

Sentence Equivalence Answers

- 1. Steward, husband.** The “while” tells you that the second part of the sentence will contrast with pushing forward — due to the approaching winter, the colonists need to stay put and *conserve* what they have. Only *steward* and *husband* mean this. *Sell* and *peddle* don’t work because there’s nothing in the sentence to indicate commerce or contrast with it (and why would you sell your resources when a hard winter is coming?) Note that *procure*, which means “get” or “acquire,” doesn’t work because of the word *existing*.
- 2. See, distinguish.** This sentence is worded in a tricky way, as the pivot words *but* and *barely* negate each other. Thus, the blank parallels the clue “saw deeply.” (*Proof* here means “proofread” or “edit,” and *galleys* are “drafts of a book about to be published.”) How ironic that an author who sees into the hearts of his characters is practically blind in real life! *Interpret* is an attractive trap, but Joyce had a vision problem, not an intellectual one.
- 3. Gore, carnage.** While many of the words make sense, the words *slaughter* and *blood* demand the correct pair. *Grief* and *anguish* are an incorrect pair (*grief* is especially weird — generally, other people experience grief after someone dies, rather than a person feeling grief over his own violent death).
- 4. Evolving, advancing.** Sometimes a seeming theme trap (*evolving*) is not a trap — this sentence is literally about evolution, and also uses *evolving* as a metaphor. *Fallacious* and *counterfactual* is an incorrect pair that reflects misunderstanding the sentence, which certainly doesn’t say that all science is wrong, just that it is its nature to constantly revise in the face of new information.
- 5. Idealistic, quixotic.** Daily arguments with opponents who won’t change their mind and dealing with people who make demands are likely to make someone more realistic about the limited prospects of accomplishing something, or less *idealistic* and *quixotic*, which are synonyms. Arguing with others is not likely to make someone less *contentious* or *dialectical*, but more so. And nothing here implies that the president’s policies are *altruistic* or that he is particularly *tenacious*. Alternatively, you can look at the answer choices. *Idealistic* and *quixotic* form one pair, and *dialectical* and *contentious* form another, so one of those pairs has to be the right answer.
- 6. Fledgling, novice.** You need answers that relate to being beginners (or at least not “masters”). *Fledgling* and *novice* both mean “inexperienced.”
- 7. Paean, eulogy.** A *retrospective* would be an exhibit that shows the history and progression of the artist’s work, but this exhibit only shows the good parts (it “glosses over” the weaker work and omits the artist’s “dissolution”). Thus, you need a word that has something to do with “praising.” *Paean* and *eulogy* are the only matches. Note that a *paean* is generally a song or speech of praise and is being used a bit metaphorically here. Many people only know *eulogy* as a speech given at a funeral, but can actually refer to any speech (or in this case, art exhibit) of praise.
- 8. Flagging, enervated.** After a long, hard practice in hot weather, naturally the players would be tired. *Flagging* and *enervated* are the only choices that mean “tired.”
- 9. Olio, mélange.** If it’s a *feast*, there are many different foods involved — thus, you need a word that means “mixture” or “multitude.” *Olio* and *mélange* both mean “mixture” or “medley.”

10. **Bald, overt.** The earlier “evasions and equivocations” are ways to avoid a question or “flip-flop” on an issue. This “latest statement” is “unlike” the evasions and equivocations because it is an *explicit, clear, or obvious* lie. *Bald* and *overt* are the only matches. Note the trap answers *tacit* and *implicit*, which are synonyms that mean the exact opposite (“hinted at, unspoken”) of what you need.
11. **Priggish, punctilious.** You need a word in the blank that is the opposite of the words *lighthearted* and *liveliness and spontaneity*, so something like *strict* would match. *Priggish* and *punctilious* are both related to taking the rules much too seriously.
12. **Bootless, feckless.** You now that Margulies got benched, so his attempt must have been “weak” or “unsuccessful.” Both *bootless* and *feckless* match. Make sure to stick to the clues presented — you have no way to know if Margulies is *restless, indefatigable*, etc. You only know that he was pulled from the game by his coach.
13. **On par with, tantamount to.** The man’s actions are being compared to murder, even though the man says the killing was unintentional (*murder* refers specifically to “deliberate killing”). Thus, you need choices that mean “equivalent to.” Both *on par with* and *tantamount to* match.
14. **Feasible, viable.** You need two words that are like *pragmatic*, which means “practical.” *Feasible* and *viable* relate to the practical considerations of whether the plan is workable or likely to succeed. The only other pair of similar words, *partisan* and *prejudiced*, have the exact incorrect meaning — they are more similar to “ideological” than “pragmatic.”
15. **Puckish, wry.** You need two words that are the opposite of “somewhat somber.” Only *puckish* and *wry* have the sense of being funny or playful.
16. **Fighters, partisans.** The correct pair must follow the clue *armed resistance from civilian*; the word *mercenaries* is an attractive trap, but a mercenary is someone who fights for money (usually for a foreign country), not someone who is “inspired by desperate conditions to fight in their own streets.”
17. **Capricious, erratic.** The clue is “without regard for precedents” — that is, the monarchs made decisions based on their own whims or desires, ignoring any pre-existing standards. *Considered* is the opposite of what you are looking for, and *malicious* and *pessimistic*, while appropriately negative, add new ideas that are not indicated by the sentence.
18. **Flabbergasted, bedazzled.** Since the expedition was *conceived primarily as a mapping project*, the officials would naturally be *amazed* or *surprised* at the *wealth of information on a myriad of topics* that the explorers gathered. Only *flabbergasted* and *bedazzled* convey any type of surprise or awe.
19. **Expeditious, swift.** The pivot indicates that the answers will oppose the clue *quagmire* — that is, Afghanistan’s problems are messy and entrenched. So, what kind of victory is *not* likely? A fast or easy one.
20. **Diversity, mutation.** The geneticists mentioned are studying a population descended from a rather small number of people a rather long time ago. Geneticists — who study genes, of course — would be interested in how this population changed over time (*mutated*) and became different from one another (*diversity*). Note that none of the other answers are logical at all.
21. **Triage, prioritize.** You need two words that match the clue *to metaphorically separate the wheat from the chaff*. (*Chaff* is the “inedible part of wheat that is discarded before the wheat can be made into flour.”) You can also

