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TOEFL TOEFL-Sentence-Completion

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QUESTION NO: 1

The descriptions in these essays range widely, from the fanciful to the matter-of-fact, from the _____ to the fatuous, from the objective to the

- A. witty...realistic
- B. meager...descriptive
- C. insightful...impressionistic
- D. inane. commonplace
- E. articulate...empirical

ANSWER: C**Explanation:**

One example of the wide range of description in the essays referred to in the given sentence is mentioned as 'from the fanciful to the matter-of-fact'. Since these are exact opposites, the other two phrases should also represent exact opposites. So, the first missing must be the opposite of the word 'fatuous' (meaning 'silly'), and the second missing word must be the opposite of the word 'objective' (meaning 'unemotional'). Among the given choices, it is the pair 'insightful/ and 'impressionistic' which are the opposites of 'fatuous' and 'subjective' respectively. So, C is the answer.

QUESTION NO: 2

It is ironic and somehow tragic that good people are often dull while evil people can be endlessly

- A. ordinary
- B. stubborn
- C. skeptical
- D. fascinating
- E. unobtrusive

ANSWER: D**Explanation:**

The word "ironic" signifies a contradiction of ideas within the sentence, and the conjunction "while:" indicates that the characteristics of the good people and the evil people are being contrasted. Therefore, if the good people are often 'dull', the evil people must be having a characteristic which is the opposite of being 'dull'. Among the given choices, it is only the word 'fascinating' that is opposite in meaning to the word 'dull'. So, D is the answer.

QUESTION NO: 3

As a people, the Aztecs were full of contradictions; _____ and yet prizing humility, _____ and yet obliging and kind.

- A. arrogant...benevolent
- B. pious...gallant
- C. provincial sullen
- D. tolerant...competitive
- E. proud...implacable

ANSWER: E**Explanation:**

The first part of the sentence says that Aztecs were full of contradiction. So, the first missing word must mean the opposite of humility, and the second missing word must mean the opposite of obliging and kind. It is the pair of work 'proud....implacable' which meets this requirement, and is the answer.

QUESTION NO: 4

Rachel Carson's Silent Spring, which graphically exposed the _____ of the indiscriminate use of pesticides, is widely credited with having _____ the modern environmental movement.

- A. advantages...inaugurated
- B. hazards...defused
- C. benefits...launched
- D. deaths...contained
- E. dangers...inspired

ANSWER: C**Explanation:**

The word 'exposed', and the phrase 'indiscriminate use of pesticides', imply that the first missing word must be one which stands for something bad that is associated with the use of pesticides. So, the choices 'advantages' and 'benefits' can be ruled out first. Since the phrase 'deaths of the indiscriminate use of pesticides' does not make sense, the choice 'deaths' can also be ruled out, leaving 'hazards' {meaning 'risks'} and dangers as the only possible choices for the first missing word. If the pair 'hazards., defused' is chosen, the sentence would mean that the exposure of the hazards of using pesticides defused (or weakened) the modern environmental movement, which is illogical. The pair 'dangers., inspired' completes a cogent and logical sentence.

QUESTION NO: 5

It is impossible for a serious scholar to condone this _____ dismissal of respected theories.

- A. astute
- B. cavalier
- C. sagacious
- D. necessary
- E. commendable

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

If the theories are respected ones, their dismissal by someone cannot be described as astute (meaning very intelligent), or sagacious (meaning wise), or necessary, or commendable (meaning praiseworthy). It can only be described as cavalier (meaning arrogant or rash). So, B is the answer.

QUESTION NO: 6

The Supreme Court's reversal of its previous ruling on the issue of State's right _____ its reputation for

- A. sustained...infallibility
- B. compromised...consistency
- C. bolstered...doggedness
- D. exacerbated...inflexibility
- E. dispelled...vacillation

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The reversal of its earlier ruling, and the implied admission that it had been wrong earlier, cannot be said to sustain the Supreme Court's infallibility, meaning incapacity to commit an error. So, A is wrong. If the Supreme Court had a reputation for consistency (meaning permanence in its opinion), the fact that it reversed its previous ruling on an important issue would certainly compromise (meaning injure) this reputation. So, B completes a logical sentence, and is the answer.

QUESTION NO: 7

The study crowds and groups is more than _____ in an age characterized by interdependence and _____ action.

- A. academic collective
- B. difficult...intellectual

- C. vigorous...assertive
- D. erudite...formal
- E. general...specific

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

If the age is characterized by interdependence of crowds and groups, what type of action should they be expected to take? Among the choices, it is the phrase "collective action" which is the aptest. So, A is the only possible choice from the point of view of the second missing word. Its pair word 'academic' completes a logical and meaningful sentence. So, A is the answer.

QUESTION NO: 8

A number of American Indian nations have moved to _____ and operate their own private college in response to the perceived inadequacies of mainstream higher education:

- A. establish
- B. educate
- C. restrict
- D. foreclose
- E. examine

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

In response to the perceived inadequacies of higher education, a country could not have educated or restricted or foreclosed or examined new private colleges. It could only have established new private colleges. So, A is the answer.

QUESTION NO: 9

The artistry of cellist Yo Yo Ma is essentially _____; the melodic line rises _____, imbued with feeling and totally lacking in apparent calculation.

- A. carefree...stiffly
- B. reserved...involuntarily
- C. lyrical passionately
- D. detache...carefully

E. deliberate...methodically

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The phrase 'imbued with feeling' immediately following the second blank indicates that the second missing word must be a synonym of this phrase. Among the choices, it is only the word

'passionately' that has this meaning. Its pair word, 'lyrical' completes a logical sentence. So, C is the answer.

QUESTION NO: 10

Although the colonist resented the new British laws, they _____ them as long as England did not _____ them too strenuously.

- A. rejected....define
- B. amende....follow
- C. tolerated...enforce
- D. defied...interpret
- E. welcomed...observe

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The use of the conjunction 'although' indicates that there is a contradiction in ideas between the first and the second parts in the sentence, if the colonists resented (meaning hated) the new British laws, they must normally be expected to have protested against it. But because of the use of the conjunction 'although' in the sentence, we must understand that their action was the opposite of 'protested', The only choices for the first missing word which are the opposite of 'protested' are 'tolerated' and 'welcomed'. The pair word of 'welcomed' is 'observe', and this is not appropriate for the second blank