

Passage 24

Historian E.H Carr's thesis that all debates concerning the explanation of historical phenomena revolve around the question of the priority of causes is so familiar to historians as to constitute orthodoxy within their profession. The true historian, as Carr puts it, will feel a professional obligation to place the multiple causes of a historical event in a hierarchy by means of which the primary or ultimate cause of the event can be identified. In the Marxist mode of historical explanation (historical materialism), a universal hierarchy of causes is posited in which economic factors are always primary. In the classic, more widely accepted alternative ultimately derived from Weberian sociology, hierarchies of causes are treated as historically specific: explanatory primacy in any particular historical situation must be established by empirical investigation of that situation, not by applying a universal model of historical causation.

While the need to rank historical causes in some order of importance may seem obvious to most historians, such hierarchies raise serious philosophical difficulties. If any historical event is the product of a number of factors, then each of these factor is indispensable to the occurrence of the event. But how can one cause be more indispensable than another? And if it cannot, how can there be a hierarchy of indispensable causes? It was this problem that first led Weber himself to argue for the impossibility of any general formula specifying the relative importance of causes; we cannot, for example, conclude that in every capitalist society religious change has been more significant than economic change (or vice versa) in explaining the rise of capitalism.

Runciman offers a different argument leading to the same conclusion. He points out that it is possible to identify specific factors as the primary causes of a particular historical event only relative to an initial set of background conditions. For instance, if we accept English defeats after 1369 in the Hundred Years War as a given, then we may identify the high levels of taxation necessitated by these military reverses as the main cause of the Peasants Revolt of 1381. If instead we regard the financing of warfare by taxation in this period as a background condition, then we will see the English reverses themselves as the main cause of the revolt. However, neither ordinary life nor historical practice offer reliable criteria by which to distinguish causes from background conditions and thus to resolve historical debates about the relative importance of causes. And this difficulty casts doubt not only on the Marxist effort to identify a universal hierarchy of causes, but also on any attempt to identify an objective hierarchy of causes—even of the historically specific kind favored by non-Marxists. 【微信公众号：张巍老师GRE】

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - A. compare two prominent models of historical explanation
 - B. undermine non-Marxist objections to the historical-materialist explanatory model of historical causation
 - C. analyze ways in which the question of historical causation can be illuminated by Weberian sociology
 - D. challenge an orthodox position concerning historical explanation
 - E. argue that historical analysis should rely more on empirical investigation than on philosophical reflection
2. According to the passage, most historians share the assumption that
 - A. The most useful current model of historical causation is the historical-materialist model.
 - B. Explaining a historical event requires ranking its causes by importance.
 - C. The same hierarchy of causes underlies every historical event.
 - D. Philosophical debates have limited utility for historical practice.
 - E. Different causes of the same historical event sometimes have the same importance.

3. In the second paragraph of the passage, the author uses the concept of an indispensable cause primarily in order to question which of the following claims?

- A. Generalizations about the origins of capitalist societies are defensible.
- B. The study of history is largely independent of philosophical concerns.
- C. A universal model of historical causation is indefensible.
- D. A historical event is caused by many factors.
- E. A hierarchy of the causes of a historical event can be determined.

4. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?

- A. An assumption is identified and called into question.
- B. Opposing views are compared, contrasted, and shown to be compatible.
- C. An argument is advanced, criticized, and then revised.
- D. A theory is shown to be superior to its chief rival.
- E. Similar arguments are shown to lead to different conclusions.

Passage 25

Modern feminism has brought the reputation of the English writer Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797) to something approaching the luster it deserves. While she enjoyed a certain celebrity among political radicals in the years just after her death, beginning in the nineteenth century her fame as a writer was hidden by disproportionate attention to her unconventional and, at the time, shocking personal life. When, therefore, Virginia Woolf wrote in 1925 of Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Men* and *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* that they felt like books so true that they seem now to contain nothing new in them, it was more a wishful than an accurate statement of the case. Wollstonecraft's advances in moral thinking still have the power to shock position-takers of every party. The importance of gender even today is said to cut across other criteria for judging the conduct of men and women in society; Wollstonecraft, by contrast, believed that the shared morality of men and women should cut across all specifications of gender.

Wollstonecraft considered gender-based morality a relic of a barbarous age: part of that specialization of virtues by which every sexual feeling was expected to express itself as libertinism (in men) or false modesty (in women). In her view, there ought to be one criterion of morals for men and women alike, with both sexes cultivating the same virtues. Wollstonecraft rebelled against the copious sentimental literature of her own time, which she felt patronized women by insisting that it was to their advantage to affect chastity and modesty and that such virtues were their own reward.

In *The Rights of Men*, Wollstonecraft explores this double standard from an unexpected angle. It was the first major response to Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790), appearing less than a month after the impassioned defense of the deposed French monarchy. **A defender of Burke called Wollstonecraft's book an incoherent mass of treacherous candour, interested generosity, and, if not false, at least unnecessary accusation.** But Wollstonecraft nonetheless managed to show how the traditionally feminine virtues of sentimental morality had been transferred by Burke to the aristocracy. Burke's rhapsody on the queen of France (glittering like the morning star, full of life, and splendor, and joy) was, for Wollstonecraft, an example of the argument that beauty and instinct must often prevail over reason, the argument on which Burke took his stand as a defender of the old order. Like women, Burke thought, and from a similar greatness and delicacy in their nature, the aristocracy were understood at once to require deference and to solicit compassion. To Wollstonecraft, Burke's argument linked sympathy and power in a dangerous alliance; she insisted that aristocrats do not deserve to be treated in the way that women have traditionally been treated any more than women themselves do. 【微信公众号：张巍老师GRE】

1. By quoting Burke's defender in the highlighted phrase, the author of the passage most clearly succeeds in
 - A. providing a context for the political turbulence that unseated the French monarchy
 - B. emphasizing the way in which Wollstonecraft's philosophy divided men and women
 - C. explaining why Wollstonecraft's work has won more acceptance in the twentieth century than in the nineteenth
 - D. illustrating the nature of the appeal of Burke's argument
 - E. demonstrating the degree of hostility aroused by Wollstonecraft's work
2. The author of the passage quotes Burke's description of the queen of France most probably in order to
 - A. provide a specific illustration of a position with which Wollstonecraft took issue
 - B. provide a specific example of Burke's already archaic prose style
 - C. balance the quotation from Burke's anonymous defender

- D. provide evidence of why Burke's position was more widely accepted than Wollstonecraft's
- E. provide an example of what Wollstonecraft perceived as Burke's lack of political astuteness
3. The passage suggests that which of the following is true concerning Virginia Woolf's appraisal of *A Vindication of the Rights of Men* and *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*?
- A. Woolf was defending Wollstonecraft's theories against attacks by nineteenth-century critics who concentrated only on Wollstonecraft's notoriety.
- B. Woolf favored the advances proposed by Wollstonecraft and mistakenly assumed that they had become self-evident in the twentieth century.
- C. Woolf miscalculated the practical effects that the advances proposed by Wollstonecraft would have on society.
- D. Woolf decried the loss in the twentieth-century of social progress made in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- E. Woolf was reacting against what she considered a lack of originality on Wollstonecraft's part while calling for more sweeping changes than Wollstonecraft had proposed.
4. The author of the passage suggests that modern feminism has treated the writings of Mary Wollstonecraft in which of the following ways?
- A. Modern feminism has emphasized the progressive aspects of Wollstonecraft's writings, while separating her work from her personal reputation.
- B. Modern feminism has emphasized Wollstonecraft's importance as a theorist, while deemphasizing her effect on the daily life of her times.
- C. Modern feminism has worked toward a synthesis of Wollstonecraft's philosophical advances with those of her contemporaries.
- D. Modern feminism has embraced Wollstonecraft's relative importance as a theorist, while rejecting certain elements of her theories of gender-based morality.
- E. Modern feminism has equated Wollstonecraft's ideas about the popular sentimentalization of women with her view of monarchist systems of government.