use the clues regarding *the only way that a person can function* given an *influx of information*. *Delete* and *eliminate* are attractive traps, but doesn't match the idea of separating *the wheat from the chaff*. Only *triage* (think of what emergency room physicians do) and *prioritize* match.

22. **Tenaciously, doggedly.** Because of the word *Although*, the correct pair must contrast "accommodating." Both *tenaciously* and *doggedly* convey the idea that Orwell refused to back down. Note that the pair *obsequiously* and *sycophantically* are the exact opposite of what you are looking for.

23. **A flabbergasting, a confounding.** The pivot *Although* indicates that the blank will convey something that contrasts with the idea of most people living only to age forty. You need two words that mean something like "surprising." Trap answer *incomprehensible* goes too far — it's interesting that many painters had long lives, but it's not beyond all comprehension.

24. **Gauche, uncouth.** The two words must match the word *ostentatious*. Both *gauche* and *uncouth* get across the idea of showing off in a low-class way (as is often associated with the "newly rich"). Remember not to insert your own opinions — *eccentric* and *idiosyncratic* are near-synonyms, but are a trap.

25. **Ironically, ludicrously.** The pivot word *yet* indicates that a car crash in 1905 was a numerical improbability. You need two words that mean "strangely" or "ridiculously." Only *ironically* and *ludicrously* come close. (Note that the GRE tends to use the word *ironically* rather loosely.)

26. **Depict, mirror.** The images of small waists are contrasted with *overweight Western societies*. The word *not* before the blank indicates that you need two words that mean "represent" or "portray."

27. **Dearth, famine.** The correct pair must the idea of population growth outpacing natural resources — that is, having too many people to be supported by our natural resources. *Famine* and *dearth* are not synonyms (a *famine* is "a prolonged and widespread lack of food," and a *dearth* is "a lack of anything"), but are the only words that match the idea of shortages.

28. **Putative, conjectural.** The sentence indicates that the blank opposes the word *proven*. *Corroborated* and *assayed* are an incorrect pair of words that have meanings similar to *proven*. Only *putative* and *conjectural* have the desired meaning ("alleged, supposed, in theory").

29. **Surprisingly, remarkably.** The pivot word *While* indicates the answers must undermine the *commonly accepted and oft cited* legend. Note that there are two incorrect pairs: *risibly* and *amusingly*, *tragically* and *horribly*. Work off the clue and do not inject opinions or write stories.

30. **Apprising, counseling.** Cassirer "correctly" exposed forgeries to a *credulous* (that is, *gullible*) art world. Thus, he was *helping* or *advising* the art world. Only *apprising* and *counseling* match.

31. **Cunning, subterfuge.** You are told that both Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty engage in "clever deception," though one of them is "upstanding" and the other is not. You simply need a synonym for "clever deception." *Immorality* and *wrongdoing* do not imply anything clever, and *brilliance* does not imply deception. *Cunning* and *subterfuge* both fit.

32. **Transparent, overt.** The etymology of "alpha" is described as "obscure," and the word *while* implies that the etymology of "omega" will be "not obscure." Both *transparent* and *overt* carry this meaning. *Complicated* and

Sentence Equivalence

Select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. While the colonists would eventually push westward, first, they were in for a long, difficult winter, and the main challenge was to _____ their existing resources.
- ☐ sell
 - ☐ peddle
 - ☐ steward
 - ☐ upend
 - ☐ husband
 - ☐ procure
2. James Joyce, the author of many novels, including *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, saw deeply into the hearts of his characters, but, in a life irony as subtle yet piercing as those endured by his characters, he himself could barely _____ text well enough to proof his own galleys.
- ☐ see
 - ☐ feel
 - ☐ walk
 - ☐ move
 - ☐ distinguish
 - ☐ interpret
3. Emblematic of the slaughter of the First World War, 60,000 British soldiers died for naught on the first day of the battle of the Somme, literally consumed into a stew of blood and _____.
- ☐ grief
 - ☐ gore
 - ☐ steel
 - ☐ bullets
 - ☐ carnage
 - ☐ anguish
4. Forty years ago, anthropologists firmly believed that Neanderthals and modern *homo sapiens* never mated, but advances in genetic testing proved that incorrect — such is the _____ nature of science.
- ☐ fallacious
 - ☐ evolving
 - ☐ counterfactual
 - ☐ advancing
 - ☐ vacillating

☐ undeterminable

5. The daily routine of responding to lobbyists and exchanging polemics with intransigent political opponents seemed at odds with the president's _____ tendencies.

