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- (A) justice ✓
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- (E) condemnation
- (F) partiality

When sketching, Pablo Picasso moved with a _____ that made his creations all the more astonishing – he could finish an entire work in the time many artists took to arrange their implements.

- (A) ~~purity~~
- (B) ~~celerity~~ 3? ✓
- (C) ~~fecklessness~~ ?
- (D) ~~semblance~~
- (E) ~~deliberation~~
- (F) swiftness ✓

↓
quickness

Despite being lionized for her uncanny ability to inhabit almost any role and, when necessary, inject it with genuine pathos, the actress, perhaps a bit too self-effacingly, chalked her success up to nothing more than a series of lucky occurrences.

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The idea that the human mind is a blank slate, able to be molded at will, has been challenged by Tennenbaum, whose research shows that not only do infants display certain predilections but also that these preferences may well be .

- (A) innate
- (B) hard-wired
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set/fixed

set ✓

Max was so _____ that he never could be caught in an outright lie; his duplicity worked its seductive spell through a calculated mix of half-truths and disingenuousness.

- ~~(A) obtuse~~
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For triathletes to remain hungry even after a large meal is unsurprising, given that their training regimens require them to burn thousands of calories each day.

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Unlike many poets, who are inspired by _____ settings, Harrison relied on urban backdrops to summon his muse.

- (A) unpopulated
- (B) pastoral
- (C) typical
- (D) unknown
- (E) rustic
- (F) sentimental

Stranded north of the Arctic Circle and with few remaining supplies, the expedition was in a _____ position.

dangerous

(A) ~~ennobled~~

(B) ~~stultifying~~ ~

(C) precarious ✓

(D) ~~spurious~~

(E) ~~unexposed~~

(F) dicey

Though she was too _____ to actually speak in front of a large crowd, such timidity did not carry over to the speeches she had written, which resounded with confidence and purpose.

- (A) underwhelmed
- (B) meek ✓
- (C) immobile
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The chairman of the board, sensing that any effort was futile, became _____ the company's plight, and only shrugged his shoulders when the shareholders notified him that the corporation was insolvent.

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While the dense brush can make for tough going, the state park features a wilderness that is virtually _____; some will gladly trade their comfort for a chance to behold fauna few others ever have.

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- ☒ (D) pristine
- ~~(E) secluded~~
- ~~(F) imperilled~~

The hill was marked with a(n) _____ that belied the abject poverty huddled at its base.

luxurious

- (A) ~~diversity~~
- (B) ~~candidness~~
- (C) ~~hostility~~
- (D) splendor ✓
- (E) ~~temerity~~
- (F) opulence ✓

Surely more _____ than his predecessor, Malcolm nonetheless should not be expected to display unbounded magnanimity, especially to those subordinates whose actions clearly run afoul of propriety.

- ~~(A) demanding~~
- ~~(B) equitable~~
- ~~(C) evenhanded~~
- ~~(D) critical~~
- ~~(E) uncompromising~~
- ~~(F) austere~~

Brutus is often held up as the embodiment of deception --yet, while it is true that he deceived his friend, Julius Caesar, one must not forget that Caesar had become both a danger to himself and the Republic.

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The poet, snubbed by all the major houses, went out of his way to make comments during public readings, going so far as to call other writers second-rate.

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- (D) affable
- (E) provocative
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In the last few decades, technological progress has proceeded at such a dizzying rate that, beyond the obvious advantages a given technology confers on the user, the non-specialist becomes ~~amused~~ when pressed to explain how anything really works.

- (A) ~~tentative~~ ✓
- (B) bewildered ✓
- (C) ~~confident~~
- (D) ~~nonplussed~~ ?
- (E) ~~complacent~~
- (F) ~~belligerent~~

Eschewing the acerbic tone used in his previous reviews of Kingley's works, Clarke was far more _____ in his latest article, balancing the curmudgeonly with the avuncular.

- (A) forthright
- (B) equitable
- (C) ingenuous
- (D) evenhanded
- (E) demonstrative
- (F) ambivalent

Rarely (-) in her duties as a member of the city's environmental committee, she quickly garnered accolades from both citizens and government workers.

praise

(A) ~~punctilious~~ ✓

(B) ~~celeritous~~ ?

(C) ~~remiss~~ ? ✓

(D) ~~negligent~~ ✓

(E) ~~perfunctory~~ ✓

(F) ~~myopic~~ ✓

Notwithstanding her tendency to _____ when
journalists' questions blatantly pried into her personal life, the
senator always spoke directly and candidly on issues relating to
her public role.

Despite

- (A) cower
- (B) bristle
- (C) speak evasively
- (D) vacillate
- (E) prevaricate
- (F) elaborate

While young elephants are typically given some _____, mothers will often keep young calves in their line of vision to ensure that an adult elephant is always nearby.

- ~~(A)~~ discharge
- ☒ (B) latitude ✓
- ~~(C)~~ incentive
- ~~(D)~~ independence •
- ~~(E)~~ chastening
- ~~(F)~~ direction

The professor began to work on various research projects—though never to the point that she failed to attend to her classes, since whether she received tenure was determined not only by published research but also, to some extent, by student recommendations.

