



You completed this test on 2026/02/11, 18:25

Your score is 78.33%

CORRECT

1. When executing `pwd -P` inside a symlinked directory, which behavior does POSIX mandate?

It prints the logical path with symlinks preserved

It prints the physical path with all symlinks resolved

It prints both physical and logical paths

It prints only the symlink name and not the underlying path

CORRECT

2. Given `cd /var/log; ln -s /var/log /tmp/loglink; cd /tmp/loglink; pwd` — Why might `pwd` differ from `pwd -P`?

`pwd` expands shell aliases before printing

`pwd` resolves symlinks by default and `pwd -P` does not

`pwd` prints the logical path, whereas `pwd -P` prints the physical path

`pwd -P` prints inode numbers instead of directory names

CORRECT

3. Which `ls` option ensures entries are sorted by modification time and follow symlinks to evaluate the target timestamp?

`ls -lt`

`ls -F`

`ls -Llt`

`ls -d`

CORRECT

4. Effect of `ls -R --group-directories-first` on systems that do not support the option?

Falls back to grouping by file size

✓ *Errors explicitly*

Silently ignores option

Reverses directory order

CORRECT

5. With `CDPATH=".:/usr/local:/var/www"`, what happens when running `cd logs` if `/var/www/logs` exists and `./logs` does not?

Error

Goes to `/usr/local/logs`

✓ *Goes to `/var/www/logs`*

Goes to `"\$HOME/logs`

CORRECT

6. Difference between `cd -P` and `cd -L`?

`-P` prohibits hidden dirs

`-L` resolves symlinks

✓ *`-P` resolves symlinks; `-L` keeps logical path*

`-L` changes \$PWD only

CORRECT

7. Behavior of `cat file1 - file2` when STDIN piped?

`-` ignored

✓ *Reads STDIN at `-`*

STDIN appended last

Error

CORRECT

8. What does `cat -vET` option `-T` do?

Shows tabs as ^T

Converts tabs to spaces

✓ *Shows tabs as ^T*

Underlines tabs

CORRECT

9. Effect of `touch -c -t 202501010101.30 logfile` if file exists?

Updates mtime only

Updates atime+mtime now

Does nothing

✓ *Sets both times to timestamp*

INCORRECT

10. Effect of `touch --date="next Thursday" report.txt` on GNU?

Error

✗ *Nearest Thu (preserve time)*

Next Thu 00:00

Unchanged

CORRECT

11. What happens if `mkdir -p a/b/c` but `c` conflicts with existing file?

No error

Creates c dir anyway

✓ *Fails "file exists"*

Renames conflict

CORRECT

12. Meaning of `mkdir -m 2750 teamdir`?

✓ *SGID, 2750 perms*

Sticky bit

Inherit

Read-only

CORRECT

13. Which removes a/b/c and parents?

rmkdir -r a/b/c

✓ *rmkdir -p a/b/c*

rmkdir --force

rmkdir a b c

INCORRECT

14. Why does rmkdir fail with hidden files only?

Cannot delete deep dirs

Hidden ignored

Dir non-empty

✗ *Need -f*

CORRECT

15. Effect of cp -a src dest?

Only regular files

Loses symlinks

✓ *Preserves all metadata*

Converts symlinks to hard links

CORRECT

16. Which prevents overwriting?

cp -r

cp -f

✓ *cp -n*

cp -p

CORRECT

17. mv fileA fileB/ where fileB is regular?

Overwrites

✓ *Error*

Moves into fileB/fileA

Renames fileA to fileB

CORRECT

18. mv -T behavior?

Force dir

Prevent rename if exists

✓ *Treat dest as file always*

Interactive

CORRECT

19. rm -rf -- * .[!.]* removes?

No hidden

✓ *All except . and ..*

Only hidden

Rejects --

CORRECT

20. Why rm -rf / dangerous?

Deletes PWD

✓ Deletes system

Safe

Only HOME

CORRECT

21. Which retrieves physical path regardless of shell \$PWD?

pwd

pwd -L

✓ /bin/pwd -P

echo \$PWD

INCORRECT

22. After cd via symlink current->releases/v5, cd .. && pwd -P prints?

✗ /var/www

/var/www/releases

/var/www/current

/current

CORRECT

23. ls -li provides what extra?