Passage 26

Cuts that need to be held closed in order to heal properly have generally been held closed with stitches. However, pressure to reduce medical costs is mounting. Consequently, it is likely that a newly developed adhesive will become the routine method of holding most types of cuts closed. The new adhesive holds most types of cuts closed as well as stitches do, and the cost of applying it is comparable to that of closing cuts with stitches. But whereas stitches must generally be removed by medical personnel after the cut has healed, the adhesive simply wears off. Thus, **for any cut that the adhesive can hold closed as well as stitches can, it is more economical to use the adhesive.** 【微信公众号：张巍老师GRE】

In the argument given, the two highlighted portions play which of the following roles?

- A. The first is a claim that the argument disputes; the second provides evidence against that disputed claim.
- B. The first is a claim that is used as supporting evidence for the main conclusion of the argument; the second is that main conclusion.
- C. The first is a claim that is used as supporting evidence for the main conclusion of the argument; the second is a conclusion that is drawn in order to support that main conclusion.
- D. The first introduces a practice about which the argument makes a prediction, the second is a conclusion based on that prediction.
- E. The first introduces a practice about which the argument makes a prediction; the second is an assessment that is used to support that prediction.

Passage 27

Based on evidence from tree rings, pollen samples and other records, scientists have for a long time assumed that interglacials—warm interludes between ice ages—were as mild and uniform as the Holocene, the present interglacial, has been for all of its 8,000 to 10,000 years. But new research in Greenland has put this assumption into question.

Researchers on two teams, the Greenland Ice-Core Project (GRIP) and the Greenland Ice Sheet Project 2 (GISP2), have analyzed two different cylinders of ice, each about two miles in depth, pulled up from the Greenland ice sheet. Such ice cores trap gases, bits of dust, and other chemicals that were present in the snow that fell over Greenland for thousands of years and then became compressed into ice. By studying these components, scientists have obtained a detailed archive of many aspects of climate, including air temperatures, snowfall, and concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Findings from the upper sections of the cores have confirmed what scientists already knew climate during the last ice age fluctuated rapidly. But scientists were astonished by findings from the lower sections of the GRIP core, which provided a close look at an interglacial period other than our own, the Eemian interglacial, a period that lasted from 135,000 to 115,000 years ago. Data from GRIP seem to indicate that the Eemian climate swung at least as wildly as the climate of ice age periods.

Researchers' clues to the Eemian climate come from measurements of the ratios of two slightly different types of oxygen, isotopes oxygen-16 and oxygen-18, preserved in the GRIP core. These ratios register the fluctuations of air temperatures over the seasons and years. When the air was warm, vapor containing the heavier isotope, oxygen-18, condensed and formed precipitation, in the form of snow, more readily than did vapor containing oxygen-16. Thus, snow that fell during warmer periods contains proportionally more oxygen-18 than snow deposited during cold spells. Evidence of rapid climate shifts was also drawn from other sources, such as measurements of amounts of dust and calcium ions in the ice layers during cold periods: winds were strong, causing calcium-rich dust from loess deposits, which are composed of loose surface sediment, to blow across the ice sheet. Thus, differing amounts of dust in the layers also indicate changing climatic conditions.

However, finds from the lower section of GISP 2 do not confirm those of GRIP. The wild climate swings shown by GRIP in the last interglacial are not seen in the GISP2 core. According to a GISP 2 scientist, the weight of flowing glacial ice above has stressed the lower sections of both cores. This may have deformed the lower ice, disrupting its annual layers and thereby causing the discrepancy between the records. Still, some climatologists believe GRIP's record may be the more reliable of the two. It was drilled closer to a location called the ice divide, where stresses would have been lower, they say. 【微信公众号：张巍老师GRE】

1. The passage is primarily concerned with
- A. refuting certain scientific theories about Earth's climatic history
 - B. outlining new findings concerning Earth's climate during ice ages
 - C. discussing new research that may challenge a long-held scientific assumption about Earth's climatic history
 - D. describing the climatic changes that occurred when Earth moved from an ice age into an interglacial period
 - E. reconciling conflicting evidence concerning climatic changes.

2. Which of the following describes research that is most clearly analogous to the testing done by GRIP scientists?
- A. Scientists studying the formation of the Sahara desert measure the rate of topsoil erosion in the region
 - B. Scientists seeking to determine the age of a particular fossil measure the percentage of its carbon atoms that have decayed
 - C. Scientists researching vision in flies measure and compare the amounts of vitamin A found in the retinas of several fly species.
 - D. Scientists investigating the development of life on Earth measure and compare the amount of oxygen used by various organisms along the evolutionary scale.
 - E. Scientists plotting the fluctuations in rainfall in the early rain forests measure the presence of certain gases trapped in tree rings of older trees.
3. According to the passage, which of the following is the most accurate statement of what scientists believed, prior to the GRIP findings, about Earth's climate?
- A. Over the course of Earth's history, interglacials have become progressively milder
 - B. Earth's overall climate has been generally mild since the planet's formation
 - C. During both interglacials and ice ages, Earth's climate has fluctuated violently.
 - D. During ice ages, Earth's climate has been highly variable, whereas during interglacials it has been mild and stable.
 - E. During interglacials, Earth's climate has been highly variable, whereas during ice ages it has been uniformly cold and icy.
4. The passage suggests that which of the following is most likely to have been true of the oxygen-16 and oxygen-18 isotopes found in the lower sections of the GRIP core?
- A. There was significantly more isotope oxygen-18 than isotope oxygen-16 in the ice layers.
 - B. There was significantly more isotope oxygen-16 than isotope oxygen-18 in the ice layers.
 - C. Ratios of isotopes oxygen-18 and oxygen-16 varied in the ice layers.
 - D. Layers containing isotope oxygen-18 placed stress on the layers containing isotope oxygen-16, possibly distorting them.
 - E. Isotope oxygen-16, being lighter, was located mainly in the upper layers, whereas oxygen-18 had settled into the lower layers.

Passage 28

Early life insurers in the United States found themselves facing the problem of obtaining reliable information, as they needed to rely on applicants themselves to provide truthful, complete answers to a standard set of questions. In an attempt to personalize the relationship between insurers and their individual applicants, firms selected highly respected local citizens to act as their agents. These agents were expected to evaluate the appearance of candidates, unearth evidence of unhealthy family histories or questionable habits, and attest to the respectability of the people writing testimonial letters on an applicant's behalf. In short, the initial purpose of the agency system was not to actively solicit customers, but, rather, to recreate the glass-bowl mentality associated with small towns or city neighborhoods. 【微信公众号：张巍老师GRE】

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - A. explain the original function of life insurance agents
 - B. evaluate the effectiveness of early life insurance agents
 - C. describe how life insurance was first introduced
 - D. illustrate how the life insurance agency system changed over time
 - E. compare the strategies used by life insurance in cities and in small towns
2. The author suggests which of the following about “city neighborhoods”?
 - A. They were places where family histories were difficult to establish.
 - B. They were places where unhealthy behaviors had been successfully addressed.
 - C. They were locations that were well suited for recruiting insurance agents.
 - D. They offered a high degree of transparency about a resident's personal history and character.
 - E. They offered potentially fruitful markets for the life insurance industry.

