

## SET 1 - EASY

**For Questions 1 to 5, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.**

1. Dominant interests often benefit most from \_\_\_\_\_ of governmental interference in business, since they are able to take care of themselves if left alone.

A intensification    B authorization    C centralization    D improvisation    E elimination

2. Kagan maintains that an infant's reactions to its first stressful experiences are part of a natural process of development, not harbingers of childhood unhappiness or \_\_\_\_\_ signs of adolescent anxiety.

A prophetic    B normal    C monotonous    D virtual    E typical

3. An investigation that is \_\_\_\_\_ can occasionally yield new facts, even notable ones, but typically the appearance of such facts is the result of a search in a definite direction.

A timely    B unguided    C consistent    D uncomplicated    E subjective

4. It is (i) \_\_\_\_\_ that so many portrait paintings hang in art museums, since the subject matter seems to dictate a status closer to pictures in the family photograph album than to high art. But perhaps it is the artistic skill with which the portraits are painted that (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ their presence in art museums.

| Blank (i) |                | Blank (ii) |            |
|-----------|----------------|------------|------------|
| A         | surprising     | D          | challenges |
| B         | understandable | E          | justifies  |
| C         | irrelevant     | F          | changes    |

5. In stark contrast to his later (i) \_\_\_\_\_, Simpson was largely (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ politics during his college years, despite the fact that the campus he attended was rife with political activity.

| Blank (i) |            | Blank (ii) |                |
|-----------|------------|------------|----------------|
| A         | activism   | D          | devoted to     |
| B         | apathy     | E          | indifferent to |
| C         | affability | F          | shaped by      |

**For Questions 6 to 8, 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.**

**6.** As my eyesight began to \_\_\_\_\_, I spent a lot of time writing about it — both poems and “eye journals” — describing what I saw as I looked out through damaged eyes.

**A** deteriorate   **B** sharpen   **C** improve   **D** decline   **E** recover   **F** adjust

**7.** The judge’s standing in the legal community, though shaken by phony allegations of wrongdoing, emerged, at long last, \_\_\_\_\_.

**A** unqualified   **B** undiminished   **C** undecided   **D** undamaged   **E** unresolved   **F** unprincipled

**8.** Modern agricultural practices have been extremely successful in increasing the productivity of major food crops, yet despite heavy use of pesticides, \_\_\_\_\_ losses to diseases and insect pests are sustained each year.

**A** incongruous   **B** reasonable   **C** significant   **D** considerable   **E** equitable   **F** fortuitous

## Reading Comprehension Questions: Easy

**For each of Questions 1 to 9, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.**

**1.** A person who agrees to serve as mediator between two warring factions at the request of both abandons by so agreeing the right to take sides later. To take sides at a later point would be to suggest that the earlier presumptive impartiality was a sham.

**The passage above emphasizes which of the following points about mediators?**

- A** They should try to form no opinions of their own about any issue that is related to the dispute.
- B** They should not agree to serve unless they are committed to maintaining a stance of impartiality.
- C** They should not agree to serve unless they are equally acceptable to all parties to a dispute.
- D** They should feel free to take sides in the dispute right from the start, provided that they make their biases publicly known.
- E** They should reserve the right to abandon their impartiality so as not to be open to the charge of having been deceitful.

**Questions 2 to 5 are based on the following reading passage**

Was Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) a great composer? On its face, the question seems absurd. One of the most gifted prodigies in the history of music, he produced his first masterpiece at sixteen. From then on, he was recognized as an artist of preternatural abilities, not only as a composer but also as a pianist and conductor. But Mendelssohn's enduring popularity has often been at odds — sometimes quite sharply — with his critical standing. Despite general acknowledgment of his genius, there has been a noticeable reluctance to rank him with, say, Schumann or Brahms. As Haggin put it, Mendelssohn, as a composer, was a “minor master . . . working on a small scale of emotion and texture.”