☐ tenacious

☐ idealistic

☐ dialectical

☐ contentious

☐ quixotic

☐ altruistic

6. A field trip was arranged so that this troupe of _____ dancers could observe the real masters of their art.

☐ seasoned

☐ fledgling

☐ expert

☐ torpid

☐ novice

☐ lithe

7. The exhibit is not so much a retrospective as a _____; the artist's weaker early work is glossed over, and any evidence of his ultimate dissolution is absent entirely.

☐ paean

☐ philippic

☐ tirade

☐ panacea

☐ eulogy

☐ crescendo

8. After a long, hard practice in the summer sun, the players were visibly _____.

☐ flagging

☐ hale

☐ lissome

☐ loathsome

☐ vigorous

☐ enervated

9. Nothing evoked memories of her grandmother's house like the _____ of scents associated with the holiday feast.

☐ paucity

☐ anomaly

☐ olio

☐ mélange

☐ dearth

☐ pilfering

10. Unlike the politician's earlier evasions and equivocations, this latest statement is a _____ lie.

- ☐ bald
- ☐ tacit
- ☐ overt
- ☐ didactic
- ☐ rhetorical
- ☐ implicit

11. Possessed of a lighthearted approach to life, Winnie thought that those who were _____ in regards to values and mores missed out on a certain liveliness and spontaneity.

- ☐ lax
- ☐ equable
- ☐ priggish
- ☐ redoubtable
- ☐ impious
- ☐ punctilious

12. After a second _____ attempt by Margulies to make a simple shot, the coach put him on the bench for the rest of the game.

- ☐ restless
- ☐ flawless
- ☐ bootless
- ☐ indefatigable
- ☐ feckless
- ☐ auspicious

13. While he says that he did not mean to kill, some feel that his actions are _____ murder.

- ☐ preceded by
- ☐ on par with
- ☐ superseded by
- ☐ an homage to
- ☐ an accrual of
- ☐ tantamount to

14. For most of the 20th century, American political contentions reflected pragmatic rather than ideological differences; candidate debates centered around whether programs were _____.

- ☐ partisan
- ☐ voluble
- ☐ feasible
- ☐ innocuous
- ☐ prejudiced
- ☐ viable

15. Though considered a somewhat somber drama at the time of its release in 1975, the film *Shampoo*, about a philandering hairdresser, now seems more the _____ comedy.

- ☐ puckish
- ☐ uninhibited

- ☐ prurient
- ☐ wry
- ☐ dated
- ☐ puritanical

16. During the German occupation of France, the draconian measures of the occupiers met armed resistance from civilian _____, inspired by desperate conditions to fight in their own streets.

- ☐ poets
- ☐ fighters
- ☐ writers
- ☐ mercenaries
- ☐ politicians
- ☐ partisans

17. Representative government arose in part from dissatisfaction with too many monarchs making _____ decisions without regard for precedents.

- ☐ capricious
- ☐ considered
- ☐ malicious
- ☐ pessimistic
- ☐ insidious
- ☐ erratic

18. Because the Lewis and Clark expedition through the West was conceived primarily as a mapping project, government officials were _____ by the wealth of information on a myriad of topics that the explorers gathered.

- ☐ aggravated
- ☐ flabbergasted
- ☐ crushed
- ☐ bedazzled
- ☐ bored
- ☐ disappointed

19. Only by ignoring Afghanistan's long history as a military quagmire could pundits pontificate that fresh infusions of men and material would lead to _____ victory.

- ☐ fleeting
- ☐ contingent
- ☐ expeditious
- ☐ ephemeral
- ☐ swift
- ☐ pyrrhic

20. Geneticists find Iceland a living laboratory for the study of _____ because virtually all of its current 300,000 citizens descend from less than a thousand Icelanders who survived the medieval Black Death.

- ☐ diversity
- ☐ revivification

- ☐ therapy
- ☐ history
- ☐ mutation
- ☐ rejuvenation

21. Given the influx of information via social media, the only way that a person can function effectively is to _____, to metaphorically separate the wheat from the chaff.

- ☐ delete
- ☐ triage
- ☐ prioritize
- ☐ respond
- ☐ requite
- ☐ eliminate

22. Although accommodating in person, George Orwell _____ defended his political positions in print.

- ☐ tenaciously
- ☐ obsequiously
- ☐ inadvertently
- ☐ doggedly
- ☐ sycophantically
- ☐ idiosyncratically

23. Although historically, paints were often tinted with toxic elements such as lead, cadmium, and mercury, _____ number of painters lived to be seventy, eighty, and even ninety.

- ☐ an incomprehensible
- ☐ a flabbergasting
- ☐ an impossible
- ☐ a confounding
- ☐ a dismaying
- ☐ an enlightening

24. The phrase “gilding the lily” is a late 19th century expression that sneered at the ostentatious gestures of some of the newly rich, such as applying gold gilt to the carved lilies on the entrances of their Beaux Arts homes; for decades, it then served as a shorthand for any _____ and showy behavior.

- ☐ gauche
- ☐ eccentric
- ☐ idiosyncratic
- ☐ idiotic
- ☐ irredentist
- ☐ uncouth

25. In 1905, there were only fourteen automobiles in the United States, yet, _____ enough, two of them ran into each other in St. Louis.