Passage 29

For years, the leading theory for what caused the Younger Dryas (a dramatic reversal, about 12,900 years ago, in a global warming trend) was a release of water from Glacial Lake Agassiz. The theory posited that this meltwater flooded into the North Atlantic, lowering the salinity and intensity of surface waters enough to prevent them from sinking. Ocean currents were changed in such a way that northward transport of heat in the ocean diminished, and the North Atlantic regions plunged back into near-glacial conditions. However, evidence has emerged that the Younger Dryas began long before freshwater flooded the North Atlantic. Additionally, the temperature changes induced by a shutdown in the North Atlantic heat conveyor system are too small to explain the Younger Dryas. 【微信公众号：张巍老师GRE】

1. The author of the passage implies which of the following about the release of water from glacial Lake Agassiz?
 - A. The notion that the release occurred has been challenged by more recent findings.
 - B. The release probably occurred much earlier than scientists have generally assumed.
 - C. The release would not have been sufficient to cause any temperature change in the North Atlantic.
 - D. The timing of the release is such that it probably did not trigger the onset of the Younger Dryas.
 - E. The release was probably unrelated to the global warming trend that was taking place.
2. The passage is primarily concerned with
 - A. presenting evidence that undermines an explanation
 - B. explaining the nature of a climatological phenomenon
 - C. questioning the timing of a particular event
 - D. discussing a new explanation for a phenomenon
 - E. suggesting revisions to a popular theory

Passage 30

One reason researchers have long believed that Mars never enjoyed an extensive period of warm and wet climate is that much of the surface not covered by wind-borne dust appear to be composed of unweathered material. **If water flowed for an extended period, researchers reasoned, it should have altered and weathered the volcanic minerals, creating clays or other oxidized, hydrated phases (minerals that incorporate water molecules in their crystal structure) .**

It turns out, though, that the scientists were not looking closely enough. New high-resolution mapping data and close-up surface studies have revealed clays and other hydrated minerals in many regions. The clay deposits are scattered all over, in ancient volcanic surfaces and heavily cratered highland regions, some of which have apparently been exposed by erosion only recently. 【微信公众号：张巍老师GRE】

1. According to the passage, scientists are able to discover weathered material on the Martian surface because they have benefited from which of the following?

- A. a new method to analyze volcanic craters created on the Martian surface.
- B. an improved ability to detect hydrated materials on the Martian surface
- C. a more sophisticated understanding of the effect of wind-borne dust on the Martian surface
- D. a decision to look for water primarily in heavily cratered highland regions.
- E. a better understanding of how erosion might affect clay deposits.

Consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

2. It can be inferred from the passage that the author would agree with which of the following statements regarding the reasoning discussed in the highlighted sentence?

- A. It provides the basis for an explanation of why water on Mars has been difficult to find until recently.
- B. It correctly identifies a consequence of water flowing on the Martian surface.
- C. It depends on a false assumption about how water and volcanic materials interact on Mars.

Passage 31

Scientific consensus is that humans first began to have a warming effect on Earth's climate within the past century, after coal-burning factories, power plants, and motor vehicles began releasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases in significant quantities into the air. **However, evidence suggests that human agricultural activities may have had such an effect much earlier:** concentrations of CO₂ started rising about 8000 years ago, even though natural trends indicate they should have been dropping; methane levels rose similarly about 3,000 years later. Without these rises, however, current temperatures in northern parts of North America and Europe would be cooler by three to four degrees Celsius-enough to inhibit agriculture-and an ice age would probably have begun several thousand years ago in northeastern Canada. 【微信公众号：张巍老师GRE】

1. Which of the following best describes the function of the highlighted sentence?
 - A. It undermines the assumption that human activity has had a significant impact on Earth's climate
 - B. It supports the assumption that Earth's temperatures have risen appreciably over the past 100 years
 - C. It questions the assumption that greenhouse gases have had a warming effect on Earth's climate
 - D. It challenges the assumption that human activity began to affect Earth's climate after the advent of industrialization
 - E. It supports the assumption that greenhouse gases are a direct by-product of industrial activities
2. The author mentions "natural trends" most likely in order to
 - A. propose a possible explanation for why current temperatures in North America and Europe are not as low as they might otherwise be
 - B. explain why levels of methane in Earth's atmosphere began to rise approximately 5,000 years ago
 - C. suggest that Earth's climate would have become even warmer without the advent of human agricultural activities
 - D. identify factors that may have contributed to the rise of greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere approximately 8,000 years ago and again some 3,000 years later
 - E. support the claim that human activity may have played a role in the rise in CO₂ and methane levels in the atmosphere thousands of years ago

Passage 32

Princessfish are a species of coral-reef fish that are captured alive by divers who first stun the individual fish by squirting a certain poison at them. Since the divers limit their catch to a few individuals and take care not to overfish, the divers' continuing activities will clearly not result in serious harm to populations of princessfish. 【微信公众号：张巍老师GRE】

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weaken the argument given?

- A. Princessfish cannot be captured alive by traditional methods of fishing.
- B. The poison used to stun the princessfish has no effect on humans who eat them.
- C. Demand for princessfish has remained steady during the last decade.
- D. Traces of the poison that remain in the seawater damage the Corals that create and maintain the reefs on which princessfish depend.
- E. Fish that have been stunned but have selected for capture by the divers soon recover from the temporary effect of the poison.

Passage 33

A primary value in early twentieth-century Modernist architectural theory was that of “truth to materials”, that is, it was essential that a building’s design express the “natural” character of the building materials. This emphasis would have puzzled the architects of the Italian Renaissance (sixteenth century), a period widely regarded as the apex of architectural achievement, for Renaissance architects’ designs were determined only minimally by the materials employed. The diversity of Italy’s natural resources provided Renaissance architects with a wide variety of building materials. The builders of the Pitti Palace (1558-1570) used great blocks of Tuscan stone, just as Etruscans living in the same part of Italy had done some twenty centuries earlier. Had the Florentine Renaissance builders aped the Etruscan style, it might be said that their materials determined their style, since Etruscan style matched the massive, stark, solid character of the stone. But these same materials, which so suited the massive Etruscan style, were effectively used by the Florentine Renaissance to create the most delicate and graceful of styles.

A similar example of identical materials used in contrasting styles characterizes the treatment of Roman travertine marble. When Baroque architects of seventeenth-century Rome desired a massive and solid monumental effect, they turned to travertine marble, whose “natural effect” is, indeed, that of spacious breadth and lofty, smoothly rounded surfaces. Yet during the Renaissance, this same material had been used against its “nature,” in the Florentine tradition of sharply carved detail. Italian Renaissance architecture was shaped less by the “nature” of the materials at hand than by the artistic milieu of Renaissance Italy, which included painting and sculpture as well as architecture. While Roman travertine marble may have lent itself to fine carving, the Florentine passion for fine detail is no less marked in **Florentine Renaissance painting** than in Florentine Renaissance architecture. Similarly, in the next century, the emphasis on shading and corporeal density in Baroque painting mirrored the use of Roman travertine marble in Baroque architecture to create broad shadow and powerful masses.

