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QUESTION NO: 1

Since what constitutes a proper diet remains a _____ subject on which few experts agree, additional research is

A. controversial required

B. neglected...deplored

C. popular...unexpected

D. favored...prohibited

E. complex...redundant

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The correct completion is **"controversial required."** The sentence presents a clear cause-and-effect relationship: because experts have little agreement about what a proper diet consists of, the topic remains controversial, and more research is required. In this context, *controversial* appropriately describes an issue that prompts disagreement or public dispute. Merriam-Webster defines the word as relating to or giving rise to controversy or dispute, which matches the clue that "few experts agree." See Merriam-Webster's definition of "controversial".

The second word must express necessity. The phrase "additional research is required" is a standard, grammatically complete construction meaning that further investigation is needed. This conclusion follows logically from the unresolved disagreement identified in the first clause: when expert consensus has not been reached, further research is necessary to gather evidence, test claims, and clarify the issue. Cambridge Dictionary defines *required* as necessary according to rules, laws, or circumstances; here, the circumstance is the lack of expert agreement. See Cambridge Dictionary's definition of "required". Together, the two words create an idiomatic and coherent sentence.

QUESTION NO: 2

He was _____ in his vindictiveness, often feigning a disarming camaraderie while _____ his opportunity for revenge.

A. impulsive...gauging

B. harmless...preparing

C. resolute...forgetting

D. brazen...dreading

E. devious...awaiting

ANSWER: E

Explanation:

The correct completion is **"devious...awaiting"**. "Devious" describes someone who uses indirect, dishonest, or cunning methods to achieve a goal. That meaning fits the contrast in the sentence: he presents a friendly, nonthreatening manner through "feigning a disarming camaraderie," but his real purpose remains revenge. The participle "feigning" signals deliberate pretense rather than genuine warmth, so the adjective must convey concealed calculation and manipulation. "Awaiting his opportunity for revenge" then completes the idea naturally: he is patiently watching for the right moment to act on his vindictiveness. Together, the words create a coherent picture of a person who hides hostile intentions behind false friendship while biding his time. Merriam-Webster defines "devious" as involving or characterized by deception or indirectness, which precisely captures the concealed nature of the man's conduct: Merriam-Webster: devious. Likewise, "await" means to wait for or expect something, making "awaiting his opportunity" an idiomatic and grammatically appropriate phrase: Cambridge Dictionary: await.

QUESTION NO: 3

Her sense of time was oddly_____; ten minutes sometimes seemed like an hour.

A. credible

B. distorted

C. idealized

D. consistent

E. formidable

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The correct completion is **distorted**. A distorted sense of time is one that does not accurately reflect the actual passage of time. The detail that “ten minutes sometimes seemed like an hour” directly shows a substantial mismatch between objective time and her personal perception of it. The adverb “oddly” further signals that her experience of time is unusual or altered, so “distorted” forms a natural and precise description in context. In English, *distorted* can describe a perception, memory, image, or understanding that has been changed from its normal or accurate form. Here, it describes an inaccurate perception of duration: a short interval feels much longer than it really is. This is also grammatically appropriate because the linking verb “was” is followed by an adjective that characterizes “her sense of time.” For definitions and usage of *distorted*, see the Cambridge Dictionary entry and the Merriam-Webster definition.

QUESTION NO: 4

Many of Eleanor-Roosevelt's harshest critics during the years she lived in the White House late _____ her compassion for all people and praised her work to social justice.

A. reemphasizes…spread

B. vindicated...dispel

C. overlooked...declare

D. denied...repress

E. acknowledged...promote

ANSWER: E

Explanation:

“acknowledged...promote” supplies the intended meaning: Eleanor Roosevelt’s critics eventually recognized her compassion and praised her efforts to promote social justice. “Acknowledge” means to recognize or admit the existence, truth, or importance of something, so it naturally describes a change in critics’ views toward Roosevelt’s concern for others. The verb also takes a direct object smoothly: the critics acknowledged “her compassion for all people.” The second word, “promote,” appropriately expresses advancing, encouraging, or supporting a cause. Thus, “her work to promote social justice” identifies the positive public purpose for which she was praised. The two verbs create a coherent contrast between earlier harsh criticism and later recognition of Roosevelt’s humanitarian work. The sentence’s word “late” appears to be a wording error; in a fully grammatical version, it would read “later acknowledged” or “belatedly acknowledged.” This does not alter the intended lexical pairing or its meaning. Dictionary definitions support the relevant usage of acknowledge and promote.

QUESTION NO: 5

The archaeologist enjoyed the _____ she led while gathering artifacts; she never stayed at any one site long enough to get bored.

