Name_____
Date_____

• Sentence Completion 3 Level 7

Directions: *Complete the sentence using the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.*

1. Considering the fact that he heinously cheated on the final exam, receiving a failing grade seems like _____ punishment.

A. a brutal
B. an unfair
C. an appropriate
D. a futile
E. an unthinkable

2. Despite his _____ range of interests, he was only expert in a limited number of fields.

A. extensive
B. narrow
C. eerie
D. regular
E. peculiar

3. Trina's parents are concerned with how _____ she has become this summer, so they are trying to find more activities to occupy her time.

A. athletic
B. idle
C. active
D. productive
E. relaxed

4. Due to the _____ of hurricanes near the coast, a beach house must have sturdy walls to prevent it from collapsing during any of the frequent hurricanes that occur each year.

A. lack
B. scarcity
C. negligence
D. prevalence
E. depletion

5. Though the advertisement for the used car said it was in immaculate condition, Jose quickly noticed several _____ in the automobile.

A. incidents
B. luxuries
C. flaws
D. claims
E. diseases

6. Unlike her dog, which has _____ hair, Sam's horse has _____ hair, making it easier to groom.

A. fine ... oily
B. thick ... robust
C. curly ... straight
D. smooth ... filthy
E. coarse ... knotted

7. Cindy's date proved to be a _____ gentleman: he opened doors, paid for dinner, and even called her a taxi ride home.

A. questionable
B. genuine
C. romantic
D. comical
E. shady

8. After his overwhelming _____ in the election, the new mayor adopted an aura of _____ that displeased many of the voters; he was too proud to listen to the citizens who voted him into power anymore.

A. oration ... humility
B. triumph ... meekness
C. campaign ... annoyance
D. defeat ... sadness
E. victory ... arrogance

Answers and Explanations

1) C
The main clue in this question is the word "considering," which sets up a cause-and-effect relationship in the sentence. This means that the narrator's opinion of what type of "punishment" the student received is caused by the fact that "he heinously cheated on the final exam." Since the narrator considers the method of cheating to be heinous, it follows that the narrator agrees with the punishment. The missing word should reflect this. Because *appropriate* means suitable in the circumstances, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *brutal* means punishingly hard. This word describes a harsh punishment that someone does not deserve, but the prompt implies that students who get caught cheating do deserve to be punished.

(B) is incorrect because *unfair* means unjust or unreasonable. This word describes a punishment that someone does not deserve, but the prompt implies that students who get caught cheating do deserve to be punished.

(D) is incorrect because *futile* means useless. This word does not work because the prompt does not imply that the punishment is pointless or not likely to change the student's behavior.

(E) is incorrect because *unthinkable* means too undesirable to be considered an option. This word would describe a punishment that is so harsh that no one deserves it, but the prompt implies that students who get caught cheating do deserve to be punished.

2) A
The main clue in this question is the word "despite," which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between the "range of interests" a man has and the fact that he is "only expert in a limited number of fields." Since his expertise is limited, his range of interests must be the opposite of limited. *Extensive* means wide or broad in scope, so choice **(A)** is correct

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Narrow* means limited and, as such, is not the opposite of "limited."

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Eerie* means odd in a scary way. This has no clear relationship to "limited."

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Regular* means common or usual. This has no clear relationship to "limited."

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Peculiar* means odd or unusual. This has no clear relationship to "limited."

3) B
The main clue in this question is the word "so," which is used to link parts of a sentence that logically progress into one another. This means there is a logical relationship between how Trina "has become this summer" and the fact that her parents are "trying to find more activities to occupy her time." If she needed more activities, then she must have lots of free time or time in which she is not doing something. Because *idle* means lazy, not active, or not employed, the correct choice is **(B)**.

(A) is incorrect because *athletic* means physically strong or fit. It does not form a logical relationship with the idea that Trina needs activities to occupy her time. If she is athletic, then she probably spends her time exercising or playing sports, meaning she would not have excessive free time.

(C) is incorrect because *active* means engaging in physical pursuits. It does not form a logical relationship with the idea that Trina needs activities to occupy her time. If she is active, then she probably spends her time exercising or playing sports, meaning she would not have excessive free time.

(D) is incorrect because *productive* means engaged in creative or generative pursuits. It does not form a logical relationship with the idea that Trina needs activities to occupy her time. If she is productive, then she probably spends her time working or studying, meaning she would not have excessive free time.

(E) is incorrect because *relaxed* means calm or without stress. This does not work because there is no indication that Trina's parents want her to be stressed, since finding "activities to occupy her time" is not the same as stressing her out.

4) D
The main clue in this question is the word "frequent," which, like the missing word, describes "hurricanes." Thus, the missing word must relate to frequent. Because *prevalence* is the fact of being frequent or prevalent, choice **(D)** is correct

(A) is incorrect because *lack* is the state of not having enough of something. This does not work because having a lack of hurricanes is the opposite of having "frequent hurricanes."