The ingenuity of Renaissance architects extended beyond merely using a material in a way not suggested by its outward natural appearance. If they conceived a design that called for a certain material either too expensive or difficult to work with, they made no scruple about imitating that material. Their marbles and their stones are often actually painted stucco. When the blocks of masonry with which they built were not in scale with the projected scheme, the real joints were concealed and false ones introduced. Nor were these practices confined, as some **scholars** insist, to the later and supposedly decadent phases of the art. Material, then, was utterly subservient to style. 【微信公众号：张巍老师GRE】

1. The passage is primarily concerned with
 - A. explaining the differences in quality among different kinds of building materials
 - B. discussing the differences among Etruscan, Florentine Renaissance, and Roman Baroque architecture
 - C. describing how different materials influenced architecture in different cities
 - D. describing the manner in which Renaissance architects often resorted to artificial materials and illusionistic effects
 - E. demonstrating the attitude of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Italian architects toward the use of building materials

2. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes that which of the following is true of painting and architecture of the Baroque era?
- A. Both emphasize the “natural” use of materials.
 - B. Both are derived from the Florentine Renaissance style.
 - C. Both have been overlooked by twentieth-century Modernists.
 - D. They have certain visual features in common.
 - E. They illustrate the degeneration of a style.
3. The author’s mention of Florentine Renaissance painting serves in the context of the passage to support which of the following assertions?
- A. The constraints that operate in architecture are different from those that operate in painting
 - B. Florentine architectural style was not determined by the nature of the available marble.
 - C. The Florentine Renaissance period was a period in which the other arts achieved the same distinction as did architecture.
 - D. Technical advances in all of the arts of the Florentine Renaissance determined the stylistic qualities of those arts.
 - E. Native preferences of style do not manifest themselves in the same ways in different arts.
4. The passage suggests which of the following about the cited “scholars”?
- A. They believe that a decadent phase is characteristic of any significant artistic movement.
 - B. They reject the popular view of the Renaissance as the apex of architectural achievement.
 - C. They believe that a vigorous and healthy architecture would not usually employ false surfaces or imitation building materials.
 - D. They represent the mainstream in critical and historical thought about the Florentine Renaissance.
 - E. They have focused on such technical matters as the cost of building materials rather than on artistic concerns.

Passage 34

Archaeologists studying Bonito phase (ca. A.D. 900-1140) Native American ceramics from Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, observed that many pots had been altered after firing to revise their decorative designs--usually, intricate geometric patterns painted in black on white slipped surfaces. In some cases, a new design was imposed over an earlier one; less often, the original design was simply covered with white slip. Crown and Wills doubt that the alterations were made to correct design errors. Many Chaco pots with design errors were left unaltered. Furthermore, when errors were corrected, revisions were made prior to firing—either by painting directly over the error or by scraping off designs and applying new slip and paint, which is a less time-consuming method than repainting and refiring flawed pots. 【微信公众号：张巍老师GRE】

1. The author of the passage mentions Crown and Wills primarily in order to
 - A. Distinguish among different factors that might have caused Chaco potters to alter their pots' decorative designs.
 - B. Introduce new evidence related to the question of why Chaco potters altered their pots' decorative designs.
 - C. Show how one potential explanation for the alteration of Chaco pots has been discounted.
 - D. Present a hypothesis about why Chaco pots were altered to revise their decorative designs.
 - E. Explain how archaeologists discerned the method by which Chaco pots were originally decorated.
2. According to the passage, which of the following is true of Bonito phase Chaco pots?
 - A. Relatively few of them have original designs concealed beneath white surfaces.
 - B. Relatively few of them were altered after firing.
 - C. Many of their alterations increased the intricacy of their painted designs.
 - D. Many of them have some flaw in their shape or structure.
 - E. Many of them were altered more than once.



Gregmat 900 Wordlist



group 4

1. **abstain** - restrain oneself from doing
2. **approbation** - approval or praise
3. **cherish** - protect and care for lovingly
4. **corroborate** - confirm or give support to a statement, theory or finding
5. **disparate** - essentially different in kind, notable to be compared, containing elements very different from one another
6. **emulate** - match or surpass a person or achievement, typically by imitation
7. **enervate** - make someone feel drained of energy, lacking in energy
8. **ephemeral** - lasting for a very short time
9. **fervid** - intensely enthusiastic or passionate, especially to an excessive degree
10. **garrulous** - excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters
11. **incendiary** - tending to stir up conflict
12. **inimical** - tending to obstruct, unfriendly hostile
13. **intimate** - closely acquainted, familiar, detailed or thorough
14. **invigorate** - give strength or energy to
15. **mitigate** - make something bad less severe, serious or painful
16. **obsolete** - out of date
17. **opaque** - unclear, not transparent
18. **paradigmatic** - serving as a typical example of something, of or denoting
19. **pedantic** - excessively concerned with minor details, over-scrupulous
20. **placid** - not easily upset or excited, calm and peaceful
21. **polemical** - of or involving strongly critical writing or speech
22. **precipitate** - cause to happen suddenly, unexpectedly or premature
23. **profundity** - great depth of insight or knowledge
24. **prophetic** - accurately predicting what will happen in future
25. **prudent** - acting with or showing care and thought for future
26. **punctilious** - showing great attention to detail or correct behavior
27. **recondite** - little known, abstruse
28. **scrupulous** - careful, thorough, and extremely attentive to details
29. **tranquil** - free from disturbance, calm
30. **vacillate** - waver between different opinions or actions, be indecisive



Gregmat 900 Wordlist



group 5

1. **aloof** - not friendly, distant, detached
2. **clangor** - a continuously loud banging or ringing sound
3. **conventional** - following traditional forms and genres
4. **debunk** - expose the falseness or hollowness of an idea or belief
5. **diminutive** - extremely or unusually small
6. **discernible** - able to be discerned, perceptible, visible, noticeable
7. **enigmatic** - difficult to understand, mysterious
8. **estranged** - no longer close to someone, alienated
9. **extravagant** - excessive, elaborate
10. **fanciful** - over-imaginative, unrealistic, highly ornamental
11. **frivolous** - carefree, not having any serious purpose
12. **heterogeneous** - diverse in character or content
13. **imperious** - arrogant and domineering
14. **impertinent** - not showing proper respect, irrelevant
15. **invasive** - tending to spread very quickly or undesirably, harmfully
16. **irresolute** - showing or feeling hesitancy; uncertain
17. **laudable** - deserving praise and commendation
18. **lax** - not sufficiently strict or careful, negligible / of muscle(relaxed)
19. **marginalize** - treat a person, group as insignificant or peripheral
20. **panache** - flamboyant confidence of style or manner
21. **plodding** - slow moving and unexciting
22. **prosaic** - lacking originality, commonplace, unromantic
23. **remedial** - intended as cure/ provided or intended for children with learning difficulties/ provided or intended for children with learning difficulties
24. **restive** - unable to remain still, silent, or submissive, especially because of boredom
25. **sporadic** - infrequent, scattered or isolated, occasional
26. **stigmatize** - great disapproval
27. **undermine** - erode the base/ lessen the effectiveness
28. **utterly** - completely or without qualification, absolutely
29. **weary** - tired(extreme)
30. **zealous** - showing zeal, fervent, passionate, fervid, ardent

section 5 easy

1. The Labrador duck is one of the most _____ extinct birds: although there are a fair number of specimens, few have yielded reliable data and little is known about the species' breeding patterns.