- ☐ justifiably
- ☐ ironically
- ☐ inevitably

- ☐ deservedly
- ☐ ludicrously
- ☐ lamentably

26. A “Mycenaean waist” refers to the taut, impossibly small waists characteristic of certain ancient drawings found on Crete, and it certainly does not _____ any characteristic of modern, overweight Western societies.

- ☐ deify
- ☐ depict
- ☐ denigrate
- ☐ mirror
- ☐ defame
- ☐ distort

27. In the 19th century, Thomas Carlyle called economics “the dismal science,” in part because of Malthus’s theory that population growth would outpace our natural resources, causing widespread _____.

- ☐ dearth
- ☐ pulchritude
- ☐ rapture
- ☐ ravishment
- ☐ famine
- ☐ debauchery

28. In uncertain times, _____ theories often gain greater and faster adherence among the populace than proven ones do.

- ☐ corroborated
- ☐ putative
- ☐ conjectural
- ☐ assayed
- ☐ irrefutable
- ☐ irreconcilable

29. While the legend of Custer’s last stand is commonly accepted and oft cited as an example of fortitude in the face of adversity, recent studies of the remains indicate that, _____, many soldiers chose suicide rather than risk capture by the Sioux.

- ☐ surprisingly
- ☐ risibly
- ☐ tragically
- ☐ remarkably
- ☐ amusingly
- ☐ horribly

30. In the early 1920’s, Paul Cassirer, a Berlin art dealer, was famous not only for his clients, such as Renoir, but also for _____ a credulous art world by correctly exposing several purported Van Gogh works as forgeries.

- ☐ deluding
- ☐ apprising
- ☐ counseling

Text Completions Answers

- 1. Apportioned.** You begin by learning about football, which is by far the *most popular sport in Europe*. The word *whereas* then creates a contrast, so you need American fans to be evenly *split* between their many sports. *Measured* is close, but doesn't quite divide things up the way you need it to. *Apportioned* means "divided and allocated."
- 2. Delusion.** The second half of the sentence tells you that it would take a "miracle" for a person to get to another solar system. In other words, it's more or less or *impossible*. Both *dementia* and *hysteria* are too negative and extreme. *Delusion*, meaning "a belief that is maintained despite being contradicted by reality," is the best fit.
- 3. Crowned, dismissed.** "Peculiarly enough" is the clue that indicates that the blanks oppose each other, and *best English language playwright* is the clue that tells you that the first blank must be positive, so the second blank must be negative. *Crowned* is the only positive word choice for the first blank. In the second blank, *demonized* is much too strong an attitude to direct towards someone for lacking education; *dismissed* is a more appropriate word.
- 4. Undermine, unchallenged.** The first word of the sentence tells you that the two parts of the sentence will oppose each other. The second suggests that the president felt that the professor's comments couldn't be allowed to stand as they were, so they could not go *unchallenged*. If the university challenges a faculty member, however, this tends to subvert or *undermine* the faculty member's authority, which is what you need for the first blank. Note that, if you picked *defend* for the first blank, you would need a word like *undefended* in the second blank — none of the choices for the second blank match *undefended*.
- 5. Contortion, swindle, unconscionable.** It's easiest to start this sentence with the second blank, where record labels are described as *demanding indefensibly large percentages of [artists'] profits*. This means the second blank should be *swindle*. The third blank then uses the word *equally*, implying that downloading a song illegally is also a kind of *swindle*. Both *justifiable* and *scrupulous* are positive words, so you need *unconscionable*, meaning "not right or reasonable." Now you can return to the first blank. You know that the prompt as a whole argues that downloading music is bad, so "in order to defend" it, one must be slightly dishonest. *Probity* and *leniency* are both good things. You want *contortion*, meaning "twisting or bending out of something's normal shape."
- 6. Cited, correct, tangential.** You can start with the first blank here, where a fact about life expectancy relates to the world improving with time. Clearly this would be *true* if life expectancies have increased with time, so you can simply use *cited* in the first blank. The second blank, however, says that this statistic is slightly misleading if you consider a new fact (i.e., that most children died in childbirth). This means you need to *correct* for the new piece of information. The final sentence seems a bit off-topic (suddenly you're talking about height, when you had been talking about life expectancy), so you should use the word *tangential* to set it off. Note that *sidereal* doesn't have anything to do with being "on the side" — it means "related to the stars."
- 7. Preposterous.** The blank must agree with the clue that the possibility is remote. Note that *prescient* is the opposite of what you want — because the prediction about the future was entirely wrong, it did not sound *prescient*.
- 8. Enduring.** The blank must agree with *strongly influenced legal codes well into the 20th century*; thus, the code of law is *enduring*. Note that incorrect choice *fleeting* is exactly the opposite of the intended meaning.

