruned and used as hedges.
  - Can be used as backdrops for flower beds and low plantings.
  - Uprights (pyramidal and columnar) can be used as accent plants.
33. Which of the following is an example of an inorganic mulch?
- hay
  - wood chips
  - cotton seed hulls
  - crushed stone
  - leaves
34. Which of the following is NOT true regarding the use of mulch in the landscape?
- Mulch increases water runoff.
  - Mulch helps prevent growth of weeds.
  - Mulch reduces evaporation of moisture from the soil.
  - Mulch helps regulate soil temperature.
  - Mulch helps prevent soil erosion.

35. A reason for pruning plants is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Pruning allows a plant to flower any time of year.
  - Pruning decreases the life span of a plant.
  - Pruning prevents leaves from dropping.
  - Pruning can transform a tree into a dwarf variety.
  - Pruning renews vigor of old plants.
36. Prune spring-flowering deciduous trees and shrubs \_\_\_\_\_.
- after flowering, but before summer
  - in early spring or when flowers fade in early fall
  - just before new growth begins in spring--growth can be shaped or controlled by pruning between May and July
  - during any season
  - none of the above
37. Name the structure shown at the right.
- tuberous root
  - rhizome
  - bulb
  - tuber
  - corm
38. Which of the following is a consideration when planting a flower bed or border?
- The flower bed should contain a wide range of varieties suited for several soil types.
  - Plant width determines where a plant is placed in the bed.
  - Knowledge of the time of blooming and select varieties to help maintain a continuous show of color throughout the season.
  - The background determines plant spacing.
  - Knowledge of the time of blooming and select varieties to insure a balance of annuals and perennials.
39. Which of the following perennials is typically propagated by division of root sections?
- corms
  - tubers
  - rhizomes
  - tuberous roots
  - bulbs



40. Which of the following is NOT true regarding balling and burlapping of plants?
- Balling and burlapping can be done on any kind of plant, tree, or shrub.
  - Balling and burlapping offers roots more protection than bareroot plants.
  - Balling and burlapping can be done on extremely large trees, whereas the bare-root method can be done only on small plants.
  - Materials such as nails, twine, wire baskets, and container for the soil ball are needed for the ball-and burlap method.
  - Balling and burlapping should be done when the plants are dormant.
41. Which president signed the Morrill Act which established the land-grant colleges?
- Abraham Lincoln
  - George Washington
  - Andrew Johnson
  - James Buchanan
  - James A. Garfield
42. A plant that bares seeds in cones is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- deciduous
  - conifer
  - evergreen
  - narrow-leaved
  - pine
43. Which one of the following is a type of inorganic mulch?
- Wood chips
  - Shredded bark
  - Volcanic rock
  - Cotton seed hulls
  - Pine needles
44. Which of the following is a broad-leaved evergreen?
- Southern Magnolia
  - Pine
  - Fir
  - Spruce
  - Arizona Cypress

45. A herbicide controls which pest?
- weeds
  - fungus
  - bacteria
  - predatory animals
  - nematodes
46. The best time to prune \_\_\_\_\_ is just after flowering in the in spring.
- spring-flowering deciduous trees or shrubs
  - deciduous shade trees
  - scale-leaved evergreens
  - summer-flowering deciduous trees or shrubs
  - broad-leaved evergreens
47. \_\_\_\_\_ is when a flower is pollinated by the pollen of the same plant.
- cross-pollination
  - self-pollination
  - asexual propagation
  - totipotency
  - hybridizing
48. According to the USDA Hardiness Map, Oklahoma is largely covered by zones 6 and 7. What is the average annual minimum temperature for zone 7?
- 0 to 10
  - 10 to 20
  - 10 to -20
  - 10 to 0
  - 20 to -30
49. A fertilizer which contains only a percentage of nitrogen is a
- Water soluble fertilizer
  - Organic fertilizer
  - Inorganic fertilizer
  - Incomplete fertilizer
  - Complete fertilizer
50. How many cubic feet of soil will be required to make a raised flower bed 6 inches deep, 15 feet long, and 5 feet wide?
- 100
  - 80.5
  - 75
  - 37.5
  - 25