

Sentence Equivalence questions: 10 Question with answer & explanation

Direction: Select the two answers that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are similar in meaning.

1. Joseph truly wanted to serve in the position no one else wanted; his enthusiasm was _____.

- A sincere
- B negated
- C convoluted
- D unfeigned
- E contagious
- F counterfeit

2. Annabelle, to whom praise was paramount, did not care so much about earning good grades in school for the knowledge; it was the _____ that she craved.

- A eloquence
- B approbation
- C ennui
- D censure
- E sanction
- F hilarity

3. The orchestral performance's musical selections were _____ ; they included classical, folk, and rock compositions.

- A malleable
- B bucolic
- C diverse
- D exacerbated
- E eclectic
- F caustic

4. As the day wore on with little progress in evidence, Jenny's energy began to _____.

- A mitigate
- B wane
- C flag
- D proliferate
- E dissemble
- F mollify

5. The formidable social worker was _____ to the frequent fulminations of her clients.

- A rarified
- B case-hardened
- C enervated
- D inured
- E refulgent
- F contrite

6. When a caterpillar undergoes metamorphosis, its _____ chrysalis belies the enormity of the changes within.

- A tranquil
- B volatile
- C august
- D quiescent
- E contiguous
- F intransigent

7. Although one might reasonably compare the roots of two criminals' antisocial behavior, the causes are often found to be entirely _____.

- A desperate
- B disparate
- C dispirited
- D dissimilar
- E despondent
- F despot

8. The student's answer on the opinion essay test was brilliant but _____; the professor was taken aback by its candor and artlessness.

- A anomalous
- B ingenious
- C discordant
- D fastidious
- E guileless
- F ingenuous

9. After a month of survival training in the wilderness, the Boy Scouts became quite _____.

- A lucid
- B alert
- C putrefied
- D perspicacious
- E odious
- F pedantic

10. My quotidian challenge is to avoid a _____ attitude; it leads to a soporific lifestyle.

- A quixotic
- B vacillating
- C phlegmatic
- D iconoclastic
- E hedonistic

F sluggish

Answers & explanation

1. Answer: A and D

Explanation: The sentence seems to say that Joseph seems earnest and genuine about desiring a job that most would turn down. While you could think of contexts where any of the answer choices would work, only “sincere” and “unfeigned” keep to the meaning of the sentence without more information.

2. Answer: B and E

Explanation: Annabelle’s need for praise means she craves approval, meaning of “approbation” and “sanction.”

3. Answer: C and E

Explanation: In this type of question, much of the sentence tends to be helpful defining the word. The selections might have been “malleable”, “caustic”, or “bucolic”, but given the list of examples of varied musical styles, “diverse” and “eclectic” are the words hinted at. “Exacerbated” is normally followed by the word “by” and another word; it is not used as an adjective. Additionally, “eclectic” is a word often associated with musical collections.

4. Answer: B and C

Explanation: The answer, “flag,” is not only a noun meaning a cloth banner, and a verb that means “to hail” or “give a sign to”, but also a verb that means “to deteriorate”. Similarly, wane also means to decrease gradually, the verb typically associated with the phases of moon. The GRE often tests knowledge of uncommon uses for common words.

5. Answer: B and D

Explanation: “Inured” means accustomed to difficulty; thus, the social worker’s clients’ fulminations (loud denunciations) did not bother her. Similarly, “case-hardened” means emotionally hardened and unresponsive during provocation. The phrase has been derived from metallurgy

6. Answer: A and C

Explanation: "Belies" means that one thing contradicts another; the best opposite to "enormous changes" is "quiescence", or seeming dormancy. Tranquil means at peace

7. Answer: B and D

Explanation: The GRE often challenges you to remember which of two similar words applies in context. "Disparate" means "different", while "desperate" means "having lost all hope". Criminals might be "desperate", but the sentence indicates that the sources of their problems are "disparate". Dissimilar is obviously the first choice

8. Answer: E and F

Explanation: Sometimes confused with "ingenious," "ingenuous" means frank and naïve. Guile means clever or crafty. Guileless means naïve and innocent. The keyword "but" right after "brilliant" should have prevented you from picking "ingenious."

9. Answer: B and D.

Explanation: There may be contexts in which any of the word choices might be appropriate, but it is most likely that the Scouts learned to be "observant" in the wilderness. I think they might also have perspired and become odiferous, but that is another story.

10. Answer: A and F

Explanation: Although perhaps any of these types of attitudes are to be avoided, the ones most likely to lead to a "soporific" (sleepy, boring) lifestyle are "phlegmatic."