9. **Superstitious.** The pivot word *because* indicates that the blank will agree with the (interesting but meaningless) pattern that *every president elected in a year ending in zero had died in office*. Don't fall for traps like *conservative* (which would only be attractive if you were using outside information).
10. **Amusing, caustic.** The clue "usual" means that the two blanks must match "humorous but acerbic" — and in order.
11. **Circle.** The clue "in turn" leads to the correct answer. Incorrect answers *irony* and *comedy* add an idea — humor — that was not indicated by the sentence.
12. **Abreast of.** The word *although* gives you a clue that what the professor is doing is unusual or not required of a retired person. "Takes pains" also tells you that what she is doing is difficult. To keep *abreast of* a topic is to remain current.
13. **Proponent, catalyst.** You know that the woman in this sentence *finally got the bill onto the legislative agenda*, so she is definitely an advocate, or *proponent*, of the legislation. A *catalyst* — a term adopted from chemistry — is someone who creates change.
14. **Trumpet, taciturn.** You know that Jeremy is successful, but it takes his family a long time to "discover" his accomplishments. Thus, Jeremy does not brag — or even report the facts! To *trumpet* is to "talk loudly or report something to everyone." In the second blank, only *taciturn* (quiet) works. Don't be fooled by *prodigal*, which occurs in the expression "prodigal son," but actually means "wasteful." (The original *prodigal son* from the Bible ungratefully wasted his inheritance.)
15. **Dumbfounded, turbid.** In the first blank, you need a word like *amazed*. *Dumbfounded* is the only match. *Turbid* which is related to *turbulent*, is the right word to describe choppy waters in which something could easily be lost. (*Turgid* means "stiff" and *tepid* means "lukewarm.")
16. **Emblematic of, pragmatic, posit.** You learn at the end of the sentence that Hursthouse puts forth the same views as many other virtue ethicists. So in the first blank, you want something like *representative of*. The only match is *emblematic of*. You then learn that Hursthouse thinks ethics is "neither situational nor utilitarian" — the next part of the sentence will have a first part that matches up with *situational*, and a second part that matches up with *utilitarian*, (GRE sentences often use a pattern of mentioning two things, and then giving more information about those two things *in the same order*.) *Base one's judgments on subjective concerns* refers back to a *situational* approach to ethics, and a _____ *weighing of pain and pleasure* refers back to a *utilitarian* (or *practical*) approach. Thus, *pragmatic*, which means "practical," matches. Finally, critics would definitely *agree* with the idea that virtue ethicists "seek to enshrine their own prejudices," so in the third blank, you just need a word like *say* or *claim*. *Posit* is the only match.
17. **Roundly, panned.** Wow, what a terrible movie! Not a single reviewer could think of *one* nice thing to say? You need two words that mean something like "unanimously criticized" or "100% disliked." *Roundly* means "emphatically," or "so thoroughly as to leave no doubt." *Panned* means "reviewed negatively" and is almost always used to refer to plays, movies, etc., so the word is a perfect match here.
18. **Modestly, sparingly, do nothing to excess.** The only clue you have is that Socrates advocated *a life of moderation*, so you need words that mean *moderately* in both the first and second blanks, and a phrase that means "live moderately" in the third blank.
19. **Inundated.** Upon reading this sentence, you might have filled in something like "went to" in the blank. One good

clue is that the carpetbaggers needed suitcases, so they were probably traveling. Process of elimination works well here — *vanquished*, *blacklisted*, *boycotted*, and *berated* all add ideas not indicated by the sentence. Only *inundated* (flooded, overwhelmed) makes sense.

20. **Coda.** You need a word that means something like a *bad ending*. A *coda* is an ending that sums up what came before, which, in this case, was pretty bad. A *rampage* is bad but does not fit grammatically before “to,” nor does it correctly describe an earthquake — rather, murderers or mobs go on *rampages*.

21. **Presciently, simpatico.** *Presciently* means “seeing into the future,” or “as though seeing into the future.” *Simpatico* matches the idea of being “of one mind.”

22. **Inured to.** *Casting a blind eye* to suffering means that these people ignore or pretend not to see the suffering. Thus, they are *inured to* suffering — they are hardened and desensitized as a result of seeing so much of it. Trap answer *exempted* would mean that the people described are no longer personally subject to the suffering. You don’t know that, of course. You only have the clue that the people *cast a blind eye*, or *ignore* suffering. Because they *ignore* suffering, they also wouldn’t be *maudlin* or *effusive*, which are about expressing strong feelings.

23. **Coalesced.** You need a word that means *came together*. *Coalesced* matches perfectly. *Agglomerated* is a bit of a trap — to *agglomerate* is to collect or form into a mass or group. Since the people were already in a group, the word is inappropriate (*agglomerate* is also used more for things than for people).

24. **Anachronisms.** The director inserted some *things in the wrong time period*, or *anachronisms*.

25. **Enigma.** Since no one has been able to decode the tablet, you need a word that means “mystery.”

26. **Rail against, moralists, utilitarians.** You know from the definition provided of progressive taxation that those who “feel it unjust” that the “most industrious” are “penalized” would definitely be against progressive taxation, so *rail against* matches in the first blank. The word *unjust* is a good clue that *moralists* matches in the second blank (the other two words make no sense — *autodidacts* are people who teach themselves and *recidivists* are people who return to committing crimes). In the third blank, you need another group of people who are against progressive taxation but who are different from the *moralists* — in this case, because they are making a *practical* argument, not a moral one. Only *utilitarians* matches.

27. **Inform.** The poet’s childhood memories *color*, or influence, her work. You need a similar word for how war *influences* her poetry. *Inform* — to give substance, character, or distinction to — can be used in this way.

28. **Erroneously, unbeknownst.** Since the peanut is not really a nut (it is a legume), *erroneously* (incorrectly) matches in the first blank. *Unbeknownst to* means “unknown by.”