- A. anomalous
- B. controversial
- C. enigmatic
- D. misrepresented
- E. cherished

2. The research found that in assessing others, many people hold an unconscious view that competence and warmth are (i)_____: when they perceive a person to be highly capable, they infer that he or she must have a tendency to be (ii)_____.

A. equally important	D. ambitious
B. mutually reinforcing	E. unfeeling
C. inversely related	F. disingenuous

3. Mr. Stevens found that home schooling, far from representing (i)_____ philosophy, (ii)_____ some of the most widely accepted education ideas: that children should be treated as individuals, taught in small numbers, and given a measure of discretion over their own learning.

A. a benign	D. overcomes
B. an orthodox	E. embodies
C. an anomalous	F. anticipates

4. He was never (i)_____; he was nothing if not (ii)_____, so he forbore for the present to declare his passion.

A. chivalrous	D. boorish
B. impetuous	E. circumspect
C. thoughtful	F. spontaneous

5. Computers make it spectacularly easy to search for particular pieces of information in downloaded texts. And doing research in this strategic, targeted manner can feel (i)_____. Instead of (ii)_____ the organizing logic of the book you are reading, you can approach the book with your own questions and (iii)_____. You, not the author, are the master.

A. disorienting	D. disregarding	G. begin to discern the author's intent
B. humbling	E. surrendering to	H. glean precisely what you want from it
C. empowering	F. imitating	I. evaluate the book on its own terms

6. Given our species' increasing numbers and appetites—which are reflected in and compounded by global climate change—even (i)_____ species are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. If we are to avoid a calamitous loss of biodiversity, according to Golbe, we cannot simply let nature take its course. Ongoing conservation management is (ii)_____, as we have, in a sense, become nature, and the responsibilities that come with the role cannot be (iii)_____.

A. exotic	D. ineffective	G. jettisoned
B. vulnerable	E. obligatory	H. assumed
C. now common	F. promising	I. contrived

7. Miller reminded his clients that labor relationship are inherently _____; the interests of business owners are diametrically opposed to those of employees.

- A. adversarial
- B. exploitative
- C. mercenary
- D. antagonistic
- E. variable
- F. changeable

8. Progressive and reactionary populist movements are not necessarily _____; each may, and usually does, possess features of the other.

- A. dichotomous
- B. untenable
- C. unsustainable
- D. contradictory
- E. subversive
- F. efficacious

9. Although one can adduce myriad of examples of ecosystem disruption by nonindigenous species, nevertheless most introduced species that survive in fact appear to have quite _____ effects on the ecosystem they have invaded.

- A. minimal
- B. trifling
- C. marked
- D. conspicuous
- E. intriguing
- F. deleterious

10. Although field studies have linked inbreeding to declines among song sparrow populations, some researchers argue that, in nature, inbreeding proves _____ as a factor when compared with crushing blows from weather changes.

- A. hazardous
- B. momentous
- C. trivial
- D. significant
- E. precarious
- F. inconsequential

section 6 easy

1. One view of historicism holds that systems of belief prevalent during different periods in history are _____ and therefore cannot be understood except in their own term.

- A. discriminatory
- B. incommensurable
- C. anachronistic
- D. cosmopolitan
- E. objective

2. The company suffers from an almost total lack of _____: even the most innocuous communications between departments tend to devolve into acrimony.

- A. dissension
- B. variance
- C. comity
- D. conformity
- E. mordancy

3. One way to predict the effects of global climate change on an ecosystem is to extrapolate current trend in global change factors into the future. A (i) _____ of this method is that its predictions (ii) _____ actual observation, but the method also makes the questionable assumption that the future will resemble the present.

A. virtue	D. dispense with
B. drawback	E. derive from
C. peculiarity	F. improve upon

4. So (i) _____ is the reputation of the city's police force for (ii) _____ that whenever a new police chief take office, he or she routinely promises to clean up the force.

A. persistent	D. corruption
B. recent	E. efficiency
C. discouraging	F. inexperience

5. Scientists said that cosmology was the field where the ratio of theory to data was (i) _____: there was an abundance of theories, but almost no data. Recently, however, that ratio has flipped. A huge and ever-increasing amount of data has (ii) _____ all theories but one.

A. completely unknown	D. eliminated
B. nearly infinite	E. supported
C. always variable	F. clarified

6. Many fairy tales are complex narratives of wish fulfillment. They teach the reader that a struggle against severe difficulties in life is (i)_____, that it is an intrinsic part of human existence, and that if one does not (ii)_____, but steadfastly meets unexpected and often unjust hardships, one masters all obstacles and at the end (iii)_____.

A. atypical	D. preserve	G. elicits adversities
B. unavoidable	E. improvise	H. emerges victorious
C. insurmountable	F. shy away	I. evades achievements

7. Since it was committed to the idea of science as an international, politically neutral enterprise, the Royal Society of London refused to _____ members from enemy nations during world wars of the twentieth century.

- A. betray
- B. expel
- C. endorse
- D. oust
- E. sanction
- F. condemn

8. Coagulation factors are useful proteins whose simple names—many are known only by Roman numerals—_____ their importance and the specificity of their roles in the thinning and clotting of blood.

- A. nullify
- B. obviate
- C. mitigate
- D. belie
- E. mask
- F. accentuate

9. Despite her rather _____ choices, Moreland was neither a rebellious spirit nor someone who saw herself as anything out of the ordinary.

- A. unconventional
- B. impractical
- C. quirky
- D. flamboyant
- E. successful
- F. lucrative

10. Despite their cultural and social significance, rapid growth, and widespread appeal in China, video games—unlike traditional media—have received _____ attention from international communication researches.

- A. undue
- B. scant
- C. excessive
- D. focused
- E. limited
- F. dwindling

section 7 easy

1. The artist's career was remarkable **partly** because it was so ____: she died, with only a few paintings to her credit, while still in her twenties.

- A. felicitous
- B. prolific
- C. enduring
- D. conventional
- E. **abbreviated**

2. The province has long claimed to be just another developing region, even as its economy ____ those of other regions and threatens to eclipse the rest of the country combined.

- A. parallels
- B. bolsters
- C. corroborates
- D. **outstrips**
- E. engages

3. Scholars have marveled over the (i)____ that Shakespeare displays in his works, noting that such broad learning is all the more remarkable given that books were relatively (ii)____ in Shakespeare's time.

A. meticulousness	D. edifying
B. humor	E. scarce
C. erudition	F. inexpensive

4. She was never (i)____; she was nothing if not discreet, so she (ii)____ for the present to declare her passion.

A. precipitate	D. pretended
B. tactful	E. decided
C. thoughtful	F. forbore

5. Except for a few passages in the biography in which the subject's flaws are (i)____, the author's treatment of her subject is (ii)____.

A. too harshly judged	D. erudite
B. analyzed in depth	E. judicious
C. frankly acknowledged	F. acrimonious

6. The writer argues that jewelry-grade diamonds, because they are both (i)____ and (ii)____, prove one of two conclusions; their purchasers have so much money they can spend it on goods that (iii)____, or their purchasers are so committed to making others think they have such wealth that they are willing to go into debt to do so.