File type

Octal perms

Hardlink count

✓ Inode

CORRECT

24. Which lists symlink *targets*?

-l

-H

✓ -L

-F

INCORRECT

25. If CDPATH multiple matches, cd build chooses?

✗ *Lexical*

First in CDPATH

Error

./build only

CORRECT

26. What does cd "" do?

Home

Root

Parse error

✓ *Attempts empty path*

INCORRECT

27. cat <(cat f1) f2 does what?

Symlink

Temp file

FIFO

✗ *Replace f1*

CORRECT

28. What blocks indefinitely?

/dev/null

-v

/dev/zero

✓ /dev/stdin waiting

INCORRECT

29. touch -c -a file (exists)?

atime only

mtime

nothing

✗ atime+create

INCORRECT

30. touch -r ref.txt file1 file2 works?

✗ Yes

Using --ref only

Both work

Neither

CORRECT

31. mkdir dir{1..3}/sub?

none

only dir1

✓ all three

only dirs

CORRECT

32. Which makes mkdir fail if exist?

-f

-p

--no-clobber

✓ none

CORRECT

33. Why rmdir a/b/c fails?

hidden

slash illegal

✓ *parent non-empty*

need -p

INCORRECT

34. rmdir -p a/b/c stops when?

✗ *upper non-empty*

symlink

b non-empty

A and C

CORRECT

35. Meaning of cp -d?

preserve structure

✓ *no symlink follow*

only dirs

device nodes

CORRECT

36. Preserve sparse?

cp file

✓ *cp --sparse=auto*

hole-detect

never

CORRECT

37. `mv dir1 dir2` true when dir2 exists?

becomes dir2

✓ *moved inside dir2*

overwritten

error

CORRECT

38. `mv -n source target` if target exists?

overwrite

ask

dry run

✓ *skip*

CORRECT

39. `rm -- -filename` removes?

stdin

file named --

✓ *file named -filename*

all starting -

CORRECT

40. `rm -r ./*` removes?

only files

all including hidden

✓ *all except hidden*

whole FS

INCORRECT

41. Why /bin/pwd -P differ from /proc/self/cwd?

namespace

✗ *cwd logical*

cwd honors mount boundaries

pwd -P ignores devices

CORRECT

42. pwd -L diverges from \$PWD when?

subshell

✓ *manual override*

failed cd

restricted

CORRECT

43. ls -lai / on FS w/ hardlinked dirs shows?

collapse

✓ *same inodes repeated*

error

undefined

INCORRECT

44. Which sort combination causes unexpected ordering?

-t --sort=v

-lt --reverse

-v -S

✗ *-v --group-dirs-first*

CORRECT

45. Why cd logs after cd / uses CDPATH?

root pref

CDPATH clears

ignores relative

✓ *./logs missing*

CORRECT

46. cd /net/hostname slow because?

CDPATH

DNS

✓ *autofs lazy mount*

symlink canonical

CORRECT

47. cat <(echo t) <(sleep5) does?

✓ *waits*

no wait

skip

fail

INCORRECT

48. cat bigfile > bigfile?

✗ *safe*

truncate->empty

deadlock

append

CORRECT

49. touch -a file with noatime?

update

delayed

✓ *suppressed*

remount

CORRECT

50. touch -t unexpected timestamp due to?

✓ *TZ*

umask

symlink

sparse

INCORRECT

51. mkdir -p dir/sub fail why?

✗ *no write*

long name

immutable

A and C

INCORRECT

52. mkdir --mode=0644 test does?

creates 0644

✗ *drops perms*

creates 0744

invalid

CORRECT

53. Why rmdir -p fewer dirs on mountpoint?

cannot cross

✓ *parent seen non-empty*

cgroup

abs paths only

CORRECT

54. `rmdir symlink c?`

removes symlink

follows

✓ *errors (never removes symlink)*

removes both

CORRECT

55. `cp -a symlink pointing to dir?`

copy contents

✓ *copy symlink*

resolve

error

CORRECT

56. `cp --reflink=always` fails when?

0 bytes

✓ *no CoW FS*

exists

same FS

CORRECT

57. `mv` file /proc fails why?

✓ */proc virtual no writes*

need root

cross FS

exists

CORRECT

58. mv dir1 dir2 when dir2 symlink to dir?

✓ *inside target*

replace symlink

error

delete symlink

CORRECT

59. rm -rf directory fails as root when?

✓ *immutable*

forbid

suid

need force

CORRECT

60. rm -rf folder/* while processes adding files?

delete folder

✓ *folder remains*

waits

race fail