29. **Tremulous, chary of.** All of the clues in the sentence are about being scared, so *tremulous* matches best in the first blank. You know that the child finds diving “even more frightening” than water in general, so *chary of* (suspicious or slightly scared of), a less extreme version of *frightening*, fits in the second blank.

30. **Sentries, fecund, progeny.** You are told that soldier ants *guard the colony and supply it with food, thus acting as both _____ and laborers*. In this sentence pattern, the first blank (*sentries*, or “guards”) matches up with “guard the colony” and “laborers” matches up with “supply it with food.” You know that the queen can *continually populate the colony*, so *fecund* (fertile) goes in the second blank and *progeny* (offspring) goes in the third.

Text Completions Answers

- 1. Apportioned.** You begin by learning about football, which is by far the *most popular sport in Europe*. The word *whereas* then creates a contrast, so you need American fans to be evenly *split* between their many sports. *Measured* is close, but doesn't quite divide things up the way you need it to. *Apportioned* means "divided and allocated."
- 2. Delusion.** The second half of the sentence tells you that it would take a "miracle" for a person to get to another solar system. In other words, it's more or less or *impossible*. Both *dementia* and *hysteria* are too negative and extreme. *Delusion*, meaning "a belief that is maintained despite being contradicted by reality," is the best fit.
- 3. Crowned, dismissed.** "Peculiarly enough" is the clue that indicates that the blanks oppose each other, and *best English language playwright* is the clue that tells you that the first blank must be positive, so the second blank must be negative. *Crowned* is the only positive word choice for the first blank. In the second blank, *demonized* is much too strong an attitude to direct towards someone for lacking education; *dismissed* is a more appropriate word.
- 4. Undermine, unchallenged.** The first word of the sentence tells you that the two parts of the sentence will oppose each other. The second suggests that the president felt that the professor's comments couldn't be allowed to stand as they were, so they could not go *unchallenged*. If the university challenges a faculty member, however, this tends to subvert or *undermine* the faculty member's authority, which is what you need for the first blank. Note that, if you picked *defend* for the first blank, you would need a word like *undefended* in the second blank — none of the choices for the second blank match *undefended*.
- 5. Contortion, swindle, unconscionable.** It's easiest to start this sentence with the second blank, where record labels are described as *demanding indefensibly large percentages of [artists'] profits*. This means the second blank should be *swindle*. The third blank then uses the word *equally*, implying that downloading a song illegally is also a kind of *swindle*. Both *justifiable* and *scrupulous* are positive words, so you need *unconscionable*, meaning "not right or reasonable." Now you can return to the first blank. You know that the prompt as a whole argues that downloading music is bad, so "in order to defend" it, one must be slightly dishonest. *Probity* and *leniency* are both good things. You want *contortion*, meaning "twisting or bending out of something's normal shape."
- 6. Cited, correct, tangential.** You can start with the first blank here, where a fact about life expectancy relates to the world improving with time. Clearly this would be *true* if life expectancies have increased with time, so you can simply use *cited* in the first blank. The second blank, however, says that this statistic is slightly misleading if you consider a new fact (i.e., that most children died in childbirth). This means you need to *correct* for the new piece of information. The final sentence seems a bit off-topic (suddenly you're talking about height, when you had been talking about life expectancy), so you should use the word *tangential* to set it off. Note that *sidereal* doesn't have anything to do with being "on the side" — it means "related to the stars."
- 7. Preposterous.** The blank must agree with the clue that the possibility is remote. Note that *prescient* is the opposite of what you want — because the prediction about the future was entirely wrong, it did not sound *prescient*.
- 8. Enduring.** The blank must agree with *strongly influenced legal codes well into the 20th century*; thus, the code of law is *enduring*. Note that incorrect choice *fleeting* is exactly the opposite of the intended meaning.

