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TOEFL TOEFL-Sentence-Completion

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**QUESTION NO: 1**

Eric maintained the poet, perhaps the most of the Romantic and thus most likely to be ruled by emotion, nevertheless may have possessed a greater capacity for than his famous contemporaries.

- A. severe...feeling
- B. exuberant...enjoyment
- C. passionate...discipline
- D. delicate...exaggeration
- E. ruminative...observation

**ANSWER: C****Explanation:**

The use of the word 'thus' means that the first missing word must mean the same as 'most likely to be ruled by emotion'. Among the choices for the first word, it is only 'passionate' which has this meaning. The use of the conjunction 'nevertheless' implies a contradiction between the statements in the first and the second parts. So, the word 'discipline' first in well in the second blank. The sentence now means that, though the poet was the most passionate, he was also the most disciplined among his contemporaries. So, C is the answer.

**QUESTION NO: 2**

Until the mid- 1800's, the occasional reports by European explorers of the existence of gorillas were generally disbelieved and swiftly \_\_\_\_\_ the realm of tall tales.

- A. extracted from
- B. confused with
- C. relegated to
- D. compared to
- E. exalted to

**ANSWER: C****Explanation:**

Stories that are generally disbelieved would be pushed into the category of tall tales (meaning lies). Among the choices, it is the phrase 'relegated to' that has this meaning. So, C is the answer.

**QUESTION NO: 3**

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: 4**

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: 5**

Students who interpret the honor strictly find it \_\_\_\_\_ that some bright students complete takehome examinations for less proficient friends.

- A. remedial
- B. irreproachable
- C. unconscionable
- D. irrelevant
- E. magnanimous

**ANSWER: C**

**Explanation:**

The sentence seeks to contrast the attitudes of two sets of students—those who interpret the honor code strictly, and those who answer the take-home examinations on behalf of other, less intelligent students. Obviously, those students who interpret the honor code strictly would hold that no student should attempt to answer the take-home examination for another student. They would, therefore, not consider the practice a brighter student answering the home examination of a less bright student as 'remedial', or 'irreproachable', or 'irrelevant', or 'magnanimous'. They would certainly consider this practice as 'unconscionable' (meaning against one's conscience). So, C is the answer.

**QUESTION NO: 6**

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: 7**

Although it seems to have been a fixture of the square since the city's origin, the produce market actually opened only

- A. enthusiastically
- B. recently
- C. frequently
- D. illegally
- E. graciously

**ANSWER: B**

**Explanation:**

The use of the conjunction 'although' indicates a contradiction within the sentence. If the market seems to have been in existence since the city began, it must have been opened a long time ago. But the use of the conjunction 'although' implies that this is not so. So, it must have been opened only recently. So, B is the answer.

**QUESTION NO: 8**

"Meaning" and "truth" are profound and yet \_\_\_\_\_ pms, for they seem to resist even out most determined attempts at definitive explanation.

- A. equivocal
- B. manageable
- C. insignificant
- D. unwarranted
- E. tractable

**ANSWER: A**

**Explanation:**

If the words 'meaning' and 'truth' are not capable of definitive explanation, they cannot be described as 'manageable' or 'insignificant', or 'synonymous', or 'unwarranted'. They can best be described as 'equivocal', meaning 'having more than one meaning'. So, A is the answer.

**QUESTION NO: 9**

Extremist advocates of the occult claim that existing systems of scientific though must at least be modified, it not

- A. evaluated
- B. supplemented
- C. incorporated

D. implemented

E. overturned

**ANSWER: E**

**Explanation:**

The phrase "must be at least modified, if not...." indicates that the missing word must mean something more serious than modified. Among the given choices, it is only 'overturned' which has such a meaning and is the answer. So, E is the answer.

**QUESTION NO: 10**

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.