- (A) periodically
- (B) sporadically
- (C) monotonously
- (D) industriously ✓
- (E) diligently ✓
- (F) fruitfully

As the job fair neared to an end, the recent college graduate became ever more _____, desperately trying to befriend prospective employers he had earlier not even deigned to give so much as a cursory glance.

- (A) ingratiating
- (B) fawning
- (C) withdrawn
- (D) volatile
- (E) vociferous
- (F) direct

Only a hundred years ago, most doctors were _____, sometimes
traveling as many as a hundred miles to deliver a baby.

- (A) ~~inexperienced~~
- (B) ~~peripatetic~~ ✓
- (C) ~~penurious~~
- (D) ~~gregarious~~
- (E) ~~itinerant~~ ✓
- (F) ~~dismissive~~

A successful space shuttle launch is _____ such a great number of factors--any of which can sabotage a lift-off--that spectators should not chafe at the slightest sign of delay.

- (A) unrelated to
- (B) relevant to
- (C) contingent upon
- (D) dependent on
- (E) peripheral to
- (F) coterminous with

An inherent flaw in the university system is that faculty and students often have _____ aims: professors constantly strive to gain tenure at the expense of pedagogy, while most students earnestly seek to obtain the best education possible.

- (A) selfish
- (B) distinguishable
- (C) irreconcilable ✓
- (D) disparate ✓
- (E) virtuous
- (F) divergent ✓

different / separate



A tantalizing paradox in the field of number theory—especially for the neophyte—is that even one with little training can pose a legitimate question that can _____ a seasoned expert.

- (A) impress
- (B) baffle
- (C) undermine
- (D) confound
- (E) convince
- (F) discourage

Though many are apt to believe that the bones from a recent discovery are those of a direct ancestor of modern humans, some scientists are skeptical, and contend that the remains, while suggesting a common ancestor, are but a vestige of one of evolution's many _____ experiments.

failed

- (A) ~~noble~~
- (B) ~~unviable~~
- (C) ~~intuitive~~
- (D) unsuccessful
- (E) ~~archaic~~
- (F) ~~ingenious~~

Yielding to increased pressure from the international community, the nation of Himeria consented to _____ a large swathe of land it had formerly captured.

give back

- (A) ~~convert~~
- (B) ~~restore~~
- (C) cede ✓
- (D) ~~annex~~
- (E) ~~surrender~~
- (F) ~~dismiss~~

Hoping for a(n) _____, the committee was unable to dedicate enough time to read Mary's entire 200-page dissertation.

- (A) synopsis ✓
- (B) inclusion
- (C) rehash
- (D) manifesto
- (E) retraction
- (F) precis ✓

Once news of the scandal broke, the executive found himself facing penury; even the firm who had coveted him the most _____ its offer.

took back

- (A) ~~transferred~~
- (B) ~~undermined~~
- (C) ~~rescinded~~
- (D) ~~curtailed~~
- (E) ~~lambasted~~
- (F) ~~retracted~~

The increased number entering the labor force has only served to _____ an already ailing job market.

- (A) diminish
- (B) strain
- (C) underscore
- (D) tax
- (E) bolster
- (F) trounce

There was something ineffably _____ about Cleopatra's personality that drew many to her – extant coins, bearing the Egyptian queen's visage, however, have lead many to believe that this attribute did not extend to her physiognomy.

- (A) attractive
- (B) diminutive
- (C) overbearing
- (D) winsome
- (E) optimistic
- (F) spirited

Despite creating the impression that his replies are ungoverned by any forethought, the mayor—even in his most seemingly impassioned moments—is plainly _____ in his responses to the media.

- (A) measured
- (B) studied
- (C) candid
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Requiring split-second decisions, the career of an investment banker is clearly not a viable one for those prone to _____ .

- (A) forwardness
- (B) hesitation
- (C) dithering
- (D) prevarication
- (E) wastefulness
- (F) obstinacy

delaying

Whereas Henry James preferred urban settings to spin his intricate studies on the human psyche, Thomas Hardy preferred _____ backdrops to explore the workings of the mind.

- (A) simple
- (B) historic
- (C) bucolic
- (D) serene
- (E) tense
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The recent spate of quality television dramas—while clearly indebted to the cinematic idiom of the 1970's—represents a(n) _____ achievement: never before has any video medium been called on to sustain a narrative for 100 plus hours.

- (A) wondrous
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For one undertaking such a complex dissertation, Marcus gave a remarkably _____ response when the committee asked him a probing question, thereby creating the impression that he had only a superficial knowledge of the subject.

- (A) facile
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easy

Attempting to quell the unrest, the mayor, addressing the gathering mob, highlighted the very grievances that had initially inflamed people's tempers, thereby _____ provoking the collective wrath.

- (A) unwittingly
- (B) directly
- (C) decisively
- (D) inadvertently
- (E) subtly
- (F) noticeably

↑
unintentionally

That ~~Alexander Solzhenitsyn~~ languished for many years in a Siberian prison camp can perhaps account for the _____ tone of many of his novels.

↑ unhappy

- (A) bleak ✓
- (B) sentimental
- (C) cogent
- (D) sanguine
- (E) persistent
- (F) grim ✓

Martha was ____ those whom she had only met a few times, expressing her misgivings with folded arms and furrowed brow.

- ~~(A) wary of~~
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weary

✓

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