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Hardly one to fault others, Thaddeus surprised his colleagues when he began _____ even their most trivial mistakes.

- (A) caviling at
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Despite its veneer of pearly-toothed smiles and amicable handshakes, the world of politics is one of constant _____ in which everyone is always jockeying for a more estimable position.

- (A) schmoozing
- (B) machinating
- (C) hobnobbing
- (D) scheming
- (E) muckraking
- (F) intermingling

B, D

The judge's closing remarks were nothing if not _____ ; not only did he belabor his every point, but he underscored each utterance with the pounding of the gavel.

- (A) brash
- (B) forthright
- (C) thorough
- (D) candid
- (E) audacious
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Oncologists struggle to determine the long-term carcinogenic effects of basic household products, as these effects, whatever they may be, are mixed those resulting from the miasma of toxins we breathe once we leave our homes.

- (A) exacerbated by
- (B) confounded with
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If good taste has judged the vampire genre tired and trite, the entertainment industry surely is not listening: for every bloodsucker baring fangs there is a hack baring some script.

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Imperilled by excessive logging activity, the Canadian snow goose is unusually sensitive to any encroachments into its territory, displaying a(n) _____ rare amongst waterfowl.

anger

- (A) valor
- (B) pugnacity
- (C) arrogance
- (D) haughtiness
- (E) truculence
- (F) benignity

The computer modeling of weather has, since its inception, been fraught with difficulties, yet the fact that it has only had to improve on what, to some, amounts to nothing more than voodoo science has made its _____ all but assured.

- (A) ascendancy
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- (F) retraction

very
nearly

A knack for _____, it can be argued, allows one access to a whole range of careers, many of which require one to forsake direct, honest speech.

- (A) eloquence
- (B) prevarication
- (C) equivocation
- (D) abbreviation
- (E) discernment
- (F) openness

For all the orchestra's brio, the conductor moved _____, his baton moving about in labored strokes.

- (A) ~~casually~~
- (B) ~~sporadically~~
- (C) cumbrously ✓
- (D) ~~capriciously~~
- (E) ponderously ✓
- (F) ~~fluidly~~

_____ by a swarm of tabloid reporters, their camera flashes creating an incessant whir, the celebrity made a quick escape into a limousine with tinted windows.

- (A) Indulged
- (B) Harried
- (C) Mollified
- (D) Besieged
- (E) Disbarred
- (F) Feted

Any successful trivia game must be aware of both its audiences' and players' range of knowledge – as soon as any topic becomes too _____ most quickly lose interest.

- (A) ~~eclectic~~
- (B) ~~obscure~~
- (C) ~~recondite~~
- (D) ~~ephemeral~~
- (E) ~~prosaic~~
- (F) ~~topical~~

isotonic

Her potential unrealized, Martha was ultimately a victim of her environment, _____ by those around her who insisted that she forsake her artistic dreams for a routine, but predictable life.

- (A) stultified
- (B) assuaged
- (C) hampered
- (D) motivated
- (E) spurned
- (F) galvanized

The heckler, hiding amongst the amorphous crowd, is the epitome of _____ - as soon as he has been identified, he goes scuttling off, head down, grumbling to himself.

- (A) ~~stealthiness~~
- (B) ~~outspokenness~~
- (C) ~~shyness~~
- (D) ~~aloofness~~ }
- (E) cravenness
- (F) spinelessness

coward

Despite the concerted efforts of her supporters, the mayor's actions were clearly , rendering even the most impassioned pleas superfluous. *bad*

- (A) ~~indefensible~~
- (B) ~~unimpeachable~~
- (C) ~~deceitful~~
- (D) ~~untenable~~ ✓
- (E) ~~selfish~~
- (F) ~~aboveboard~~

Compared to the ~~rich~~ flourishes typical of Thomas Chippendale's creations, Matthew Taylor's ~~armoires~~ were positively .

- (A) ~~banal~~
- (B) austere ✓
- (C) ~~otherworldly~~
- (D) ~~intricate~~
- (E) ~~humdrum~~
- (F) spartan ✓

{ lack of
decoration }

Though the recent row between the much loved prime minister and the ambassador from the erstwhile colonial power will, in all likelihood, not foment outright protests--the way an incursion by this same foreign power into the country's airspace did--surely such discord will only serve to further upset a people long since wary of foreign influence.

- (A) gall
- (B) disabuse
- (C) demean
- (D) debase
- (E) rankle
- (F) marginalize

The game between the two powerhouses became a long struggle; two overtimes forced some players to spend more than four hours on the field.

- (A) perennial
- (B) protracted
- (C) lachrymose
- (D) consistent
- (E) penurious
- (F) prolonged

To readers of V.S. Naipaul--especially those who are familiar with the latter half of his oeuvre--the author's claim that he started off as a comic writer will in itself seem comical – so _____ is the tone of most of his novels.

sad

- (A) despairing ✓
- (B) acerbic
- (C) ambivalent
- (D) sanguine
- (E) nuanced
- (F) pessimistic ✓

The judge admonished the counsel to keep closing arguments _____ and thus refrain from citing evidence tangential to the proceedings.

hold back

unrelated

related

- (A) brief
- (B) impartial
- (C) germane
- (D) unbiased
- (E) pertinent
- (F) insolent

The marriage between the duke and the duchess was a _____ affair, one that quickly devolved into public altercations operatic in scope.