A. flawless	D. durable	G. may appreciate in value
B. fungible	E. useless	H. reflect the buyers' connoisseurship
C. expensive	F. irreplaceable	I. serve no practical purpose

7. In Ramachandran's opinion, it is perfectly acceptable to propose bold speculations about the brain, even if these speculations seem ____; as Ramachandran frequently remarks, science thrives on risky conjecture.

- A. unfounded
- B. premature
- C. controversial
- D. verifiable
- E. testable
- F. baseless

8. The concert hall's suspended ceiling is two-inch-thick plaster that reflects low-frequency sound energy; similarly, all wall surfaces are angled and shaped to ____ sound from the stage throughout the audience area.

- A. diffuse
- B. amplify
- C. spread
- D. dampen
- E. eclipse
- F. deaden

9. Any notion of justice in the fortunes of artists is ____: works of equal value and quality produce quite different returns or no returns at all.

- A. baseless
- B. cliché
- C. untenable
- D. insulting
- E. condescending
- F. idealistic



10. Agencies responsible for protecting natural resources too often issue permits allowing exploitation of those resources, a process that remains ____ given that agencies have become experts at masking their decisions in the scientific terms.

- A. controversial
- B. exacting
- C. obscure
- D. onerous
- E. opaque
- F. misleading

section 8 easy

1. Parker's model of human reflects a _____ outlook, in stark contrast to the generally pessimistic analyses of her colleagues in the economics department.

- A. prescient
- B. circumspect
- C. technical
- D. magisterial
- E. sanguine

2. The history of the region's natural resources has been one of initial (i) _____ followed by (ii) _____; as such the region has over time gone from a resource-rich to a resource-dependent economy.

A. disappointment	D. growing interdependence
B. abundance	E. draconian regulation
C. conservation	F. rapacious depletion

3. Any account of experimental music in the United States that (i) _____ the predominantly African American bebop and free jazz movements is (ii) _____, since this body of music constitutes what is arguably the most influential African experimental music in the decades following the Second War War.

A. neglects	D. underappreciated
B. exaggerates	E. problematic
C. reinterprets	F. self-serving

4. Despite the abundance and importance of maize, its biological origin has been a long-running mystery. The bright yellow, mouth-watering treat does not grow in the wild anywhere on the planet, so its (i) _____ is not at all (ii) _____.

A. utility	D. helpful
B. popularity	E. important
C. ancestry	F. obvious

5. In medieval Europe, watermills were more (i) _____ than windmills. It is true that windmills could be built virtually anywhere, whereas watermills (ii) _____. However, watermills' greater capacity and reliability provided a better (iii) _____ the money required to build the mill.

A. problematic	D. were suitable only for certain locations	G. source of
B. profitable	E. inspired a variety of new technologies	H. adjunct to
C. versatile	F. required a good deal of upkeep	I. return on

6. When the Agriculture Department (i)_____ its dietary guidelines, it laid down a challenge: Eat better, smarter, and healthier or else. The “or else” included a long list of (ii)_____ that (iii)_____ the developed world, from heart disease and osteoporosis to diabetes.

A. make public	D. intangibles	G. assuage
B. debunked	E. misconceptions	H. plague
C. refused to consider	F. maladies	I. ignore

7. Although legislators on both sides of issues have repeatedly _____ a desire to find a middle ground, until now no acceptable compromise has been achieved.

- A. discussed
- B. proclaimed
- C. professed
- D. rejected
- E. disowned
- F. betrayed

8. The company is so old-fashioned and opposed to innovation that it can seem downright _____.

- A. antediluvian
- B. flighty
- C. archaic
- D. chauvinistic
- E. capricious
- F. patronizing

9. Estimating demographic parameters in marine mammals is challenging, often requiring many years of data to achieve sufficient precision to _____ biologically meaningful change.

- A. effect
- B. tolerate
- C. discern
- D. envisage
- E. withstand
- F. detect

10. Scientists should hope the faults in their theories will be _____ their peers since the refutation of one hypothesis can free its originator to develop a better one.

- A. discerned by
- B. disregarded by
- C. discovered by
- D. ignored by
- E. opaque to
- F. inspiring to

section 9 easy

1. He was so _____ during the filming of the movie that crew members nicknamed him “The Angriest Man in the World”

- A. loquacious
- B. irascible
- C. perfidious
- D. sanguine
- E. voracious

2. The film was a _____: its elements were assembled more or less haphazardly from a dozen of different sources.

- A. burlesque
- B. satire
- C. pastiche
- D. chronicle
- E. parody

3. The description of Green’s scholarship as (i)_____ is grossly misleading: while her research on interstellar particles is not especially novel, the conclusions she draws from her data are (ii)_____.

A. esoteric	D. remarkably pioneering
B. tendentious	E. dubiously supported
C. derivative	F. strangely comforting

4. People frequently attempt to relieve their workplace frustrations via surreptitious comments around the water cooler but would be better able to resolve their resentment if they were less (i)_____ about their problem and imitated a more (ii)_____ dialogue.

A. vexatious	D. equitable
B. clandestine	E. sincere
C. opportunistic	F. open

5. It would be (i)_____ not to (i)_____ these tabloid journalists for thriving in hard times: they deserve credit for doing well in a profession in financial straits.

A. apropos	D. admire
B. churlish	E. envy
C. cagey	F. emulate

6. The historian's narrative of the dynasty's decline is (i)_____, because though there is nothing (ii)_____ the account, largely parts of it rely on (iii)_____.

A. diffuse	D. psychologically penetrating in	G. plagiarism
B. reasonable	E. inherently implausible about	H. conjecture
C. questionable	F. fully documented in	I. pretense

7. Though Edmurd certainly had a dignified bearing and made a great first impression, those who became acquainted with him soon realized he had an essentially _____ nature.

- A. pugnacious
- B. deliberate
- C. punctilious
- D. courteous
- E. complacent
- F. truculent

8. The life of a secret agent is dangerous enough, but the life of a double agent is infinitely more _____: a single slip can send an agent crashing to destruction.

- A. arduous
- B. precarious
- C. clandestine
- D. perilous
- E. covert
- F. exhilarating

9. Natural causes nerves to die off and muscles to weaken, but regular exercise of muscle fibers enlarges and can _____ the decline by increasing the strengthen muscle you have left.

- A. speed up
- B. stave off
- C. forestall
- D. facilitate
- E. assist
- F. exploit

10. Creativity is no longer seen as _____ inspiration leading to poem or painting, it has come to be thought of as something permeating the whole of a person's life.

- A. a mundane
- B. a momentary
- C. an illusory
- D. an evanescent
- E. a metaphoric
- F. a prosaic

section 10 easy

1. Nylenna's study showed that errors in scientific manuscripts submitted for publication often escape reviewers' notice, results that were not ____: when Godlee conducted a study of the same phenomenon, her findings were similar.

- A. credible
- B. unwelcome
- C. anomalous
- D. quantifiable
- E. consequential

2. Among the Meakambut people of Papua New Guinea, legends are associated with specific caves in the Sepik region, and these legends are ____: only the cave owner can share its secrets.

- A. impenetrable
- B. immutable
- C. proprietary
- D. didactic
- E. self-perpetuating

3. It would be imprecise to characterize her scholarship as (i) ____: though her etymological discussion is necessarily esoteric, there is nothing (ii) ____ about the conclusions she derives from it.