A. stealthy

B. nomadic

C. clamorous

D. indiscreet

E. rustic

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The correct completion is **nomadic**. A nomadic life involves moving from place to place rather than remaining in one permanent location. The sentence's second clause supplies the key contextual evidence: the archaeologist "never stayed at any one site long enough to get bored." This directly describes a lifestyle characterized by frequent movement between excavation sites while conducting fieldwork and collecting artifacts. Grammatically, the blank requires an adjective modifying the implied noun "life" in the phrase "the _____ she led." "Nomadic" fits that construction naturally: a person can lead a nomadic life, particularly when work requires travel and temporary stays in different locations. The semicolon connects two closely related independent clauses, with the latter elaborating on the nature of the life she enjoyed. Standard dictionary definitions describe "nomadic" as relating to people who move from place to place and do not have a fixed home or settlement. See the Merriam-Webster definition of "nomadic" and the Cambridge Dictionary entry. Thus, the context and conventional usage establish "nomadic" as the precise word for the archaeologist's frequently changing life.

QUESTION NO: 6

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:

"academic collective" correctly completes the sentence as "The study [of] crowds and groups is more than academic in an age characterized by interdependence and collective action." Here, "more than academic" means that studying crowds and groups has significance beyond purely theoretical or classroom-based inquiry. The phrase emphasizes that this area of study is relevant to real social conditions and practical outcomes. "Collective action" is the established social-science expression for action undertaken by people acting together to pursue a shared interest, goal, or response. It fits naturally with "interdependence," because interdependent individuals and groups affect one another and often must coordinate their behavior. The two words therefore create a coherent relationship: contemporary interconnectedness makes the study of groups practically important, particularly because people participate in coordinated social action. This item tests the ability to use contextual meaning and common word partnerships, both of which are important for selecting vocabulary that makes an English sentence logical and natural. ETS describes TOEFL reading and language tasks as requiring readers to understand meaning from context and relationships among ideas; see ETS TOEFL iBT Reading. For the social-science meaning of collective action, see Encyclopaedia Britannica: collective action.

QUESTION NO: 7

Harrying the foe with artillery fire and _____them with fire ships, the English forced the Spanish to_____ their invasion attempt.

A. dispersing...abandon

B. ramming...confirm

C. restricting...rebuff

D. helping...reconsider

E. reinforcing...ignore

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

"dispersing...abandon" correctly completes both parts of the sentence in a coherent historical and grammatical way. "Harrying" means persistently harassing or attacking an enemy. The parallel verb "dispersing" therefore describes the English breaking up or scattering the Spanish fleet through the use of fire ships. Fire ships were vessels deliberately set alight and sent toward enemy ships, creating danger and confusion and forcing vessels to separate. This is particularly appropriate in the context of the Spanish Armada campaign, in which English forces used fire ships against the anchored Spanish fleet near Calais.

The phrase "forced the Spanish to abandon their invasion attempt" expresses the natural consequence of that disruption. "Abandon" means to give up or discontinue a plan, so it fits both the grammar after "to" and the historical outcome: the invasion plan could no longer be carried out after the fleet was scattered and damaged. The two words also create a logical cause-and-effect sequence: English attacks dispersed the fleet, and that military setback compelled the Spanish to give up the attempted invasion. See Encyclopaedia Britannica's overview of the Spanish Armada and Merriam-Webster's definition of "disperse".

QUESTION NO: 8

The archaeologist was careful not to draw conclusions from a single fragment, since such evidence was too

A. meager

B. durable

C. visible

D. ornamental

E. customary

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The correct completion is **meager**. A single fragment provides very little evidence, so it is insufficient for broad conclusions about a site or artifact. *Meager* means small in amount or lacking in quantity, and it fits naturally after "too" in this context. The other choices do not describe the limited quantity of the available evidence. See the Cambridge Dictionary definition of "meager".

QUESTION NO: 9

Today science, like philosophy, has been _____in scope: each has_____ its claim to survey all existence and has accepted a province which, it great, is yet smaller than the whole.

A. limited...reiterated

B. narrowed...resigned

C. expanded...repudiated

D. fluctuating...denied

E. receding...amplified

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The phrase “narrowed...resigned” completes the sentence because both words express the same central idea: science and philosophy no longer claim an unlimited ability to examine all of existence. “Has been narrowed in scope” is a natural passive construction meaning that the range of a field’s inquiry has become more restricted. The following clause confirms this meaning by stating that each discipline has accepted a province that is “smaller than the whole.”

“Resigned its claim” means voluntarily given up or relinquished a claim. In this context, the claim being relinquished is the broad ambition “to survey all existence.” The wording creates a coherent logical progression: their scope became narrower; consequently, they relinquished a universal claim; and they accepted a more limited, though still important, area of study. This is precisely the type of semantic relationship tested in sentence-completion questions, where the words selected must fit both grammar and the author’s overall argument. Dictionary definitions support these uses: Merriam-Webster’s definition of “narrow” includes making something more limited, and its definition of “resign” includes giving up or relinquishing something.