- (A) ~~protracted~~
- (B) ~~notable~~
- (C) ~~lengthy~~
- (D) ~~international~~
- (E) ~~unseemly~~
- (F) sordid

A(n) _____ procrastinator, Stephen found himself unable to recall a time when he did not put off doing a major assignment.

(A) insatiable

(B) habitual

(C) derelict

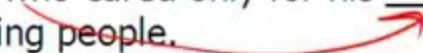
(D) erratic

(E) inveterate

(F) untiring

constant

Corrupted by handshakes and sly winks, the government was run by a leader who cared only for his _____ and nothing for his languishing people.



- (A) contemporaries
- (B) adversaries
- (C) cronies
- (D) relations
- (E) chums
- (F) legacy

The skirmish between the two beleaguered armies occurred _____ with each side taking much needed rest during the respites.

- (A) retroactively
- (B) spasmodically
- (C) invasively
- (D) incessantly
- (E) spuriously
- (F) irregularly

It was not for a(n) lack of effort that Emerson found himself near the middle of the class; after all, he was attending one of the most competitive law programs in the country.

(A) diminution

(B) want *lack*

(C) surge

(D) excess

(E) lack ✓

(F) lessening

Not merely curious, the new manager was often _____, and would only cease to needlessly interfere in employees work if one of her superiors was present.

- ~~(A) evasive~~
- ~~(B) gregarious~~
- ~~(C) intrusive~~
- ~~(D) mettlesome~~
- ~~(E) prying~~
- ~~(F) obstreperous~~

meddlesome

The nation was marked by _____, which intruded upon every aspect of life: there was little that had not fallen prey to corruption.

- (A) jingoism ✓
- (B) stigmatization
- (C) venality ✓
- (D) probity
- (E) volubility
- (F) graft

As we age, our political leanings tend to become less ____; the once dyed-in-wool conservative can betray liberal leanings, and the staunch progressive may suddenly embrace conservative policies.

(A) demanding

(B) subtle

(C) pronounced ✓

(D) biased ~

(E) conspicuous ✓

(F) cohesive

extreme

To the _____ the music of Bach, at once intensely personal because of the simplicity of its melodies and inaccessible because of contrapuntal complexity, can seem the product of two distinct composers.

- ~~(A) inspired~~
- ~~(B) narrow-minded~~
- (C) uninitiated
- ~~(D) unschooled~~
- ~~(E) enlightened~~
- ~~(F) precipitate~~

With an emphasis placed on calculus and the algebra necessary to understand it, the modern high school mathematics curriculum has forced traditional courses such as spherical geometry to give up ground to those subjects that underpin a conceptual understanding of calculus.

- ~~(A)~~ banish
- ~~(B)~~ cede
- ~~(C)~~ offer
- ~~(D)~~ relinquish
- ~~(E)~~ grant
- ~~(F)~~ promise

As soon as his slightest whim was not met, the actor became _____, snapping even at those not involved in the filming of the scene.

- (A) ~~grim~~
- (B) ~~fastidious~~
- (C) querulous ✓
- (D) ~~sullen~~
- (E) ~~chivalrous~~
- (F) petulant ✓

The two writers were of equal talent—indeed Mikhail may have been the more gifted—yet it was his _____ that led him to switch careers, whereas Dimitri was able to rely on his skills of self-promotion to thrive in a competitive marketplace.

- (A) naivete
- (B) persistence
- (C) diffidence ✓
- (D) complacency
- (E) pride ~
- (F) timidity

Even minutes before the guests were set to arrive, she fussed over the smallest detail, _____ rearranging the silverware lest a fork should be set askew.

- (A) civilly
- (B) hastily
- (C) brusquely
- (D) punctiliously ✓
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- (F) fastidiously ✓

Corporations that do not rely in some way on governmental money tend to be better off when their respective government's coffers are empty.

(A) interventions

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Saintliness has become so closely linked with _____ that many assume that for a person to be spiritual he or she has to renounce all worldly pleasures.

- (A) salvation
- (B) asceticism
- (C) benightedness
- (D) insularity
- (E) beatification
- (F) austerity

aesthetic

Once _____ across the Western plains, the buffalo has seriously diminished in number.

- (A) ~~sparse~~
- (B) ~~eradicated~~
- (C) innumerable
- (D) ~~immutable~~
- (E) legion
- (F) ~~thoroughgoing~~

→ plentiful

The space mission to deploy a probe to Uranus, while greeted with much enthusiasm by those in the scientific and lay community alike, has been stopped not so much by the technical challenges of launching a probe into such a distant orbit as by the lack of funding.

held back

- (A) hobbled ✓
- (B) informed
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Those cognitive psychologists who focus on the way in which the brain processes text are, for the most part, not fully swayed by the traditionalist rhetoric that we learn more while immersed in the pages of a book than in the virtual pages of an e-reader, and believe that a(n) _____ assessment will require more rigorous testing.

100% / 1 definitive

- (A) unequivocal ✓
- (B) clear
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Despite the concerted efforts of her supporters, the mayor's actions were clearly _____, rendering even the most impassioned pleas superfluous.

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Compared to the rococo flourishes typical of Thomas Chippendale's creations, Matthew Taylor's armoires were positively _____.

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A(n) _____ procrastinator, Stephen found himself unable to recall a time when he did not put off doing a major assignment.

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- (C) innumerable
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