A. derivative	D. obscure
B. arcane	E. controversial
C. careless	F. innovative

4. While acknowledging behaviors the Prime Minister took in order to remain in office were (i) ____, some politicians nevertheless believed this small amount of (ii) ____ was justified to keep reforming government in office.

A. unethical	D. skullduggery
B. impractical	E. indolence
C. quixotic	F. incivility

5. Attending with equal (i) ____ to any question that presents itself, the sociologist's work has strengths and weaknesses that flow from this energetically (ii) ____ approach.

A. skepticism	D. hybrid
B. lethargy	E. indiscriminate
C. fervor	F. conciliatory

6. Galaxy Zoo set a standard for citizen-scientist participation project. Zealous volunteers (i) _____ the project's organizers by classifying an entire catalog of galaxies years ahead of schedule. (ii) _____ by the (iii) _____ of the volunteers, Galaxy Zoo team was inspired to pursue lines of research they had never even imagined.

A. beguiled	D. baffled	G. insouciance
B. forestalled	E. buoyed	H. stoicism
C. astonished	F. embarrassed	I. alacrity

7. In establishing that the dust she had observed constitutes two percent of the mass in the quadrant, the astronomer showed that the dust's extreme visual prominence _____ its relatively minor contribution to the total mass of the region.

- A. belies
- B. masks
- C. highlights
- D. nullifies
- E. disproves
- F. accentuates

8. Writing about advances in climate science is often problematic, in part because the material is so _____: climate science is the study of shifting, interrelated, and sometimes paradoxical patterns.

- A. disheartening
- B. pedestrian
- C. complicated
- D. depressing
- E. knotty
- F. mundane

9. There are many insights in the essay collected in Observations on modernity, but they are embedded in a dense English translation of a dense German original that may make many of them _____ to most readers.

- A. vapid
- B. inaccessible
- C. sagacious
- D. banal
- E. distressing
- F. opaque

10. Noise suppression in phones can play an important role in making cellphone networks more efficient, since when sounds that are _____ to the meaningful signal are transmitted, precious network band width is wasted.

- A. unsuitable
- B. detrimental
- C. irrelevant
- D. confined
- E. limited
- F. extraneous

section 11 easy

1. The title of her final and unfinished film, *Escape*, was ____: indeed while shooting it, she was preoccupied with thoughts of desertion.

- A. quixotic
- B. apt
- C. misleading
- D. inconsequential
- E. uncharacteristic

2. This is neither praise nor criticism, neither a compliment nor ____, just an observation.

- A. an exposition
- B. an elucidation
- C. an animadversion
- D. a culmination
- E. a divination

3. The national bank has been uncommonly powerful in comparison to its counterparts in other nations. It retains this potency partly because its control of the nation's banking system is (i)____ governmental interference, and thus its actions remain largely (ii)_____.

A. unencumbered by	D. compulsory
B. replete with	E. discretionary
C. hindered by	F. bureaucratic

4. Mr. Billington, at times, can be a (i)____. For instance, he deplores the Royal Shakespeare Company's eight-and-a-half hour version of *Nicholas Nickleby*, which many found (ii)_____.

A. naysayer	D. perplexing
B. pushover	E. unpredictable
C. braggart	F. absorbing

5. At Cerro Portezuelo, the task of separating grinding tools from the larger collection of excavated stone objects was (i)____ the ancient practice of recycling grinding tool fragments for building materials, hammer stones, and other purposes that (ii)_____ their original use.

A. complicated by	D. complemented
B. important to	E. obscured
C. independent from	F. underscored

6. To label Hamilton a foreigner because he was born outside what later became the United States is to assume anachronistically the existence of the nation before the fact. It is true that Hamilton came to believe that he was a (i)____ the United States, but his (ii)_____ was stemmed not from his (iii)_____ but from his confrontation with American democracy, which he considered to be a disease afflicting the nation.

A. symbol of	D. alienation	G. ideology
B. stranger in	E. ambition	H. profession
C. citizen of	F. patriotism	I. birthplace

7. Changes made to ecosystem in order to achieve a goal, such as food production or flood control, often _____ significant unforeseen trade-offs between other important products and service the ecosystems provide.

- A. predict
- B. delay
- C. foretell
- D. obscure
- E. yield
- F. engender

8. The union states its position polemically; its leader say they are fighting to save good jobs while _____ corporations replace full-time workers with part-time ones in order to cut down on both wages and benefits.

- A. precarious
- B. enterprising
- C. rapacious
- D. troubled
- E. influential
- F. avaricious

9. When the atmosphere over the city is at its best, it is peculiarly _____, and this clarity seems to distill this very special beauty of the place.

- A. limpid
- B. acute
- C. calm
- D. sharp
- E. pellucid
- F. tranquil

10. The book brings together many valuable reports on conservation projects, but with less variety than might have been wished: nearly half the contributions are from the same state, and consequently, the case studies are similarly _____ geographically.

- A. rudimentary
- B. interdependent
- C. interrelated
- D. complex
- E. heterogeneous
- F. dissimilar

section 12 easy

1. The identity of hominid remains found in a cave in the Altai Mountains was _____ until Paabo and his colleagues ended the speculation by showing that DNA sequences indicated the bones belonged to Neanderthals.

- A. extraneous
- B. conjectural
- C. improbable
- D. demonstrable
- E. consistent

2. In a production process that is complex and often unpredictable, roles that start out discretely defined may become quite _____.

- A. confused
- B. perfunctory
- C. independent
- D. overt
- E. exacting

3. Tagore had a sharply defined sense of the (i)_____ of scientific inquiry. The fact that science dealt in statistics and numbers, that its logic was probabilistic, meant that the domain of moral questions (ii)_____ it: moral questions, for Tagore, required certainties, not probabilities.

A. irrationality	D. guarded over
B. limits	E. lay outside
C. futility	F. was subject to

4. The author suggests that cinema archives should become more like museums, justifying their existence by selecting, grouping and commenting on important films. By thus (i)_____ films, archives would not only serve as repositories but would provide (ii)_____ as well.

A. improving	D. conservation
B. restoring	E. education
C. interpreting	F. income

5. Although Professor Pearson's colleagues often complained that he was (i)_____, his friends were quick to defend him from this charge of (ii)_____.

A. importunate	D. inconstancy
B. garrulous	E. dishonest
C. mercurial	F. partiality

6. Just because, as a photographer, Friedlander (i)_____ places that most people consider ugly does not mean that he is out to prove they are beautiful. Instead, his work suggests that the photographer simply cannot ignore so much of the built American landscape but is obligated to (ii)_____ what we pass through day in and day out, regardless of (iii)_____.

A. tends to avoid	D. document	G. authenticity
B. is harshly critical of	E. emulate	H. truthfulness
C. is interested in	F. discredit	I. aesthetics

7. For those of us who have been intoxicated by the power and potential of mathematics, the mystery isn't why that fascination developed but why it isn't _____.

- A. advantageous
- B. discounted
- C. prevalent
- D. undervalued
- E. celebrated
- F. widespread

8. The nation's robust economic performance could be _____ by the persistent flaws in its economic institutions and structure that are the result of half-finished and misguided government policies.

- A. neutralized
- B. concealed
- C. undermined
- D. impaired
- E. obscured
- F. outstripped

9. An abundance of nutrient-rich pollution in estuaries causes algae to _____, much as houseplants grow better when their soil contains added fertilizer.