9. **Superstitious.** The pivot word *because* indicates that the blank will agree with the (interesting but meaningless) pattern that *every president elected in a year ending in zero had died in office*. Don't fall for traps like *conservative* (which would only be attractive if you were using outside information).
10. **Amusing, caustic.** The clue "usual" means that the two blanks must match "humorous but acerbic" — and in order.
11. **Circle.** The clue "in turn" leads to the correct answer. Incorrect answers *irony* and *comedy* add an idea — humor — that was not indicated by the sentence.
12. **Abreast of.** The word *although* gives you a clue that what the professor is doing is unusual or not required of a retired person. "Takes pains" also tells you that what she is doing is difficult. To keep *abreast of* a topic is to remain current.
13. **Proponent, catalyst.** You know that the woman in this sentence *finally got the bill onto the legislative agenda*, so she is definitely an advocate, or *proponent*, of the legislation. A *catalyst* — a term adopted from chemistry — is someone who creates change.
14. **Trumpet, taciturn.** You know that Jeremy is successful, but it takes his family a long time to "discover" his accomplishments. Thus, Jeremy does not brag — or even report the facts! To *trumpet* is to "talk loudly or report something to everyone." In the second blank, only *taciturn* (quiet) works. Don't be fooled by *prodigal*, which occurs in the expression "prodigal son," but actually means "wasteful." (The original *prodigal son* from the Bible ungratefully wasted his inheritance.)
15. **Dumbfounded, turbid.** In the first blank, you need a word like *amazed*. *Dumbfounded* is the only match. *Turbid* which is related to *turbulent*, is the right word to describe choppy waters in which something could easily be lost. (*Turgid* means "stiff" and *tepid* means "lukewarm.")
16. **Emblematic of, pragmatic, posit.** You learn at the end of the sentence that Hursthouse puts forth the same views as many other virtue ethicists. So in the first blank, you want something like *representative of*. The only match is *emblematic of*. You then learn that Hursthouse thinks ethics is "neither situational nor utilitarian" — the next part of the sentence will have a first part that matches up with *situational*, and a second part that matches up with *utilitarian*, (GRE sentences often use a pattern of mentioning two things, and then giving more information about those two things *in the same order*.) *Base one's judgments on subjective concerns* refers back to a *situational* approach to ethics, and a _____ *weighing of pain and pleasure* refers back to a *utilitarian* (or *practical*) approach. Thus, *pragmatic*, which means "practical," matches. Finally, critics would definitely *agree* with the idea that virtue ethicists "seek to enshrine their own prejudices," so in the third blank, you just need a word like *say* or *claim*. *Posit* is the only match.
17. **Roundly, panned.** Wow, what a terrible movie! Not a single reviewer could think of *one* nice thing to say? You need two words that mean something like "unanimously criticized" or "100% disliked." *Roundly* means "emphatically," or "so thoroughly as to leave no doubt." *Panned* means "reviewed negatively" and is almost always used to refer to plays, movies, etc., so the word is a perfect match here.
18. **Modestly, sparingly, do nothing to excess.** The only clue you have is that Socrates advocated *a life of moderation*, so you need words that mean *moderately* in both the first and second blanks, and a phrase that means "live moderately" in the third blank.
19. **Inundated.** Upon reading this sentence, you might have filled in something like "went to" in the blank. One good

clue is that the carpetbaggers needed suitcases, so they were probably traveling. Process of elimination works well here — *vanquished*, *blacklisted*, *boycotted*, and *berated* all add ideas not indicated by the sentence. Only *inundated* (flooded, overwhelmed) makes sense.

20. **Coda.** You need a word that means something like a *bad ending*. A *coda* is an ending that sums up what came before, which, in this case, was pretty bad. A *rampage* is bad but does not fit grammatically before “to,” nor does it correctly describe an earthquake — rather, murderers or mobs go on *rampages*.

21. **Presciently, simpatico.** *Presciently* means “seeing into the future,” or “as though seeing into the future.” *Simpatico* matches the idea of being “of one mind.”

22. **Inured to.** *Casting a blind eye* to suffering means that these people ignore or pretend not to see the suffering. Thus, they are *inured to* suffering — they are hardened and desensitized as a result of seeing so much of it. Trap answer *exempted* would mean that the people described are no longer personally subject to the suffering. You don’t know that, of course. You only have the clue that the people *cast a blind eye*, or *ignore* suffering. Because they *ignore* suffering, they also wouldn’t be *maudlin* or *effusive*, which are about expressing strong feelings.

23. **Coalesced.** You need a word that means *came together*. *Coalesced* matches perfectly. *Agglomerated* is a bit of a trap — to *agglomerate* is to collect or form into a mass or group. Since the people were already in a group, the word is inappropriate (*agglomerate* is also used more for things than for people).

24. **Anachronisms.** The director inserted some *things in the wrong time period*, or *anachronisms*.

25. **Enigma.** Since no one has been able to decode the tablet, you need a word that means “mystery.”

26. **Rail against, moralists, utilitarians.** You know from the definition provided of progressive taxation that those who “feel it unjust” that the “most industrious” are “penalized” would definitely be against progressive taxation, so *rail against* matches in the first blank. The word *unjust* is a good clue that *moralists* matches in the second blank (the other two words make no sense — *autodidacts* are people who teach themselves and *recidivists* are people who return to committing crimes). In the third blank, you need another group of people who are against progressive taxation but who are different from the *moralists* — in this case, because they are making a *practical* argument, not a moral one. Only *utilitarians* matches.

27. **Inform.** The poet’s childhood memories *color*, or influence, her work. You need a similar word for how war *influences* her poetry. *Inform* — to give substance, character, or distinction to — can be used in this way.

28. **Erroneously, unbeknownst.** Since the peanut is not really a nut (it is a legume), *erroneously* (incorrectly) matches in the first blank. *Unbeknownst to* means “unknown by.”

29. **Tremulous, chary of.** All of the clues in the sentence are about being scared, so *tremulous* matches best in the first blank. You know that the child finds diving “even more frightening” than water in general, so *chary of* (suspicious or slightly scared of), a less extreme version of *frightening*, fits in the second blank.

30. **Sentries, fecund, progeny.** You are told that soldier ants *guard the colony and supply it with food, thus acting as both _____ and laborers*. In this sentence pattern, the first blank (*sentries*, or “guards”) matches up with “guard the colony” and “laborers” matches up with “supply it with food.” You know that the queen can *continually populate the colony*, so *fecund* (fertile) goes in the second blank and *progeny* (offspring) goes in the third.

Text Completions

Select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill in the blank in the way that best completes the text.

