

YOUR NAME:

REGISTRATION #:

(10 points)

# (M) Word Salad (1/3)

Charlie and Jane had been passing notes in class, when suddenly their teacher Mr. Johnson saw what was going on. He rushed to the back of the class, took the note Charlie had just passed Jane, and ripped it up, dropping the pieces on the floor. Jane noticed that he had managed to rip each word of the message onto a separate piece of paper. The pieces of paper were, in alphabetical order, as follows:

- dog
- in
- is
- my
- school
- the

**MI.** A. Most likely, what did Charlie's note originally say?

B. Give two alternative grammatical sentences also formed from all of the words on Charlie's note.

C. Explain for each alternative why it is less likely than your first suggestion.



# (M) Word Salad (2/3)

- M2.** In the previous example, Jane could figure out pretty easily what Charlie had intended. But they weren't always so lucky! The next day, Jane asked Charlie who had won the big football game the previous night between their school and Jefferson High. Charlie wrote Jane a note with the answer, but Mr. Johnson caught it and tore it up again. Jane picked up the pieces, but discovered that she still had no idea who won. What did Charlie write?
- M3.** A few days later, Charlie and Jane are at it again. Jane asks Charlie what he thought of a recent movie, and he responds by writing a long paragraph—but once again, Mr. Johnson intercepts the note, and tears it apart into separate words. This time, Mr. Johnson, tired of the game, swept away the pieces before Jane could even see all of them.

Here are the words Jane did manage to see, in alphabetical order:

and avoid awful but cardboard cool dialogue does effects for lack no not originality plague  
pretty risible utter

Can Jane still tell what Charlie thought of the movie? How?



# (M) Word Salad (3/3)

**M4.** The next day, Charlie describes to Jane a different movie with a one-sentence review. Mr. Johnson intercepts it and shreds it again, and Jane recovers all the pieces. But she is stymied—she can't tell whether Charlie liked it or disliked it. Here are the words she found—what are two possible grammatical sentences Charlie might have intended, having opposite meanings?

- bad
- dialogue
- effects
- and
- not
- special
- the
- the
- thrilling
- was
- were