- A. abound
- B. proliferate
- C. stagnate
- D. coalesce
- E. collect
- F. diversify

10. Taking to the mountains to escape the chaos occasioned by the collapse of the ruling dynasty, artists looked to nature for _____ and a serenity not evident in human society.

- A. an order
- B. a stability
- C. a fragility
- D. a decadence
- E. an interaction
- F. a degeneracy

section 13 easy

1. Because people expect theater directors to be authoritarians, many were surprised that Clark was so _____.

- A. histrionic
- B. megalomaniacal
- C. egalitarian
- D. indolent
- E. charismatic

2. The students' _____ natures were in sharp contrast to the imperturbable dispositions of their teacher.

- A. volatile
- B. duplicitous
- C. apathetic
- D. cunning
- E. blithe

3. In a federally governed country, a regional government can function as a (i)_____ for the entire nation—a setting in which new ideas under consideration for national implementation are (ii)_____ without having to involve the country as a whole.

A. laboratory	D. dispersed
B. catalyst	E. undermined
C. standard	F. tried

4. Conventional deposits of oil and gas are actually the final resting place of far-traveled hydrocarbons that were (i)_____ deeper source beds of organic-rich rock. By contrast, shale gas (ii)_____ its birthplace, remaining in the source bed whose organic matter produced the gas.

A. trapped in	D. never leaves
B. generated in	E. swiftly escapes from
C. bound for	F. rarely stays in

5. Despite dispute between the sisters lasted all summer, Megan remained (i)_____ and Laruen was equally (ii)_____.

A. intransigent	D. indolent
B. feckless	E. uncompromising
C. munificent	F. taciturn

6. In a view of 17 studies from 2008, Trudeau and Shephard concluded that reserving up to an hour a day for (i)_____ in school curricula does not (ii)_____ academic achievement. In fact, they noted that more exercise often (iii)_____ school performance, despite the time it took away from reading, writing, and arithmetic.

A. physical activity	D. contribute to	G. diminished
B. leisure time	E. detract from	H. augmented
C. open study	F. correlate with	I. counteracted

7. The Great Lakes wolf is a _____, stumping scientists as to whether it is a subspecies of the gray wolf or a distinct species.
- A. prototype
 - B. riddle
 - C. paragon
 - D. model
 - E. legend
 - F. conundrum
8. The book aims to illuminate how science has changed the meaning of nothingness from _____ philosophical concept to something we can almost put under a microscope.
- A. a tangible
 - B. a palpable
 - C. a nebulous
 - D. a nettlesome
 - E. an incontrovertible
 - F. a vague
9. Readers have long considered *Lawd Today!*, Richard Wright's first written and last published novel, _____; the novel simply seems inconsistent with the image of what a Wright text should do or be.
- A. an artifact
 - B. a prototype
 - C. an anomaly
 - D. a mainstay
 - E. an aberration
 - F. a model
10. It is hardly _____ for today's film to try to blur the boundaries between the moral and the immoral. Hollywood has been doing that since at least the 1960s.
- A. entertaining
 - B. original
 - C. novel
 - D. pertinent
 - E. relevant
 - F. insightful

section 14 easy

1. Despite the neighborhood's lingering reputation for _____, it has in fact become increasingly varied in its architecture and demographics.

- A. boisterousness
- B. unpretentiousness
- C. idiosyncrasy
- D. accessibility
- E. homogeneity

2. That Seiberg and Witten lack celebrity can be explained by the _____ nature of their pursuit: the mathematical exploration of four-dimensional space.

- A. pedestrian
- B. esoteric
- C. compelling
- D. global
- E. univocal

3. World demand for oil had been intensified, but it slackened because China's surge in oil consumption had (i)_____. Moreover, high oil price had themselves started to act as a short-term (ii)_____ the global economy, thus further dampening demand.

A. spread	D. spur to
B. commenced	E. drag on
C. slowed	F. panacea for

4. Despite the fact that the book promises a complete rethinking of the factors contributing to the conflict, the picture that the book paints is (i)_____: in identifying cause, it is more orthodox than (ii)_____.

A. obscure	D. restrictive
B. detailed	E. revisionist
C. familiar	F. enigmatic

5. Collecting such fragment of contemporary popular culture as postcards, newspaper clippings, and wallpaper patterns, Susan Hiller transforms these seemingly (i)_____ artifacts into objective (ii)_____ by making them the centerpieces in her compositions.

A. extravagant	D. importance
B. trivial	E. uniformity
C. archaic	F. banality

6. Gravitational waves—ripples in the geometry of space-time—are analogous to electromagnetic waves. The challenge in trying to observe these waves directly is that they are extremely weak. To make waves large enough to be (i)_____, the most (ii)_____ events in the universe are required: supernova explosions, the formation of black holes, or the collision of stars. Even so, the effects are (iii)_____. The geometry changes so little that a distance of several kilometers changes by less than the diameter of a proton.

A. detectable	D. obvious	G. masked
B. usable	E. subtle	H. disastrous
C. explicable	F. violent	I. minuscule

7. Reversing a decade-long trend on global _____, earth's surface has become brighter since 1990, scientists are reporting.

- A. warming
- B. cooling
- C. diffusing
- D. dimming
- E. darkening
- F. heating

8. All Shaker furniture implies _____ humanism in design: the Shakers made objects that look like objects, following a nonhuman law of design and rejecting the unconscious self-flattery inherent in making anthropomorphic objects.

- A. a rejection of
- B. a liberation from
- C. a belief in
- D. an affinity for
- E. an attraction to
- F. a misunderstanding of

9. The controversial social analysis that Moynihan offered in the 1960s is now generally recognized as having been prescient; in fact, it has been the _____ upon which much of our discussion of social pathology must base.

- A. concession
- B. bedrock
- C. imperative
- D. compromise
- E. foundations
- F. vision

10. The life of a secret agent is dangerous enough, but the life of a double agent is infinitely more _____: a single slip can send an agent crashing to destruction.

- A. arduous
- B. precarious
- C. clandestine
- D. perilous
- E. covert
- F. exhilarating

section 15 easy

1. Paintings created in India during the Mughal dynasty were _____ in ambition but ornamental in presentation: in one direction they have a affinity with newspaper photographs, while in the other they have the intricacy of jewels.

- A. metaphorical
- B. documentary
- C. aesthetic
- D. sectarian
- E. baroque

2. It is a paradox of the Victorians that they were both _____ and, through their empire, cosmopolitan.

- A. capricious
- B. insular
- C. mercenary
- D. idealistic
- E. intransigent

3. Although movie critic Pauline Kael had a distaste for sycophancy, she also had a need for (i)_____; as a consequence of these competing feelings, she sent very (ii)_____ signals to friends and colleagues.

A. solitude	D. direct
B. obeisance	E. subtle
C. clarity	F. mixed

4. Since fibromyalgia's symptoms can be (i)_____ and can (ii)_____ other disorder, and its diagnosis depends largely on patients' descriptions rather than blood tests or biopsies, fibromyalgia's cause and treatment have been the subject of much debate.

A. wide-ranging	D. mimic
B. distinctive	E. illuminate
C. debilitating	F. preclude

5. Architecture scholar Sandy McCreery recently argued that traffic congestion, far from being a sign of urban (i)_____, is a mark of urban (ii)_____; congestion promotes contemplation of our surroundings and provides us with a shared experience, thereby fulfilling the essential task of the city.

A. plentitude	D. ambition
B. decline	E. privation
C. excitement	F. health