1. In Europe, football, otherwise known as soccer, is the most popular sport by several orders of magnitude, whereas in America, fandom is fairly evenly _____ among a few different sports.

regarded
inspired
enjoyed
measured
apportioned

2. The astrophysicist argues that our books and films about interstellar space travel are a form of mass _____, and that only a miracle on a scale heretofore unseen could allow a human being to voyage to even the closest star in another solar system.

innovation
delusion
dementia
catastrophe
hysteria

3. Peculiarly enough, Shakespeare has been often (i) _____ as the best English language playwright, and often (ii) _____ as a man lacking the education to write those plays.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
crowned	demonized
stigmatized	dismissed
castigated	deified

4. Although it was not the university's policy to (i) _____ the authority of its faculty, the president felt that the professor's comments regarding affirmative action could not remain (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
defend	unavailed
ruminate	unchallenged

undermine	averred
-----------	---------

5. In order to defend downloading music illegally, it's necessary to engage in a bit of ethical (i) _____. While it is true that traditional record labels (ii) _____ their artists—demanding indefensibly large percentages of their profits—downloading a song illegally is equally (iii) _____, because it robs both the label and the artist.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

contortion	swindle	justifiable
leniency	disabuse	unconscionable
probity	deluge	scrupulous

6. The fact that the average life expectancy ten thousand years ago was so much shorter than it is now is often (i) _____ as evidence supporting the notion that the world always improves with time. However, if you (ii) _____ for the fact that most children in that epoch died in childbirth, it turns out that life expectancy back then was nearly the same as it is now. On a (iii) _____ note, it also turns out that many “barbaric” hunter-gatherer tribes were taller on average than the average person now living.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

cited	prepare	contrastive
disregarded	read	sidereal
embodied	correct	tangential

7. On an aptitude test in 1986, an argument posited that the possibility of conducting banking transactions from home was as likely as flying cars, an argument that today sounds _____.

prescient
paradoxical
presumptuous
preposterous
pithy

8. Napoleon is of course most famous for his military triumphs, but his innovative code of law had a subtler but more _____ impact, as its principles strongly influenced legal codes well into the 20th century.

renowned
enduring
fleeting
insidious
martial

9. Many _____ people feared for the life of Ronald Reagan because since 1840, every president elected in a year ending in zero had died in office.

knowledgeable
mathematical
superstitious
addled
conservative

10. Known for her humorous but acerbic wit, the fashion doyenne commented, in her usual, simultaneously (i) _____ and (ii) _____ manner, that in Los Angeles, “the women dressed like men and the men dressed like boys.”

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
slandorous	considerate
amusing	hysterical
serious	caustic

11. Every generation is accused of slacking by the preceding ones, before in turn calling their own progeny lackadaisical; such is the _____ of life.

vicissitude
irony
circle
serendipity
comedy

12. Although retired, the professor takes pains to remain _____ the latest developments in her field.

akimbo to
abreast of
obtuse to
subservient to
askance to

13. She was not the only (i) _____ of the long-proposed legislation, but she was the (ii) _____ who finally got the bill onto the legislative agenda.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
apologist	catalyst
critic	mercenary
proponent	lackey

14. Jeremy was not one to (i) _____ his success, so his family was shocked when they finally discovered that

their (ii) _____ son was a Rhodes Scholar.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

demarcate	prodigal
whitewash	taciturn
trumpet	dissolute

15. The elderly woman was (i) _____ to have returned to her the ring that she had lost fifty years before in the (ii) _____ waters of the Mississippi River.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

dumbfounded	turbid
addlepated	turgid
enervated	tepid

16. Hursthouse, (i) _____ virtue ethicists in general, argues that ethics is properly neither situational nor utilitarian and that one ought to seek out virtue and emulate it rather than base one's judgments on subjective concerns or a (ii) _____ weighing of pain and pleasure likely to result from a given action; critics, of course, tend to (iii) _____ that Hursthouse and other virtue ethicists who seek to define virtue merely seek to enshrine their own prejudices under the guise of theory.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

enigmatic to	pragmatic	posit
breaking away from	quixotic	deny
emblematic of	grandiloquent	cajole

17. The film was (i) _____ (ii) _____ by critics; not a single reviewer had any positive thing to say about it.

Blank (i) Blank (ii)

warily	lauded
mendaciously	panned
roundly	venerated

18. Socrates advocated a life of moderation: live (i) _____, drink (ii) _____, and (iii) _____.

Blank (i) Blank (ii) Blank (iii)

apathetically	sparingly	fight for one's beliefs
lavishly	copiously	do nothing to excess
modestly	brusquely	remain inscrutable always

19. After the US Civil War, "carpetbaggers"—so-called because they carried suitcases made of inexpensive carpeting material— _____ the South, hoping to turn a quick profit.

vanquished
inundated
blacklisted
boycotted
berated

20. December's earthquake was but a _____ to a terrible year for a small island nation recently wracked by civil strife and devastating tropical storms.

prologue
catharsis
coda
homily
rampage

21. Although they had never met, the two writers felt they were of one mind, each (i) _____ anticipating the contents of the other's letters; never had two intellectuals been more (ii) _____.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

ominously	providential
anachronistically	shrewd
presciently	simpatico

22. After many years of war and bloodshed, some became _____ suffering, casting a blind eye to scenes of misery around them.

inured to
exempted from
dominant over
effusive towards
maudlin over

23. After a brief initial struggle over power, the group elected a leader and _____ into a surprisingly harmonious team.

fractured
syncopated
coalesced
agglomerated
amortized