**2. Select a sentence in the passage whose function is to indicate the range of Mendelssohn's musical talents.**

**3. The passage suggests that anyone attempting to evaluate Mendelssohn's career must confront which of the following dichotomies?**

- A The tension between Mendelssohn's career as a composer and his career as a pianist and conductor
- B The contrast between Mendelssohn's popularity and that of Schumann and Brahms
- C The discrepancy between Mendelssohn's popularity and his standing among critics
- D The inconsistency between Mendelssohn's reputation during his lifetime and his reputation since his death
- E The gap between Mendelssohn's prodigious musical beginnings and his decline in later years

**4. It can be inferred that the “reluctance” mentioned in the passage is being ascribed to**

- A most composers since Mendelssohn
- B Schumann and Brahms
- C the music-listening public
- D music critics generally
- E Haggin exclusively

**5. The author mentions Schumann and Brahms primarily in order to**

- A provide examples of composers who are often compared with Mendelssohn
- B identify certain composers who are more popular than Mendelssohn
- C identify composers whom Mendelssohn influenced
- D establish the milieu in which Mendelssohn worked
- E establish a standard of comparison for Mendelssohn as a composer

**Questions 6 and 7 are based on the following reading passage.**

While most scholarship on women's employment in the United States recognizes that the Second World War (1939–1945) dramatically changed the role of women in the workforce, these studies also acknowledge that few women remained in manufacturing jobs once men returned from the war. But in agriculture, unlike other industries where women were viewed as temporary workers, women's employment did not end with the war. Instead, the expansion of agriculture and a steady decrease in the number of male farm workers combined to cause the industry to hire more women in the postwar years.

Consequently, the 1950s saw a growing number of women engaged in farm labor, even though rhetoric in the popular media called for the return of women to domestic life.

**6. It can be inferred from the passage that the manufacturing and agricultural sectors in the United States following the Second World War differed in which of the following respects?**

- A The rate of expansion in each sector
- B The percentage of employees in each sector who were men
- C The trend in the wages of men employed in each sector
- D The attitude of the popular media toward the employment of women in each sector
- E The extent to which women in each sector were satisfied with their jobs.

**7. Which of the following statements about women's employment in the United States during and after the Second World War is most clearly supported by the passage?**

- A Most women who joined the workforce during the Second World War wanted to return to domestic life when the war ended.
- B The great majority of women who joined the workforce during the Second World War were employed in manufacturing jobs.
- C The end of the Second World War was followed by a large-scale transfer of women workers from manufacturing to agriculture.
- D The increase in women's employment that accompanied the Second World War was longer lasting in agriculture than it was in manufacturing.
- E The popular media were more forceful in calling for women to join the workforce during the Second World War than in calling for women to

**Questions 8 and 9 are based on the following reading passage.**

Since the Hawaiian Islands have never been connected to other land masses, the great variety of plants in Hawaii must be a result of the long-distance dispersal of seeds, a process that requires both a method of transport and an equivalence between the ecology of the source area and that of the recipient area. There is some dispute about the method of transport involved. Some biologists argue that ocean and air currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii. Yet the results of flotation experiments and the low temperatures of air currents cast doubt on these hypotheses. More probable is bird transport, either externally, by accidental attachment of the seeds to feathers, or internally, by the swallowing of fruit and subsequent excretion of the seeds. While it is likely that fewer varieties of plant seeds have reached Hawaii externally than internally, more varieties are known to be adapted to external than to internal transport.

**8. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with**

- A discussing different approaches biologists have taken to testing theories about the distribution of plants in Hawaii
- B discussing different theories about the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
- C discussing the extent to which air currents are responsible for the dispersal of plant seeds to Hawaii
- D resolving a dispute about the adaptability of plant seeds to bird transport
- E resolving a dispute about the ability of birds to carry plant seeds long distances

**9. The author mentions the results of flotation experiments on plant seeds (lines 7–8) most probably in order to**

- A support the claim that the distribution of plants in Hawaii is the result of the long-distance dispersal of seeds

- B** lend credibility to the thesis that air currents provide a method of transport for plant seeds to Hawaii
- C** suggest that the long-distance dispersal of seeds is a process that requires long periods of time
- D** challenge the claim that ocean currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
- E** refute the claim that Hawaiian flora evolved independently from flora in