(B) is incorrect because *scarcity* is a shortage of something. This does not work because having a scarcity of hurricanes is the opposite of having "frequent hurricanes."

(C) is incorrect because *negligence* is failure to take proper care in doing something. This has no relationship to "frequent."

(E) is incorrect because *depletion* is the reduction in quantity of something. This does not work because the prompt gives no indication that the number of hurricanes is decreasing.

5) C
The main clue in this question is the word "though," which sets up a negative or opposite relationship. This means that how the car was advertised is not the same as how it actually was. Since the car was supposed to be in "immaculate condition," Jose must have been able to find something that proved it was not immaculate. Immaculate means perfect, and *flaws* are imperfections, so choice **(C)** is correct

(A) is incorrect because it does not work in context. *Incidents* are events or occurrences. This does not work in context because a car cannot include an incident.

(B) is incorrect because it does not form an opposite relationship. *Luxuries* are inessential but desirable items. Finding luxuries would not disprove the claim that the car was in "immaculate condition,"

(D) is incorrect because it does not work in context. *Claims* are statements asserted as true. This does not work in context because a car cannot contain a claim.

(E) is incorrect because it does not work in context. *Diseases* are illnesses. This does not work in context because a car cannot contract a disease.

6) C
The main clue in this question is the word "unlike," which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between Sam's dog's hair and her horse's hair. The only choice that provides a pair of opposites is choice **(C)**: *curly* means grown in curls or knots, while *straight* means not twisted or curved.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Fine* means thin, while *oily* means greasy. Hair can be both fine and oily at the same time.

(B) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Thick* means dense or heavy, while *robust* means strong and healthy. Hair can be both thick and robust at the same time.

(D) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Smooth* means having an even consistency, while *filthy* means very dirty. Hair can be both smooth and filthy at the same time.

(E) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Coarse* means rough or loose in texture, while *knotted* means in a tangled mass. Hair can be both coarse and knotted at the same time.

7) B
The main clue in this question is the colon (:), which is used to separate explanatory information from the rest of the sentence. This means that the fact that the date "opened doors, paid for dinner," and "called her a taxi" describes or elaborates upon what kind of "gentleman" the date was. "Gentleman" usually refers to a man who is very polite and treats others in a respectful manner. If Cindy's date did lots of nice things for her, then he is a gentleman. This means the missing word must mean true or real. Because *genuine* means authentic or true, choice **(B)** is correct

(A) is incorrect because *questionable* means doubtful. This is the opposite of a correct choice, since a questionable gentleman would be one who claimed to be a gentleman but did not act like one. Cindy's date, however, acted like a gentleman.

(C) is incorrect because *romantic* means idealistic. There is no indication given in the prompt that Cindy's date was realistic or idealistic, so this choice cannot be supported.

(D) is incorrect because *comical* means funny. There is no indication given in the prompt that Cindy's date was funny or serious, so this choice cannot be supported.

(E) is incorrect because *shady* means of doubtful honesty or legality. This is the opposite of a correct choice, since a shady gentleman would be one who claimed to be a gentleman but did not act like one. Cindy's date, however, acted like a gentleman.

8) E
The main clue in this question is the semicolon (**;**), which combines two independent clauses that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a relationship between the outcome of the election and the mayor's new attitude. He has become "too proud to listen to the citizens who voted him into power." This means he must have won the election, since he is "the new mayor" and has people who "voted him into power." It also means he has an aura of being too proud. Thus, the first missing word must describe winning, while the second must describe being too proud. *Victory* is the act of winning a contest or

defeating an opponent, while *arrogance* is the quality of having an exaggerated opinion of oneself. Therefore, choice **(E)** is correct

(A) is incorrect because neither word works in context. An *oration* is a grand speech, while *humility* is modesty or a lack of arrogance. Nothing in the prompt indicates that the mayor made a speech, and one who is "too proud" would not have an aura of humility.

(B) is incorrect because only the first word works in context. A *triumph* is a win, success, or victory, which could describe what the mayor achieved. However, *meekness* is the fact of being submissive or gentle, and one who is "too proud" would not have an aura of meekness.

(C) is incorrect because neither word works in context. A *campaign* is an organized course of action to achieve a particular goal, while *annoyance* is irritation. Though the mayor likely did conduct a campaign to win the election, a campaign is not the same as a win, and someone who had become "too proud" would not have an aura of annoyance.

(D) is incorrect because neither word works in context. A *defeat* is a loss, while *sadness* is the state of being unhappy. Nothing in the prompt indicates that the mayor lost the election (in fact, if he had lost, he would not be "the new mayor"), and someone who is "too proud" would not have an aura of sadness.